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## In The Shadows Of The Deep State

NOW IN ITS THIRD PRINTING! In 2016, a sea change occurred within the body politic of America. Donald Trump came to epitomize the anger and frustration of a sizable segment of the American people. Yet there are those entrenched in the federal government bureaucracy who are actively working against Trump's America First agenda. Americans now know this as the Deep State (aka the Swamp or the Establishment). This book exposes its key players and its agenda, and explains how it can be stopped. Includes 2019 CFR list and two new addendums. (2019ed, 378pp, pb, 1-4/\$10.95ea; 5-11/\$9.00ea; 12-23/\$7.50ea; 24+/\$6.45ea) **BKISODS19**

## White House Reds

On the show *Fox & Friends* on May 23, 2019, Donald Trump, Jr. said the 2020 election would be about "communism versus freedom." He was right. *White House Reds* profiles 10 high-profile politicians who contended for the Democratic presidential nomination — all of them communists, socialists, or national security risks. (2020, pb, 269pp, 1/\$24.95ea; 2-4/ \$23.95ea; 5+/\$21.95ea) **BKWHR**

## The Problem With Socialism

From debunking the theories and narratives that underpin socialism and socialist programs, to outlining a powerful case for freedom and free markets, *The Problem With Socialism* can serve as an excellent resource to educate Americans. (2019, hb, 176pp, 1/\$18.95ea; 2-4/\$17.95ea; 5+/\$15.95ea) **BKPWS**

## The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates

*The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates* provides proven guidelines for proper and legitimate resistance to tyranny, often without causing any major upheaval in society. The doctrine teaches us how to rein in lawless acts by government and restore justice in our nation. (2013, 115pp, pb, 1/\$13.95ea; 2-4/\$12.95ea; 5-9/\$11.95ea; 10+/\$10.95ea) **BKDLM**

## The Invisible Government

*The Invisible Government* discusses the Council on Foreign Relations, perhaps the most politically influential group in the nation, which was founded to bring Marxist socialism into this country. Written by author Dan Smoot in 1962, it explains how "Communists in government during World War II formulated major policies which the Truman administration followed" and that "the policies continued, under Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson," controlled by the same group. (2020ed, pb, 291pp, 1-4/\$9.95ea; 5-9/\$8.00ea; 10-23/\$6.50ea; 24-39/\$5.95ea; 40+/\$4.95ea) **BKTIG**

## The Freedom Index — REPRINT

A congressional scorecard based on the U.S. Constitution for the 116th Congress — votes 11-20 and descriptions. This is a 12-page, four-color reprint adapted from The Freedom Index that appeared in the July 20, 2020 issue of THE NEW AMERICAN. (2020, 12pp, 1-24/\$0.50ea; 25-99/\$0.40ea; 100+/\$0.35ea) **RPFIO720**

## America's God and Country

This book of quotes consists of profound and inspiring thoughts from our Founding Fathers, presidents, statesmen, scientists, and others. These selections eloquently capture America's noble heritage. The material is alphabetically arranged by author, fully footnoted, and indexed by subject. (2013ed, 845pp, hb, 1/\$24.95ea; 2+/\$22.95ea) **BKAGCHB**

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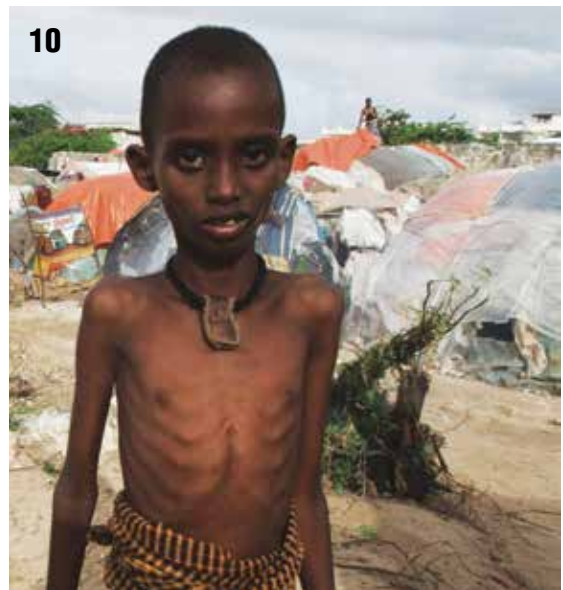
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**Democrats of Today**

Periodically I'll pick up an old edition of THE NEW AMERICAN magazine and read something that sparks some new feelings. The May 6, 2019 edition had an article headlined "'Moderate' Democrats Terrified of Party's Hard-left Move." It caused me to reflect on my childhood.

My early childhood was during the Great Depression. Our neighborhood in a medium-size Connecticut town consisted of closely spaced tenement-style houses that were homes to primarily blue-collar workers, most of whom walked to work at one of several local manufacturing companies. For the most part, everyone not only got along but were friends and would do for each other without hesitation. Everyone attended some church on Sunday, and all were conservative-minded in the manner in which they lived their lives.

There were political differences between neighbors, but at no time did that become adversarial. Other views were respected, and when someone was elected to office, there was respect for the office, even if the person occupying the office wasn't the individual's choice of candidates. What is particularly interesting about our cross-section of political humanity was that most of them voted Democrat, though I don't recall anyone who would be considered liberal or progressive.

The Democratic Party of that period was touted and perceived as the "Working Man's Party." The attitude of doing for your country was strong. That atmosphere continued into the John F. Kennedy years, when he stated, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." How, when, and why did a change take place?

The party that once sought unity now has leadership and constituents who have gone from a spirit of cooperation to a hostile, adversarial, often combative mass of freeloaders. It is disgraceful when the speaker of the house is seen tearing up the president's State of the Union Address. It is appalling when the minority leader of the Senate makes threats against Supreme Court justices. It is disturbing when legislative politicians promote physical confrontations with any and all who oppose their views. The current atmosphere is not only disappointing, it is cause for concern.

Increasingly, there are old-school Dem-

ocrats who are realizing that their once-perceived view of their party has vanished.

BOB LAGASSE  
 Bristol, Connecticut

**Deciding How the Law Should Be Applied**

I grew up having my paternal grandfather telling me about the greatness of the Constitution and Thomas Jefferson. I attended Catholic boarding school in the 1950s. The school was run by priests, many of whom had lived in Italy during and before World War II. These priests emphasized how great our country was because of the fact that we had received inalienable rights from our Creator.

I went to college in the early '60s and ended up flying in combat in Vietnam. The military paid for my medical degree. Later on, the V.A. educational benefits helped pay for my law degree. I consider myself a Thomas Jefferson-type guy, as far as politics is concerned. But if you ask the right questions in law school, you will find that Jefferson is pretty much despised by most law school professors.

If you really know our Founders well, you will understand why the "rule of law" is purposely left out of the Constitution. You will also understand that it is the role of the Sixth Amendment's impartial jury to judge the law; it is not the judiciary's job. If you do not understand those things, you really do not understand our founding!

DR. W. DAVID HERBERT  
 Senior attorney of the state bar of Montana  
 Billings, Montana

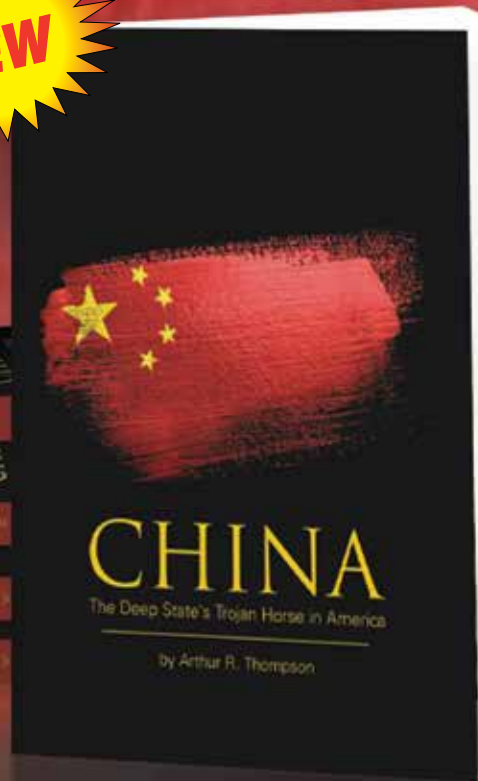
**Clownish Claims**

Leftists have been trying to brand President Trump as a racist for using the terms "Chinese Virus" and "Wuhan Virus" to reference COVID-19. Are they likewise objecting to the use of the name "German Measles"? Answer: no.

DAVID HAMMER  
 Bronx, New York

Send your letters to: THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912. Or e-mail: editorial@thenewamerican.com. Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

**NEW**



# CHINA: THE DEEP STATE'S TROJAN HORSE IN AMERICA

This exposé shows that the Chinese Communist plan to subvert America is well underway, and is being aided by the Deep State. Will Americans wake up before the tipping point?

*By Arthur R. Thompson, CEO, The John Birch Society*

(2020ed, pb, 132pp, 1-11/\$7.95ea; 12-23/\$5.95ea; 24-49/\$3.95ea; 50+/\$2.95ea) **BKCDSTHA**

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## COVID “Hot Spots” Manufactured to Demonize Red States

Our mainstream media are being deceptive regarding COVID-19 “hot spots,” and this deception is leading to half-baked policy. As the *College Fix* wrote August 14: “Yahoo News obtained a CDC document [July 29] purporting to show that nine of the top 10 hot spots were in Texas and Florida — states that have been under relentless media assault for imposing less draconian measures than blue states.”

But what Yahoo won’t tell you, Texas Christian University nursing professor Amy Anderson and former White House advisor Doug Badger wrote in an August 5 essay for the Daily Signal, is that in “this case, the CDC defined a ‘hot spot’ as a county with the most cases per 100,000 population over the most recent two-week period. The metric is prone to designate sparsely populated counties reporting temporary spikes in cases as being hotbeds of coronavirus infection.”

“More importantly,” Anderson and Badger also tell us, the metric “provides no insight as to the nature of the ‘outbreak’ in those counties.” But the writers do.

Consider America’s hottest hot spot, Columbia County, Florida. “At first glance, there’s nothing especially remarkable about Columbia County’s COVID-19 data. As of Aug. 1, it had 2,562 confirmed cases and just 10 deaths. A closer look shows that the county reported nearly 500 of those cases in a two-day period (July 20-21),” Anderson and Badger relate. Scary, huh?

Well, it “turns out that there was an outbreak at the Columbia Correctional Institution, a state facility that can house 1,427 inmates,” they continue. “That outbreak, which involved hundreds of prisoners, accounts for 54% of the county’s COVID-19 cases.”

“A similar pattern prevails in two of the other four Florida ‘hot spots’ identified in the CDC document,” Anderson and Badger also inform.

What follows are some statistics that really matter, but that the mainstream media do their best to hide. As of August 14, per 100,000 population, New York had 169 deaths; Florida had 41; Texas had 34; South Dakota, *which never locked down*, had 17.



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## Yale Discriminates Against Asian and White Students

An investigation by the U.S. Justice Department has found that Yale University is illegally discriminating against Asian and white students. Prosecutors have found that the Ivy League school is acting in contravention of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program that receives federal funding.



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The Department of Justice notified Yale’s attorney Peter Spivack of the violations in a letter dated August 13. The letter states: “Yale grants substantial, and often determinative, preferences based on race to certain racially-favored applicants and relatively and significantly disfavors other applicants because of their race. Yale’s race discrimination imposes undue and unlawful penalties on racially-disfavored applicants, including in particular Asian American and White applicants.”

The investigation concluded that Asian and white students have “only one-tenth to one-fourth the likelihood of admission as African American applicants with comparable academic credentials.”

“There is no such thing as a nice form of race discrimination,” said Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband, the head of the

DOJ’s civil rights division, in a statement.

“Unlawfully dividing Americans into racial and ethnic blocs fosters stereotypes, bitterness and division,” Dreiband said. “It is past time for American institutions to recognize that all people should be treated with decency and respect

and without unlawful regard to the color of their skin.”

Yale “categorically denies” the allegation. According to Yale, the Justice Department doesn’t have the whole story and cannot offer such an opinion before all the documentation on its admissions practices is thoroughly studied.

Instead of accepting the rebuke and promising to do better, Yale chose to double down on its unfair admissions practices. “We are proud of Yale’s admissions practices, and we will not change them on the basis of such a meritless, hasty accusation,” the statement went on to say.

The Justice Department, however, is demanding that the school change its racially biased admissions practices immediately. Yale has until August 27 to comply voluntarily with the Justice Department’s demands or it will face a lawsuit from the DOJ.

## Trump Designates Confucius Institutes “Foreign Missions”

The U.S. State Department announced August 13 that it has classified the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) propaganda fronts known as Confucius Institutes as “foreign missions.”

According to the *South China Morning Post* (SCMP), the Trump administration is requiring the institutes, commonly found on college campuses (with equivalent programs for K-12 schools), to register as “foreign missions,” which would subject them to rules similar to those for embassies and consulates.

The State Department took similar action against several Chinese media outlets earlier this year.

As SCMP reports, “The designation would amount to a conclusion that Confucius Institutes are ‘substantially owned or effectively controlled’ by a foreign government.”

“Of some 550 Confucius Institutes around the world, 80 are based at US colleges, including Stanford University and Savannah State University in Georgia, according to the National Association of Scholars, a non-partisan research group that has studied them,” the outlet notes.

China hawks have frequently pointed out that Confucius Institutes, underwritten by China’s government, instill American students with a pro-Chinese political worldview. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) has called them “Chinese government-run programs that use the teaching of Chinese language and culture as a tool to expand the political influence” of the government.

According to the Washington Free Beacon’s review of federal records, only 30 percent of colleges that host or have hosted Chi-



kreeder13/WikimediaCommons

nese-financed Confucius Institutes have disclosed their financial ties to Beijing.

After reaching out to all 75 institutions that have not reported the funding to the Department of Education, the Free Beacon received replies from only 22. One of the most prevalent responses was that the universities refrained from disclosing the donations because their annual receipts fell below the \$250,000 threshold.

