

Socialists Stop Spread of Success • Clinton Impeachment: Should Treason Have Been the Reason?

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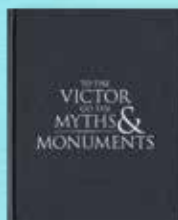


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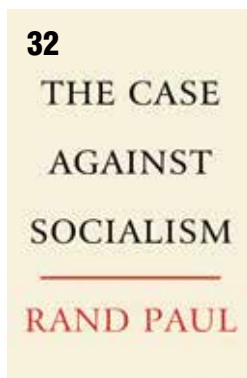
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Cleveland Ave. (Rt. 41) • Ft. Myers, Florida • Stamra Inc.

**Publisher & Editor**  
Gary Benoit

**Senior Editor**  
William F. Jasper

**Managing Editor**  
Kurt Williamsen

**Web Editor**  
John T. Larabell

**Foreign Correspondent**  
Alex Newman

**Contributors**

Bob Adelman • Dennis Behreandt  
Steve Byas • Raven Clabough  
Selwyn Duke • Brian Farmer  
Christian Gomez • Larry Greenley  
Gregory A. Hession, J.D.  
Ed Hiserodt • William P. Hoar  
R. Cort Kirkwood • Patrick Krey, J.D.  
Warren Mass • John F. McManus  
James Murphy • Dr. Duke Pesta  
Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
C. Mitchell Shaw • Michael Tennant  
Rebecca Terrell • Fr. James Thornton  
Laurence M. Vance • Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

**Creative Director**  
Joseph W. Kelly

**Senior Graphic Designer**  
Katie Bradley

**Research**  
Bonnie M. Gillis

**Chief Strategy Officer**  
Bill Hahn

**Advertising/Circulation Manager**  
Julie DuFrane

## The New American

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## “Founded on Slavery”

It’s often said that America was “founded on slavery” — the implication being that whites are bad and blacks are owed something. Really? How many of those who left Europe for North America came here to establish a slavery-based society?

Then, too, shouldn’t the anti-white-men rant “founded on slavery” equally cover the plight of the white Europeans who constituted the majority of slaves in the 13 Colonies prior to 1750?

How many contemporary Americans know that England’s government kidnapped and forcibly exiled hundreds of thousands of (mostly Irish) unfortunates (some for as little as shoplifting a single item), from all four sections of the British Isles, to work and die on sugar, cotton, and tobacco plantations, here and in the Caribbean?

How many know that “white slaves” were preferred because they cost nothing, and thus were expendable, while blacks had to be purchased from indigenous African slave merchants?

How many know that so-called indentured servants who fled their masters were treated the same as fugitive black slaves, and their “indenture” could be arbitrarily extended by its holder?

How many know that the population of Ireland went from 2.5 million to 900,000 as a result of Oliver Cromwell’s persecutions and “ethnic cleansing” of that distressed nation in the late 1640s?

The canals and mines of the North were dug, and the roads and railroads built, by underpaid free men.

Shouldn’t all adults and high-school children be made aware of the books *White Cargo* and *To Hell or Barbados*, which recount the horrors of that terrible era?

RUSSELL W. HAAS  
Golden, Colorado

## Hate Actions

The Left’s definition of hate crimes shows how politicized that term is. If you physically assault a Trump supporter, or someone who proudly waves an American flag, you are somehow not guilty of a hate crime.

Yet say something negative, but true, about homosexuality, and you are a hater.

We may, if we wish, divide crimes into hate crimes and “love crimes.” Both crimes might involve theft of your property and a serious assault (or worse) against you. The difference is that “love crimes” do not involve a racial, religious, or sexual slur.

The salient point becomes what the offender *said*, not what he *did*. We should punish the deed, not the words. If you’re assaulted by someone who keeps silent during the attack, it seems to be an inappropriate way of expressing his “love” for you or for humanity.

DAVID HAMMER  
(N.Y.S. PAROLE OFFICER-RETIRED)  
Bronx, New York

## The Country’s Good

I remember a time not too many decades ago when a citizen at times would vote for the right man instead of his own party. It was a time when Democrats still had some honor, and Republicans were unified yet still found common ground with Democrats. Words like “racist” and “white supremacist” were not thrown around. It was a time when political correctness took a back seat to truth and when everyone loved America and wanted our Constitution left totally intact.

Now we have a movement to destroy our Constitution, rewrite the Bill of Rights, give foreign invaders more rights than U.S. citizens, ignore existing laws, and sustain an underclass of “victims” for voting purposes.

Liberals destroy innocent lives simply because they disagree with them. They censor any debatable dialog because it is easier to silence dissenting opinion than to debate it.

Hate speech and racism come almost exclusively from the Left, which is historically racist. Even today, no one spews more hate and racism. It is so obvious that they are unhinged and unfit for leadership.

KIM OLSON  
Janesville, Wisconsin

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## Pro-Swedish Political Party Now Sweden's Most Popular

In a historic shift, the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats (*Sverigedemokrater*, SD) has become its nation's most popular party just nine years after first winning seats in Parliament, a new poll finds. According Swedish polling company Demoskop, SD has an almost two-percentage-point advantage over the Social Democrats, which has dominated the Nordic country's politics since the 1930s.

As the *Telegraph* reported November 15:

According to a poll published on Friday in the *Aftonbladet* newspaper, the populist party now has the support of 24 percent of voters, compared to just 22.2 percent for the Social Democrats, the lead party in the country's current coalition government.

"I'm not surprised. I've long argued we would be the biggest party sooner or later," party leader Jimmie Åkesson told the *Aftonbladet* newspaper.

"We've been talking constructively over gang criminality, escalating insecurity, and a migration policy that doesn't work for so many years."

With native Swedes long having a below-replacement-level fertility rate (<2.1 children per woman), their country's population has swelled from a bit more than eight million in 1970 to more than 10 million today *almost entirely due to (im)migration*. The result is that once-homogeneous Sweden's foreign-born are now almost two million strong, constituting 18.5 percent of the population.



This demographic and cultural sea change has fueled SD's rise — despite the left-leaning, mainstream media's best efforts. That is to say, the press typically describes the party as "far right," as exemplified by the *Telegraph*, the *Local*, and *Deutsche Welle*. Yet, in reality, SD embraces standard Western European statism; in fact, one of its criticisms of immigration is that it's "wrecking" Swedish social welfare.

Yet opposing immigration and advocating a "Swexit" referendum, giving Swedes the opportunity to leave the European Union, earns the party the far-right label. And when SD isn't being stigmatized as "far right," it's called "anti-immigrant." Reasonable? Or is this like labeling a family resistant to squatters on its lawn "anti-neighbor"?

## Anti-Trump Drudge Report's Traffic Declines as Conservatives Flee

Et tu, Drudge? This is an increasingly common conservative lament now that the Drudge Report, the leviathan of news aggregators, has turned left. In fact, it appears that Drudge is continuing to bleed conservative readers, with one observer likening its woes to the collapse of Enron Corporation, the once ballyhooed American energy, commodities, and services company that became immersed in scandal and declared bankruptcy in 2001. And as Drudge declines, competitors such as anti-establishment news aggregator Whatfingert.com appear to be reaping the benefits.

After registering an August-September decline, Drudge's readership went further south in the September-October period, dropping the site 338 places in global traffic rankings, according to Web statistics site Similar Web. In fact, the "negative numbers are beginning to resemble one of the models employed to predict corporate disasters," asserted True Pundit November 13.

The site continues, "One of the things you learn as a Certified Fraud Examiner is forensic accounting and modeling and

Drudge's recent and quick mud slide of web traffic is starting to look like the Enron model."

"I have used the Enron model — specifically the schematics of its plummeting stock index — as a barometer for pinpointing problematic corporate warning signs, trap doors, and wayward executives and it rarely fails," True Pundit then writes.

"Drudge's overall web traffic is down nearly 18 percent in September and October, according to the tracking metrics on Similar Web. That's a massive and accelerated slide from approximately 93 million visits to 77 million," the site continues.

Drudge is now, True Pundit concludes, haunted by "the ghosts of Enron."

The issue? As CD Media wrote October 6 in "Winning! Whatfingert Takes Business From Newly Anti-Trump Drudge," "If you haven't noticed, the Drudge Report has gone off the rails politically, now firmly in the anti-Trump camp, with daily questionable headlines pushing the anti-Trump narrative of the Left."

# DRUDGE REPORT

## Presidential Milestone: Trump Has Confirmed Over 150 Federal Judges

PattanaphongKhuankeaw/Stock/Getty ImagesPlus



In early November, President Trump hit a milestone that the major media largely ignored. In the time that he has occupied the White House, the president has had over 150 federal judges confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

In a November 6 White House celebration attended by Republican lawmakers and other supporters of the president, Trump noted that the actual number of confirmed federal judges is 159, “and we should have, within the next short period of time — like two months — we should have about 182 federal judges.”

Thanking those assembled, Trump said that “together we are restoring American freedom, defending American justice, pre-

serving the extraordinary vision of our Founding Fathers.”

In a press release, the White House noted that among those confirmed were 112 nominees to district courts and 43 to appeals courts, along with two hard-fought confirmations of Supreme Court justices, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Additionally, the Republican-led Senate will shortly confirm Trump’s 44th appeals court judge.

Among those Trump highlighted for their strategic help in filling the judgeships was Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), predicting that “generations from now, Americans will know that Mitch McConnell helped save the constitutional rule of law in America.”

In a Twitter post after the event, McConnell noted that with the latest confirmations, “one in every four judges on the federal courts of appeals will have been nominated by Trump and confirmed by us here in the Senate. That’s 45 new lifetime appellate judges committed to the key principle that judges should apply our laws and the Constitution as they are actually written, not as the judge might personally wish they’d been written.”

Among the Republican lawmakers who congratulated Trump on the milestone was Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who wrote in an op-ed that “few legacies will be longer lasting than this judicial one. These new judges are principled constitutionalists who have demonstrated excellence and professionalism throughout their legal careers.”

## San Francisco’s New DA: It’s OK to Publicly Urinate on the Street

Along with a severe housing crisis, impossibly high real-estate prices, and soaring crime and homelessness problems, San Francisco has a huge filth and stench factor to deal with. Public streets, sidewalks, and parks are strewn with garbage, needles and other drug paraphernalia, and feces (from humans and dogs). And widespread public urination is adding to the unpleasant aroma, threatening to kill the City by the Bay’s status as a top tourist destination. Even the city’s liberal-left mayor, London Breed, has admitted the situation is dire. “I will say there is more feces on the sidewalks than I’ve ever seen growing up here,” Breed said in a television interview. “That is a huge problem and we are not just talking about from dogs — we’re talking about from humans.”

But, if anything, the city’s incoming district attorney, Chesa Boudin, is likely to make matters worse. Boudin was announced as the winner on Saturday, November 9, after his opponent, acting District Attorney Suzy Loftus, conceded defeat in the closely contested race. In response to an American Civil Liberties Union questionnaire, candidate Boudin stated October 27: “We will not prosecute cases involving quality-of-life crimes. Crimes such as public camping, offering or soliciting sex, public urination, blocking a sidewalk, etc., should not and will not be prosecuted. Many of these crimes are still being prosecuted, we have a long way to go to decriminalize poverty and homelessness.”

Senator Bernie Sanders exultantly tweeted his congratulations to Boudin on November 9: “Now is the moment to funda-

mentally transform our racist and broken criminal justice system by ending mass incarceration, the failed war on drugs and the criminalization of poverty. Congratulations @chesaboudin on your historic victory!”

San Francisco’s Chesa Boudin is the latest in a string of district attorney races targeted by ultra-left progressives in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, and elsewhere. Many of them have benefited from the lavish support of Justice & Public Safety PACs funded by globalist billionaire George Soros. ■



AP Images

### France Doesn't Really Intend to Toughen the Nation's Immigration Policy

"They're talking about immigration because they think it's enough to talk about immigration to the French people to make them believe solutions are being brought."

*Claiming that the measures being proposed by President Macron's government are merely a propaganda ploy that will not combat the immigrant problem, National Front leader **Marine Le Pen** sees current proposals as a ruse to quiet the public. A record number of 124,000 immigrants, a 23-percent increase from the previous year, requested asylum in 2018.*



AP Images

### Voters in Tucson Turn Thumbs Down on Sanctuary Proposal

"Coming from a person like me that has fought anti-immigration laws passed by the Arizona State Legislature, it was a very difficult position to be in because I believe in the spirit of the proposition."

*In what amounted to a citizen referendum, 71 percent of Tucson voters rejected a proposal that would have officially named their city a sanctuary for illegal immigrants. Newly elected Tucson Mayor **Regina Romero** reluctantly supported the opposition to the sanctuary proposal.*

### Italy's Plan for Climate-change Education in Schools Challenged

"To listen to people who say different things is good. What the UN says is not gospel."

*As president of the Italian environmental group known as Assombiente, **Chicco Testa** wants new education courses to include a variety of views, not just the extreme views of groups such as the United Nations.*

### Some Label Jeffrey Epstein's Death Murder, Not Suicide

"I think the evidence points to homicide, not suicide."

*A former New York City medical examiner and now a private pathologist, **Dr. Michael Baden** points to a broken bone in Epstein's neck. He stated in a television interview that he had not seen that type of injury in 50 years of investigating suicidal hanging incidents.*



AP Images

### North Carolina Senate Leader Knows the Importance of Judicial Appointments

"With judges deciding behind closed doors how many members of Congress from each party is acceptable, judicial elections have become the most consequential in America."

*After a three-judge panel in North Carolina rejected the state's redrawn map of congressional districts, State Senate President **Phil Berger**, a Republican, suggested that the map created by the judges is a reflection of their political leanings.*

### Nikki Haley's Book Discusses Difficulties Faced by Senior Trump Appointees

"Kelly and Tillerson confided in me that when they resisted the president, they weren't being insubordinate, they were trying to save the country."