The FBI and Justice Department have stated that Confucius Institutes are replete with Chinese state propaganda, intellectual property theft, “undisclosed ties to Chinese institutions, and conflicted loyalties.”

Thanks to a partnership between Confucius Institutes and the Asia Society, “more than 100 elementary, middle, and high schools located in 27 states and the District of Columbia” have launched “Confucius Classrooms” since 2009.

## Pro-life Democrats Urge Party Leaders to Soften Abortion Stand

A letter from Democrats for Life of America (DFLA) released on August 14 to members of the Democrat Party’s platform committee was clear: Back off on your radical stand on “abortion at any time for any reason right up until the birth of the child” or lose the election in November.

Signed by more than 100 “current and former elected Democrats from many states, representing millions of Americans,” the letter lists three “concerns,” as summarized:

- “Many Democratic leaders support policies on abortion that are radically out of line with public opinion”;
- “Due to this wide disparity, the Democratic Party is alienating voters”; and,

- “An extreme position on abortion rights violates our commitment to inclusivity and diversity.”

The letter quotes the results of a number of polls supporting the point: Abortion at any time, for any reason, is opposed by 79 percent of Americans; taxpayer funding of abortion is opposed by 60 percent of Americans; taxpayer funding of abortion in other countries is opposed by 76 percent of Americans; 30 percent of pro-life voters will only vote for a candidate with their views; and 29 percent of Democrat voters identify themselves as “pro-life.”

Three governors or former governors signed the letter, along with nine members of Congress, 57 state legislators, 30 local Democratic officials, and nine Democratic nominees.

Such a radical position has already cost the Democratic Party dearly, according to DFLA’s Executive Director Kristen Day. Since 2010, Democrats have “lost their political advantages” in Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, which have flipped from blue to red. In 2010, Democrats had control of both houses of state legislatures and the governorships of 27 states. “Today,” she said, “that number is 15.”

During that time period, added Day, “the Democratic Party has moved away from ‘safe, legal and rare’,” to supporting “abortion up to nine months for any reason.” ■



Bryngelzon/E+/Getty Images

### Attorney General Lambastes Committee Democrats for Inaction Against Anarchists

“What unfolds nightly around the courthouse cannot reasonably be called a protest. It is, by any objective measure, an assault on the government of the United States. Every member of this committee, regardless of your political views or your feelings about the Trump administration, should condemn violence against federal officers and the destruction of federal property.”

*Pointing to continued violence in the cities of the Northwest, Attorney General William Barr laid some of the blame for the chaos on Democrats who insist on referring to the violence as mere acts of protest.*



AP Images

### Postal Official Warns Last-minute Ballots May Not Arrive in Time to Be Counted

“Certain deadlines for requesting and casting mail-in ballots are incongruous with the Postal Service’s delivery standards. [There is] a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted.”

*In letters sent to all 50 states and the District of Columbia during July, Postal Service General Counsel Thomas Marshall let it be known that late-arriving ballots might not be counted due to the crush of mail expected just prior to election day.*

### Biden Calls for Universal Mask Usage

“Every single American should be wearing a mask when they’re outside for the next three months at a minimum. Every governor should mandate it.”

*After candidate Joe Biden expressed his insistence about mask-wearing for all, his chosen running mate Kamala Harris gushed, “That’s what real leadership looks like. We just witnessed real leadership.”*

### Florida Sheriff Bans Using Masks for His Deputies

“We can debate and argue all day about why and why not. The fact is, the amount of professionals that give the reason why we should [wear masks] equals the exact same amount of professionals that say why we shouldn’t.”

*Marion County Sheriff Billy Woods has prohibited deputies and visitors to his office from wearing masks. The only exceptions he allows are those officers who have to visit hospitals or other high-risk areas.*

### Trump Backer Says Many Voters Support Donald Trump but Aren’t Counted by Pollsters

“I’m not buying it. There are a lot of silent voters, and more will come out before the election. I think a lot of states are turning red from blue, but you don’t hear about that in the media.”

*The belief that Donald Trump’s chances for reelection are slim is disputed, according to Tiffany Blythe, a stay-at-home mom in Mooresville, North Carolina. Trump poll-taker John McLaughlin agrees and says there are many “hidden Trump voters.”*

### Trump Says He May Pardon Edward Snowden

“There are many, many people — it seems to be a split decision — who think he should be treated differently and others who think he did very bad things. I’m going to take a very good look at it.”

*Former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden has been accused of treason for exposing the vast scope of government surveillance programs aimed at American citizens. After publicizing what the government was doing, Snowden sought asylum in Russia in 2013, and hopes that he might be able to return to America. President Donald Trump is considering granting Snowden a pardon. ■*

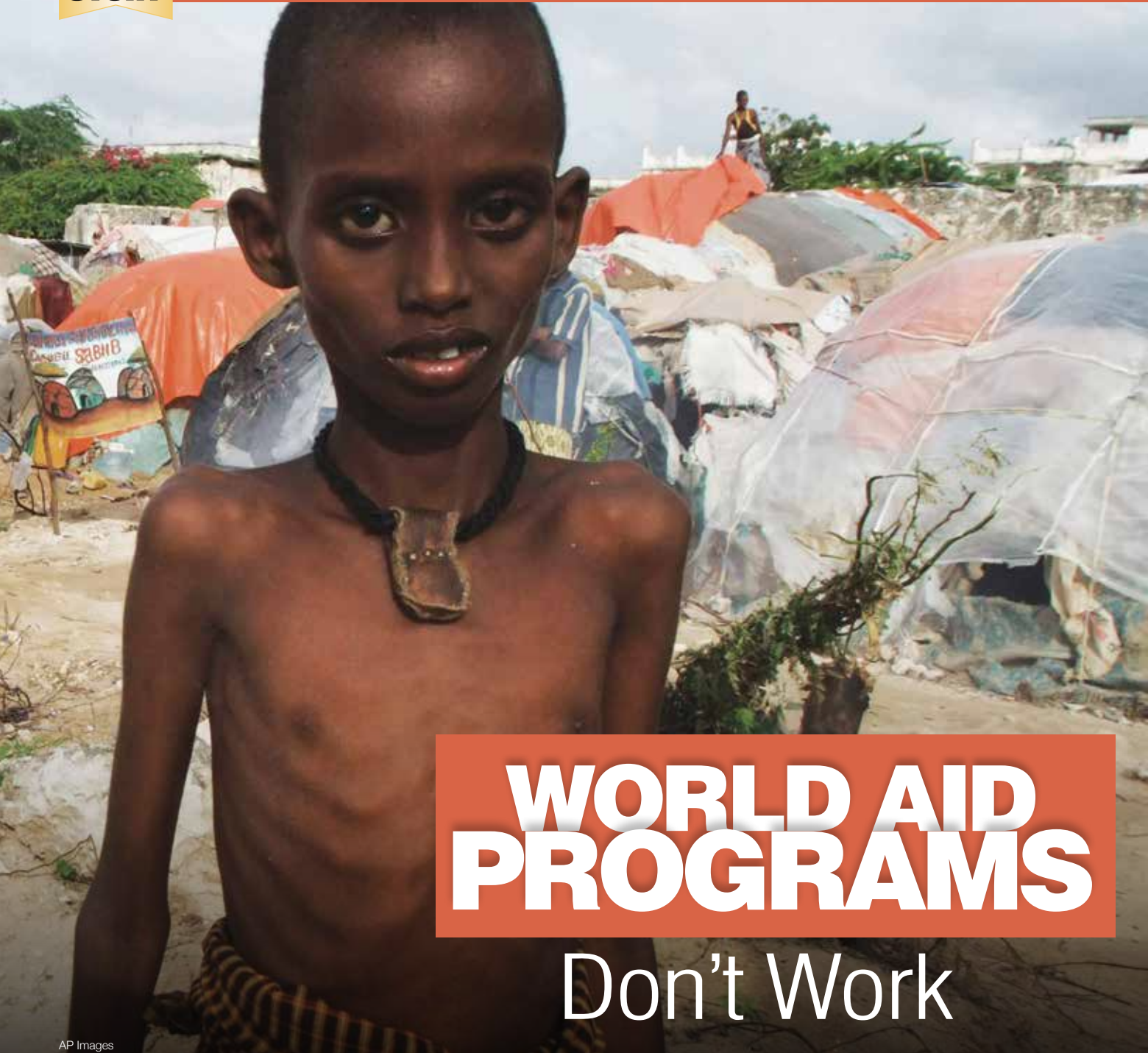
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Joe Biden



# WORLD AID PROGRAMS

## Don't Work

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The historic record of world aid in curing poverty is nearly unblemished: It has failed — and even produced increased poverty — decade after decade.

by Kurt Williamsen

**P**oor people around the world often starve to death — that's a fact of life. Starving is a lousy way to die — that's also a fact.

Here's what it feels like to starve, ac-

cording to an article by a prisoner who went on a hunger strike: For the first handful of days, you feel constantly hungry — empty. Then the stomach shrinks so that you don't feel the emptiness, but in a short time, the weakness begins — movements are slower; energy is way down; and get-

ting up quickly causes dizziness and nausea. The sense of smell becomes acute, but vision and hearing begin to fail. The body becomes gaunt, and blood vessels burst in the arms and face. Blurred and double vision begin, and the skin simply breaks open. At this point, starvation becomes

painless until the retching begins, with the feeling that a bowel movement must be made, which is agonizing. Shortly after that, a coma sets in, and without medical intervention, death will come.

Short of death, starvation causes stunted growth, easier disease transmission, poor brain development in children, and more.

When public aid agencies are seeking funds, pictures of Third World starvation speak thousands of words. And in response to the pictures of starving people, many people in the developed world push their governments to send tax monies to public aid entities to help the poor. Those First Worlders desperately want to do something to help, and it is what they can do.

But while orchestrating giving to public aid entities may make the First World citizens feel better, their efforts will likely not help the poor — *in fact, their efforts are likely to hurt the poor.*

Graham Hancock, formerly a correspondent covering East Africa for the left-wing publication *The Economist*, wrote a book about the folly of foreign aid entitled *Lords of Poverty: the Power, Prestige, and Corruption of the International Aid Business*. Therein he states:

Africa contains many lessons for the aid lobby. It [Africa] has lost the self-sufficiency in food production that it enjoyed before development assistance was invented and, during the past few decades, has become instead a continent-sized beggar hopelessly dependent on the largesse of outsiders — per capita food production has fallen in every year since 1962. Seven out of every ten Africans are, furthermore, now reckoned to be destitute or on the verge of ‘extreme poverty’, with the result that the continent has the highest infant mortality rates in the world, the lowest average life-expectancies in the world, the lowest literacy rates, the fewest doctors per head of population, and the fewest children in school. Tellingly, during the period 1980 to 1986 when Africa became — by a considerable margin — the world’s most ‘aided’ continent, GDP



AP Images

**Pain and good deeds:** When starvation is brought to the attention of most kindhearted people, they want to do something to help. But what kindhearted people do to help — pushing government to give more foreign aid — ends up harming the Third World poor even worse.

per capita *fell* by an average of 3.4 per cent per annum.

After seeing firsthand how public foreign aid was misused, he concludes:

To continue with the charade seems to me to be absurd. Garnered and justified in the name of the destitute and the vulnerable, aid’s main function in the past half-century has been to create and then entrench a powerful new class of rich and privileged people. In that notorious club of parasites and hangers-on made up of the United Nations, the World Bank and bilateral agencies, it is aid — and nothing else — that has provided hundreds of thousands of “jobs for the boys” and that has permitted record-breaking standards to be set in self-serving behaviour, arrogance, paternalism, moral cowardice and mendacity. At the same time, in the developing countries, aid has perpetuated the rule of incompetent and venal men whose leadership would otherwise be non-viable; it has allowed governments characterized by historic ignorance, avarice and irresponsibility to thrive; last but not least, it has condoned — and in some cases

facilitated — the most consistent and grievous abuses of human rights that have occurred anywhere in the world since the dark ages.

Moreover, he added, “Such suffering ... often occurs not *in spite of* aid but *because of it.*” (Emphasis in original.)

Yet public righteousness in the global community, then and now, goes hand in hand with the amount of money that governments give as foreign aid. Governments such as that in the United States — which actually gives more money than any other nation except China, but doesn’t give as high a percentage of its GDP as some other countries’ governments — are chastised, while other countries such as little Sweden are praised for their generosity. (Note: Foreign aid from private sources in the United States is several times larger than public aid.) The implication given is that the aid is having a direct, positive effect on the poverty-stricken of the world, especially the malnourished; hence, aid, especially food-related aid, is equivalent to godliness.

Hancock wrote his book in 1989, but aid — in larger amounts than ever before — hasn’t ended or substantially changed, even though it hasn’t lifted the world’s poor from poverty or enabled them to feed

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themselves over its past, roughly, 70 to 80 years of existence. Keeping these facts in mind, let us examine the failing face of world aid programs — *then and now*.

### Graham's Gripes

In his book, Graham Hancock covers case after case in the past wherein aid actually made the lives of the world's poor worse, and he explains why aid was/is far from helpful (though the following list is not all-encompassing):

- Very little aid reaches the poor because aid workers for such entities as the UN and the World Bank seldom spend much time with the poor figuring out their problems.
- Very few aid workers have any expertise in the problems they are supposedly trying to solve, and they are usually too vain to ask the opinions of the needy.
- Most money supposedly spent on “the poor” usually goes toward Western experts, or toward goods purchased in Western countries.
- Most aid money that does make it to Third World countries gets siphoned off for use by governmental elites.
- Food aid is not usually sent when it is needed, and when food aid is sent, it tends to impoverish local farmers by glutting

markets so they can't sell their produce.

- Aid abets corrupt governments, keeping them in power and aiding them to steal land and money from the poor.
- The World Bank and UN are graft-ridden and loaded with self-indulgent hacks who only really care about their own welfare.
- The World Bank not only demands repayment of loans with interest from poor countries, but the loans usually come with strings attached, making the countries beholden to their international masters.

Hancock's first notable example showing the fallacies of public foreign aid was the August 1988 flooding in the Sudan: After the River Nile overflowed, “overnight, more than a million people were rendered homeless in Khartoum, the capital city,” many “without any kind of food or shelter.” Aid agencies appealed in Western countries for money, and millions of dollars were pledged, yet “two weeks after the flooding ... almost no tangible signs of the relief effort could be seen on the ground: a dozen or so plastic sheets here, a few blankets from the Red Crescent Society there, and a grain-distribution station with just twelve sacks of flour in hand. Visiting reporters were proudly shown a newly erect-

ed camp of 300 tents provided by Britain: for reasons that no one on the spot could explain, all the tents turned out to be empty and under armed guard — even though tens of thousands of homeless people were milling about on mudflats nearby.” Eighty-five relief flights had arrived from the United States and Europe, but only 400 tons of food, against an estimated need of 12,000 tons. And part of the food sent was a container of fresh meat, despite a lack of refrigeration; “by contrast much more durable — and necessary items — like clothing, soap and hospital tents were almost completely missing from the relief deliveries during the first two weeks.”

Hancock found that such poor planning by aid agencies, rather than being an anomaly, was the rule. In the 1950s and 1960s, the World Bank helped fund the “giant Akosombo Dam on the Volta River” in Ghana. The dam provided electrical power for a U.S.-owned alumina smelting plant, and “benefitted wealthy Ghanians,” but hurt the poor. The power lines ran over their villages, not to them; diseases spread — tens of thousands got river blindness (onchocerciasis), caused by black flies that breed in fast-running dam discharges; and prime farmland behind the dam was flooded. Similar types of problems happened in Pakistan, India, Haiti, China, Nigeria, Brazil, Paraguay, and more. Then there were a multitude of projects built — such as a rice-hull-fed thermal power plant in the Philippines and a solar drier in the Dominican Republic — that couldn't be run owing to a lack of local expertise or the funds needed to keep operating, especially if something broke down.

He noted that the World Bank usually failed to support useful projects: “Year in year out, ... and in true Soviet-factory style — this is precisely what the Bank continues to do. It is thus probably not entirely coincidental that, out of a representative sample of 189 projects audited worldwide, no less than 106 — almost 60 per cent — were found in 1987 either to have ‘serious shortcomings’ or to be ‘complete failures’. A similar proportion of these projects — including many judged in other senses to be ‘successes’ — were thought unlikely to be sustainable after completion.” And the World Bank performs worst in the poorest countries.

International aid agencies also com-



**Ganging up on poverty:** Most mainstream poverty groups — such as those shown — want to continue the nearly century-old plan of sending goods and money to Third World nations to fix them, despite the unrelenting failure of such “aid.”

monly wreak havoc on the environment. In 1972, the World Bank “contributed \$1.65 million to . . . finance cattle and sheep ranches in the environmentally sensitive western Kalahari. The project — which was eventually completed with a budget over-run of \$2.9 million — resulted in dangerous overgrazing of the fragile savanna grasslands but, unfortunately, produced no benefits at all.” The World Bank tried again from 1977 to 1984, with the same result: desertification and monetary loss.

In several cases, aid agency-backed plans entailed relocating large groups of peoples, depriving them of livelihoods and often ruining the natural environment in the process. In addition to the uncounted masses who had to move when waters from dams flooded their homelands, Hancock lists a few other examples to make his point: “In Ethiopia’s Awash Valley, Afar nomads whose traditional dry-season pasture lands have been sown with cash crops and surrounded by barbed wire are today reduced to penury, their independence gone, their way of life shattered, their dignity destroyed as they queue in rags for food handouts. Brazilian Indians whose rainforests have been felled in the name of progress now face genocide; their unique knowledge and skills are about to be lost to mankind for ever. In Indonesia’s ‘thousand island’ paradise, tribal peoples are remorselessly being extinguished and priceless ecological resources turned to ash and mud amidst the folly of the largest resettlement programme in human history . . .”

As to the tragedy in Indonesia, from the 1970s through the 1990s, that country attempted “the world’s largest-ever exercise in human resettlement,” which was supported by the World Bank, USAID, FAO (the UN Food and Agriculture Organization), the World Food Programme, Catholic Relief Services, and some European governments, and it was a disaster. The plan was to move six to eight million peasant farmers from “overcrowded Java to the more thinly populated outlying islands of the vast archipelago.” Not only were hundreds of thousands of indigenous people on the outlying islands stripped of their property rights and often forcibly moved to make room for the new populace, when the jungles were slashed for farms, it was soon discovered that the soils were unsuitable for large-scale farming, so



**Slow and steady doesn’t win the race:** When food aid is sent from the United States to countries during food emergencies, it often takes months to arrive at its destination. But it takes less than months to starve.

the relocated peoples often continued to slash and burn the tropical rainforests to sell the wood or they fled back to where they came from or they did the lowest of work to survive, such as prostitution — with venereal disease running rampant. A World Bank study found that the relocated people not only were poorer than they had been previously, the longer they lived in the new areas, the poorer they became.

Much of the destruction of the rainforest in the Amazon Basin in Brazil also came from a World Bank project that gave \$250 million in funding to open up the rainforest with a new highway, supposedly to aid settlement of the rainforest by the poor.

The failure of the aid agencies is a logical consequence of the design of the agencies: They are set up so that mission failure results in their prosperity and longevity. They are similar to many government agencies, which exist for the most part to employ, enrich, and empower their workforce, rather than to actually serve society; and aid workers will do nearly anything to keep their jobs in perpetuity. In the case of aid agencies, their policy failures actually ensure the workers’ own livelihoods, and failed activities are only considered truly bad when the blunders make the national headlines.

The problems with public aid *were un-*

*fixable in Hancock’s day, and remain so today.* The entities exist not to *serve* the poor, but to *use* the poor.

At the UN, Hancock states, in referencing the likelihood that aid agencies would change for the better, the hierarchy is so complicated that every agency simply gets in the way of every other one. And waste is virtually never stamped out: “In 1982, at least 100 such programmes [programs deemed to be redundant or non productive] were judged by the Secretary General of the United Nations to be ‘elderly’, non-productive, or redundant by virtue of duplication. He recommended that all should be terminated, with an anticipated annual savings of \$35 million. Four years and \$140 million later, however, an independent study revealed that not one of these senile and unnecessary ‘pets’ had been put down.” Moreover, a whole host of committees have been created to construct organizational efficiency from UN chaos, but they have just made more unread paperwork. When a hard-hitting conference does find blame for a problem somewhere, the conference stands to get shut down by the countries it is reporting on.

Even when the UN created the UN Disaster Relief Office to make aid effective and coordinate aid among UN agencies, it

failed utterly: “A study of the UN World Food Programme’s response to eighty-four emergencies showed that it took an average of 196 days for requests for assistance to be processed and the food delivered.”

Of course, complete incompetence or malfeasance didn’t/doesn’t cut into the upscale lifestyles of UN aid workers (or other public aid workers), especially the bosses.

In 1986, the Bank-Fund annual meeting, where all the important people in the aid business — both donors and recipient countries — met to talk about poverty, cost about \$10 million, and participants stayed at the finest hotels and dined on such delicacies as crab cakes, caviar, smoked salmon, beef Wellington, lobster, duck, and more. As the author says, \$10 million could have provided enough vitamin-A tablets to prevent 47 million chil-

dren from risking sight impairment from nutrient deficiencies.

Meanwhile, aid workers were so commonly incompetent that much basic work needed to be outsourced. “Personnel and associated costs [at that time] absorb[ed] a staggering 80 per cent of all UN expenditures,” leaving not much for world development. “Thus, at every level of the multilateral agencies, maladjusted, inadequate, incompetent individuals are to be found clinging tenaciously to highly paid jobs, timidly and indifferently performing their functions and, in the process, betraying the world’s poor in whose name they have been appointed.”

Then, too, most of the money supposedly spent on “the poor” usually went toward Western experts, or toward goods purchased in Western countries. Hancock offers the following:

During the period 1960-70, for example — John F. Kennedy’s idealistic “First Development Decade” — studies showed that 99 per cent of all the funds provided by AID for development in Latin America were in fact spent in the USA, and on products that were priced on average 35 per cent above their world market value. Even today 70 cents out of every dollar of American “assistance to the Third World” never actually leave the United States.

In fact, the main countries that contribute to the UN Development Programme often get back in purchases from the program more money than they donate.

In regard to this, aid agencies often brag that they are boosting businesses in host countries, *as well as* helping the world’s most unfortunate, but since the aid projects are often more about figuring out ways to use goods that can be purchased in donating countries, the “aid” that does make it to Third World countries is usually meager or ineffective. Aid usually is about redistributing money to cronies in donating countries, not about helping the poor, and it is about causing poor countries to be indebted to and subservient to rich countries, not equality.

Hancock makes it clear that the entire edifice of public aid is held together by propaganda (the aid agencies not only toot their own horns, governments and media also do it for them) and secrecy (UNESCO doesn’t let staff talk about their experiences, even after they retire, and the World Bank is worse). The very fact that it is extremely difficult to get useful information from aid agencies about *exactly how* monies are used by the agencies — how much has been raised, how much is spent, where it is spent, what it is spent on, how recipients benefited — is a clear indication of both fraud and failure because, obviously, both upright charitable giving and true success of aid activities would not be hidden.

As more proof of failure, he says, “The very fact that development strategies *do* keep changing is a tacit admission of failure (or anyway lack of success) of earlier efforts.”

Aid abets corrupt governments, keeping them in power and aiding them to steal land and money from the poor.



Flickr/Nat'l Museum/HealthScience

**Not forward-looking:** Projects by major aid agencies almost invariably have horrific negative consequences. For instance, water from many dam projects flooded previously fertile farmlands, and many poor people were blinded when black flies, which breed in fast-moving waters released from the dams, passed on a parasite that caused blindness. Here, children lead blind adults.





AP Images

**Shaken foundation:** After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, billions of dollars were pledged in foreign aid by countries and major aid groups, yet very little of the money ever made it to Haiti. Even National Public Radio acknowledged the fact that monies supposedly raised to rebuild Haiti were not used for that purpose.

### Up to the Present

Now, still, 30 years after Hancock published his book, public aid agencies have not worked themselves out of a job; they have been growing bigger and spending more money, and the employees have been living upscale lifestyles. And their fraud and failure is still evident in their opacity, their spending patterns, and their mismanagement.

National Public Radio (NPR), an entity that no one could ever accuse of being against big government, talked about this in its February 28, 2013 article “What Happened to the Aid Meant to Rebuild Haiti?”

After a devastating earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, governments and foundations from around the world pledged more than \$9 billion to help get the country back on its feet.

Only a fraction of the money ever made it. And Haiti’s President Michel Martelly says the funds aren’t “showing results.”

Roughly 350,000 people still live in camps. Many others simply moved back to the same shoddily built structures that proved so deadly during the disaster.

Martelly says the relief effort is un-

coordinated and projects hatched from good intentions have undermined his government. “We don’t just want the money to come to Haiti. Stop sending money,” [he said]. “Let’s fix it,” he says, referring to the international relief system. “Let’s fix it.”

Disaster specialist Dr. Tom Kirsch from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine agrees with Martelly. “Clearly we saved lives,” he says. “Clearly we put people in tents. Clearly we did all kinds of stuff. But at the same time the level of chaos and the overall ability to reach needy people, we don’t know how well we did.”

Kirsch, who’s been in Haiti several times since the quake, added, “We could have written a check to everyone in Haiti for — I don’t know — \$10,000 a piece, which would support them forever rather than the way we spent it.”

Of the estimated \$2.5 billion that actually got allocated for Haiti, little of that money actually was sent to Haiti. The NPR story noted:

Ninety-three percent of that money either went to United Nations agencies or international nongovernmental organizations, or it never left the donor government.

So you had the Pentagon writing bills to the State Department to get reimbursed for having sent troops down to respond to the disaster.

If we’re talking about reconstruction, it’s really a misnomer to think that relief aid was necessarily going to have the effect of rebuilding a country in any shape or form.

In a trifecta of admissions — considering that NPR promotes big government as the be-all and end-all of poverty solutions — NPR noted that aid agencies and foreign governments are a main reason Haiti is a Third World mess in the first place:

There are lots of places that have weak governments, but Haiti’s government is weak in a special way. It’s the product of so many years of aid going around the government and international efforts to undermine the government. Presidents being overthrown and flown out on U.S. Air Force planes and then reinstalled and then overthrown again. That left the Haitian government in such a weakened state.

Yet despite the obvious aid-agency failings and the obvious bilking of America’s public funds for well-connected U.S. businesses, which has been going on for decades (this is what is termed “crony capitalism,” instead of free market capitalism), most American groups and individuals who truly wish to combat poverty continue to call for “fixing the international aid system,” as did the NPR article. But as we said, the system is designed to be unfixable — by intent. (See the article on page 16.) ■



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# SOCIALIST SOLUTIONS to World Poverty

At present, mainstream efforts to reduce world poverty primarily focus on fixing or implementing socialist solutions. But the evidence says the plans are destined to fail.



AP Images

by Kurt Williamsen

The almost complete failure of world aid programs to solve world poverty isn't really a secret — or a partisan issue: Two celebrated left-wing world poverty specialists, Francis Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins, lambasted world aid.

In their book *World Hunger: Ten Myths*, the two point to specific failures of international aid programs.

They examine whether bilateral aid (aid given from one country to another country, instead of going through an international agency) is really meant to help the poor — it's not — and whether the aid America gives is effective — it's not.

**American-caused poverty:** After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, America donated many loads of rice to the country, glutting the country with rice. This put out of business the country's rice farmers, sending many into a future of extreme poverty.

They also note that the country that gets the most U.S. aid — Afghanistan — has

59 percent of its children stunted because of malnutrition.

The authors note that aid is more meant to be a payoff to favored Americans than tangible help for those starving in other countries: Instead of the United States giving cash to needy countries to buy rice, we give the countries American-grown rice, which is much more costly than the rice that could be purchased in the countries of need. (Of course, in sending cash donations, we'd have to trust the receiving governments to use the cash in a manner that we want them to, which is an idea that should have long ago been demolished, as countless billions of dollars in U.S. cash disbursements to Afghanistan have simply disappeared in that country, with whole pallet-loads of donated currency simply being carted away to places unknown.)