*In her new book, With All Due Respect, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations **Nikki Haley** claims to have resisted the pleas to subvert Trump she received from former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and former White House Chief of Staff John Kelly.*

### Sanders Makes Attacking Billionaires a Key Promise

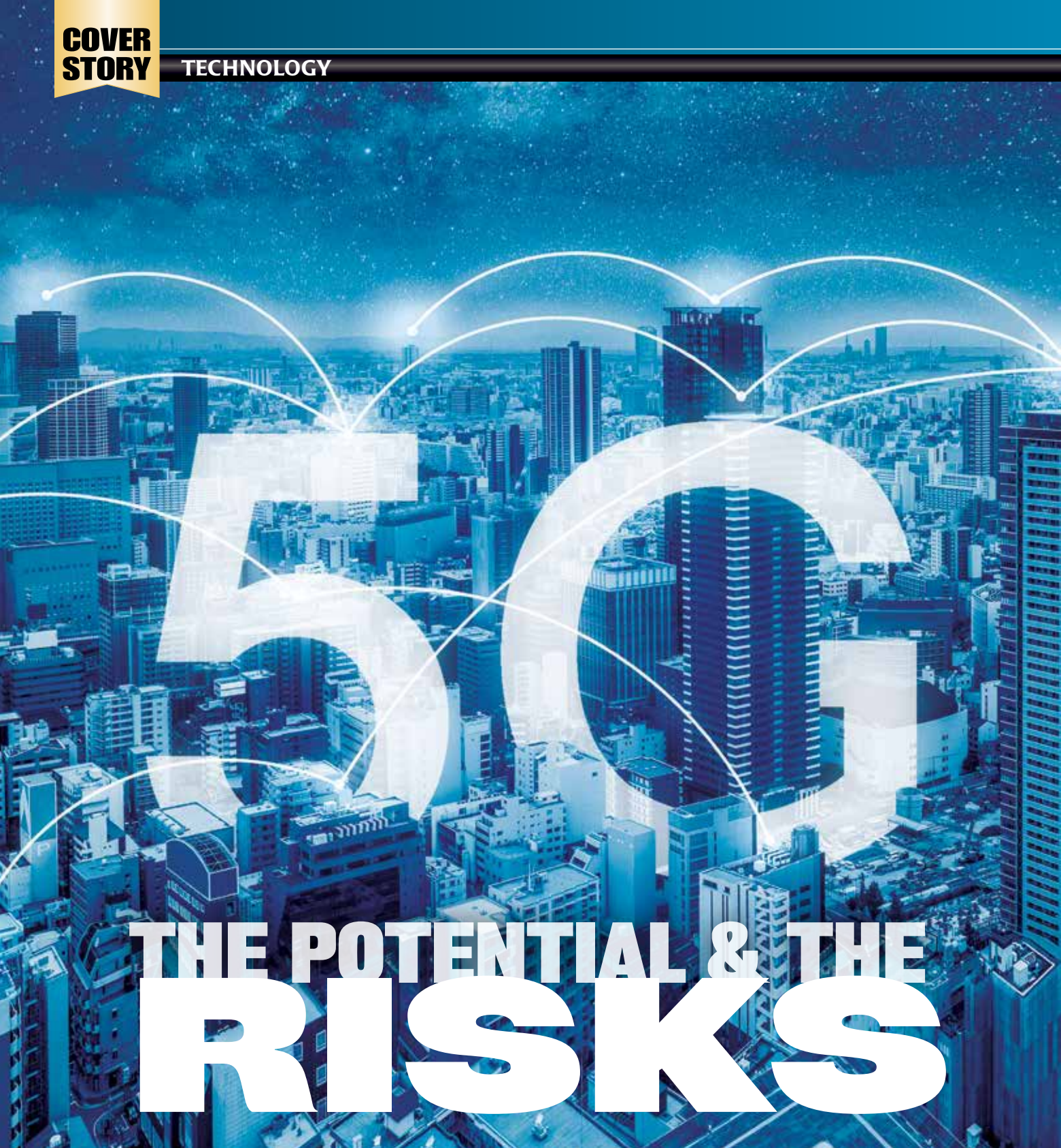
"I don't think that billionaires should exist. [I intend] to eliminate a lot of the wealth that billionaires have, and I think that's exactly what we should be doing."

*Candidate **Bernie Sanders** often repeats his intention to soak the rich. ■*



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# THE POTENTIAL & THE RISKS

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A new era of faster and more capable telecommunications is starting, bringing with it new opportunities for advancements while also offering new challenges and dangers.

by Dennis Behreandt

It was one of those perfect spring days. The sun was out, at long last, following the cold cloudiness that marked the first several weeks of the new season. Birdsong filled the air, and chipmunks, squirrels, and rabbits scurried here and there, animated by warmth of the sun. Standing in the door of his machine shed, a farmer looked out on his vast acreage. Greeting his gaze was a vast vista of newly sprouted corn, all growing in perfectly manicured rows. But there was something new, too, in the scene. Above, joining the birds newly exuberant with the arrival of spring, was a small fleet of autonomous drones, each equipped with optical and infrared cameras and wirelessly connected to the Internet, their collected imagery and sensor data transmitted in real time to a data center a thousand miles away. There, the data and imagery was overlaid with more real-time imagery and data captured by cubesats (miniature satellites) in low-Earth orbit, along with meteorological data collected locally at the farm itself and regionally.

All of this was immediately available to the farmer, who was alerted to changing conditions in his fields, also in real time, as the Artificial Intelligence (AI) that constantly monitored the data collected reacted to trigger conditions. With a bleep and pip, the farmer's mobile phone popped an alert: Soil moisture in field 7 was too low. This was followed by another pop-up alert: invasive weeds detected growing across fields 3-6. The farmer tapped his phone in response and to his left and right large, automated tractors stirred to life. Equipped with their own sensors tied to the same network and guided by advanced GPS tracking accurate to within 1.2 inches or less, the behemoth machines lumbered out to the fields where they began to apply just the right amount of herbicide to the emergent weeds they encountered. Meanwhile, in field 7, irrigation equipment sprang to life applying only the amount of water needed.

The farmer looked up from his phone and smiled. It was going to be a good day.

*Dennis Behreandt works in the chemical technology industry, and has served as an editor for several publications, including THE NEW AMERICAN.*

The changes 5G will bring, they predict, will include "improvements in productivity, sustainability, entertainment and well-being."



**Agriculture meets tech:** In Germany, 5G is already being tested in the fields. As in medicine, additional sensors combined with low-latency, high-bandwidth mobile networks will enable rapid advances in precision agriculture.

### Fantastic Reality

The foregoing may sound like a fantasy. But, surprisingly, it is increasingly close to reality. Today, tractors are GPS guided, drones are widely employed in agricultural applications, and companies are exploring cubesats for agricultural use. Further advances will require additional sensors, but these will necessitate more bandwidth to be effective. And that's coming too, and not just to agricultural applications. Today's 4G mobile networks, which have been instrumental in advancing mobile data communications, are about to be replaced with next-generation 5G technologies.

In fact, the rollout of 5G is beginning to happen, and it will occur faster than many may expect, for the technology not only has been developed by the largest

and most scientifically advanced corporations in the West, but has received massive investment by dominant technology players in China such as Huawei, the huge but secretive electronics giant with what many believe are deep ties to the communist government. Moreover, that communist government has made the 5G rollout a key component of its current and future geopolitical and economic strategy. There's urgency both in China and around the world to be first with the 5G rollout, in significant part owing to security concerns over Huawei's very strong position in the technology, and also because of the competitive advantage that may be gained by the first player to bring 5G online broadly. Currently, the winner in that race appears to be China, with the country's 5G network having gone live in early November

In the simplest sense, 5G represents simply the further development in speed and capability of an existing network.



Ekkasit19/Stock/GettyImagesPlus

**Smart medicine:** Medical technologies are always making advances. In the 5G era, additional connected devices and sensors, combined with real-time speed, will enable new advances in remote medicine.

with 5G plans now offered by China Telecom, China Unicom, and China Mobile starting, according to CNBC, “at around 128 yuan or \$18 per month.” CNN Business reports that the service is now available in 50 Chinese cities including Beijing and Shanghai.

Apart from the security concerns, the technology offers immense promise for all sectors of the economy, and as such, major technology companies outside of China and throughout the West are investing heavily in 5G development and deployment. These include not just carriers such as Verizon and AT&T, but hardware and software manufacturers, including leading electronics firms Qualcomm in the United States, Samsung in Korea, and Ericsson and Nokia in Europe.

Supporters of the technology are prominent leaders in government service, in pol-

itics, and in industry, and they have been vocal in support of the promise of 5G, calling it nothing less than the key technology of the next Industrial Revolution. “Studying this, I’m amazed at how many facets of our life will be changed as a result of 5G. How we live, where and how we work, how we consume entertainment, how we’re educated — all of life will be transformed,” enthused former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

Of course, when such sentiments are uttered by a globalist of Gingrich’s stature, it suggests that not all elements of the impending transformation are likely to be good. And, in fact, for every 5G supporter such as Gingrich, there is a 5G skeptic who believes the technology represents not just a danger, but an existential threat to the health of millions of people. Some theorists with certain exotic views have

gone so far as to call 5G a “kill grid” that will devastate humanity. In fact, a search for “5G kill grid” on Google returns over 1.5 million results.

Thus the question of 5G: Will it bring a new golden age of prosperity, advancement, and entertainment, as its proponents argue? Or, more darkly, will it lead to the sinister future of sickness, death, and dystopia as feared by its detractors?

As with most technological advancements, used improperly 5G technologies could cause problems. But used correctly, there is little doubt that the much faster capabilities of 5G will lead to both an acceleration of further innovation and a strong boost to economic growth.

### What Is 5G Anyway?

As a name, 5G is not terribly high-tech: Spelled out, it simply refers to the fifth generation of mobile telecommunications technology. The first generation, or 1G, came into operation in the 1980s and consisted of analog voice mobile communication. Roughly every decade since, mobile technology has made a generational leap. 2G technologies were introduced in the 1990s, bringing digital voice mobile communications online. 3G was introduced in the 2000s, and was boosted by synergies created with the introduction of the first 3G-capable iPhone by Apple late in that decade. For the last several years, 4G mobile broadband has allowed for the burgeoning of the mobile app ecosystem and the rapid growth of streaming media, among other things.

In the simplest sense, 5G represents simply the further development in speed and capability of an existing network, but while that may seem true to the end user, the very nature of the 5G network is itself revolutionary in the speed, bandwidth, and latency characteristics that it will offer. Shifting frequencies higher into the electromagnetic spectrum with 5G will offer much greater bandwidth, and sophisticated advances in all aspects of the technology mean that data transmitted using that bandwidth will move considerably faster, and will do so with almost no perceptible latency, meaning that actions taken over the network will occur without any apparent delay. The end result will be the ability of the network to carry vastly more data than is presently pos-

sible, and to transmit that data at much faster speeds.

In a section containing frequently asked questions about 5G, Qualcomm, one of the leading developers of the technology underlying 5G, underscored the change that the new technology represents. The new generation of mobile communications technology, the company says, is “a platform for innovations that will not only enhance today’s mobile broadband services, but will also expand mobile networks to support a vast diversity of devices and services and connect new industries with improved performance, efficiency and cost.”

Former Department of Defense chief information officer (CIO) Terry Halvorsen, now CIO at Samsung, echoed Qualcomm’s position in recent comments to Newt Gingrich during an interview on Gingrich’s podcast. Discussing developments in storage capacity and artificial intelligence and how these are linked and amplified by 5G, Halvorsen noted, “You’ve got the data speeds and latency being developed and delivered by a 5G network. You’ve got the ability to store data at the edge, which limits the amount of data you have to pass back to a central processing point. And you have AI, augmented intelligence, assisting the human in getting through and sorting all of that data. That’s the revolution of the 5G ecosystem, that’s what’s really going to be powerful and is beginning to be fielded today.”

How powerful? “We see 5G as technology as transformative as the automobile and electricity,” says Qualcomm.

### Economic Promise

“In the 5G vision, access to information and sharing of data are possible anywhere and anytime to anyone and anything,” write 5G experts Hugo Tullberg, Mikael Fallgren, Katsutoshi Kusume, and Andreas Höglund in leading industry textbook *5G Mobile and Wireless Communications Technology*. Employed by Swedish telecommunications giant Ericsson, and by Japanese telecommunications firm NTT Docomo in Kusume’s case, they conclude: “5G expands the usage [of] human-centric communications to include both human-centric and machine-centric communications.”

In other words, not only will consumers benefit from easy and fast access to

streaming media, augmented reality, and even virtual reality anywhere at any time, but new fleets of machines with a new proliferation of sensors will be able to be connected, sharing data for performance analysis and allowing new, AI-enabled control regimes for greater automation and throughput. This will be made possible by the increased capacity of the 5G network to carry more information, breaking through an existing bottleneck.

The most immediate impact most people will experience will be enhanced mobile entertainment experiences, with higher resolution graphics, fast frame rates, and response times that are indistinguishable from real-time. But while this will be the “flash” that is intended to help sell the technology to the average consumer hungering for the latest Apple or Android handset, it is in industry, agriculture, and infrastructure that 5G will, arguably, have the greatest impact.

“This will lead to socio-economic changes not yet imaginable,” Tullberg, Fallgren, Kusume, and Höglund write. The changes 5G will bring, they predict, will include “improvements in productivity, sustainability, entertainment and well-being.”

In 2017, the international information,

research, and analysis firm IHS Markit conducted a study on the potential impact of 5G on the global economy. Like most other commentary on the promise of 5G, the IHS Markit author team compared the new mobile communications approach to older watershed technologies, including the printing press, the Internet, electricity, and the steam engine. “Each of these technologies is part of an elite class of socio-economic mainsprings known as General Purpose Technologies (GPTs),” write the report’s authors. These, they note, have had “profound effects” that have resulted in “positive impacts for human and machine productivity to ultimately elevating the living standards for people around the world.” 5G, they argue, is “a catalyst that will thrust mobile technology into the exclusive realm of GPTs.” After surveying the potential impact of 5G in several sectors of the economy, the IHS authors reported that the technology would “fuel long-term growth to global real GDP” with over \$200 billion invested annually in the technology’s value chain while supporting up to 22 million jobs and \$3.5 trillion in output in 2035.

Consider the potential impact in just one sector: agriculture. Already, advanced systems use GPS to position tractors and



**China in the lead?** Samsung demonstrated a 5G phone in Beijing in mid-2019. By November, China’s national telecom carriers were bringing their 5G networks online for subscribers.

other equipment on vast fields for more efficient planting and harvesting. John Deere, for example, offers a wide array of guidance and automation capabilities for farmers that improve tractor positioning and increase performance while diminishing crop damage from operations.

“It’s one of the most difficult and exciting programs that Deere’s ever done,” Terry Pickett, an advanced engineering manager at the company, told *Network World* in 2017. The system offered by John Deere is one of the most advanced of its kind and is certainly a market leader, allowing farmers to grow more crops more efficiently. Now imagine in a 5G world the ability to install an array of sensors that detect soil moisture and chemical makeup in real-time, allowing future machinery to adjust hydration and fertilizer and pesticide mix live as conditions are measured and encountered. Now extend this capability to all other market sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, and healthcare, to name a few, and the supercharged efficiency gains that may be possible are staggering in their implications. Doctors will be able to conduct exams, and potentially even perform surgery, from remote locations, something that will only be possible

as a result of 5G’s high bandwidth and low latency characteristics. Manufacturing industries will be able to install more sensors and do so wirelessly, eliminating wired complexities as they currently exist, freeing capital expenditures for other necessary innovation efforts. Transport companies will be able to track goods and equipment with ever greater fidelity, ensuring increasing rapidity of delivery, not just to consumers, but in business-to-business situations as well, improving already existing efficiencies in just-in-time-delivery models that are already of central importance to many business. The range of applications is vast.

### Short-term Reality

While all the corporate and government exuberance for 5G makes the technology seem promising, as 2019 comes to a close and the actual rollout of the technology is getting under way, there have been hiccups.

In the United States, Verizon has been a leader in bringing 5G to early markets.

In a press release on October 18, the company highlighted the fact that it had brought 5G capabilities online in several sports arenas, including Talking Stick Re-

sort Arena in Phoenix, Chase Center in San Francisco, and Pepsi Center in Denver, with other arenas such as Madison Square Garden “coming soon.”

According to the company, “for those connected to it on a 5G device, Verizon’s Ultra Wideband 5G mobility service can provide the bandwidth for fans to access the content they want during events.” Moreover, enthused Verizon VP for Technology Heidi Hemmer, “having that next generation technology in large venues like arenas should not only enhance the game-day experience for sports fans, but provide greater bandwidth for concertgoers, visitors or businesses working inside the venue.”

Large, concentrated crowds of people attempting to access existing 4G networks can quickly consume the available bandwidth and slow access to a crawl, so Verizon’s attempt to manage that problem for large venues, as described by Hemmer, makes sense. But the reality is that the frequencies used by 5G networks have a downside equal to their benefits. While they enable much greater bandwidth, the shorter wavelengths are easily blocked by walls, glass, water, and people.