Putting an affidavit of truth to the authors' claims is the fact that when the costs of food on world markets are high, and increased food aid is needed in the poor parts of the world, American food aid dries up because we sell the foodstuffs we produce, rather than have the U.S. government buy them from U.S. farmers to donate to other countries. So when the need for food aid is high, and poor people cannot afford to buy what they need because supplies are low, America donates less, not more. Then, too, "Overall, according to Oxfam America, almost 60 percent of U.S. food-aid dollars goes to shipping and other overhead costs, while only 40 percent is spent on food." Food aid shipped from the United States takes "on average 147 days to reach those in need, whereas food procured locally took on average just 35 days." Making a bad situation worse, when the food aid does arrive, it often puts many small farmers out of business in the recipient country, making them part of the permanently impoverished. Haiti, after the 2010 earthquake, was the example given: American rice shipments put out of business rice producers and sellers in that country, and aid became chronic.

The reason rice markets were glutted in Haiti: The two agencies in charge of the U.S. food aid programs — USAID and the USDA — "often neglect to sufficiently assess local markets beforehand in order to help avoid food aid's poten-

tially adverse impact on local farmers."

Meanwhile, the authors note, "about 800 million people, or roughly one-ninth of the world's population, are hungry." They quote the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, emphasizing the magnitude of the hunger problem many decades after public aid began its war on poverty: Every day chronic "hunger and its related preventable diseases kill as many as eight thousand children under the age of five. That's roughly three million children each year."

(Here, in rebuttal, advocates of public aid programs would likely claim that aid has caused a dramatic decrease in both the percentage of the world's poor and in the absolute numbers of the world's poor, even as the world's population has climbed. However, that ignores the fact that most of that decrease in world poverty was caused by China's and India's economic development — not aid, per se — and that the poverty rate being measured equates to about \$1.90 per day, which isn't much to live on.)

## The Mainstream "Fix" for Aid Programs

Most poverty experts agree that world aid programs haven't worked, but most say "fix them," rather than "replace them." Some are for small tweaks to the present system, while others want a complete makeover. "Fixing" the international aid system, however, is undoubtedly futile.

The mainstream, globalist view — forwarded by the small-tweaks crowd — is reflected in the advice of economist Jeffrey D. Sachs, who says in his book *The End of Poverty*, "At the most basic level, the key to ending poverty is to enable the poorest of the poor to get their foot on the ladder of economic development." Virtually no economist would disagree with that assessment, as far as it goes.

Sachs is widely considered "the poverty economist," as he has found his way to advising numerous countries about how to get their peoples out of abject poverty, and he was put in charge of Columbia University's Earth Institute, which claims to be



**Correlation doesn't equal causation:** Most advocates of using public aid to reduce worldwide poverty point to the vast reduction of worldwide poverty in recent decades as success of the programs. However, that ignores the fact that most of that decrease in world poverty was caused by China's and India's economic development — not aid, per se.

So when the need for food aid is high, and poor people cannot afford to buy what they need because supplies are low, America donates less, not more.



**Centralizing freedom?** Globalists want to give wealth and power to global entities such as the UN to use to make the poor better off — in terms of freedoms, rights, and money. But history tells us that centralizing power causes the opposite: powerlessness and poverty. The unending corruption at the UN and the impoverishment of socialist countries worldwide attests to this truth.

using the best minds to solve poverty and environmental problems.

He claims that, contrary to what many conservatives claim, merely supplying economic freedom and laws protecting private property to a country does not automatically lead to prosperity for the masses. He says that a handful of African countries have tried to go that route without success. (He didn't list any of those countries, however, probably because even African countries that claimed adherence to economic liberty failed to actually provide it.) The problem, he says, is that not only must the type of government and the nature of a country's laws be considered, but also other aspects about a country that act to

deter progress, such as weather, transportation, disease, etc. Unless roadblocks to economic success are removed, the poor countries will not prosper — and poverty will rule.

Consider, for one example, missing infrastructure. Sachs tells about a road that “connects the port at Mombasa, Kenya, with the landlocked countries Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The transport costs on this road are extremely high because the road is in very poor condition on various stretches. From time to time, transport is disrupted entirely when the rains wash away bridges and sections of the road.” Theoretically, the road, which serves more than 100 million people, could be used to

ship goods to markets in population centers, so the natives could make money if a few laws were changed, but that's not the case in reality. There are too many roadblocks to wealth in the way — both figuratively and literally. Many villages don't own a truck to ship goods; many times the road is out altogether, prohibiting shipping (which would be absolutely devastating if shipping perishable goods); gasoline is often hard to come by and is often so adulterated with additives by natives to stretch the supply that engines quickly get ruined; there often aren't safe places to pull over and rest for the night; and more. He adds, since the governments there cannot afford to fix the road to an acceptable minimal standard — making it useful to move goods to market — outside help is needed to allow the populations to prosper.

He sees many such roadblocks to success in countries with endemic poverty that need to be overcome to allow the poverty-stricken to find success. For instance, in many African communities, there are few men or women in the 20- to 40-year-old range because of deaths owing to AIDS and malaria, so there aren't prime working-age adults to do necessary work, and the old people who remain are already overwhelmed trying to take care of parentless youngsters. And these roadblocks not only might stop natives from improving their situation, the problems might be so overwhelming that capital formation not only slows, but reverses — with the available capital in the country going down each year.

Moreover, Sachs says, if for any reason usable capital in a country goes down each year — not up — it is indicative that the populace as a whole has entered a death spiral from which it is unlikely to ever resurrect itself, even given strong property rights and economic freedom.

Here is how he lays the problem out: Assume a populace is so poor that it cannot save money, with individuals making an average annual income of \$300 per person. The people live hand to mouth, consuming all of their earnings. As time passes, this populace will get inevitably poorer, not wealthier, despite laws to aid business endeavors.

Average individual wealth goes down and down for several reasons. First, the average wealth of the citizens of that country would trend downward because of capital

grandriver/E+/GettyimagesPlus

depreciation (perhaps machinery or tools wear out) — since the people there eat away all their earnings, they don't have money to replace the equipment. Second, the wealth that is produced must usually be spread among more and more citizens as the populace grows — for instance, one mother and father must often divide their wealth among numerous children. Through an increasing population, each year the average member of the society becomes more impoverished, more hungry, more desperate. Third, since many rural African communities are agrarian-based and the families till the same plots of land year after year, the nutrients in the soil become increasingly diminished, leading to smaller and smaller yields.

Other factors may exacerbate the downward fall, such as no real access to healthcare or modern technology, such as phones, or a lack of schooling.

Sachs' recipe for success largely amounts to having wealthier countries provide funds to overcome poor countries' roadblocks to success — until the majority of peoples in those countries are creating enough capital to propel their countries upward on their own. He is against what he says has been the norm for decades in the aid community: belt tightening. He says poor countries are sent to the IMF, which tells them to tighten their budgets: "austerity," though the countries typically bleed off most aid money for government bureaucratic perks, such as fancy cars. "IMF-led austerity has frequently led to riots, coups, and the collapse of public services." What it doesn't do is make countries wealthier.

### Handouts as a Hand Up

To solve the problem of poverty, first, Sachs says, the entirety of the way poor countries operate must be examined methodically to diagnose what ails them, from "problems involving poverty traps, agronomy, climate, disease, transport, gender" and more. He says that we need to view problems as family problems and that the whole world needs to help by reducing trade barriers, forgiving past debts, building basic infrastructure, etc. In fact, he says, the Millennium Development Goals offer real goals with real benchmarks. Finally, monitoring and evaluation must be done to compare rigorous goals and actual outcomes (for example, the IMF may

tell a country to cut its budget deficit one percent of GDP, but if that lowers economic output in the country, that may be a bad thing) and take on robust ethical standards. As it is now, he claims, the aid community settles for "superficial approaches," not a "search for the right answers."

He then provides a seven-part diagnostic checklist to examine the causes of poverty in a country:

First, make a map showing the extent of extreme poverty — those lacking access to school, healthcare, water, sanitation, electricity, roads, nutrition, etc., and note key factors that may exacerbate poverty in the coming years: demographics, environmental trends, water, disease, etc.

Second, define the existing economic policy framework: What is the cost of doing business within different regions of the country? What is the coverage of power, water, road, and transport services? "How are costs affected by the lack of infrastructure ... and how are trade barriers impinging on the costs of production, especially for export-oriented businesses? What are the incentives in place for potential domestic and foreign investors, and

how does the incentive system compare with the incentives in place in competitor countries? Is the government investing adequately in human capital through programs on nutrition, public health, disease control, education, and family planning?"

He goes on with five more parts, including monitoring government spending — especially checking debts and health, education, infrastructure spending — monitoring how geography and disease affect business and trade; checking how the influence of government type (democracy, republicanism, or authoritarianism) affects business building and how government waste and fraud affect businesses and trade prospects; determining cultural and religious barriers to trade, such as problems caused by religion and gender; and learning how the country's geopolitics — "security and economic relations with the rest of the world," international sanctions, refugees, terrorism, warfare, etc. — affect it.

Then, he says, the work begins: Design programs and institutions to address all of the problems in each poor country. He says all of the problems causing poverty



**So much for animal rights:** Some poverty fighters want to end giving plant grains to cattle, pigs, and chickens because then more would be available for feeding the world's poor. But often more grain is grown than can be consumed, much of the grain eaten by animals is the residue of making ethanol, and it would mean the permanent eradication of most of those animals.

have answers — with the difficult ones being addressed through such entities as Columbia University’s Earth Institute — they just need to be put in place.

The money to fund all this would come from donor countries, filtered through UN programs to ensure it is used efficiently and responsibly. And according to him, in each poor country all areas that need fixing must be funded, or the program will fail in each country where money is lacking. It cannot be done piecemeal. He says, “One of the weaknesses of development thinking is the relentless drive for a magic bullet, the one decisive investment that will turn the tide. Alas, it does not exist.” Hence, he says, the failure of public aid programs up to the present time.

The aid that Sachs wants donors to provide is not meant to be a Band-Aid, slowing countrywide bleeding; it’s supposed to serve as a literal boost up to the first rung of the economic ladder, to begin the process of wealth creation. And it sounds good in theory, but realities on the ground show that it is not likely to succeed as planned.

### Facts on the Ground

It is true, as Sachs claims, that statistics provide strong evidence showing that business activity and employment work together to reduce poverty, while public aid, per se, does not. The blog Our World in Data states: “In 1981 around 88% of the Chinese population lived in extreme

poverty (i.e., below the International Poverty Line). According to the latest estimates, extreme poverty — measured in the same way — has declined to 2% in China.” That means that as late as 1981, 880 million Chinese were living in extreme poverty — on less than \$1.90 per day — yet through economic growth caused by Westerners providing infusions of business capital and technological knowledge, the Chinese population in extreme poverty dropped to a little under 28 million in 2017.

Most of the remainder of the world’s decrease in poverty also happened in places where business activity flourished, especially India. Its population of more than 1.3 billion saw extreme poverty decline from somewhere in the range of 50 to 60 percent in 1981, to between 20 and 30 percent in 2017, thanks to laws freeing businesses to operate, rather than having to function under paternalistic government “protections.” An interactive map by Our World in Data does a good job of showing changes in poverty by country. Meanwhile, according to World Bank statistics, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa — an area that has received large-scale aid for decades — is barely decreasing, and actual numbers of the extreme poor there are increasing because of population growth.

The reality on the ground belies Sachs’ expectations of success.

Sachs wants donors to pony up big money despite the fraud that is pervasive in the public aid world and in the Third World. Unless fraud is dealt with, the poverty will continue. (See article on page 25.) And it isn’t that he doesn’t recognize that aid fraud exists; he simply believes that good people can sidestep it.

He says,

Today’s [global welfare] situation is a bit like the old Soviet Workers’ joke: “We pretend to work, and you pretend to pay us!” Many poor countries today pretend to reform while rich countries pretend to help them, raising the cynicism to a pretty high level. Many low-income countries go through the motions of reform, doing little in practice and expecting even less in return.



AP Images

**Righteous new rights?** Many people believe that if we simply endow people with new rights — such as for food, money, and jobs — we can end poverty. No such luck. Such “rights” could only be given by government if the government first stripped all citizens of the control and ownership of all goods and services — making the people slaves.

The authors note that aid is more meant to be a payoff to favored Americans than tangible help for those starving in other countries.



**Socialism's success?** Now-starving Venezuela was once lauded as a socialist success over poverty, as was Brazil (shown). Before the recent election of President Jair Bolsonaro, a free market capitalist, poverty in Brazil was increasing, the government couldn't afford its welfare payments, and "the poor keep getting poorer," as *The Guardian* noted in its July 2017 article entitled "People are getting poorer": hunger and homelessness as Brazil crisis deepens."

He adds that the big public-aid agencies play the same propaganda games:

The aid agencies, on their part, focus on projects at a symbolic rather than national scale, just big enough to make good headlines. In 2002, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) proudly trumpeted its West Africa Water Initiative, noting that "a reliable supply of safe water, along with adequate sanitation and hygiene are on the front line in the combat against water-related disease and death." Fair enough, but what was USAID's actual contribution? A pitiful \$4.4 million over three years. If West Africa has a population of some 250 million people, \$4.4 million over three years would be less than a penny per person per year, enough to buy a Dixie cup, but probably not enough to fill it with water.

He says that with the amount of money now spent on aid, countries such as Ethiopia would never meet the Millennium

Development Goals of the UN for reducing poverty in certain timeframes, yet the public for decades has been continually fed lies to keep the status quo going: essentially, keeping the money coming in and retaining good jobs for bureaucrats. (According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 30 countries in 2016 belonging to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) contributed a total of \$142.6 billion to poor countries, while donors outside of the DAC also have contributed sizable amounts, with China alone giving \$69.9 billion in 2019. This represents aid not devoted to military spending.)

The fact that the UN and its affiliates lie to make themselves look good and appear to be the world's white knights, instead of its monsters, should not be surprising to anyone who follows the UN, as the organization's corrupt core not only bubbles to the surface with regularity, but pokes out in obvious places.