As it turns out, that’s a challenge. Covering the Verizon announcement, technology news site *Arstechnica* noted that Verizon had admitted that its 5G network “doesn’t cover the whole arena for any of these NBA facilities.”

“This isn’t surprising, given that Verizon’s early 5G rollout relies heavily on millimeter-wave signals that don’t travel far and are easily blocked by walls and other obstacles,” noted *Arstechnica*’s Jon Brodtkin.

A month earlier, Brodtkin had pointed out that Verizon’s 5G rollout in the first cities to get the service ran into similar issues. “You had to be near a 5G antenna to get a signal” he reported.

These are hints that the reality of 5G capability doesn’t quite match all of the hype — at least not yet. In a post on his company’s blog, Neville Ray, the chief technology officer for T-Mobile, admitted that the technology wasn’t ready to deliver on the promises being made for it:

Verizon’s launch gave everyone a look at the 5G experience they’ll be charging an extra \$10 a month for —



**Tech giants:** The world’s leading tech companies, including Chinese giant Huawei and top Western-aligned tech firms Qualcomm, Apple, Samsung, and Ericsson, among others, have been building 5G infrastructure and hardware for several years.





AP Images

**Fits and starts:** In the United States, Verizon has turned on its 5G infrastructure in select cities and venues. The present limitations of the technology have generated criticisms from competitors such as T-Mobile, which argue that 5G in the United States is not ready for wide adoption.

and, no surprise — coverage is very spotty and unreliable. Verizon won't publish a coverage map or acknowledge how limited their strategy really is, but people quickly found that Verizon's 5G was awfully hard to find, barely available at the places it was promised to be available, dropping repeatedly to 4G and disappearing if they stepped into a building. Their rollout was called a "rush job" and "confusing. Frustrating. Absolutely insane."

As a direct competitor to Verizon, criticism like this from T-Mobile isn't terribly surprising. Still, the science behind the criticism illustrates that Ray has a point.

"Some of this is physics," he explains. "Millimeter wave (mmWave) spectrum has great potential in terms of speed and capacity, but it doesn't travel far from the cell site and doesn't penetrate materials at all. It will never materially scale beyond small pockets of 5G hotspots in dense urban environments."

However, there are solutions for this, including using lower-band spectrum along with the higher bands, and installing a vast

new infrastructure of 5G equipment on buildings, lampposts, and every other bit of stationary infrastructure, among other things. But this will take time.

### Public Peril?

Regardless of whether or not 5G will ultimately deliver on its promise of a new age in speedy telecommunications and data delivery, one thing it has been very good at is driving a new firestorm of fear through an American public that has grown increasingly skeptical of technical innovation.

Of course, there is good reason for that skepticism, with a daily parade of propaganda on nearly every topic pouring like Niagara Falls from all manner of pundits, politicians, and the mainstream media. Under such conditions, the rational response is to be increasingly skeptical.

Currently, the companies behind 5G and most mainstream commentators say that 5G is safe. Others argue that not only is it unsafe, but it represents an existential threat. As mentioned earlier, the more extreme critics of the technology call it a "kill grid" and point out that just as 5G

uses parts of the millimeter wave spectrum, so too does the U.S. military's Active Denial System crowd-control weaponry, which uses millimeter waves to heat a target's skin to cause him to flee.

Hyperbolically calling 5G a kill grid masks a credible concern: In 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified "radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans." This scary classification continues to lead to a great deal of concern, but the IARC danger classification assigned to radio frequencies also was given to things such as aloe vera, alcoholic beverages, and chlorinated drinking water. So while the concern is credible, the scale of the concern also should be kept in mind.

Though biological systems are exposed to a wide range of non-ionizing electromagnetic (EM) radiation at all times, from naturally occurring and from man-made sources, studies of the higher frequency ranges to be used by 5G are relatively rare when compared to the entirety of the otherwise vast body of literature that makes up scientific peer-review. Still, there is some literature to review.

What does existing research show with regard to the biological impacts of these frequencies?

First, the EM radiation in question is non-ionizing, meaning that it does not have enough energy to remove electrons from an atom, but just has enough to cause them to vibrate. Ionizing radiation includes X-rays (used regularly in medical imagery) and gamma rays and extremely short wavelengths of ultraviolet light. These types of radiation have enough energy to damage DNA and can cause cancer. Radio frequency radiation, by contrast, such as light in the visible spectrum, does not cause this damage.

In the United States, 5G is expected to use frequencies as high as 71 GHz, according to specifications for what is called 5G New Radio (5G NR). What does existing research show for frequencies in this part of the spectrum? In the higher frequency ranges, 5G NR specs envision using frequency ranges from 24.25 to 27.5GHz, 27.5 to 29.5GHz, 37 GHz, 39 GHz, and the 57 to 71 GHz range. What does existing research show with regard to some of these frequencies?



**Danger?** Long-simmering concerns about the health ramifications of radio-frequency radiation have been reinvestigated over additional concerns over the higher frequencies that 5G will use.

Sixty GHz frequencies are in the upper range of 5G new radio specifications, so arguably may make a decent proxy for understanding biological impacts of the majority of the spectrum envisioned for 5G use. Reviewing millimeter-wave impacts on the human body, Maxim Zhadobov, together with coauthors Nacer Chahat, Ronan Sauleau, Catherine Le Qeument, and Yves Le Drian, noted in a 2011 paper published in the *International Journal of Microwave and Wireless Technologies* that “the primary biological targets of 60-GHz radiations are the skin and eyes,” and that lesions have been found in eyes “after high-intensity exposure” at three watts per square centimeter for six minutes. But, they point out, “studies performed at 60 GHz (10mW/cm<sup>2</sup>, 8 h) [10 milliwatts per square centimeter for eight hours] demonstrated no detectable physiological modifications,” indicating that millimeter waves act on the cornea in a dose-dependent manner. In other words, take too much in too short a period and it may be harmful under some circumstances, something which is true also of a good many other things, including aspirin, coffee, sugary soda, and much else besides.

As for the actual impact that 60-GHz exposure has on the skin, the researchers noted

that it results in “significant heating, even for low-power exposures.” They pointed out, however, that “it is important to underline that temperature increments induced by the PD [power density] below current international exposure limits are much lower than environmental thermal fluctuations.” In other words, at power levels used by current technologies, any potential heating effect is much, much less than what one experiences from exposure to natural sources.

But does radio frequency radiation even at low power interact at all with biological systems? The answer remains somewhat unclear, but there are intriguing possibilities.

The reason they are intriguing, at least in part, is because some of the possibilities stem from the use of these frequencies for their purported therapeutic effects. “Application of millimeter waves for the pain therapy showed some positive results,” notes the paper by Zhadobov and his coauthors. “Studies on animals demonstrated that the optimal effect was obtained at 61.22 GHz and 13.3 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>.

Various scientific publications reported positive data using blind tests with animal or volunteer studies.”

What should be made of this? According to the Zhadobov paper, after what the authors described as an “exhaustive analysis” they conclude: “Whereas some effects have been observed for the medium-power exposures (5-15 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) leading to the local heating of the order of 1-20° C, most of the reproducible results for the lower PD demonstrated that *direct biological effects at 60-GHz are not likely.*”

In less technical terms, one way to think about this is to consider the old phrase, “the dose makes the poison.” This bit of wisdom, attributed to 16th century pioneering Swiss physician and chemist Paracelsus, is a clumsy way of pointing out the largely accurate truism that in sufficiently large doses even otherwise helpful and healthful substances can cause injury or death. Water, for example, is absolutely necessary for life. But, drink too much, and injury or death can occur.

In one such case, Jennifer Strange died in 2007 after trying to win a prize during a radio contest during which she drank nearly two gallons of water, leading, tragically, to fatal hyperhydration.

In the case of non-ionizing radiation, natural sources far outweigh those produced by human radio technologies. Anyone who spends any time in the sun, or who visits a tanning bed, or wields an arc welder for their career is exposed to far more non-ionizing radiation than is produced by radio communication sources. Moreover, modern civilization is electrically powered, and everything powered by electricity, having an electric motor, or just transmitting electricity is generating electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation. This has been going on since Edison and Tesla and Westinghouse led the electrification of the world. To get rid of man-made EMF would mean shutting down the entire infrastructure of the modern world.



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This doesn't mean there aren't safety matters to consider with non-ionizing radiation. But these are neither extraordinary or uncommon when compared with other types of dangers. Anyone who works in industry — manufacturing, timber, chemicals, etc. — is familiar with the concept of personal protective equipment (PPE). Many of the tools, processes, machines, and ingredients that are used to build or produce most, if not all, the products that we take for granted are dangerous and working with them requires the use of PPE to prevent injury. It has been this way since the first Neanderthal scraped his thumb while flintknapping an arrowhead or burned himself while making birch tar adhesive. No one seriously recommends we stop using the tools, ingredients, and products we depend on in the modern world just because using them unwisely or incorrectly can be unsafe in certain circumstances. The cult of safety over all, when it demands this, is demanding something that is entirely ludicrous.

Moreover, the same tools and technolo-

gies that some people fear because of their inherent dangers are themselves indispensable to health and well-being. Chemicals, for instance, often get bad press because of their dangers. But the chemical industry and its long history of innovation have been responsible for a vast number of the innovations that have made life less dangerous and more comfortable for billions over many decades. Just consider, for example, that if you enjoyed last night's evening meal, it was only because the chemical industry invented the process of manufacturing fertilizer (see the Haber-Bosch process). Billions have not starved to death because of this one innovation. The same could be said for radio-based communication technologies up to and including modern cellular. How many lives are saved every day because this technology exists? Far more than would ever be affected by the hypothetical dangers of the technology.

As many have noted with regard to 5G and other RF-based technologies, more research is needed to fully understand microwave and millimeter wave RF's effects

on biology. Research, as cited here and in many other studies as well, indicates that there are biological effects from radio frequency exposure, and many questions remain inadequately answered. In the meantime, we've been using these wavelengths for several decades safely and successfully. This is a trend likely to continue.

As it will, in fact, continue with the introduction and eventual spread of 5G, human civilization will enjoy greater convenience, will be able to grow more food, will be able to share information more effectively, and will generate more wealth and well-being for more people, worldwide. There will be lives saved by 5G through medical advances, through more rapid access to emergency services, and through more access to the products and services that lead to healthier lives. Whether 5G will be as fundamental to the next technological revolution as the steam engine was to the Industrial Revolution is yet to be revealed. But it is, without question, one of the core technologies that will form the foundation of the next step in our civilization's further technological advancement. ■




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A close-up photograph of a hand pressing the circular button of a Ring smart doorbell. The doorbell is dark blue and has a camera lens at the top. The background is a light-colored, textured wall.

Double duty: Smart doorbells, like those sold by Amazon-owned Ring, serve not only as convenience technologies for homeowners, but as neighborhood surveillance devices.

AP Images

# SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE IN A 5G WORLD

While the technological advantages of 5G offer many exciting possibilities for the future, they also have the potential to introduce security threats that impact both national security and personal freedom and privacy.

by *Dennis Behreandt*

The rollout of 5G mobile communications as an upgrade to existing 4G networks promises to deliver a new era in data throughput and bandwidth, enabling new capabilities that will improve economic production, drive job growth, increase prosperity, and enable new, immersive entertainment possibilities. And that's just a few of the many benefits that may be derived from 5G. But just like any technology, 5G can drive negative outcomes in addition to positive ones.

One of the best pro-freedom writers working today recently fielded a question about 5G from one of his readers. Eric Peters reviews cars from a staunchly pro-freedom viewpoint, and he often has useful perspective to share with his readers.

Asked what he thought about the dangers of 5G, he replied that his chief concern was its potential impact on our freedoms.

"We're told 5G is harmless — in terms of health — and maybe so," he wrote. "But will it be harmless in terms of our liberty? Our privacy? Our right to be free from ubiquitous monitoring — and control? I have grave doubts about that."

There is already a tremendous, interconnected surveillance regime in place, erected largely on the back of the 9/11 attacks, and revealed most disturbingly by whistleblowers such as William Binney and Edward Snowden. These surveillance regimes, which Binney argues conduct illegal surveillance on all Americans, were built with previous-generation telecommunications and computing technology. With 5G, with advances in solid-state storage, and with

continuous advances in cloud computing, algorithmic analysis, and software, near-future surveillance capabilities will dwarf those revealed by the post-9/11 whistleblowers.

When it comes to the surveillance implications of 5G, consider the Internet of Things (IoT), the tech industry's long-desired utopia consisting of every device one owns connected to the Internet and continuously monitored. The world of IoT is one in which every house and car is equipped (i.e., monitored) by an Alexa-like system and in which every possible operational device from door bells (Ring, for example), to televisions, refrigerators, washing machines, door locks, furnaces, air conditioners, and much, much more are wirelessly connected, always sending data back to the cloud reporting on usage, location,

viewing habits, and even words spoken in their proximity. Much of this is in place now, but 4G bandwidth limitations are a problem that the increased bandwidth and speed of 5G will eliminate. The all-seeing Eye of Sauron, the surveillance state, will, through this technology, gain the ability to know where everyone is, what everyone is doing, and what everyone is saying at all times, in all places, and in real time.

### Span and Depth of Surveillance

Keep in mind, too, that this very near-term future includes an IoT surveillance kit installed in all public places as well — on light poles, at intersections, on public buildings, and more. These will include motion detectors, video cameras, and microphones, capable of transmitting high-definition and even 4K ultra-high-definition imagery, high quality audio and even thermal imagery to the surveillance state. Again, with 5G, this will happen in real time.

This is not speculation — it is something the surveillance state has desired and been working toward for a number of years. As far back as 2012, as *Wired* reported at the time, then-CIA director David Petraeus openly admitted that the government wanted to watch people through their Internet-connected appliances.

“Items of interest will be located, identified, monitored, and remotely controlled

through technologies such as radio-frequency identification, sensor networks, tiny embedded servers, and energy harvesters — all connected to the next-generation internet using abundant, low-cost, and high-power computing,” Petraeus said, “the latter now going to cloud computing, in many areas greater and greater supercomputing, and, ultimately, heading to quantum computing.”

5G is the “next-generation internet” envisioned by Petraeus. As for quantum computing, it’s real and it’s here. Google, for example, has announced its achievement of “quantum supremacy,” the point at which a quantum computer can vastly outperform a “classical” supercomputer, solving problems that classical computers cannot solve in any practical sense.

In October 2019, Google announced in the journal *Nature* that it had used “a processor with programmable superconducting qubits to create quantum states on 53 qubits, corresponding to a computational state-space of dimension 253 (about  $10^{16}$ ).” This processor, dubbed “Sycamore,” takes “about 200 seconds to sample one instance of a quantum circuit a million times — our benchmarks currently indicate that the equivalent task for a state-of-the-art classical supercomputer would take approximately 10,000 years.”

Quantum computing breakthroughs matter for a number of reasons, but in a world

of ubiquitous snooping, the most important implication of quantum computing is that it threatens to challenge existing public key encryption systems. These are one of the last remaining defenses against an all-powerful surveillance state, which goes a long way to explaining why the surveillance state is so bent on eradicating the public’s use of encryption.

Security expert Bruce Schneier offers a great description of the power of current encryption technology. “To encrypt a message, we combine it with a key to form ciphertext,” he notes on his website. “Without the key, reversing the process is more difficult. Not just a little more difficult, but astronomically more difficult. Modern encryption algorithms are so fast that they can secure your entire hard drive without any noticeable slowdown, but that encryption can’t be broken before the heat death of the universe.”

Except, possibly, by quantum computers. These, Schneier says, “promise to upend a lot of this.” Nonetheless, Schneier indicated that he remained optimistic about the potential of hardening encryption against quantum computation. “Cryptographers are putting considerable effort into designing ... quantum-resistant algorithms,” he noted. Of course, by the same token, Google and others are putting considerable effort into developing quantum computing.

Quantum computing is neither the greatest threat nor the most near-term threat to encryption. That is represented by the surveillance state itself and its ongoing effort to legislatively and otherwise create backdoors in communications systems.

In a recent column, NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden called attention to efforts made by the United States, the U.K., and Australia to “do away with end-to-end encryption,” or E2EE. Increasingly used, Snowden noted, by the likes of Facebook, Google, and Apple, E2EE works with keys held “on the specific devices at the endpoints of a communication” such as smart phones. “In short,” Snowden points out, “E2EE enables companies ... to protect their users from their scrutiny: by ensuring they no longer hold the keys to our most private conversations, these corporations become less of an all-seeing eye than a blindfolded courier.”

Note that this is in keeping with the spirit of the Fourth Amendment that as-



**Tracked and traced:** Surveillance cameras have sprouted up on light poles and at intersections around the country. With 5G they will become much more common, likely making it impossible to avoid surveillance in daily life.

serts that the government shall not pry into the personal papers of citizens without a search warrant. Without encryption, bulk data collection means that government snoops (and corporate ones, too) can review private-citizen communications at their leisure. This, they frequently take pains to assure us, is because they need to protect us from bad actors and criminals such as terrorists, organized crime, drug dealers, and money launderers, along with assorted other nebulous threats.

Snowden, however, thinks the motivation to undermine encryption protocols is motivated by other, darker considerations:

The true explanation for why the US, UK and Australian governments want to do away with end-to-end encryption is less about public safety than it is about power: E2EE gives control to individuals and the devices they use to send, receive and encrypt communications, not to the companies and carriers that route them. This, then, would require government surveillance to become more targeted and methodical, rather than indiscriminate and universal.

Interestingly, while the surveillance state wants to undermine privacy protections

for individuals, in the rapidly forthcoming 5G world, it remains concerned about its own privacy and security from other nation states, principally China.

This is because China is neck and neck with the West, and arguably even ahead of the West, in developing and deploying 5G infrastructure, both at home in China and in much of the rest of the world.

The chief corporate lever of this advantage is Chinese electronics giant Huawei. Concerns about the company being a non-official part of the Chinese communist government start with company founder Ren Zhengfei, who served nine years in the People's Liberation Army starting in 1974. The company says this is no big deal. His military service, they say, is just "like many other business leaders in the US and elsewhere" who also served in national military organizations.

But the situation with Huawei is murkier than just the relationship, whatever it might be, of Ren Zhengfei with Beijing. There is also the rather mysterious situation with the company's ownership. In a report dated April 17, 2019, Professors Christopher Balding of Fulbright University Vietnam and David Weaver of George Washington University Law School point out that Huawei is "100% owned by a holding company, which is in turn approximately 1% owned

by Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei and 99% owned by an entity called a 'trade union committee' for the holding company."

While Huawei claims that it is an employee-owned company, Balding and Weaver find that doubtful. "Given the public nature of trade unions in China, if the ownership stake of the trade union committee is genuine," they write, "and if the trade union and its committee function as trade unions generally function in China, then Huawei may be deemed effectively state-owned."

If that's true, then Huawei can be expected to conduct operations in conjunction with Beijing's geo-strategic aims. And since Huawei is one of the top developers and manufacturers of 5G equipment, that means the company could, in fact, build in the backdoors that would allow the communist government of China to spy on anyone — and any nation — that allows Huawei equipment to form part of the 5G system.

Even in our era of extreme political polarization, there seems to be some bipartisan agreement about the threat potentially posed by Huawei.

Republican Senator Marco Rubio (Fla.), for one, is convinced that Huawei is a significant threat via the potential for it to conduct espionage through its 5G technol-



AP Images

**Private or not?** Facebook and other tech companies have made some attempts to implement stronger encryption protocols. Advancing computer technology and anti-encryption efforts made by governments aim to short-circuit encryption efforts.

**Spy service:** Huawei, China's behemoth technology company, is a leader in developing 5G telecom technologies and beholden to the Chinese communist government, serious concerns remain about whether the company's equipment can be used by China for corporate and other espionage activities.



AP Images

Ren  
Zhengfei

ogy. “Huawei is a Chinese state-directed telecom company with a singular goal: undermine foreign competition by stealing trade secrets and intellectual property, and through artificially low prices backed by the Chinese government,” he told tech news website The Verge. “The US must be vigilant in preventing Chinese state-directed telecoms companies ... from undermining and endangering America’s 5G networks,” he continued. “Future, cutting edge industries like driverless vehicles and the Internet of Things will depend on this critical technology, and an action that threatens our 21st century industries from developing and deploying 5G undoubtedly undermines both our national and economic security.”

Across the aisle, Democrat Senator Mark Warner (Va.) indicated to The Verge that he also thought Huawei a security threat. “There is ample evidence to suggest that no major Chinese company is independent of the Chinese government and Communist Party — and Huawei, which China’s government and military tout as a ‘national champion,’ is no exception,” Warner said. “Allowing Huawei’s inclu-

sion in our 5G infrastructure could seriously jeopardize our national security and put critical supply chains at risk.”

In a report published on June 12, 2019, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) also pointed to the national security risk presented by all Chinese telecom firms, including Huawei.

The CRS report pointed out that experts have noted that vulnerabilities in Chinese 5G equipment could be “intentionally introduced for malicious purposes.” According to the report, “China’s National Intelligence Law, enacted in June 2017, declares that ‘any organization and citizen shall, in accordance with the law, support, provide assistance, and cooperate in national intelligence work, and guard the secrecy of any national intelligence work that they are aware of.’ Some analysts interpret this law as requiring Chinese telecommunications companies to cooperate with intelligence services to include being compelled to install backdoors or provide private data to the government.”

#### **Many Opportunities, Many Challenges**

It is inevitable that as technology becomes

more powerful, more advanced, and more widely dispersed, it will have ever-greater potential benefits and ever-greater potential for disaster. In this, 5G mobile communications technology is in keeping with other technical advances made beginning at the start of the 20th century. Chemistry gave us the ability to make fertilizer out of thin air, allowing for the rapid growth of population without starvation (except for those starvations that were engineered by socialist governments), but it also introduced new dangers. Nuclear power provided vast amounts of energy — both for economic gain and military destruction. The development of computers has allowed the rapid expansion of many industries and spawned entirely new ones that drive the economy, while also enabling increasingly disturbing social trends and the surveillance state. 5G will be no different. It offers to accelerate innovation, speed production, and allow faster and more sophisticated communications while, simultaneously, it supercharges all the bad aspects of the electronics and telecommunications innovations that it builds on. ■

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# RENT CONTROL

## A Bad Idea That Keeps Coming Back

High rents and few choices are usually the result of government policies — often as a result of rent controls — yet the Left keeps looking to rent controls to solve housing problems.



AP Images

**Americans struggling:** Rising rents and a shortage of affordable housing have led to a renewed interest in rent-control policies among the political Left.

by Luis Miguel

The curious thing about bad ideas is how they never seem to die. No matter how many times an idea has failed in the past, there's always someone, somewhere willing to give it another try.

Is it any surprise, then, that American socialists, who stubbornly refuse to learn the lessons of their ideology's astronomical body count and penchant for throwing once-thriving economies down the drain, are attempting to resurrect the

*Luis Miguel is a writer whose journalistic endeavors shed light on the Deep State, the immigration crisis, and the enemies of freedom.*

nearly universally discredited doctrine of rent control from the catacombs of good-intentions-gone-wrong?

### The Rent-control Revival

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), the democratic socialist whose support for ambitious big-government programs such as the Green New Deal and Medicare for All has made her a darling among the Democrats' rising progressive wing, is once again moving the needle for her party leftward with a sweeping anti-poverty legislative suite.

The package, which Ocasio-Cortez has entitled "A Just Society: A Place to Prosper Act 2019," is comprised of six bills:

the Recognizing Poverty Act, the Place to Prosper Act, the Mercy in Re-Entry Act, the Embrace Act, the Uplift Our Workers Act, and legislation to ratify the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Some of the changes Americans could expect if Ocasio-Cortez' Just Society becomes law include, according to her, a prohibition on landlords "discriminating" against potential tenants based on source of income, making it easy for those using housing vouchers to rent anywhere; billions of dollars a year for education and outreach concerning the dangers of lead-based paint; and, of course, nationwide rent control.

The legislation includes an annual rent



AP Images

California as a whole accounts for roughly half of the country's unsheltered homeless population. And after adjusting for housing costs, it has the highest state poverty rate: 18.2 percent.

increase cap of three percent, a limit that goes further than even the nation's most progressive states. Oregon caps rent increases at seven percent after inflation. A California bill signed into law in October puts the limit at five percent plus inflation.

Speaking to the progressive news organization NowThis about her new program, Ocasio-Cortez said, "A just society treats housing as a right, not a privilege."

While A Just Society is unlikely to gain serious traction in Congress while Republicans maintain their hold on the Senate, its central premise that housing is a "right" that must be guaranteed to every person by the government (and paid for by taxpayers) is already finding expression in state legislatures around the country.

*Oregon:* In February, Oregon became the first state in the union to pass statewide rent control. The vote in favor was largely along party lines, with Democrats citing rising rents and the falling availability of affordable housing as grounds to crack down on landlords.

In addition to the seven-percent rent cap, the measure places additional limits on landlords' ability to evict tenants, re-

quiring them to provide a month of paid rent in some circumstances.

*California:* The Golden State followed in Oregon's footsteps in September, outdoing its neighbor with a five-percent rent increase cap and provisions that landlords may only evict tenants if they have "just cause," such as failing to pay rent or damaging the property.

The Tenant Protection Act marks a comeback for the California rent-control movement, which encountered a setback after its failure to convince the state's voters to say "yes" to Proposition 10 last November.

Prop 10 would have repealed the 1995 Costa-Hawkins Act, a law that protects the right of landlords to raise rent to market rates after tenants move out while also banning municipalities from applying their local rent-control policies to single-family rentals or to units built before 1995.

Rather than kill the movement, Prop 10's defeat at the polls galvanized tenant leaders and organizers, culminating in the landmark legislation authored by State Senator David Chiu, a San Francisco Democrat.

**The homeless question:** Rent-control proponents point to rising homelessness as justification for their agenda. Yet in San Francisco, which has some of the nation's strictest rent control, homelessness has grown by 17 percent since 2017.

"The housing crisis is reaching every corner of America, where you're seeing high home prices, high rents, evictions and homelessness that we're all struggling to grapple with," Chiu said. "Protecting tenants is a critical and obvious component of any strategy to address this."

Chiu is correct that his state is in dire straits. California has the highest housing prices in the nation. And in Chiu's hometown of San Francisco, which has long been known for having some of America's strictest rent-control policies, the homeless population has grown by 17 percent since 2017.

California as a whole accounts for roughly half of the country's unsheltered homeless population. And after adjusting for housing costs, it has the highest state poverty rate: 18.2 percent — five points above the national average.

State politicians have attempted to address the issue with several multibillion-dollar programs for shelters and subsidized housing, without success.

So now it seems the question progressive legislators are asking themselves is, "Why not make the housing subsidies easier by bringing the rents down first?"

With Oregon and California setting the stage, that's a question that progressive lawmakers in every state will increasingly ask themselves.

### Rent Control: Coming to a City Near You

In fact, rent-control proposals have arisen as legislation or ballot initiatives in about a dozen states since 2017, including in Washington, Colorado, and Nevada.

New York passed a housing stability and tenant bill last summer that, while not as far-reaching as California's or Oregon's, further restricts the conditions under which landlords may raise rents and lowered the cap for Major Capital Improvements. Major capital improvements are classified as improvements, typically involving replacements or upgrades, that benefit all tenants of a building (new roof,

new boiler, etc.). Major capital improvements often justify rent increases. Formerly, the maximum amount rent could be increased in rent-stabilized apartments after a major capital improvement was six percent in New York City and 15 percent elsewhere in the state. Now that has dropped to two percent in New York City and everywhere else.

The Illinois Legislature is weighing two bills that would lift the state's 22-year-old ban on rent control. One of them would not only lift the prohibition, but also establish six "regional rent control boards" throughout Illinois.

Currently, 37 states flat-out ban rent control, while eight allow their cities to enact it, but have no cities that have chosen to do so. In addition to rent-control hotbeds Oregon, California, and New York, the states of New Jersey and Maryland, along with the District of Columbia, have localities that practice some form of rent control.

But is rent control the panacea to housing woes its proponents would have us believe it is? Not everyone is convinced.

"Rent control is definitely having a moment across the country," says Jim Lapidés of the National Multifamily Housing

Council. "But we're seeing folks turn to really shortsighted policy that will end up making the very problem worse."

Many economists understand the futility of the types of policies currently being pursued in California. History has shown that rent control ultimately hurts tenants instead of helping them.

### **The Truth About Rent Control (Hint: It Doesn't Work)**

In his book *Economic Facts and Fallacies*, Stanford economist Thomas Sowell explains that by lowering the profitability of apartments, rent control disincentivizes the building of these dwellings — reducing the supply and thereby raising the price:

Meanwhile, the lower rate of return on investments in new apartment buildings, because of rent control, cause[s] fewer of them to be built. Where rent control laws are especially stringent, no new apartment buildings at all may be built to replace those that are wearing out. Not a single apartment building was built in Melbourne for years after World War II because of rent control laws.

In a number of Massachusetts communities, no rental housing was built for a quarter of a century, until the state banned local rent control laws, after which building resumed.

Or, as Milton Friedman put it:

Rent control is a law that supposedly is passed to help the people who are in housing. And it does help those who are in current housing. But the effect of rent control is to create scarcity, and to make it difficult for other people to get housing.

San Francisco is a prime example of rent control's failed record (though the lesson appears to have been lost on hometown hero David Chiu).

The city's infamous rent-control law (the rate increase cap for March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020 is 2.6 percent, and was 1.6 percent last year) was passed in 1979 as a "temporary" measure to alleviate the era's high price inflation. Rental units certified for occupancy before June 13, 1979 are subject to rent control under the San Francisco Rent Ordinance (SFRO), while units certified after that year are exempt.

Within a decade of the rent-control law's passage, construction of new multifamily housing fell by a remarkable 32 percent.

And yet for all the promises made by the rent-control crowd, rents in San Francisco are anything but under control. A report from this year by the San Francisco-based apartment search platform Zumper found that the median rent for one-bedroom apartments in the city is \$3,700 — the highest ever recorded by the platform for any city.

New Yorkers are also longtime victims of rent control, which disincentivizes making rental units available. This and other government policies, such as zoning laws, put upward pressure on prices. One-bedroom apartments go for an average of \$2,945 a month. A two-bedroom apartment will set you back \$3,777 a month.

As you might expect, some of the "beneficiaries" of New York City's rent-control policy are the wealthy. A 2014 analysis by DNAinfo found that a polo-playing millionaire (who allegedly broke up Governor Andrew Cuomo's marriage), a tobacco executive, and the head of a leading U.S.



AP Images

**Big government to the rescue?** Legislation signed into law by California Governor Gavin Newsom caps rent increases at five percent per year, plus inflation.



hedge fund are just some of the financial elites who have lived in rent-stabilized New York apartments, paying a mere fraction of their units' true market value, likely for the sole reason that rent stabilization "applies generally to apartments in buildings with at least six units that were built between 1947 and 1974," according to the *New York Times*.