The *New York Post* reported in a 2015 article entitled "The Long Sordid Tale of Corrupt UN leadership" about the mischief that UN General Assembly presidents get into, including John Ashe of Antigua and

Barbuda, who was arrested by the feds on charges of bribery-related tax evasion.

The paper related,

According to the rap sheet, Ashe, who was General Assembly president two years ago, allegedly received millions of dollars from a Chinese-based real-estate mogul, Ng Lang Seng.

Ng allegedly used several UN-related NGOs to transfer cash, gifts and airfare tickets to Ashe and his co-defendants, trying to enlist their help in promoting a pet project: He wanted to build a UN center in Macau.

Ironically, the bad acts brought to light by the paper were dismissed as inconsequential by the UN because the head of the General Assembly has little power. Just imagine how much trouble UN bureaucrats who have real power can get into. We know of a few examples to help spark your thoughts:

- UN funds earmarked for tsunami relief in Indonesia simply disappeared.

- On August 9, 2005, *The Economist* reported, "The UN's biggest-ever humanitarian undertaking seems to have become its biggest-ever scandal." At the time, Iraq had trade restrictions placed on it, and it was getting food to feed its people by selling oil via the UN. The UN's head of the program, Benon Sevan, was taking kickbacks while he was in charge of the program, and another UN official was soliciting bribes.

After the corruption came to light, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan claimed that Sevan had taken a paltry \$150,000 out of \$64 billion contract, reported *Commentary Magazine* in an article entitled "How Corrupt Is the United Nations?" However, according to an independent investigation, Sevan actually received \$1.2 million, yet he was allowed to retire on a full UN pension, free of any criminal charges. Worse, "UN agencies had kept for themselves at least \$50 million earmarked to buy relief for the people of Iraq." And UN agencies charged with investigating corruption in the program spent more on renovating their New York offices with oil-for-food money than on investigating fraud. At the same time, the dictatorial head of Iraq who was supposed to be suffering from the

sanctions, Saddam Hussein, was allowed to skim between \$12 and \$17 billion from the program to buy loyalty in his country and buy weapons.

- The *Commentary* article also explained about “a bribery scandal centered in its procurement department, which handles the Secretariat’s buying of everything from paperclips to peacekeeper rations.... A UN staffer named Alexander Yakovlev pleaded guilty in federal court to taking hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of bribes, involving possibly hundreds of millions’ worth of tainted contracts.”

- The world’s worst human-rights abusers are often members of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Members have recently included Venezuela, even as Nicolás Maduro was starving his country’s populace; Cuba, which has imprisoned, starved, and even shot political dissenters; Saudi Arabia, which commonly beheads people in public for dissent; and China, which routinely “disappears” people, tor-

tures them, and slices them up for organ donations.

- UN peacekeeping missions are rife with the rape of women and children by the troops — rapes the soldiers commit with impunity, as the United Nations whitewashes their actions. When a high-level UN whistleblower named Anders Kompass came out publicly about the crimes, the UN did everything in its power to discredit him and make his life unbearable, rather than address the crimes.

There are many more, but these examples should suffice to show why Sachs’ globalist plan is doomed to fail: Sachs believes that the United Nations, one of the most irredeemably corrupt organizations in the world, an organization that is larded with dictators and human rights abusers, will actually work diligently toward the goal of the betterment of man — and not toward the goal of the betterment of UN insiders.

Naïve, to say the least — and that’s not even considering the rampant corruption in the aid-receiving countries.

Sachs’ plan is socialism writ large — funneling money and power into a centralized governing entity to take care of the world’s problems — but he doesn’t see how his plan would assuredly end up following the same failure as past socialism, such as that which caused economic devastation in Venezuela, the Soviet Union, North Korea, Zimbabwe, and more. When a centralized governing entity is given the power to do good, it is also given the power to do bad, and under socialism the people don’t have the power to right wrongs when they occur.

In fact, nearly the entire continent of Africa went the socialist route after the countries were freed from colonialism, and the result was that the GDP of the continent went down, not up, over the following decades — with corruption becoming among the worst scourges.

Sachs’ plan shouldn’t be surprising, because he doesn’t see socialism as bad. He seems to assume that socialism is only bad for countries because socialism limits the countries’ willingness to trade. He says socialist countries become so protectionist that they strangle themselves economically — their one main downfall, according to him.

### Variants on the Mainstream Plan

Other people who want to “fix” or “tweak” world poverty programs believe other adjustments are needed. Poverty specialists Francis Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins promote not just changing the aid system, but changing government systems, as well.

They are co-authors of two books that are considered by many to be the progressive answers to world hunger, *World Hunger: Twelve Myths* (1986), and *World Hunger: Ten Myths* (2015).

Since by-and-large their books seem to be considered the old and new testaments of something like a progressive poverty bible, and likely reflect the thinking of a sizable number of so-called progressives, they deserve some exploring.

To remedy the decades-long failures of international aid, Lappé and Collins say that along with more “democracy” in government, the world needs an “expansion of basic human rights. They [the rights



**Leader of the pack:** Globalist “celebrity economist” and Columbia University professor Jeffrey Sachs (shown addressing the 2018 Global Citizen Festival), a pal of Bernie Sanders, George Soros, and top advisor to the United Nations, is a leading architect of the UN’s socialist Sustainable Development Goals

AP Images





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**Deemed democratic:** Many globalist development officials claim that Africa became poorer after colonialism ended because Africans went from a system where entire tribes owned land and decided what to do with it to a system of privatization. But it's not true: Historically, while tribes might have laid claim to an area, individuals in a tribe laid claim to parcels of land within that area and decided what to do with them. That largely ended after colonialism ended.

that the duo want] include education (particularly for women) and economic opportunity, as well as access to food, health care. And contraception.”

A primary contention of theirs is that because private corporations have too much control of the world, people go hungry, so the people must be empowered to save themselves. They add that the world, even the Third World, produces enough food to feed everyone. Outside of the United States, about 30 percent of the people are obese or overweight — but the food isn't getting fairly distributed and the poor don't get their share, and the poor are being cheated out of land and opportunities to get ahead.

Though the authors don't outwardly say they are for socialism as a solution, that's what their plans amount to.

The authors do offer a couple options for success against poverty without greatly enlarging the power of governments, but

that prohibition doesn't last. Briefly they refer to redirecting government aid to fix apparent problems, instead of growing government. They say we should cut back on subsidizing beef for the rich (so we don't use so many crops to feed animals) and use those monies to convince people not to eat meat (this is supposedly to reduce the costs of food for the poor by making more grains available to them, though this is basically illogical because recent years have seen worldwide grain gluts to the extent that all the grain grown can't be consumed).

For the same reason, they want to reduce wasted food (as if people don't try to keep their food from rotting and not waste money). They are also adamant that farm yields in poor countries can be increased merely by abandoning the idea that modern Western agricultural practices will help the poor and by training the poor to more intensively grow crops on

very small parcels of land and by doing things such as growing trees amid the crops, since tree-growing makes crops less susceptible to drought, and certain trees fix nitrogen in the soil. They call their plan “agroecology.”

But the rest of their suggestions rely on large, powerful, benevolent government — as if that is easy to achieve, or even ever achievable.

First, the authors want poor countries to store food for when famine happens, and for governments to make food a human right: “Since food is both necessary to life itself and a market commodity, the only way this right can be realized is if democratic government ensures that every person has the means to secure enough healthy food through access to employment at a living wage; or, if blocked from paid employment by old age, ill health, or family responsibilities, one has access to public support.”

Next, the authors require that electric power be provided by “green energy” (which would literally cover the Earth with solar panels and wind turbines, and would be hardly good for the Earth, and would only provide intermittent power — because neither the sun nor the wind stick around). And they demand that the world get rid of most pesticides and synthetic fertilizers and their costs, as well as genetically modified seeds, while having communities take control of local resources such as land (redistributing land), instead of individuals owning the resources. (The authors deride big landowners, saying that they have access to more land simply because they are rich, rapacious, and powerful, and since all they care about is profits: “Many big growers often overuse the soil, water, and chemical inputs, thoughtlessly eroding the soil, depleting the water, and poisoning the environment.”)

Finally, they want to end the trade preferences given to powerful Western countries through the WTO and multinational trade treaties because the trade preferences allow Western governments unfair advantages in trade over Third World ones, keeping the poor destitute.

While the authors might have a valid point in their criticisms of how the world trade system is rigged against Third World countries, the remainder is a case of wishful thinking: asserting as true what they

want to be true — planning for wonderful results from socialism despite its horrific track record, and expecting altruistic good deeds from governments that have up to now continuously shortchanged and abused the poor.

To achieve their goals, they claim what is needed is “a particular kind of government: What we call a Living Democracy, engaging citizens and accountable to them.” Though the authors deny they want drastically empowered centralized government, implementation of their plans would require centralized, massively powerful government to make it happen. Consider that governments would need to seize private property to be able to redistribute it; governments would need to control all facets of work in order to guarantee employment at a living wage (communism, anybody?); and governments would have to be vested with the power to create and destroy rights in order to expand rights to include education, economic opportunity, food, healthcare, and contraception.

The flaws are obvious, except to someone who can't see the forest through the

trees. First, if a person must ask permission of government to do something, it's not really a right, and when property is taken from someone to redistribute to others, it is theft.

Second, since there is no way that any Third World country can afford any of the main initiatives, governments would have to try to force some of their people to provide services for free — or at least provide them for less than the services or goods cost to provide them — or have First World countries foot the bills. (All of the authors' solutions represent hardcore socialism and are doomed to fail just as surely as are all price-control schemes, such as those that are causing mass starvation in Venezuela at the present time.)

Third, even if the governments managed to benevolently use their powers to redistribute wealth, not rampage over people, and instead allow democracy in all facets of life — as in the authors' proposed Living Democracy — majorities of voters would merely be empowered to tell the minority what to do. That is hardly in line with citizens having real rights or

autonomy or personal empowerment, and hardly different in behavior from the present, abusive Third World governments.

Finally, African countries have been socialist from the start of their independence from colonial powers, *and have had the ability to do all of the above, but* instead have inflicted poverty, starvation, and rigid controls on their populaces with the power they were granted. Unless the two authors are thinking about having a Western army invade every poor country in the world to install citizens- and rights-friendly governments — something that, by the way, has recently already failed in Libya, Afghanistan, and Iraq — there's no way any of this is happening. The plan is Marxist fantasy to its core, considering that once governments gain near-total control over populaces, they rarely readily give up that power.

Ironically, the authors say that “concentrated power — whether public or private — undermines freedom and leads to the death of effective markets.” How right they are. To find out a genuine solution to world poverty, see our article on page 25. ■

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# FIXING POVERTY & Feeding the World



Wikipedia/Guinnog

**Bowing to new masters:** After colonialism ended in Africa, African countries moved to socialism, following politicians' promises of ease and wealth. Development economist George Ayittey compared the functioning of the new countries to apartheid in South Africa, where blacks were told where they could live and work, and what types of jobs they could take. Needless to say, those schemes failed.

by Kurt Williamsen

*"[A] consensus that emerged decades ago was that foreign aid had not been effective in reversing Africa's economic decline.... And it is not just Africa. That foreign aid has failed to accelerate economic development in the Third World generally was also accepted. In 1999, the United Nations declared that 70 countries — aid recipients all — are now poorer than they were in 1980. An incredible 43 were worse off than in 1970. 'Chaos, slaughter, poverty and ruin stalked Third World states, irrespective of how*

Leading development economist George Ayittey says that to fix world poverty, we merely need to recognize failed efforts, find out why they failed, and not repeat the failures.

*much foreign assistance they received,' wrote the Washington Post, on Nov. 25, 1999. Except for Haiti, all of the 13 foreign aid failures cited [in the Post article] — Somalia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Angola, Chad, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zaire, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Sudan — were in Sub-Saharan Africa. The African countries that received the most aid — Somalia, Liberia and Zaire — slid into virtual anarchy."*

— Development Economist George B.N. Ayittey

Development economist George Ayittey is straightforward about the failure of past aid programs to cure poverty: "The general consensus among African development analysts is that foreign aid to Africa has not been effective.... The continent is littered with a multitude of 'black elephants' (basilicas, grandiose monuments, grand conference halls, and show airports) amid institutional decay, crumbling infrastructure, and environmental degradation. Further, structural adjustment loans from the World Bank and the IMF made little impact on poverty reduction in Africa."

His contention has plenty of backing. For instance, Jason Sorens points out in his 2007 article "Development and the Political Economy of Foreign Aid" that the best argument that defenders of aid can deliver for their side is to point to projects that have succeeded that have an aid component. In reality, aid has not "caused subsequent increases in GDP per capita. In only one country (Israel) has development aid had the intended effects on growth.... Up-to-date, peer-reviewed global studies of the effects of foreign aid on growth usually find either no generally positive relationship or even a slight negative relationship." Because aid is diverted by government officials, it increases corruption in countries. Aid goes toward wasteful public consumption, and "inhibits beneficial policy reforms." Donor countries usually have motives other than helping the poor, so they don't hold the recipient

We first need to recognize the failures of poverty payments and understand that until the early 1900s, poverty was the norm *across the world*, even in the United States.



AP Images

**Hoping for help from the wicked?** Nigerian scholar Claude Ake stated that “most African regimes have been ... so violently repressive that their citizens see the state as enemies to be evaded, cheated, and defeated if possible, but never as partners in development.”

countries accountable for how the money is used. (America gave aid to corrupt poor countries for taking our side in the Cold War and the War on Terror.)

To understand how to alleviate hunger and reduce poverty today, we first need to recognize the failures of poverty payments and understand that until the early 1900s, poverty was the norm *across the world*, even in the United States. Usually, with the exception being a small population of well-to-do families or leaders and their cronies living opulent or at least middle-class lifestyles, most of the rest of the world’s populace eked out a living, trying to keep clothed, housed, and fed. Though the Industrial Revolution began to spread wealth a bit more widely, opportunities to

become economically safe and stable were often blocked through inheritance rules, nepotism, titles, craft guilds, and low pay for manual laborers. It was not until the United States, with its relatively unencumbering laws and relative lack of societal hierarchy, became an industrial power that wealth in great amounts began to flow to the masses. Then new inventions, new jobs, and new opportunities began to pay dividends.