Many such individuals have their main residence elsewhere and use their relatively cheap NYC home as a glorified hotel room when they happen to make a visit to the city.

Rent control negatively affects middle- and lower-income renters in another way: by lowering the quality of dwellings over time. Because landlords make a smaller profit under rent control, they start cutting corners on maintenance, which naturally results in worse living conditions for tenants.

Moreover, the decreased profitability of rental units prompts owners to convert their units into condos and sell them off, cutting supply further.

### Let the Free Market Roll

But if rent control isn't the answer, what is?

As with most crises, the recent rent-control movement is a case of government intervention being used as a solution to a problem caused by government intervention.

Why is there a shortage of affordable housing in the first place? Because there's insufficient development.

It all goes back to basic economics. The scarcer something is, the higher its price will be. Sellers can charge more when they know everyone's fighting over the same pie. But increase supply and prices go down. Buyers aren't going to pay an arm and a leg for that pie when they know there's a pie stand readily available on every corner of their street.

Supply often works together with competition. When there are multiple sellers or providers offering the same product or service, creating high supply, they all strive to have the lowest prices possible to remain competitive and win over consumers — who have the freedom of choosing from a multitude of options.

It's called the free market. It works beautifully without any micromanaging government entity telling anyone what to do. Developers will keep building housing so long as they see people are willing to pay for it — which consumers clearly are, given how residents of expensive areas pay rents of over \$3,000, even when doing so constitutes considerable financial sacrifice. And the constant construction keeps prices balanced at healthy levels.

The problem isn't that the free market

**Real problems, wrong solutions:** Many citizens affected by affordable housing shortages petition the government to intervene, not realizing that government restriction of the free market is the source of the problem.

has failed. It's that it isn't being allowed to work.

Many communities, including San Francisco, have strict zoning laws and ordinances that greatly restrict the number of building permits that can be issued.

Similarly, a number of areas have urban growth boundaries, which bar development outside their delineated boundary lines. Sold as a way of reducing urban sprawl, these policies drive down housing construction, ramping up prices for residents.

Not surprisingly, Oregon is one of among a handful of states that requires its cities to establish urban growth boundaries.

If lawmakers in blue states really wanted to offer their constituents affordable housing, they would repeal their strict zoning ordinances and reform urban growth boundaries to allow for more development.

Of course, it's much more electorally profitable to lay the blame on landlords and promise voters Big Brother will come in to solve all their problems, so look for more rent-control proposals.

Sadly, for the people who put their faith in such political leaders, the remedy will ultimately prove worse than the illness. ■

# SOCIALISTS STOP SPREAD OF SUCCESS

Militants of the Socialist International are working hand-in-hand with Wall Street globalists at the United Nations to destabilize nations and build a socialist world government.

by William F. Jasper

**T**he United Nations and the Socialist International are waging war against Chile and its conservative president, Sebastián Piñera. Since mid-October, Chile's capital, Santiago, and other cities across the country have been wracked by violent riots, with dozens of people killed, thousands injured (including hundreds of police and military personnel), thousands arrested, and an enormous amount of destruction of public infrastructure and private property, including train stations, businesses, shops, and supermarkets. The Piñera government declared a state of emergency and imposed curfews. President Piñera faces a National Congress that is stacked against him, as well as a hostile media, and leftist-controlled universities that serve as hotbeds for revolution.

The United Nations high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, has responded to the turmoil by sending a team of UN investigators to Chile to examine allegations of human rights abuse by the Chilean government. This move by the UN should have caused suspicion from

*William F. Jasper is senior editor of THE NEW AMERICAN.*



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the get-go. Why? Well, for one thing, Michelle Bachelet is herself a former president of Chile (two terms, 2006-2010 and 2014-2018) and a virulent opponent of President Piñera. That alone should lead any reasonable observer to suspect, at the very least, that her UN “investigation” is likely to be politically motivated. However, it goes much deeper than that. Bachelet, a hardcore Marxist, is an ardent admirer of the late communist dictator Fidel Castro, and, as one of her last acts as president of Chile, made a pilgrimage to Cuba to praise Fidel and meet with his designated successor and brother, Raúl Castro, the current communist dictator of Cuba. She is also a supporter of the Marxist regimes in Nicaragua and Venezuela. In the 1970s, Bachelet left Chile and moved to communist East Germany, then one of the most oppressive dictatorships in the Soviet bloc. Moreover, Bachelet is a longtime member of, and was elected president while the leader of, Chile's ultra-left Socialist

**Socialists 'R Us:** UN Secretary-General António Guterres, a former president of the Socialist International (SI), selected SI veteran Michelle Bachelet to head the UN's discredited human rights commission and he oversees a UN overstaffed with SI Marxists.

Party, which is a member of the Socialist International, the global cabal of more than 135 national political parties from all continents, including former communist parties that have rebranded themselves as socialist or social democrat. The secretary-general of the Socialist International is Luis Ayala, a radical Chilean who is a close comrade of Bachelet in the Socialist Party. Bachelet was selected for the UN high commissioner post by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, a former president of the Socialist International. Although barely known in the United States (because it is seldom mentioned by our controlled “mainstream” media — and is even largely ignored by our alternative



**Comrades in revolution:** UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, the former socialist president of Chile, reviews an honor guard with Cuba's communist dictator Raúl Castro in Havana in January 2018.

AP Images

one of Latin America's most prosperous and stable countries."

President Piñera and other Latin American leaders paint a different picture. "We are at war against a powerful enemy, who is willing to use violence without any limits," Piñera declared in a late-night televised statement on October 29. "We are very aware that [the perpetrators of riots] have a degree of organization, logistics, typical of a criminal organization," he said. According to news reports from Chile, Cuban and Venezuelan nationals were arrested as instigators of the rioting. And Chile is not alone in this regard. On October 22, Argentina's National Security Council met to consider the wave of violent protest that is sweeping across Latin America. Following the meeting, Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie pointed to Cuba and the Marxist dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela as the source of the orchestrated upheavals. "They intend to intervene in the political, institutional and social lives of our countries, threatening us like a Bolivarian hurricane that brings in its winds hunger, poverty, dictatorship, the loss of liberty and a prison sentence," Faurie charged. "Bolivarian" refers to the political philosophy of Venezuela's founding father, Simón Bolívar, which has been expropriated and hybridized by Hugo Chávez, Nicolás Maduro, and others of the communist-Left to advance their socialist agendas.

Argentina's security minister, Patricia Bullrich, likewise condemned the tumults in Chile and Argentina as the work of foreign radicals, as did Argentine Senator Miguel Ángel Pichetto. Also, Ecuador's interior minister, María Paula Romo, cited the arrest of 17 Venezuelan activists as part of the evidence indicating that the violence unfolding in Ecuador and Chile was following the plans of the latest São Paulo Forum (Foro de São Paulo, FSP), the "respectable" communist/terrorist organization founded by Fidel Castro and Nicaragua's Sandinista regime. Ecuador's President Lenín Moreno claimed that Maduro is conspiring with former president Rafael Correa to coordinate a "coup" in Quito. He charges that Maduro and Correa have secretly injected "200 to 300" operatives disguised as Venezuelan migrants into Ecuador to organize dissent and overthrow his government. Similarly,

media), the Socialist International (SI) virtually runs the United Nations and many of its agencies, with Guterres being only the most obvious example of its influence.

Another SI/UN alum is former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, a former member of Chile's Socialist Party and one of the Chileans often quoted in recent stories undermining President Piñera. He is also one of the few SI members named to the "Committee of Twelve Distinguished Members of the Socialist International." In 2007, he was named as a UN special envoy on climate change, along with former SI vice president and UN functionary Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former prime minister of Norway.

Bachelet, Guterres, Lagos, Brundtland, and other SI/UN comrades are welcomed as honored guests at the CFR and other globalist gatherings. Bachelet and Lagos are both members of the elite Club of Madrid, as well as Inter-American Dialogue, where both have served as co-chairs.

The cause of Chile's current "unrest," according to the lords of the Fake News Media, was the government's subway fare hike of 30 pesos, the equivalent of four U.S. cents. Anger over the fare increases,

goes the standard line from media commentators, caused spontaneous, "student-led" flash mobs of hundreds of youths to jump the Metro turnstiles in protest, which then escalated to "youth-led" mobs setting buses and Metro stations on fire and looting stores, and then escalated still further and broadened into massive protests, supposedly motivated by "income inequality."

This is the story we get from the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, Associated Press, CNN, PBS, and the rest of the Deep State media cartel. Most of these "news" reports take their cues on the issue from so-called experts at the Council on Foreign Relations, the Council of the Americas, Inter-American Dialogue, and similar globalist propaganda founts that posture as objective think tanks.

According to Amelia Cheatham, a "Special Assistant" at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), "The turmoil began on October 18 with student-led protests over a metro fare increase." Her CFR blog post entitled "What's Behind the Chile Protests?" states that "Political unrest is sweeping Chile, as impatience with inequality grows in what has been

Luis Almagro, the secretary-general of the Organization of American States, issued a statement on October 16, immediately prior to the violent Chilean outbreaks, declaring: “The recent currents of destabilization of the political systems of the hemisphere have their origins in the strategy of the Bolivarian and Cuban dictatorships, which seek to reposition themselves once again, not through a process of re-institutionalization and re-democratization, but through their old methodology of exporting polarization and bad practices, to essentially finance, support and promote political and social conflict.”

If you are unaware of these charges by high-level Latin American officials, don't feel bad, you're not alone. The U.S. media organizations have either completely censored out all of these statements, or dismissed them as political “scapegoatism.” Many news outlets, for instance, carried an October 31 story from the *Washington Post* entitled “Besieged South American leaders blame Venezuela's Maduro for historic wave of unrest.” The article begins:

“As the streets of South America convulse in the region's worst bout of social unrest in years, a chorus of critics on the political right are decrying what they see as one inescapable link: The nefarious hand of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.” “But is Maduro really a Joker-like figure orchestrating increasingly violent protests from his lair in Caracas?” the *WaPo* piece continues, “Or is he just the perfect scapegoat to explain away the genuine anger now raging in multiple South American nations?” You already know the answer to the *Post's* stacked rhetorical questions. According to the *Post's* take on the matter, only right-wing nitwits would believe the comic-book-villain version of events that posits Maduro has a hand in the ongoing chaos. It mentions the fact that Maduro hosted the São Paulo Forum in Caracas in July, but discounts it as inconsequential, citing quotes from participants at the forum who denied the meeting had anything to do with the upheavals. By the same token, we suppose, the *Post* would simply accept as gospel a denial by Mexi-

can drug kingpin Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán that his notorious Sinaloa Cartel has anything to do with the violence ripping through Mexico.

Over at *Foreign Affairs*, the flagship journal of the Council on Foreign Relations, Moises Naim of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Brian Winter, a vice president at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas, co-authored an October 29 article reiterating the Maduro “scapegoat” thesis. Entitled “Why Latin America Was Primed to Explode,” it carries the subtitle, “Economic Malaise, More Than Foreign Meddling, Explains the Outpouring of Rage.”

“The rapid spread across social media of images of burning buildings and besieged riot police has inspired widespread talk of a conspiracy: specifically, that the protests throughout the hemisphere are being orchestrated from Venezuela and Cuba,” the duo write. They see “inequality and corruption” as the more likely causes, and go on to comment: “The focus on conspiracy theories, moreover, risks giving politicians and other elites a handy scapegoat.”

But what about video of Maduro gloating at the São Paulo Forum, telling his international audience that the chaos being experienced by his antagonists among the Latin American governments is going “exactly as we planned it”? Winter seems to be fuming mad that it may foil his scapegoat exculpation of Maduro and fuel “right-wing conspiracy theory.” In a tweet on October 21, Winter commented: “Amid Latin American turmoil, Maduro tells int'l audience: ‘We're complying with the São Paulo Forum's plan, it's going exactly as we planned it,’ thus seeming to confirm every right-wing conspiracy theory of last few years, damn it, get ready to see this video 5000 times.”

In a follow-up tweet, Winter further explained: “‘Damn it’ because factors behind unrest go MUCH deeper than any stupid dictator, but it's 2019 and social media video is king so buckle up.”

But is the Havana-Caracas-São Paulo Forum connection to the current tsunami of turmoil in Latin America all just “right-wing conspiracy theory”? Plenty of experts don't think so, and a clear-eyed review of evidence from similar violent waves in the past would show that there is indeed good reason to believe there



AP Images

**Planned chaos:** Contrary to the commentary of media-anointed “experts” that the riots in Chile and Latin America are “youth-led” and spontaneous uprisings, signs clearly point to the mayhem being directed by trained revolutionaries.

are strategically placed foreign communist elements — working together with domestic communists — that are fomenting the chaos and destruction. In a recent video interview with *THE NEW AMERICAN*'S Christian Gomez, Dr. Carlos Casanova, a Venezuelan lawyer and professor of philosophy of law at the Universidad Santo Tomás and the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, detailed the extensive evidence showing that the Chilean riots, far from being “spontaneous” expressions of popular outrage, are instead very carefully planned upheavals coordinated by Chilean communists and their Cuban and Venezuelan counterparts. In the interview, entitled “Communist War on Chile,” Dr. Casanova, who previously was a professor of law at the University of Notre Dame in the United States, particularly pointed to Michelle Bachelet and Fernando Atria, a professor of law at the University of Chile,

as key operatives in the Chilean mayhem. Like Bachelet, Professor Atria is a long-time Socialist Party activist, going back to the 1970-1973 communist Castroite regime of Salvador Allende, who remains a revered demigod of the Left worldwide.

In a column carried by the *Latin American Herald Tribune* and many other news sources, exiled Cuban author/journalist/political analyst Carlos Alberto Montaner offered some sensible observations on the Chilean travails. “Chile, indeed, is a very successful society. It leads almost all the economic and social indexes of Latin America, including that of honesty (Transparency International). It has reduced poverty levels very noticeably. It has increased the individuals’ lifespans to be among the world’s highest, which demonstrates the quality of its public health services,” Montaner notes. He cites the well-documented statistics showing Chilean unemployment

and inflation to be among the lowest in the world, while per capita income is among the highest.

“In my opinion,” says Montaner, “it is quite clear that the communists wanted to destroy Chile. Why? Because Chile is a harmful example for them. It was a successful society in which they insisted on seeing only the alleged failures.”

“Who were the hooded individuals who committed these excesses against Chilean society?” Montaner asks. “First, I think there is a lot of sinister fun in the incendiary torch,” he answers, further commenting: “The mixture of youth hormones with political causes is tremendous, as was seen in Paris in 1968. But we must also take Nicolás Maduro and Diosdado Cabello [Venezuela’s ruling Socialist Party vice president] seriously when they indicate that they were the instigators, but the executors were the local communists. It was not a spontaneous explosion, but a thoughtful plan.”

The obvious, detailed planning behind the Chilean and regional riots, following communist tactics used for over a century in countries around the world, evinces a definite “thoughtful plan.”

As just one small example of the orchestration, we could cite the “spontaneous,” simultaneous eruptions all across Chile and Latin America of the chant: “*El pueblo, unido, jamás será vencido!*” (Spanish for “The people united will never be defeated,” a favorite of communist cadres in the United States as well.) It is a chant/song composed for Salvador Allende by Chilean communist musician/composer Sergio Ortega, and has been a staple of trained communist agitators masquerading as “protesters” for decades.

The attack on Chile and all of the non-communist countries of Latin America is scheduled to escalate. The riots have already caused Chile to cancel its planned hosting of the APEC trade summit and the UN Climate Summit, and Chilean radicals are demanding that President Piñera resign and that a Constitutional Assembly draft a new constitution for the nation.

What we are witnessing is a not a popular uprising but a concerted coup effort by an alliance of communists and globalists at the UN, the Socialist International (SI), the São Paulo Forum, and organizations allied with the Council on Foreign Relations. ■

Montaner cites the well-documented statistics showing Chilean unemployment and inflation to be among the lowest in the world, while per capita income is among the highest.



**Communist-socialist-globalist target:** Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, leading Chile's outstanding example of prosperity and stability, is in the cross hairs of the global Left and marked by them for destruction.

AP Images





## 5G: The Potential and the Risks

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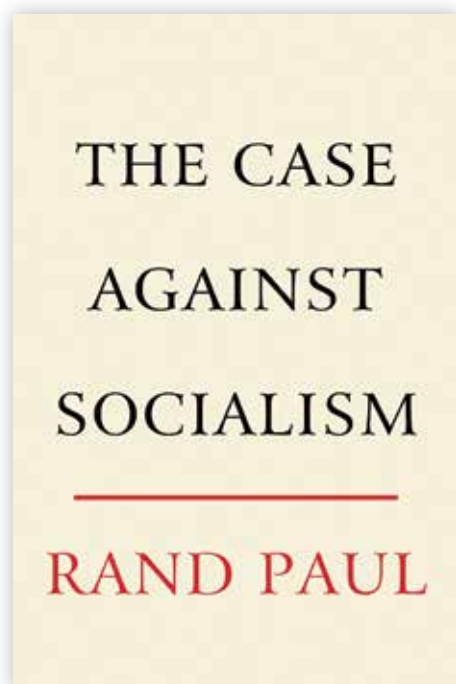
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# A SENATOR STANDS UP TO SOCIALISM

It's said that people who don't learn from history are bound to repeat it. Senator Rand Paul has written a book to remind people of the historical promises and failures of socialism.



by John T. Larabell

*The Case Against Socialism*, by Rand Paul, New York: Harper Collins, 2019, 354 pages, hardcover.

Rather than write a book detailing lofty plans to make America a better country via conservatism, a book lamenting the lack of decency and good old-fashioned values in our modern culture, or a feel-good volume talking about dreams and all the good things that unite us (not that there's anything wrong with such books), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) did something

John T. Larabell is Web editor of *THE NEW AMERICAN*.

perhaps more necessary and timely given our current political situation: He wrote a book attacking socialism.

Great books mounting an intellectual case against socialism have come from the minds of academics such as Ludwig von Mises, Friedrich Hayek, and Milton Friedman, but these, for the most part, were not really written for the “man on the street.” The fact that a well-known U.S. senator has written a book against socialism aimed at a popular audience is exciting. And Senator Paul's book certainly is accessible; it's easy to read but still filled with plenty of good information to make the case against that dangerous ideology that continues to capture the imaginations of Americans, especially the youth.

Rather than merely focusing on one aspect of socialism, attempting to attack it from an economic perspective, for instance, Senator Paul looks at the whole spectrum of problems with the Marxist mentality.

*The Case Against Socialism* is divided into six parts, each containing between three and 10 chapters. In Part 1, “Because Eating Your Pets Is Overrated — Socialism Creates Poverty,” Paul exposes the corruption and poverty that are endemic to socialist regimes the world over. Using examples ranging from Venezuela to corrupt socialist regimes in Africa, he demonstrates that a top-down system of controlling a nation's economy always leads to shortages, inefficiencies, and poverty. Capitalism, Paul points out, is actually better for the poor, and a nation's level of income inequality is really not a good indicator of the standard of living of all of its citizens. For instance, while there is great income inequality in

United States, the poor live much better here than in socialist countries that might have less income inequality. In other words, who cares if everyone is equal when they're all equally miserable?

“But we don't want Venezuela, we want Denmark or Sweden” is the retort given by starry-eyed millennials who yearn for socialism in America. Is that so? Paul addresses this issue in Part 2, “Capitalism Makes Scandinavia Great.” Paul should be especially commended for including this section in his book, since the tired portrayal of Scandinavia as *The Place That Makes Socialism Work* needs to be refuted at every opportunity. Indeed, this is the longest part of the book, with 10 chapters devoted to debunking the myth of the Nordic socialist utopia. Paul demonstrates that success in Scandinavia was actually produced by capitalism, and the introduction of the much-lauded welfare states slowed down this success to the point where the countries are now making moves toward privatization and lowering taxes. In fact, many Danes reject the appellation “socialist.” Danish journalist Annegrethe Rasmussen remarked, “You have nothing but capitalism in Denmark. We have one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the world. But once the capitalists have done their work, we just tax the hell out of our people.” And Danish economist Lars Christensen says, “When I hear Bernie Sanders talk about himself as a democratic socialist, it's a little bit 1970s. The major political parties on the center-left and the center-right would oppose many of the proposals of Bernie Sanders on the regulatory side as being too leftist.” Scandinavian countries practice what Paul labels “welfarism”: They have market economies

with low corporate taxes but high personal income taxes and bloated, inefficient welfare states — which, as mentioned above, are now seeing more privatization and competition.

In Part III, “A Boot Stamping on the Human Face Forever — Socialism and Authoritarianism,” Senator Paul explains how socialist governments move toward authoritarianism. He points out the fact that, much to the dismay and denial of today’s Progressives and lovers of socialism, Adolf Hitler was a socialist. The only major ideological difference between the National Socialist German Worker’s Party (Nazis) and American Progressives is that the Nazis believed that their socialist state was only for ethnic Germans.

Part IV, “Socialism Doesn’t Create Equality,” begins with Paul noting,

It is important to remember that the post-World War II revolution that brought Mao to power was fueled by the promises of socialism. Mao promised to redistribute wealth and abolish private property. Mao promised to abolish income inequality and create a more equal society. Anything sound familiar?... Mao and Stalin and Hitler didn’t come to power promising tyranny. They came to power promising equality.

Equality sounds great, until it has to be implemented by force.

In Part V, “Where Are These Angels? The Philosophy of Socialism,” Paul debunks the idea that a socialist utopia will be run by wise, virtuous people akin to Plato’s “philosopher kings.” He explains what should be obvious to any thinking person: Entrusting people with total power can only lead to tyranny. There are no purely benevolent, disinterested people who could rule the country as Yoda-like figures, dispensing wise advice to create a perfectly harmonious society. In other words, “power tends to corrupt.” Paul includes a poignant quote from Milton Friedman in this regard: “I think you’re taking a lot of things for granted. Just tell me where in the world you find these angels who are going to organize society for us.” Our dear leaders will cease to be angels as soon as they run into opposition to their plans.

Part VI, “Never Let a Crisis Go to Waste: Socialism and Alarmism,” examines the use



Gage Skidmore

of crises, either real or imagined, to implement the socialist agenda. Poverty, racism, income inequality, lack of healthcare coverage, and climate change are good examples. Paul pays particular attention to the issue of climate change and focuses on the Green New Deal put forth by socialist media darling Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. He notes, too, how any dissent against the alarmism is stifled in a socialist society. Currently in America, we see dissent smashed by social-media deplatforming, mainstream-media smears, and corporations pulling advertising or affiliations. Under full-blown socialism, the government would be doing the censoring. Think hate-speech laws in other Western countries, with “hate” being whatever the ruling elites say it is.

Paul includes in this part of the book many recent examples of media hysteria coming from the Left, such as the reaction to the recent hate-crime hoaxes (think Jussie Smollett) and the “smirking” Covington kid, Nick Sandmann. He also includes some instances of left-wing hysteria and violence in which he was personally involved, such as the Bernie Sanders supporter shooting up the congressional baseball game and the severe assault he suffered at the hands of a liberal neighbor while he was mowing his lawn.

In the book’s Afterword, Senator Paul calls for finding common ground. He offers several examples of how he has worked with Democratic senators on bills that would help the cause of liberty, and la-

ments the fact that America is so divided. Much of this divide, Paul feels, is because of the media. One area in which Senator Paul does not believe we should compromise and find common ground, however, is on the issue of socialism:

But on socialism, or its fellow traveler, welfarism, it is unlikely that we will find common ground. In fact, I’m not inclined to split the difference between socialism and capitalism. I will continue to fight for a free market economy because it is the only system consistent with liberty and the only system that provides greater prosperity and opportunity for all. If your goal is to help the poor become better off, there is no more humanitarian economic system than capitalism.

As mentioned above, Paul wrote this book for a popular audience, and it is written in a very accessible style, with enough wit and humor to keep the reader engaged. Paul also includes a number of personal anecdotes to add human interest. But don’t let the readability fool you: A great deal of research went into the book, and the more than 500 endnotes attest to this fact.

*The Case Against Socialism* is a great primer for anyone who wants to have a better understanding of this dangerous ideology, and a great gift for friends or relatives who may be enamored by the lies of the Left. ■



## THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

### Car Seats, Books, and Stickers, Oh My!

Milwaukee police officer Kevin Zimmerman made a young mother's day a lot better following a routine traffic stop.

The *Daily Mail* reported Zimmerman initially stopped Andrella "Lashae" Jackson on October 12 because she had the wrong vehicle registration. During the stop, he observed two little girls in the backseat of the vehicle without proper car seats, a violation.

Officer Zimmerman told WTMC-TV, "I see three kids in the backseat and two are very young. I didn't observe any child restraints or even seat belts and I asked why the kids aren't in car seats. She said, she can't afford them at this time."

Jackson is reportedly a mother of five, struggling to cover her expenses, much less the cost of car registration and car seats. "With bills coming up and winter coming up, I have to get coats and boots and shoes for my kids," Jackson said. "So it was hard for me."

Zimmerman, a father of three children, was moved by Jackson's situation and wanted to help. "I thought of my kids jumping around. What if a car hit them and they flew and got seriously hurt, if not killed?" Instead of fining Jackson, he asked her to follow him to a local Walmart, where he purchased two car seats totaling approximately \$75.

Fox 2 Detroit noted Officer Zimmerman later showed up to Jackson's residence to install the car seats. He brought books and stickers for the girls, as well.

Jackson was grateful for the officer's kindness, but more importantly, the two little girls were happy and thankful.

In a Facebook post, Jackson recalled her encounter with the officer and noted, "My girls couldn't stop thanking him and it made them smile."

### Purple Nail Polish

When a very frightened toddler was involved in a car accident in North Davis, Utah, the responding firefighters knew just how to make her feel better.

Battalion Chief Allen Hadley and Fire

Captain Kevin Lloyd were the first responders on the scene of an accident on October 12, *People.com* reported. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt in the collision, but there was a little girl who was traumatized by the experience who needed special attention. Lloyd and Hadley were prepared to do what it took to calm her down.

"After noticing the child was holding bottles of fingernail polish, these two officers started talking to her about her polish and asked her if she would paint their nails," a Facebook post from the North Davis Fire District reads.

The girl happily agreed and painted purple nail polish on the nails of both men.

And while the manicures were not pristine, the experience was exactly what the little girl needed to relax and forget about her accident.

The young girl's mother, Jocelyn Fernelius, commented, offering her deepest gratitude and adding, "She got upset when they told her that they had to go back to work."

Hadley and Lloyd certainly made a positive impact on that young girl.

### Uber Driver Saves the Day

Uber driver Belinda Smith was so moved by an overwhelmed mother's story, she decided she wanted to do more than simply drive her around.

Nicole Ihus and her husband were preparing to give birth to a baby boy with a life-threatening disease called Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH). "It's a hole in the diaphragm that allows the organ in the abdomen to move into the chest cavity and causes really small lungs because it limits the space for them to grow," Nicole told Fox News. She and her husband learned of the baby's condition in July.

Where they lived in Kansas City, no doctor was adept at treating such an extraordinary condition, forcing them to seek a hospital elsewhere to give birth to their son and allow him to receive the necessary treatment.

The scared parents found the "best doctor in the world for this condition" at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Pe-

tersburg, Florida, so they decided to head there to have their first baby.

Nicole gave birth to their baby, John Henry, on September 19, and he was immediately placed in the hospital's Newborn Intensive Care Unit, where he's expected to stay for at least four months. And while Nicole was thrilled her son now had a fighting chance, she was full of angst over her son's fate.

Nicole did not want to leave her son's side, but she knew that she would need to buy him some new clothes for his lengthy hospital stay.

Nicole took an Uber to a nearby children's store. Her kind driver, Belinda, allowed Nicole to vent about her situation and her son's condition and the costly, lengthy treatment.

When the Uber arrived at Rhea Lana children's clothing store, Belinda parked the vehicle and got out.

"She was like, 'I'm going to help you buy you some clothes for your son.' I asked her, 'Are you serious?' I can't even imagine," Nicole recalled. "For this stranger to go completely out of her way — stop what she was doing and stop making money — to come be with me for a couple of hours while we shopped together, that was just incredible."

The women shopped together, and by the end of the day, John Henry had a new wardrobe.

Belinda later told WFLA she "really felt for [Nicole]," who was in tears as she told Belinda her story.

Belinda came to visit John Henry at the hospital several days later.

"He's so beautiful," she told Nicole.

The baby is expected to stay at the hospital at least until January, Fox News reports. It is likely John Henry will have to return to the hospital in the future as well, given his condition.

Thankfully for Nicole, she has found a lifelong friend in Florida.

"This is a lifetime friendship," Belinda told Fox News. "We're bonded, we are bound together."

The women have already planned a trip to go to Disney World in the future, when John Henry is doing well. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

AP Images



# CLINTON IMPEACHMENT

## Should Treason Have Been the Reason?

Bill Clinton was impeached for lying under oath about having sex with Monica Lewinsky. He should have been impeached for taking bribes from foreigners.

*In a previous issue, we looked at the first impeachment of a U.S. president, with our article on Andrew Johnson. In this article, we look at the second impeachment, that of William Jefferson Clinton — the first elected president to undergo impeachment.*

**by Steve Byas**

In one of the most memorable lines from George Orwell's classic dystopian novel *1984*, it is said that those who control the present control the past, and those who control the past control the future. The American Left well under-

*Steve Byas is a university history and government instructor, and author of History's Greatest Libels.*

stands the truth of the tactic of influencing what the public thinks about the past, for it is a useful tool to winning political and cultural battles in the present.

A prime example of the truth of Orwell's proposition is the way the average American misunderstands what the Bill Clinton impeachment was all about. Were we to ask the average person to state why Clinton was impeached, there is little doubt that the number one response would be that he was impeached because he had an adulterous affair with a White House intern, Monica Lewinsky, who was less than half his age. The somewhat more informed would suggest that Clinton's impeachment was a result of his "lying about sex."

But the actual charge against the nation's 42nd president was that he lied

*under oath* — that he committed perjury — when he lied both in a sworn deposition and to a grand jury. Perjury is a felony, a serious crime for which a perpetrator can receive prison time.

Paula Corbin Jones had sued Clinton for a sexual advance that he made against her while he was governor of Arkansas and she was an employee of the state. In an effort to demonstrate a pattern of behavior by Clinton, Jones' lawyers surprised him with a question about whether he had ever had sexual relations with Lewinsky, who was a 21-year-old White House intern at the time. Clinton's lie, therefore, provided a substantial roadblock in Jones' efforts to achieve a just settlement in her case.

As such, the lie was no small matter to Jones, and to allow any individual to lie

with impunity, under oath, in a civil case is to undermine the entire system of justice.