It would not be wrong to say that *businesses* broke the back of poverty. Now, though wealth isn’t evenly distributed even in the United States, the poor in First World countries generally have plenty of opportunities to get ahead. In fact, poor people in advanced countries usually have

luxuries that even a king couldn’t dream of two centuries ago: running water, TV access, computers, cellphones, washers and dryers, plenty to eat, access to modern healthcare, etc.

Meanwhile, for various reasons — whether topography, lack of shipping, diseases, lack of resources, authoritarian government, etc. — the bulk of the populaces in many Third World countries have as yet barely crawled beyond the Stone Age as far as living conditions are concerned. A story will help illuminate the problem — and the problems involved with fixing the situation.

This story, about the problems that have to be dealt with when helping the poor in Third World countries, comes from, of all things, a television show about hunting. Internationally known hunter Jim Shockey was in Somaliland in Africa, where his friend and fellow hunter had recently convinced the government to create a huge set-aside area for wild animals, meant to provide native wildlife a place to thrive. To stop locals from killing the animals for meat or encroaching on the wildlife habitat, the plan was to convince the locals that there is more money to be made by protecting the area and the game than by disturbing it. Shockey was on a test hunt — checking game conditions, travel restrictions, and more — to prove the theory. He hired locals to guide him to game and paid them more for a few days’ work than they might otherwise make in months. Money spent on licenses would presumably be the source of game management on the range.

In the episode entitled “Stewardship” on *Jim Shockey’s Uncharted*, as Shockey traversed the country, it soon became apparent not only that prosperity has eluded most of the people, but why it has done so. Wherever he went — across huge stretches of land completely devoid of roads — the area was nearly barren desert, garbage was everywhere, and houses were made from sticks covered by old clothes or mud. Though technically speaking the country is safe for tourists, according to the laws in that country, foreigners must hire gun-toting police officers to travel with them and protect them *wherever they go*, and foreigners have a 6 p.m. curfew.

A factoid presented during the show indicated that only 28 percent of men and 17

percent of women had jobs. Making matters more difficult for the locals, the area had just come out of a prolonged drought during which 40 to 60 percent of the livestock that they sell as their main source of income — mainly goats and camels — had died.

The country's residents were not all poor, though. New SUVs were seen here and there during Shockey's travels, and he stayed in a modern hotel with all the amenities. But poverty was certainly the overriding condition of the people.

Creating wealth and ending hunger in the many places of the world similar to Somaliland would be a daunting task, to say the least. Here's how one expert suggests help should be done.

### Don't Repeat Failures

In his 2005 book *Africa Unchained: The Blueprint for Africa's Future*, development economist George B.N. Ayittey says the main thing that needs to be done to end world poverty (namely in Africa) is to recognize what actions have failed in the past and why they have failed — and then don't repeat the mistakes.

- *Don't deal with totalitarians* — On the top of the list is to avoid giving aid to totalitarian countries, because the rulers of those countries have rarely shown any inclination to help the poor; rather, they suck up every available bit of wealth from the poor to finance their self-indulgent lifestyles and keep their holds on power, including padding their Swiss bank accounts. The process is as follows: A strong leader either takes power or is elected, and then to secure his position he pays army officers and political ministers substantial salaries; he hires into public-service positions thousands of other countrymen (whether they do any work or not); and, in case he eventually loses power, he starts socking away money in a foreign bank account. Meanwhile, all of the aforementioned government cronies use their positions to fleece the public.

Case in point: Then-Generals Sani Abacha and Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria between them accumulated \$12 billion in assets in that impoverished country. Meanwhile, from 1970 to 2005, more than \$400 billion in oil revenues flowed into that country, but no one can tell where the money went.

Ayittey noted, "Almost every government regulation and nuance of policy can be exploited. Revenue collection, passport control, and even government stationery can all be diverted, manipulated, or used for illicit gain." The people know that if bribes are not paid for administrative services, "your file will be sat upon, your child will not go to school, the magistrate will send you to prison."

Ayittey added that in 2004 the left-wing *Economist* magazine commented, "For every dollar that foolish northerners lent

Africa between 1970 and 1996, 80 cents flowed out as capital flight in the same year, typically into Swiss bank accounts or to buy mansions on the Cote d'Azur." And most of the rest of the aid supplied to Africa by the world likely was spent on provisioning and funding governmental armies and bureaucrats to keep the strongmen in power, not on helping the poor.

As a general rule, Ayittey says, because corruption is so rampant in Third World countries, and because aid given to governments is so routinely misappropriated, aid should *never be* a top-down affair, wherein the money that is intended to help the poor is filtered through the government.

Not only do the strongmen loot aid money once they are in power, the totalitarians, without fail, blame their countries' poverty on "capitalism" and institute

socialistic measures that inevitably bring economic ruin. The measures they institute include ones to regulate the economies and the peoples — such as opening government-owned businesses, instituting price controls and trade and travel controls, and beginning communal farms — to supposedly benefit their countries.

For one example, Ayittey points to Nigeria, an oil-producing country that had state-owned refineries, staffed by the state. He noted:

Nigeria's state-owned refineries could not produce refined fuel due to frequent equipment breakdown and lack of repairs. Inadequate refinery supplies, coupled with price controls, created acute fuel shortages in an oil-producing country!... Eventually, refined petroleum products had to be imported anyway. This example is representative of many of Africa's state enterprises, which were to produce such items



**Making plunder possible:** When foreign aid is given to totalitarian regimes, they use the money to solidify their bases of power. Then they tax peasant farmers to finance their countries. Foreign aid and repressive regimes often go hand-in-hand.

as cement, steel, shoes, rubber, and food items.

Because state-owned businesses are staffed by loyalists, not by the most qualified people available, quality and quantity of production suffer, and the government-run businesses become mere vote-buying artifacts, not properly functioning entities. Government-run farms, mines, aluminum and steel plants, airlines, oil companies, bottling companies, and more prove to be spectacular failures.

Yet the failure of African countries is often blamed on the fact that Africa commonly exports low-priced raw commodities while it at the same time imports finished products, which fetch high prices. For example, Africa is often rich in mineral wealth such as gold and foodstuffs, which it sells, but it imports technology such as computers and iPhones and other tech — and supposedly this hurts the African countries. Closer to the truth is that socialist mismanagement of the economies of Africa leads to limited commodities to sell, especially foodstuffs, and the money derived from such sales goes right into the coffers of the countries' leaders, not to those who produce the goods. In fact, the "actual physical volume of many primary commodities from Africa has been

declining and the increased supplies on the world market came from other regions, namely Southeast Asia." Therein lies the main problem — government policies that hurt Africans — and the hurdle that needs to be jumped to move Africa ahead.

This is also important because, since nearly all foreign aid money gets bled off by corruption in recipient countries, it becomes evident that the money necessary to fix Third World countries can, for the most part, be found in the Third World countries themselves. The world essentially hasn't delivered money to the poor in Third World countries up to now (it's been siphoned off); Third World governments are spending the money the way the elites want.

- *Return stashed money* — A first step to fix this problem of empowering totalitarians with aid money would be to mandate that to be eligible for any type of foreign aid — whether trade advantages or something else — recipient countries' leaders should first return all monies that the leaders have stashed in foreign bank accounts.

- *Don't allow aid-receiving governments to manipulate the markets, especially food sales* — A second aid step is to not give foreign aid to governments that have in place socialist market controls. Because of the obvious harm socialist economic

manipulations cause, the development-assistance efforts need to avoid giving aid to places where misguided economic practices, such as price controls and government controls over the market chain, are implemented — usually totalitarian countries.

In government-run economies, price controls are commonly implemented both to punish capitalists for their supposed greed, and to make it seem as if the countries' leaders are fulfilling the socialist ideology of egalitarianism. But price controls always backfire because the main unintended consequence of them is product scarcity (and then higher consumer prices on the black market) — talk about a double whammy!

In the case of Nigeria, controls on the price of refined gasoline meant that there were always shortages. Since the government subsidized the purchase price of gasoline (hence making it cheaper than supply and demand would dictate), anyone and everyone who could get their hands on supplies of gas took all they could, and then resold it on the black

**State-owned and not enterprising:** State-owned companies flourished in Africa after colonialism ended, but they were vastly inefficient and often went broke. Zimbabwe's longtime president Robert Mugabe treated Air Zimbabwe as his own personal ferry service.



Flickr/KenH



AP Images

**Wrong plan:** The original African idea of development was that First World things led to economic success, not that First World things came into being and evolved in the process of fulfilling consumers' needs and desires — as should have been understood. So new Western-type goods were ill-used.

market for a profit, often in neighboring countries, leading to constant gas shortages at gas pumps. Nigeria is an oil-producing country, yet the country has to import refined gasoline.

Strongmen's socialist economic policies lead to deleterious cascade effects, bringing about increased poverty for the poor in those countries. As their economies go haywire from foolish economic policies, the strongmen then tax any and all economic transactions of the poor to support themselves, bleeding off the incomes of rural peasant-farmers, creating and solidifying poverty. The strongmen fleece the poor through "poll taxes, low producer prices, export marketing boards, hidden export taxes, price controls, development levies, and forcing peasant farmers to sell annual quotas to the government," according to Ayittey.

To ensure they get their cut from business transactions, the strongmen often mandate that only the government may market certain products, such as palm nuts, maize, rice, yams, etc.; they try to close the borders; and they even threaten death for disobeying trade restrictions.

As a result, there is little incentive for

the poor to put forth the effort to use legal methods to improve their situations. The publication *West Africa* noted that the Gambian government simply took three of every five bags of groundnuts (peanuts) peasants produced, and then another bag would be taken in exchange for fertilizer and seeds. The Tanzanian government "paid peasant maize farmers only 20 percent of the free market price for their produce. In Sierra Leone, taxation levels in the agricultural sector averaged between 30 and 60 percent of gross income," and so on and so forth. And the end result is that production waned: "Ghana earns the bulk of its foreign exchange from cocoa... At the time of independence in 1957, cocoa farmers were selling about 400,000 tons of produce to the CMB [Ghana's Cocoa Marketing Board] for export. For the 1981/82 crop year the amount sold to CMB was only 220,000." Peasants won't put strong efforts toward work that doesn't pay off.

Even when peasants were provided with modern tractors to produce crops, production fell precipitously, with many African farmers going from producing agricultural surpluses with hand tools, to producing barely enough to feed their families with

the government's "help." At one state farm, "\$720,000 was spent to house workers..., but the farm earned only \$95,216 from the sale of crops.... Notice that the \$720,000 was spent on housing alone. Add to this the wages of the workers' managers; cost of equipment and land preparation, etc. and the loss becomes greater." And "at the Okumaning farm ... ripe fruit on the oil palm trees were left to rot at a time when Ghana had to import 57 percent of its palm oil requirement from Benin."

The strongmen claim that money must be taxed from peasants for development purposes, but the development that gets done is not for the benefit of the poor. Housing is built for urban elites; food and gas are subsidized for the same group; and unprofitable businesses get built for the leaders' cronies. One especially galling example was this: "In 1985, Cameroon, with a per capita income of less than \$1,000 a year, was the world's ninth-largest importer of champagne."

One possible step to end government market manipulations would be to offer *partial* debt-forgiveness each time an aid-receiving country opens up or sets aside a geographical area that is free of financial abuses or damaging taxes. Soon the real benefits of such areas to poor countries should become undeniable and cause whole countries to move in that direction.

- *Discourage money printing* — Third, a major pitfall that development assistance should avoid is aiding countries with a propensity to simply print money to finance the spending whims of government leaders. Governments with such power over the purse are unlikely to ever make the hard choices to put in place policies that will empower and enrich the poor. Increasing the amount of currency in a financial system (inflation) is a tax that continues to bleed dry the poor through making products and services continually more expensive, even if some other good economic policies are put in place at the insistence of assistance organizations.

In country after country across Africa, strongmen simply demand that money be printed to be spent, often making the money basically worthless. The International Monetary Fund reports that Zimbabwe's inflation rate peaked at 89.7 sextillion percent year-on-year in mid-November 2009. Then, after being temporary

ily stabilized, inflation in that country was running at 300 percent (year-on-year) in August 2019.

In addition to making the price of items rise, inflation deters wealth creation. When the cost of items quickly increases, people don't put their money in banks, where it will lose its value over time, they spend it as soon as possible, buying goods as cheaply as they can. This means that the monies are not available in banks to be lent out for productive uses, such as opening new businesses.

And in a related vein, Ayittey makes the point that aid-supplying countries and entities, such as the International Monetary Fund, should not hold against the poor in Third World countries debts incurred by strongmen leaders, because those debts not only are unjust but also perpetuate poverty, as many of them are unlikely to be paid off in the foreseeable future. "Total

African foreign debt rose 24-fold" between 1970 and 2002. In 2005, "debt service obligations absorb[ed] about 40 percent of export revenue, leaving scant foreign exchange for the importation of capital goods, essential spare parts, and medical supplies."

He believes "the principle of odious debts" must be enforced against lender nations: If a nation lends money to a dictator, without the consent or benefit of the population of the debtor nation, if a new representative government comes into office, it shall not have to repay the debts.

However, he is also very much against simply writing off justly acquired debts, because if such debts were allowed to lapse, there would be no reason whatsoever for debtor countries to ever pay back another loan — because if they simply wait long enough, their debts will be forgiven.

### Steps to Help Cure Poverty

Ayittey notes that African strongmen have shown for decades that they are dead-set against change and *will never change* their parasitic, abusive behavior *as long as pretending to change* nets them additional aid monies.

So what types of actions might be taken that won't add to the problems and that would likely actually lead to less poverty in Third World countries?

One action Ayittey promotes is to stop giving aid to totalitarians, since they just use aid, especially aid money, to solidify their control over their peoples. Without monetary aid, real effort would have to be made by many countries' leadership to allow the people to prosper or risk a real threat of an uprising that they can't afford to quash. So if a country's leader stops the people from legitimately voting for leaders, aid should be cut off, thereby putting pressure on the country to be financially responsible.