It is also grounds for impeachment under the Constitution of the United States, which provides that a president is liable for impeachment for treason, bribery, and high crimes and misdemeanors. The Constitution provides that the U.S. House of Representatives impeaches (brings charges) by majority vote, but to find a president guilty of the charge, a vote of two-thirds of the U.S. Senate is necessary. Upon conviction in the Senate, a president would be removed from office.

While the House, then controlled by the Republican Party, did return articles of impeachment, the Senate vote was 50-50, 17 votes short of the needed two-thirds to find Bill Clinton guilty of the impeachment charge.

Of course, Clinton's defenders argue that the entire case against him was a result of prosecutorial excess. In fact, it could be reasonably argued that Ken Starr, a "special prosecutor" who was given the job of investigating another of Clinton's alleged misdeeds in the sordid Whitewater real estate deal, went beyond the scope of that investigation when he began inquiring into Clinton's sexual misconduct with Lewinsky, without which there would have been no perjurious statements by Clinton. Certainly, impeachment should never be used for raw, political purposes, or simply because many in Congress and in the country do not like what they consider the president's boorish behavior, or even disagree with his policies.

### Why Congress Should Have Impeached Clinton

Be that as it may, not to downplay the seriousness of what was done to frustrate Paula Jones' civil action against Clinton, there were much more egregious actions taken by Clinton during his eight years in



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**Bill's sins:** Paula Jones sued Bill Clinton, alleging that he had demanded a sexual favor from her while he was governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee. Clinton's subsequent act of lying under oath — perjury — in a legal deposition in this lawsuit led to his impeachment. Yet his defenders said it was all "just about sex." Unfortunately, this allowed Clinton to distract the country from more serious allegations that he had sold out his country to the Communist Chinese.

that he had pressured her (a subordinate) to commit a sexual act with him, but other women claimed that Clinton had actually perpetrated a sexual assault, with one woman accusing him of having raped her.

Of course, as serious as these charges were, they were in the past, and were difficult to prove. But the Congress did not have to prove the veracity of these women's accusations — they could

have pursued other non-sexual charges that would not have allowed Clinton's defenders to argue that it was "just about sex."

A quick review of what the Founders had to say about the reasons for impeachment should give us an idea of how appropriate it would have been to impeach Clinton for his serious *non-sexual* scandals, particularly Chinagate, which involved the compromise of our nation's national security in exchange for Chinese cash — a matter far more detrimental to the Republic than lying about sex. James Madison, whose contributions to the Constitution were so important that he has rightly been called "the father of the Constitution," wrote that impeachment could become necessary "for defending the community against the incapacity, negligence or perfidy of the chief magistrate." The president, Madison observed, "might betray his trust to a foreign power."

This would explain the inclusion of "treason" as a ground for impeachment. The Founders were very careful about charges of treason, placing its definition

office that were far more damaging to the Republic, for which he should have been impeached and removed from office. In fact, had the Republicans who pushed Clinton's impeachment through the House chosen to vote impeachment for those far more serious crimes, it is much more likely that the American public would have been aroused to support his removal from office. While it is still possible that enough Democrats in the Senate would have still refused to return a guilty verdict to save Clinton's hold on the Oval Office, his historical reputation would have been much more seriously damaged. It is not that the Congress had a shortage of reasons to impeach Clinton. In addition to the Whitewater real estate deal that was the initial subject of the Starr investigation, a string of scandals engulfed the Clinton presidency — Travelgate, Filegate, Troopergate, Hubbellgate, Coffeegate, Lippogate, Chinagate — including other credible accusations of a sexual nature. Paula Jones' accusations against Clinton were

in the Constitution itself. They knew that, historically speaking, English kings and their judges were quick to consider any utterance against the king or his official policies as treasonous. Because of this, they narrowly defined treason as consisting “only in levying war against them [the United States], or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort.”

Another ground for impeachment — bribery — would also have been a proper charge for Congress to have made. Professor Raul Berger, a constitutional scholar, noted that bribery was an appropriate impeachment charge because it is “destructive of confidence in the integrity” of the government. Sir Edward Coke, a 17th-century British jurist, noted that “though the bribe be small, yet the fault is great.”

### The Chinagate Scandal

Evidence for Clinton being guilty of these two crimes — bribery and treason — could have been advanced by the House in a Senate trial, concentrating on Clinton’s Chinagate transgressions.

For example, John Huang, a U.S. citizen who was born in Communist China, and a longtime friend of Clinton, raised \$3 million for the Democratic National Committee (DNC). The Democrats were forced to return over half of that money because it came from foreign sources and was therefore illegal under federal law. But was it bribery, or even treason?

The Lippo Group was an Indonesian conglomerate half-owned by the Communist Chinese government, and Huang was one of its many agents who made very large contributions to the Clinton-Gore campaign and to the DNC. In 1996, Clinton used an executive order to lock up the Kaiparowitz Plateau, America’s largest coal field, which contained over \$1 trillion in low-sulfur coal. His stated reason was to create the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, consisting of 1.7 million acres.

But his action reeked of payback: It left as the only comparable and accessible coal field in the world one in South Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Huang was also given a high post in the U.S. Department of Commerce, despite the complaint of former Undersecretary of Commerce Jeffrey Garten that Huang was “totally unqualified.” In any case, Huang

was given a top secret clearance, which allowed him to attend over 100 CIA security briefings, where he was given the opportunity to help make U.S. policy with Indonesia, Vietnam, and China. Lippo benefited from these deals, and official records show that Huang was in frequent contact with Lippo and the Chinese Embassy, and even met with Chinese Communist officials immediately after receiving intelligence briefings and top secret reports concerning China.

Understandably, Clinton denied that he had even heard of Huang. But considering that Huang had visited the White House 94 times, it soon became apparent that this was not true. On one documented visit, Huang met in the Oval Office with Clinton, Lippo President James Riady, Clinton lawyer Bruce Lindsey (a former Rose Law firm associate with Hillary Clinton), and Joseph Giroir, a Lippo consultant.

Senator Fred Thompson, a Tennessee Republican who chaired the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, conducted an investigation into illegal campaign fundraising, and accused the Chinese government of pouring “substantial sums of money” into U.S. political campaigns in order to “buy access and influence in furtherance of Chinese government interests.”

### Clinton Sells Influence to Communist China

After winning the 1992 presidential race largely because the independent candidacy of Texas billionaire Ross Perot severely damaged the reelection effort of President George H.W. Bush, it was uncertain if Clinton could win his own second term in 1996, without Perot on the ballot. At the time, the Republicans had won five of six presidential elections up to the 1992 campaign. It was expected that Clinton would need vast amounts of money in his campaign coffers.

One way that Clinton raised that cash was through 44 fundraising coffees held at the White House, in itself a violation of federal law. It is illegal to hold fundraisers inside U.S. government buildings, including the White House. In fact, White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum sent a memo to Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and other White House personnel, warning them, “Soliciting or receiving campaign contributions on Federal property or in Federal buildings is a crime. This means that fundraising events may not be held in the White House.”

On one video of a White House coffee, Arief Wiriadinata is seen shaking hands with President Clinton, saying, “James



**Foreign “donations”:** Democratic fundraiser John Huang was among multiple donor guests at Clinton’s 44 campaign finance-related “coffees” held in the White House. The contributions helped Clinton win reelection in 1996, and Huang was at the center of allegations that Clinton and the Democrats had accepted many illegal contributions from foreign sources.

AP Images

Former Clinton presidential advisor George Stephanopolous said on the ABC news program *This Week*, “There was a decision in the White House that people would get access in return for contributions. And it went on a lot. It went on all the time.”



**Paid White House access:** Johnny Chung (left) was a huge contributor to the Democratic Party — some \$366,000 from 1994 to 1997 — despite his ties to the leadership of the Communist Chinese. Here he is shown with the man who benefited most from this activities, President Bill Clinton.

Riady [the head of the previously mentioned Lippo Group] sent me.”

Wiriadinata and his wife, Saroya, were large contributors to the 1996 campaign, donating almost a half-million dollars. The actual money, however, came from the Riady family of Indonesia. Wiriadinata, on the other hand, had no known source of independent income to make such large contributions. When Senate investigators issued a subpoena for him to appear, he quickly left for Indonesia.

Two other major Democratic fundraisers, Nora and Gene Lum, were also frequent White House guests — before they were convicted of illegal campaign funding.

Former Clinton presidential advisor George Stephanopolous said on the ABC news program *This Week*, “There was a

decision in the White House that people would get access in return for contributions. And it went on a lot. It went on all the time.”

Former White House counsel Boyden Gray told *Human Events* that the sale of “access” in this fashion is “illegal under the campaign finance laws.” He noted that the Oval Office “coffees” were “fundraisers. They were explicit quid pro quos.... There was an explicit connection — you give me the money and I’ll get you the meeting.”

Another Chinese businessman in California, Johnny Chung, with extensive business interests in Communist China, explained to the *New York Times* his giving more than \$360,000 to the DNC: “I see the White House as like a subway. You have to put in coins to open the gates.” He

managed to get through the White House gates 51 times.

All of this would be sufficient to have held a formal impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives to investigate the extent of President Clinton’s involvement in bribery, which alone would have been more than a sufficient reason to impeach — and convict — Clinton.

And it could have been deemed treason as defined by the Constitution — “adhering” to the enemies of the United States, “giving them aid and comfort.”

While the Congress has never declared a state of war with the communist dictatorship in China, it is clear that they are an enemy of the United States, and much of the building up of Communist China into the powerful nation, economically and militarily, that it now is, began with the Clinton administration.

For example, Chung’s contributions opened the gates at the White House not only for himself, but also for key leaders of the Chinese regime. In 1995, Hauren Sheng, the head of a Chinese energy business called China Petro-Chemical Corporation, asked Chung for a meeting with Hazel O’Leary, then secretary of energy in the Clinton Cabinet. The *Los Angeles Times* reported in September 1995, “Chung immediately contacted the Democratic National Committee.... DNC Chairman Donald L. Fowler sent a letter urging O’Leary to meet Sheng and calling Chung ‘one of the top supporters’ of the DNC.”

In March 1995, Chung and some Communist Chinese officials met with Fowler, who arranged for them to have a private meeting and a photo opportunity with President Clinton. Three days later, the Bank of China (owned by the Chinese Communist government) wired \$150,000 to Chung’s bank account. Then, three days later, Chung gave a check for \$50,000 to the DNC, which he gave to Maggie Williams, chief of staff for Hillary Clinton.

Former DNC financial chief Richard Sullivan admitted in testimony before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee that Chung had offered \$50,000 in exchange for a photo opportunity and private meeting for his Chinese associates with Clinton. He said he “had a sense that he might be taking money from [Communist Chinese officials] ... and then giving it to us.”



While Bill Clinton was raising cash from the Chinese to enable him to defeat any Republican challenger in 1996, what were the goals of the Chinese? What did they hope to accomplish?

### Clinton Administration Allows Chinese Espionage

One Chinese official of the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO), Hongye Zheng, was able to obtain access to the White House. COSCO essentially served as the merchant marine for the Chinese military, and its ships have been used to transport tanks to the Marxist regime in Burma, and to ship North Korean rocket fuel to Pakistan. They have also smuggled heroin into Canada.

In March 1996, a COSCO ship was intercepted near Oakland, carrying a cargo of AK-47s that were bound for street gangs in California.

The COSCO container ships were also believed to have been used in smuggling technology to benefit China's military. The Clinton administration aided COSCO by expediting a \$138 million, taxpayer-underwritten loan guarantee for COSCO to build four new container ships.

Zheng showed up at at least one White

House fundraising coffee in early 1996.

Clinton demonstrated great enthusiasm for COSCO. The September 8, 1996 issue of *Insight* magazine, citing "U.S. intelligence sources working closely with the FBI," reported that COSCO "plans to use the old Long Beach Naval Yard for a joint Chinese-Russian intelligence operation as part of a spy partnership formed when the two countries signed a secret agreement in 1992."

Ominously, the COSCO-run facility was next door to Sea Launch, another joint Chinese-Russian venture. *Insight* explained, "The concern is that Beijing, teamed with Russia, eventually will own a West Coast rocket-launching pad and a naval base on U.S. soil from which to transfer secret high-tech equipment back to the [Chinese] People's Liberation Army ... in concealed containers aboard huge COSCO ships."

Understanding that the Communist Chinese take a very long view of events, one investigator told *Insight* that "COSCO has specific roles in the PLA's contingency plan of dominating East Asia and future war with Taiwan. Their primary goal is to get stuff out of here in peacetime. Their strategic thinking is very similar to the

Japanese in the 1930s. Sooner or later they are going to confront us on who is going to be the boss out in East Asia."

Major General Zheng Quinsheng explained this long view in the July 16, 1996 issue of the *Liberation Army Daily* (publication of the Chinese People's Liberation Army), noting that the Chinese military must "adhere to the Confucian ideology of winning victory in a war before actually going into it," and that "the design and building of military strength during peacetime" is the central focus of that ideology. It is the same ideology employed by King Philip of Macedonia against the ancient Greeks, and by Adolf Hitler in Germany in the 1930s.

About a quarter century later, we can see the damage that has been done to America as part of the 1996 Clinton re-election campaign effort. These concessions made to the Communist Chinese have helped that totalitarian regime pilfer high technology out of the United States. One investigator told *Insight*, "They are going to steal [technology] and ship it to China. You need a place to do the paperwork and that's the port. They will have their own military base to change labels and have no accountability."

The Chinese army needed to modernize in 1996, and this assistance from the Clinton administration has helped them do that. The architect of the modernization of the Chinese military was General Chi Hoatian who was the man who ordered the tanks to roll over anti-communist demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, yet President Clinton received Hoatian with honors in December 1996.

This aid and comfort to the Chinese Communists, in exchange for campaign cash, then, was the reason that Bill Clinton should have been impeached. As despicable as Clinton's sexual escapades were, Clinton's selling out the interests of our country to a hostile foreign power — Communist China — was his greatest crime while occupying the Oval Office. Certainly, charges of bribery and treason had a better chance of success than talking about a stained blue dress. Surely the case could have been made to convince the American people, and maybe even the U.S. Senate, that Bill Clinton was guilty of at least bribery, and maybe even treason. ■



**Toehold in America:** COSCO — the China Ocean Shipping Company — makes Boston a port of call. COSCO was among many Chinese government-run businesses that benefited from its support of Clinton.

AP Images

## California Leads the Way on Gun Control

Political commentators love to tell us that the current state of politics in California is what's in the near future for the rest of the country, with Democrats eventually completely controlling all branches of government and Republicans being an ineffectual minor party. If this is the case, then we are facing a bleak future indeed, as *Newsweek* reported on October 13 that California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into state law a bill that permits “employers, co-workers and teachers to obtain gun violence restraining orders against owners of firearms that are a potential threat to them.”

To illustrate the leftward drift of California politics, this legislation was previously vetoed twice by the former governor, even though he was also a Democrat. The law expands existing red flag measures, which previously allowed only authorized family members and law enforcement to seek a court order to take away firearms from a gun owner, to a wider group of petitioners who can seek such orders. The new measure takes effect on January 1, 2020 and is only one of five gun-related laws that Newsom is supporting.

But these matters make strange bedfellows, as the normally left-wing American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) opposed the legislation because the ACLU feels that it allows people with only a tangential relationship to a person to strip them of their civil rights without the accused being able to contest the order and argue in their defense prior to the government taking of the firearm.

## Red Flag vs. Recall

Second Amendment activists in Humboldt County, Nevada, are not taking attacks on their constitutionally protected rights lying down! *The Nevada Independent* reported on October 24 that Sheriff Mike Allen is receiving political blowback owing to his statement on so-called red flag laws, as described above. Allen tried to offer a fence-sitting position to avoid upsetting his constituents when he said that even

though he personally opposes the state's red flag laws, he would enforce them once they take effect.

While Allen might have thought that his response would be satisfactory, it ended up having the opposite result, as Second Amendment activists quickly mobilized on Facebook to begin a recall campaign. Dawn Principe owns a local gun store in the area, and is leading a group called Humboldt County 2nd Amendment Grassroots, which is trying to get Allen recalled. The recall only needs 500 signatures to get rolling, and based on the passion in the area over gun rights, Principe feels that they'll easily get the signatures they need, since a recent forum over pending red flag laws drew town halls packed with people expressing vigorous opposition to the impending gun control.

## Expectant Mother Shoots Violent Criminal

Bay Area News reported on November 1 about a home invasion in Hillsborough County, Florida, that ended when one of the victims, a pregnant woman, used an AR-15 against the attackers. Major Frank Losat of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office explained at a press conference that two male suspects wearing hoodies and face masks, and armed with handguns, barged into a house and made demands on the homeowner, who was in a room with his 11-year-old daughter. The husband, Jeremy King, later explained to Bay Area News how shocked he was to suddenly have armed intruders in his house threatening him with deadly force. “They came in heavily hooded and masked. As soon as they had got the back door opened, they had a pistol on me and was grabbing my 11-year-old daughter,” King told Bay Area News. King pleaded with the thugs to stop, but they were ruthless. “I'm telling them, ‘I have nothing for you,’ And they're like, ‘Give me everything you got.’ It became real violent, real fast.” The violent thugs began pistol whipping and brutally kicking King. King described his injuries to the Bay Area news: “I've got a fractured eye socket, a fractured sinus cavity, a con-

cussion, 20 stitches and three staples in my head.... I took a severe beating.” It was this beating that caused his wife, who is eight months pregnant, to look out from a back bedroom to see what was going on. At that moment, one of the hoodlums fired his weapon at her, narrowly missing her. Thankfully, the woman had access to an AR-15 and was able to return fire and shoot one of the intruders.

Both suspects fled the scene after the shooting, but the wounded suspect collapsed in a nearby ditch, where his body was found by responding officers. King explained to the Bay Area News that it was because of his wife's brave actions and an AR-15 that he's still alive today: “Them guys came in with two normal pistols and my AR stopped it.... [My wife] evened the playing field and kept them from killing me.”

## Break-in Breakdown

Fox31 reported on November 2 out of Denver, Colorado, about a scary incident that occurred shortly after midnight. A homeowner was awakened by the sounds of someone trying to break in to his house through the front entrance. The homeowner grabbed his firearm, went to investigate, and witnessed a man trying to break in through the front door. When the would-be intruder was unable to break the door down, he switched tactics and began breaking furniture on the porch, using it to break the front window to gain entry to the home. The homeowner reportedly yelled for the man to leave, but the suspect allegedly ignored these verbal commands and continued, shattering the glass window. It was at that moment the homeowner opened fire on the suspect and wounded him. The homeowner called 911, and police soon arrived, where they discovered the suspect suffering from a gunshot wound to his arm. Neighbor Kathy Parsons told Fox31, “I just feel sorry for my neighbors over there, they are a nice couple and they have a little boy.... The guy started to try to beat down the front door and he was afraid he had a gun ready for him to come through.” ■

— PATRICK KREY



## “Big Ed” Aces More Spending; Student Test Results Mark Time

**ITEM:** After the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the Nation’s Report Card, was released in late October, Washington Post education writer Valerie Strauss mocked the response by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and other conservatives for claiming that the “sky is falling” (the Post’s term) in American education. In the Washington paper for October 30, Strauss tried to shoot down her own straw man — commenting that “if the sky were to fall because of NAEP scores, it would have happened years ago: Overall progress for fourth- and eighth-graders has stayed essentially the same for at least the past decade and for far longer for older students.”

**ITEM:** American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said the results were “not surprising.” “Our students,” she said, are “still bearing the brunt of two decades of austerity.” In her October 30 response to the NAEP Report Card, Weingarten also charged: “Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos ignores the real issues that plague our classrooms and student achievement, presumably because they disrupt her political agenda to siphon public money into private hands and expand private school vouchers and for-profit school ventures.”

**ITEM:** The USA Today headline on October 30, above a story on the NAEP results, declared: “Despite Common Core and more testing, reading and math scores haven’t budged in a decade.”

**CORRECTION:** It would be more to the point to say “because of Common Core” and more assessments pushed by the federal government, scores have been languishing.

This year’s results showed that only about one-third of students tested nationally in the fourth and eighth grades reached proficiency level in math and reading. “Over the past decade, there has been no progress in either mathematics or reading performance, and the lowest per-



AP Images

**Inner-city blues:** Despite the fact that under Common Core and other federal education programs low-performing students continue to do poorly in school, liberals want more of the status quo.

forming students are doing worse,” said an official with the National Center for Education Statistics.

Here’s some background. Common Core, whose theories about national standards for education initially enjoyed support from some on the Right, as well as the always-willing-to-centralize-government leftists, quickly became controversial because what the federal government subsidizes, it has the power to control.

President Obama and his Department of Education, led by Secretary Arne Duncan, “incentivized adoption” of Common Core, as NPR put it discreetly several years ago. In 2009, noted National Public Radio, the Education Department “created Race to the Top, a \$3.4 billion grant competition. States that agreed to adopt the Common Core standards won points on their applications, increasing their eligibility for a share of the money.”

Common Core was also, in part, a reaction to a law in 2001 (No Child Left Behind) that “poured vast new federal resources into education and demanded that school districts meet performance thresholds or face sanctions,” as was pointed out by *Newsweek* in 2015.

All this reflected the fact that we have lost our constitutional way: In this country, education was historically a matter left to

state and local governments. And parents.

The gates were opened with LBJ’s “Great Society” and the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). President Lyndon Johnson told the American public that we had to accept “greater government activity in the affairs of the people.” That has come — with a cruel vengeance.

So too did the federal regulations, rules, and overall interference. A new book published by the Heritage Foundation, *The Not-So-Great-Society*, provides a scorecard: It recounts, for example, the number of pages of federal legislation affecting K-12 education, which increased from 80 to 360 between 1964 and 1976. And the number of federal regulations increased from 92 in 1965 to almost 1,000 in 1977.

And no, public education has not been suffering from “austerity,” as claimed by some. Federal spending on public schools, in nominal dollars, as summarized in *The Not-So-Great-Society*,

increased almost five-fold between 1960 and 1970, from \$651 million to \$3.2 billion. The share of public school spending coming from the federal government increased from 4.4 percent to 8 percent over this time period. As of 2016, 8.5 percent



## Correction, Please!

of public school revenues came from federal taxpayers.

Of course that is not enough for the radical Left, who seek additional money and more control.

Consider presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren. She is offering her own “quid pro quo”: If she gets the support of the teachers’ unions and enough votes, she has vowed to bribe the states with federal monies. She promises (as the *New York Times* puts it) to “quadruple federal funding for schools that serve low-income students” (aka Title I money). Warren naturally maintains that funding “for public K-12 education is both inadequate and inequitable.” (She also has plans to cancel student loan debts, eliminate tuition at public colleges, and provide “free” preschool and “free” child care for low-income families.)

Warren is not alone with educational pie-in-the-sky schemes. Among Democratic frontrunners, Joe Biden is supposed to be the “moderate.” After all, he “only” wants to triple Title I spending. But he wants to fill up the schools with more support staff, such as social workers; give teachers higher pay; forgive student loans; expand pre-K; and more.

Education Secretary DeVos is viewed by many as being the polar opposite of Warren and other statists. She dares to

quote favorably free-market economist (and Nobel Prize winner) Milton Friedman — who declared that education spending “will be most effective if it relies on parental choice and private initiative.”

DeVos is a reviled figure on the Left and among Democrat leaders at large. If you want to know why, consider how DeVos responded to the latest mediocre scores. She was direct, saying, for instance: “Government has never made anything better or cheaper, more effective or more efficient. And nowhere is that more true than in education.” Yet, it should be kept in mind, the charter schools DeVos is well-known for promoting are still government schools (albeit nontraditional), and the school voucher programs she also supports still entail federal funding — meaning that she is by no means advocating the removal of the federal government’s nose from the country’s education tent.

And the intrusion is gargantuan. Keep in mind that American taxpayers have paid, at the federal level, around \$2 trillion on K-12 education programs.

DeVos also recalled that when Congress created the Education Department, it vowed the move would “not increase the authority of the federal government over education [nor] diminish the responsibility for education which is reserved to the states. But ‘Big ED’ took over.”

She pointed to the additional rules and regulations. She also hit: “More staff and more standards. More spending and more strings. But, as the numbers in today’s Report Card reaffirm, students and teachers have gained precious little as a result.”

Per pupil spending has “skyrocketed” over the last three decades, but that increase has only led to “flat-lined achievement,” noted the education secretary. A goal of the Great Society, with all of its ensuing spending, was to narrow the achievement gaps between children from low-income families and their peers from more affluent families. Yet that achievement gap is today as wide as it was in 1971.

Since 1950, summarized the education secretary,

the growth in non-instructional school staff has increased seven times faster than student enrollment growth. If staff levels matched student enrollment, public schools across the country could have saved — or reinvested — around 35 billion additional dollars every year. Imagine what that could’ve meant in teacher compensation.

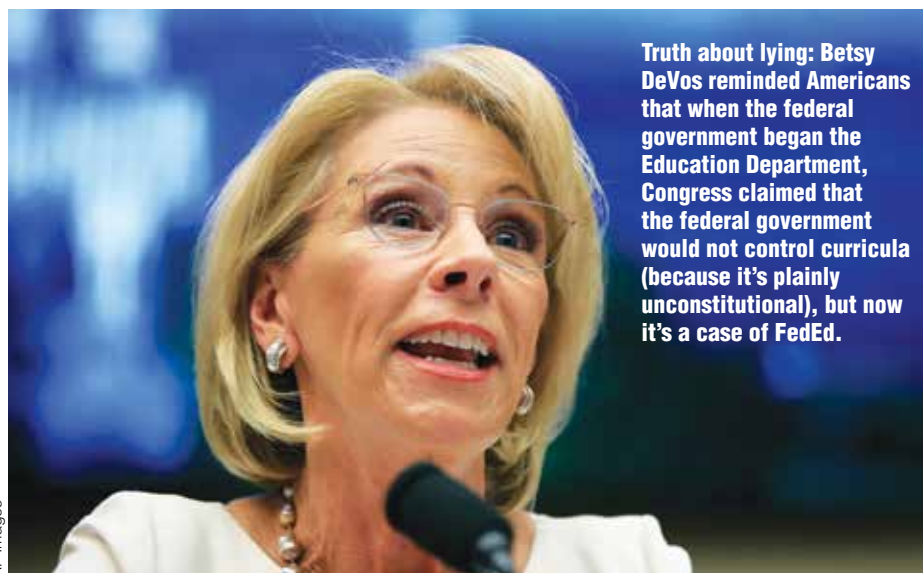
Worse still, at the federal level alone, taxpayers have spent more than 1 trillion dollars trying to “fix” K-12 education.

Meanwhile, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, the U.S. spends more per student than any other country (except Norway). Yet, the United States ranks 24th in reading, 25th in science, and 40th in math in the world, as reported by the Programme for International Student Assessment, or PISA.

Warren and the other top Democratic presidential contenders crave to give us more of the same — much more. And the teachers’ unions — very influential in national and other elections — back this strategy. Indeed, they enthusiastically acclaimed Warren’s plan, calling it “bold” and a “game changer.”

Warren took note. She flew to Chicago to support a public teachers’ strike. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR



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# A Tale of **Three Stories**

**T**hough the anti-American Left has controlled the news media since at least the mid-20th century, within the memory of many Americans, the major newspapers and networks at least pretended they were impartial.

That ended with Barack Obama. Even top Democrats declared that the media were “in the tank” for the Chicago leftist who promised to “fundamentally change” the nation. Donald Trump vowed to stop that change, and so the media openly declared war on him. They spewed venom and falsehoods and hatched impeachment plans even *before* he won the GOP nomination.

And since Election Day 2016, the media have colluded with hate-Trump Democrats to smear and destroy him. If Donald Trump has done us a service, it is this: He finished what Obama started. He invited the media to rip off their mask of impartiality and confess what they have always been: agents of subversion. Consider three stories.

## Biden-Burisma

First is the Biden-Burisma influence-peddling scandal. The Cliff Notes version is this: The Obama administration’s point-man on Ukraine, Vice President Joe Biden, threatened to withhold \$1 billion in loan guarantees for Ukraine if the country did not fire its top prosecutor for “corruption.” That prosecutor was investigating Burisma Holdings, an energy company that had hired and enriched Biden’s son, Hunter, despite his lack of experience in the energy business and discharge from the Navy for using cocaine. Hunter was a raging drug addict.

Biden-Burisma intersects with the effort to impeach Trump because President Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, during a phone call on July 25, to investigate the Biden scandal, and allegedly threatened to withhold military aid until it did. Trump thus suggested a “quid pro quo” and solicited “foreign interference” in the 2020 election.

Impeachment regardless, the media won’t touch Biden-Burisma beyond a few obligatory stories.

“There is no evidence” Biden did anything wrong, they’ve decided, though Biden’s threat is the evidence itself, and investigative reporter John Solomon has uncovered much more. They



temizyurek/GettyimagesPlus

say the anti-Biden claims have been “repeatedly discredited,” and Biden-Burisma is a “debunked conspiracy theory.”

## Epstein, Kavanaugh

Another “conspiracy theory” is that Wall Street financier and sex pervert Jeffrey Epstein — under indictment for sex-trafficking teenage girls when he was found hanged in his jail cell — was murdered. The media are not interested in the following “misinformation” from the “alt right”: Epstein was linked to Israel’s Mossad spy agency, his guards all fell asleep at the

same time, surveillance cameras in and around his cell malfunctioned, and his hyoid bone was broken, which rarely happens in suicidal hangings. And Bill Clinton flew on Epstein’s sex plane 26 times.

ABC News assembled a major story on Epstein three years ago — about when Hillary Clinton opened her campaign for president — but refused to broadcast it. The story, the network said, did not meet its “standards.”

Yet ABC eagerly joined the media mob that smeared U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh as a rapist during his confirmation hearings. That’s the third story.

Kavanaugh was “credibly accused,” the media averred, although the allegations were evidence-free and his main accuser was not only a proven liar but also a pro-abortion, Clinton leftist. The media gleefully retailed preposterous allegations from a crooked Democratic lawyer that Kavanaugh was a criminal genius who masterminded gang-rape parties during high school. NBC withheld evidence that proved the absurd tale false, and we heard transparently false stories about rapes on a boat and in the backseat of a car.

“There was no evidence” Kavanaugh raped or harmed any woman. The claims were “debunked” and “repeatedly discredited.” The gang-rape tale was an obviously absurd “conspiracy theory.”

Yet the smears met the media’s “standards.”

## Trump’s Service

After the GOP nominated Trump, the *New York Times* declared that the media must jettison “objectivity.” He had to be stopped. But the partisan press failed and Trump prevailed, which did not diminish the zeal to wreck him.

No one can be surprised they are collaborating in a criminal conspiracy to overthrow the president of the United States. ■

R. Cort Kirkwood is a longtime contributor to *The New American*. He was a newspaperman for more than 25 years.



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