Second, and probably most importantly, encourage what other countries have done to succeed: nurture business investment. India has been industrializing through opening free enterprise zones that are free from India's stifling socialistic laws, with much success. In such a zone, a state or province opens an area that either has no tax or very low tax rates, little or no customs duties, and few cultural restrictions. This allows businesses to invest monies more safely; opens job availability to locals; leads to increased wealth and education; and encourages the building of infrastructure, such as roads, health facilities, running water, etc. Nigeria opened its first such area in 2001, and it has seen a surge in investment since then.

A similar type of plan could be offered in other poor countries called "debt-free zones," which are areas of debtor countries that would be temporarily ceded to a lender nation as a means of both paying off the debt and building domestic industry, meant to get countries headed in the right direction. An example might be a 100-square-mile area in a debtor nation that is ceded to a lender nation, which the lender controls for a period of 20 years (ideally an area that is allowed to trade freely — without tax or interference — with the natives). There would be no African taxes on profits, no import or



AP Images

**To boost the poor:** George Ayittey proposes "to use the existing so-called 'primitive, backward, and archaic' institution[s] [in Africa] to generate economic prosperity" to benefit the masses, not just the political elite. To boost the poor, he suggests making gradual efficiency improvements to native industries, such as fishing and agriculture, using what much of Africa could supply: wood and physical labor.





Flickr/Magharebia

**The cause of war:** In Africa, civil wars lead to death and poverty. Wars there largely happen because one or more groups want to reap the rewards of pillaging their countries. Helping to ensure free, honest elections and reducing corruption would go a long way to stopping wars and poverty.

export taxes, and the area would be controlled and protected by the lender nation. The debtor nation's domestic laws against child labor and environmental devastation would still be enforceable.

Such an area would benefit the *lender* nation through easy access to foreign commodities, an inexpensive foreign workforce, and taxes it can collect. The debtor nation benefits because its foreign loans would be forgiven; it would gain domestic industries; locals would gain jobs skills; there would be local industries to sell raw materials to (with the corresponding profits often going to the poor); and the nation could attract back native peoples who left the country to find opportunity in other lands, reversing the "brain drain" common throughout the African continent.

Third, and likely the most important step to boost the poor out of poverty: Encour-

age the decentralization of power back to village chiefs and support plans that call for bottom-up wealth attainment through unchaining the ingenuity and work ethic of the large masses of poor Africans.

To sidestep many abuses of the poor by native governments, Ayittey emphasizes that all assistance plans must be based on economic freedom, and specifically designed to help the poor. As an example, he notes that programs to teach peasants simple and inexpensive ways to preserve food for shipping would be much more beneficial to a populace than the provision of new high-tech boats that wouldn't employ many people and for which the operators would not be able to afford to process a huge catch when they've got it anyway. He believes that if the large majority of aid is meant to make native processes more efficient, more inexpensive, and less time-consuming,

then natives will quickly prosper. For instance, he says that since most natives are extremely ambitious, and already set up stands to sell goods alongside busy roads, the creation of local and regional marketplaces where goods can be brought to sell safely and efficiently would go a long way to helping the peasants.

He envisions as part of this process returning to local chiefs the power to decide who gets land and how disputes are settled, and a voice in what changes they would like to see, as well as making sure that the peasants are in almost complete control of their economic futures, including deciding for themselves what they will plant and how much they will sell their produce for.

Since chiefs answer to the people directly, not only should this provide money to the poor, enabling them to invest in schools (which could provide the means for poor peasants to get jobs in cities, where the pay is higher), medical clinics, and more, but the rate of government corruption should quickly greatly diminish. (Ayittey emphasizes that this is probably the most important step to getting Africans out of poverty.)

And while Ayittey didn't insist on formal land titling, that would be ideal. Development economist Hernando de Soto has shown that property rights increase business investment in a country and lead to economic growth. When land and businesses can be secured, people are more likely to expand the entities and work to grow them. Moreover, without strong property rights, it is difficult to get loans for investment capital.

Fourth, provide microfinance loans: Experiments by entities in giving loans as small as hundreds of dollars to improve business opportunities have shown to produce not only extremely high repayment rates, but an actual economic-stimulus effect. For instance, a simple way to aid the poor of Africa is to provide microloans to Africans to buy donkeys and carts. In the 1980s when Ghana was struck by famine and people were eating "frogs, lizards, earthworms, and dogs," tons of food were rotting in villages because it was too costly to hire people to carry the food on their heads to markets. Donkeys are cheap, use little water, and are capable of doing lots of work. They can pull carts through rough African terrain and

carry food, water, firewood, and more. And they might cost less than \$30 each. Better yet, such loans can be structured to make several people responsible for paying back a loan, leading to community involvement and high repayment rates.

Fifth, provide healthcare or research into cures and treatments for Third World diseases: In many places in the Third World, HIV and malaria are taking a drastic toll on populaces. In some places in Africa, there are few adults between the ages of 20 and 40 because most have died of disease. The donation of medicines to the Third World to save lives would take much of the strain off grandmothers, who do most of the work in those areas. Too, funding the dispensing of basic medical knowledge would go a long way to helping the poor, such as giving educational presentations on HIV and AIDS deaths and how to prevent such deaths. Places such as India have shown that locals trained in the basics of medicine and funded by an outside entity can do a lot of good. If foreign entities want to help Third World countries, a good place to intervene is by not only providing money for health clinics

and doctors, but providing safe, local drinking water and improved sanitation. (Again, this money should not be filtered through the national governments, where it will be pilfered.)

In most cases, private entities and expanded business opportunities should be at the forefront of aid efforts, just as they have been at the forefront in the First World West. Socialist, top-down aid, as it has been practiced, is sure to fail, just as it has failed in the past — from corruption, misplaced incentives, globalist goals, etc.

For Africa as a whole, as long as corrupt socialist governments run Third World countries, those places will stay economic basket cases. Ironically, globalists in the UN, the World Bank, the Vatican, and across the world are now pushing global governance through the UN — global socialism — and claiming that it will cure the world's ills. Yes, and for decade after decade the five-year economic plans of the Soviets were touted as the way to make those communist countries wealthy, yet the plans only dug the citizens there deeper into poverty. By looking at the “2019 Index of Economic

Freedom,” we can see at a glance that most of the countries in Africa — and most of the Third World in general — rank as “Mostly Unfree” or “Repressed.” Governments there tightly control what the people can and cannot do — for the people's benefit, of course. The poverty there is no coincidence.

It is certainly true that more evil has been done in this world in the name of doing good than has ever been done in the name of doing bad. So the first thing that needs to be done is to stop backing socialist solutions and payoffs to totalitarian regimes in return for claiming to back some aspect of U.S. policy. Then, while looking to economic freedom, build from there.

*(Please note that the above suggestions reflect George Ayittey's views on how to fix world poverty. Although Ayittey believes that the international aid system and major foreign aid entities such as the UN and IMF could be useful, the author of these articles does not agree. Direct aid is only well-instituted by private charities, and country-to-country aid should be largely limited to using trade to increase freedom and real rights.)* ■



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## THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

### Unlikely First Responders

When Gwinnet County, Georgia, prison guard Walter Hobbs fell dangerously ill while on the job, the unlikely happened: Three prison inmates went to his rescue.

U.K.'s *Independent* reported Mitchell Smalls, Terry Loveless, and Walter Whitehead acted quickly when they noticed Hobbs lose consciousness near his desk, then fall to the concrete floor and suffer serious head injury in the process.

It was Smalls who first noticed Hobbs collapse. He immediately alerted other inmates to the incident, according to a statement from the Gwinnet County Sheriff's Office.

Hobbs "kinda was like laying back in his chair and just started (making noises)," inmate Mitchell Smalls told Fox News. "I started hollering and screaming and banging on the door to try to alert everybody to wake up."

The inmates did the only thing they could do while locked inside of their cells, the *New York Post* reported. They made a "ruckus," banging loudly on their cells, which prompted Hobbs to gain consciousness. Hobbs, assuming the noise was prompted by an inmate who needed help, sprang up and pressed the button on the control panel that released all of the cell doors.

The *Post* reported that Smalls, Whitehead, and Lovelace ran straight to Hobbs to offer their help. Whitehead grabbed the phone and called for help.

"It scared me," Whitehead later told Fox News. "I don't care if it's a police officer or whoever it was. I will do whatever I can to save a man. I don't want anyone to die."

Hobbs later told colleagues he did not even realize he had lost consciousness, but recalled hearing the inmates calling his name and making a lot of noise. He was rushed to a local hospital, where it was discovered he'd had a heart attack.

Video footage of the incident captured the entire dramatic scene. The men were later honored by the Gwinnet County Sheriff's Office.

The office tweeted a photo of the men and noted that just because someone is a prisoner doesn't mean he is uncaring:

Kudos to these inmates for coming to the aid of our deputy when he suffered a cardiac emergency in a jail housing unit.

We thank them for their timely assistance and the lesson their actions provide. It's not the uniform that makes a hero. It's the person wearing it.

The department added that the inmates went to Hobbs' rescue because Hobbs was a good guard who treated the inmates with dignity and respect. "These inmates came to his aid because our deputy, like most law enforcement officers, treats people with the dignity they deserve," the sheriff's office wrote.

### Love Wins Every Time

A struggling mother was down to her last \$7 when she discovered she had won \$100 on a lottery ticket. Instead of keeping the money, however, she donated it to a police officer who had recently been shot in the line of duty.

PJ Media reported Shetara Sims of Kansas City, Missouri, found a dollar in a parking lot of a grocery store and used it to buy a scratch-off lottery ticket. She was happily surprised to learn she had purchased a winning ticket, but before she could celebrate her winnings, her 12-year-old daughter Rakiya suggested they give the money to a police officer who had been shot on July 2 and was still in intensive care. And that's just what she did.

Sims contacted the Kansas City Police Department on July 10 to say she wanted to donate her winnings to the officer's family for restaurant or gas station gift cards to be used while they traveled to and from the hospital.

Sims told the woman who answered the phone at the police department that her daughter was murdered in 2012, and it was the detectives on her case who helped get her through one of the darkest moments of her life. She said they contacted her daily to check on her and even visited her and her children to check in on them. She said they were like "therapists, fathers, and lifelines all in one."

"The detectives were really there for

us. They were there for us more than anyone I can imagine. They did things they didn't have to do," Sims said, according to KMBC News.

Sims also shared that she had recently lost her job and was struggling to pay her bills, but was inspired by her 12-year-old to donate the winnings. The woman at the department who took Sims' call tried to convince Sims to keep the money, saying the officer was well taken care of, but Sims refused because she said she wanted the injured officer and his family know he was supported.

"To hear her call and just express thanks for no reason other than she's thankful, it's really impactful to us and it's really touching to us," police Sergeant Jake Becchina said, adding that these type deeds are what motivate police officers to keep serving.

Under any other circumstance, it would not be worth mentioning that Sims is a young black mother, but her actions are particularly touching and poignant at a time when relations between police officers and the black community have been strained by intrusive and insidious groups such as Black Lives Matter and Antifa.

The beauty of this story does not end there. The Kansas City Police Department was so touched by Sims' kindness that they shared the story on their social media, prompting followers to reach out and offer their help to the struggling single mother. Initially, Sims' donation was anonymous, so the department had no way to contact her to let her know that there were good people in the community who wanted to help her. She was eventually tracked down, however, and the department set up a GoFundMe page for her.

The page's fundraising goal was set at \$10,000, but less than one month after the page was set up, more than \$156,000 had already been raised.

Donors sent messages with the money. "My heart aches because of the loss you suffered, but pain of the loss might be eased a bit by the fact that Rakiya is certainly the most giving 12-year-old of whom I have ever heard," wrote one donor.

Another user observed simply, "Love wins every time." ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

# DOUGH FOR BREAD FOR THE WORLD

The nominally Christian organization Bread for the World doesn't — as most think — use donations to provide food for the poor. It simply lobbies for socialist causes.

by *William F. Jasper*

“**W**e are moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ to work for justice for hungry and poor people,” declares Bread for the World in the history/mission page of its website. The organization, which was launched in 1974, describes itself as “a non-partisan, Christian citizens' movement in the United States to end hunger.” Among the Bible passages often cited by Bread for the World is this one from the prophet Micah: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Would a Christian find anything in the foregoing to arouse opposition, or even suspicion? Most, probably, would not. In fact, it might seem that the noble-sounding mission of Bread for the World is precisely the type of mission that all Christians should embrace. Hundreds, if not thousands, of Catholic, mainline Protestant, and Evangelical churches take up Sunday collections for the organization. After all, did not our Lord Jesus Christ say (as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew): “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’”

Jesus continued:

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ...’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

And devout Christians have responded to Christ's call since apostolic times. Christian churches, Christian organizations, and individual Christians have led the way in aiding and uplifting the poor, the hungry, the sick, the homeless, and the uneducated, by establishing hospitals, food kitchens, orphanages, shelters, alcohol and drug abuse programs, prison ministries, disaster relief, schools, colleges, universities, and much more. Christian compassion has been responsible for the greatest outpouring of genuinely helpful



**Compassion exploitation:** A malnourished woman and her child in South Sudan provide a common image that Bread for the World and other groups use to sucker Christians into giving money, which is then used not to feed the hungry, but to lobby for more government welfare programs.

charity in all of human history. However, a closer look at Bread for the World (BFTW) reveals a major departure from the traditional view of Christian charity. Rather than calling on the believer, personally, and the church, corporately, to take direct responsibility for caring for those in need, it calls for the believer and the church to become lobbyists, to call on the *State*, the government, to assume responsibility for the needy. And a strong case can be made

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

that the actions taken by BFTW in the name of Christianity are even un-Christian, and hurtful rather than helpful.

### Coercion Billed as Charity

In his 1975 book *Bread for the World*, Arthur Simon, an ordained Lutheran minister and the founder and first president of Bread for the World, stated clearly in Chapter 13, a chapter entitled “A Citizens’ Movement,” that BFTW is a lobbying organization. He said he was making BFTW into a “citizens’ lobby.” Referring to the organization’s funding, he admitted, “None of this money goes directly to assist hungry people — for that donors are referred to their own experienced church agencies. All Bread for the World funds go toward building an effective citizens’ movement.”

And although the stated overall goal was to “advocate the cause of hungry people to their elected representatives,” that goal was then, as it is now, merely a façade to hide the goal of building powerful globalist and socialist entities to bring about left-wing goals — goals that are only too apparent in perusing BFTW’s website.

Bread for the World’s website does not say a word against abortion, nor does it utter a word of condemnation for the slaughter of millions of babies by Planned Parenthood or the United Nations Population Fund. However, it has jumped on the virtue-signaling bandwagon,

- demanding “rights” for illegal aliens (though mainline Christian organizations no longer pay for the upkeep of poor immigrants until the immigrants can earn a living wage, but rather advocate forcing taxpaying Americans to pay for the welfare of poor immigrants, though the country is broke);

- denouncing America’s “systemic racism” (rather than try to provide unity in the country, BFTW feeds the false narrative that there is systemic racism against blacks);

- praising the rioters of Black Lives Matter (whose leaders boast of being “trained Marxists” and who destroy businesses because of unbiblical covetousness of those more successful than themselves);

- supporting LGBTQ “inclusivity” (though Jesus says about sexual sins to “go and sin no more”);

- boosting the United Nations Sustain-

However, after spending hundreds of billions of dollars on those very things since he made those proposals, can anyone seriously suggest that those vast expenditures have provided solutions? Yet Bread for the World continues to push the same bankrupt agenda.

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**UN mouthpiece:** A cheerleader for globalism from its inception, Bread for the World uses the global hunger issue to promote the United Nations’ Agenda 2030, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and other UN programs.

able Development Goals (which again relies on the theft of wealth from some by others — in the name of good — though there are no biblical exceptions to the injunction “thou shalt not steal”);

- praising the United Nations Paris Climate Accord (which not only would not “fix” the climate but would allot control over *every behavior* of every person on Earth under the guise of controlling carbon emissions — making us virtual slaves);

- supporting UN World Health Organization COVID-19 lockdowns, and much more.

Socialist causes all.

And even if BFTW strictly limited its lobbying to providing welfare for the poor, the welfare plans that it supports unquestionably hurt the poor, not help them. (See the three cover stories in this issue.)

Christian organizations should have noted the socialist slant from the start. Bread for the World began as an ecumenical movement among liberal-left Catholic

and Protestant clergy and activists in the early 1970s, though many of its early leaders had been engaged in radical-left politics in the 1950s and 1960s. The 1974 United Nations World Food Conference, which was held in Rome under the auspices of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, provided the launch pad for a multitude of organizations to “end world hunger,” of which Bread for the World has turned out to be among the most notable. Like most UN gatherings, the World Food Conference concluded with a manifesto, which, in this case, was the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition. This UN document posited, among other things, that “every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties.” This UN-recognized “right to food” could only be realized, the UN assembly declared, by instituting a (socialist) “new international economic order,”

Naturally, however, since they are marketing themselves to moderate and conservative churches and churchgoers, the Bread for the World activists camouflage their real program with heartstring rhetoric about ending poverty and world hunger.

which would involve massive transfers of wealth from the developed nations to the underdeveloped ones. This “new international economic order” would, of course, require national governments to confiscate — through taxes, borrowing, and currency-inflation policies — the wages and savings of their citizens, to be funneled into national foreign-aid programs and programs of the United Nations.

To overcome the opposition to the new economic international order that was stirring in America because of the already apparent wasteful, corrupt, and unconstitutional nature of the U.S. foreign-aid programs, and the Marxist origin and nature of the proposed new order, a plan was made to enlist gullible Christians to the cause.

Arthur Simon says in *Bread for the World*, “To date, neither Congress nor the Administration seems especially interested” in promoting the UN agenda. “But,” he continued, “if alert voters in each congressional district begin to insist, our leaders would soon respond.”

According to Reverend Simon, “The most important sacrifice that readers of this book can make is the sacrifice of their time and energy to change public policy.” He reiterates this “change public policy” theme over and over again throughout the book. So what are the public policies and changes he seeks? Invariably, they involve unconstitutional usurpations of power by the federal government and violations of the 10 Commandments, particularly regarding theft and covetousness. They involve, as well, advocacy of every leftist so-called social-justice claim and huge attacks on America’s national sovereignty and independence via transfers of wealth, ju-

risdiction, and power to the United Nations and related international bodies.

This guileful drafting of Christians into support of leftist, globalist objectives has been a hallmark of BFTW ever since. Arthur Simon, who served as president of Bread for the World for nearly two decades and then as president emeritus, is the brother of the late Illinois Democratic politician Paul Simon, who served in the U.S. Congress for 22 years (from 1975-1997,

first in the House of Representatives, then in the Senate) and ran unsuccessfully for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. Reverend Simon mentions that *Bread for the World* represents in part “a revision of *The Politics of World Hunger* ... which I wrote with my brother, Paul Simon” in 1973. His brother, a liberal-left Democrat, was a staunch supporter of the welfare state, expansive government, foreign aid, and the globalist United Nations. Hence it is not surprising that Arthur Simon incorporated much of the “progressive” agenda and worldview as a handbook for citizen action.

It is worth noting that *Bread for the World* is unusual in that it was published jointly by Paulist Press, a liberal-left Catholic publisher, and Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, a well-known Protestant publisher. This arrangement was concocted, no doubt, to maximize the BFTW’s effort at ecumenism, to create a crossover movement to bring both Catholics and Protestants out of the pews in support of so-called progressive causes. The central feature of this handbook is its obsession with central planning, a feature that is common to all statist, whether of the socialist, communist, or fascist variety. In each of these dystopian systems, the individual is merely a fragment of the *lumpenproletariat*, a mindless, soulless mass to be shaped, formed, and directed by the Party vanguard. Thus, Arthur Simon, like his brother, favors national programs directed by the federal government and international programs directed by United Nations agencies to “solve” all problems and alleged “crises.”

Reverend Simon believes it is the job of the federal government “to guarantee a job to all U.S. citizens, in the private sector insofar as is possible, but with the government as the employer of last resort.” He calls for government programs to “do more work on long neglected needs, such as rebuilding cities and improving our environment, our schools and our health services.” However, after spending hundreds of billions



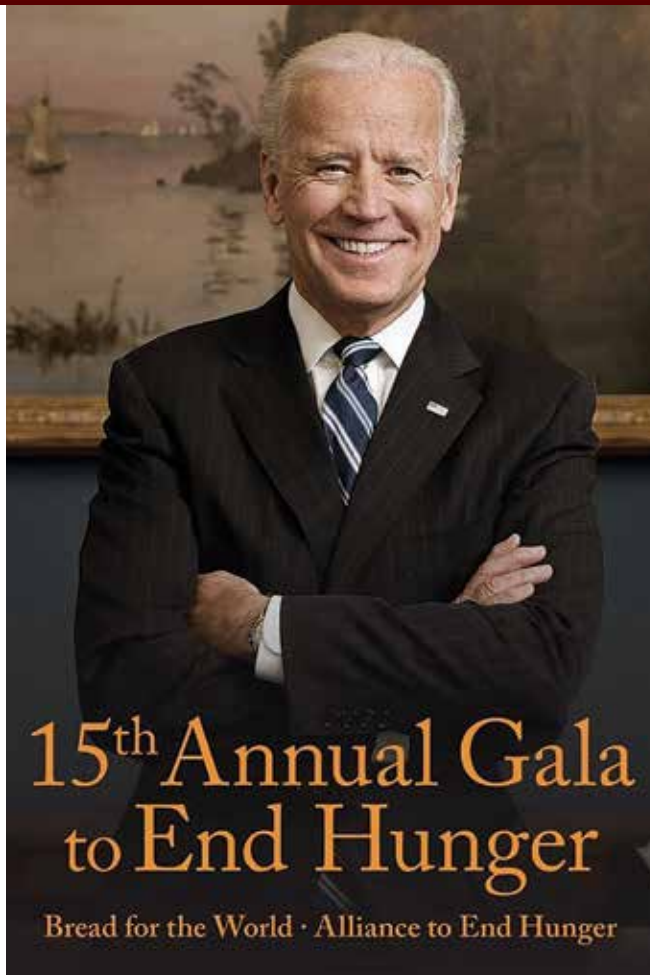
Wikipedia/ArthurSimon

**“Social justice” pioneer:** Long before Senator Bernie Sanders burst into the socialist firmament, Bread for the World’s founder and longtime president Reverend Arthur Simon was promoting the idea that the federal government should guarantee jobs, income, healthcare, education, and more.

of dollars on those very things since he made those proposals, can anyone seriously suggest that those vast expenditures have provided solutions? Yet Bread for the World continues to push the same bankrupt agenda.

Furthermore, according to the BFTW founder, we can get rid of hunger in America by: 1) a national nutrition policy wherein everyone is guaranteed a set amount of food; 2) food assistance with food programs available for all, regardless of income; 3) a program of guaranteed employment so that every head of household “could sustain the family”; 4) and a guaranteed income for those who cannot or should not work. This is all part of what Simon calls “social justice” and “human justice,” presaging terms that would come into vogue decades later. Each and every goal forgets a key lesson from history: When government is given the power to do good, it is also given the power to do bad — and sooner or later that power will be abused.

Bread for the World has continued on the same path since its start, “building an effective [leftist] citizens’ movement,” transforming naïve — and usually well-meaning — churchgoers into a “citizens’ lobby” for “progressive” causes. Arthur Simon stepped down as president of BFTW in 1991 and was succeeded by Reverend David Beckmann, who headed the group for nearly 30 years, before retiring in June 2020. Beckmann, a former employee of the World Bank and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the premier Deep State brain trust, demonstrated the globalist-socialist connection in many ways. One of the most striking examples was his participation as one of three panelists for the Council on Foreign Relations at the CFR-sponsored “Religion and Foreign Policy Workshop” on May 9, 2018. Joining Beckmann on the panel were Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of NETWORK (a far-left outfit that describes itself as a “Lobby for Catholic Social Justice”), and Ruth W.



**Virtue-signaling pol:** Presidential candidate Joe Biden is one of many politicians, both Democratic and Republican, who have served as enablers to BFTW’s compassion con, jumping on the global hunger bandwagon.

Messinger, global ambassador for American Jewish World Service (and a veteran hardcore socialist and supporter of official Communist Party fronts). The event was hosted by Lisa Sharon Harper, founder and president of Freedom Road.

The chair of the board of directors of Bread for the World is John Carr (CFR member), founder and director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University. Carr is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Circle of Protection, an organization that is organizing clergy and politicians to oppose proposed cuts by the Trump administration to foreign aid and domestic welfare programs. Heading up the Bread for the World Institute is Asma Lateef, who was previously director of policy and programs at Citizens for Glob-

al Solutions (CGS). CGS was formerly known as the United World Federalists and was for decades the premier organization openly promoting world government. Although it has changed its name, the goal remains the same.

BFTW’s leaders use their organization’s status as a Christian charity to promote massive welfare-state programs, wealth-redistribution schemes, federal minimum-wage laws, guaranteed-income laws, illegal migration, “social justice,” environmental extremism, global-warming alarmism, COVID-19 alarmism, racial discord, homosexual “marriage,” and Christian acceptance of the radical LGBTQ agenda.

Naturally, however, since they are marketing themselves to moderate and conservative churches and churchgoers, the Bread for the World activists camouflage their real program with heartstring rhetoric about ending poverty and world hunger. It is a deceptive strategy that has served them well, allowing Bread for the World to rake in hundreds of millions of dollars from unsuspecting Christians over the past five decades. Even more importantly, it

has enabled BFTW to sow its Marxist “Social Gospel” seeds into the soil of many churches, which now, having flowered, have produced a couple generations of Christians that have absorbed much of the Marxist agenda without even realizing it.

The 55-year record of Bread for the World, such as that of many other “humanitarian” organizations that march under a thin Christian veneer, has shown it to be a false front for progressive propaganda and promoting left-wing, anti-Christian citizen activism. Christians are called to exercise discernment and to be wary of “false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” This certainly applies to Bread for the World. It is long past time for Christians to expose them and call them out. ■

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## Don't Post Your Guns on Social Media

A story out of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, serves as a scary reminder of the damage that can be done to a person who shares images of his firearms on social media. The *College Fix* reported on March 16 about how 20-year-old Lucas Gerhard sent a picture of himself holding his AR-15 to a private chat group on the social-media platform SnapChat, which contained other students from his college. Gerhard captioned the photo with the words, “Takin this bad boy up, this outta make the snowflakes melt, aye? And I mean snowflakes as in snow.” Gerhard meant the post in jest, poking fun at overly sensitive leftists on campus who get “triggered” over such simple things as a person owning a firearm.

Sadly, Gerhard's joke became prophetic when one of the message recipients showed the image to a leftist friend, who then reported it to the college. The school, in turn, reported it to local law enforcement, and the situation deteriorated from there. Law enforcement came to Lucas' dorm with a search warrant and arrested him the next day for making a terroristic threat under the state's anti-terrorism laws.

Gerhard's father, who is a retired U.S. Marine with 30 years in the Corps, contacted the school to somehow stop this madness, but was told by the college's safety and risk management director that it was out of their hands. Gerhard was jailed with bond set at \$250,000, and remained jailed for 83 days! The trial is still pending as of the time of this writing, but supporters of the young man have raised over \$25,000 for his legal defense, and Republicans in the state legislature are looking into re-writing the state's anti-terrorism laws to prevent something like this from happening again.

## Seriously, Don't Post Your Guns on Social Media

Here is a similar story of unintended consequences, with almost all of them being bad. WTSP.com, 10 Tampa Bay, reported on July 10 about a man from West Chapel,

Florida, who believes he was targeted for a burglary because he posted pictures of his large gun collection online. Fortunately, the man knew how to use what he owned, and he shot all three of the masked suspects who tried burglarizing his house. Two of the suspects were killed at the scene, and a third, who was injured, fled until he was held at gunpoint by a neighbor who heard the shots and came to help. WTSP.com reported that the surviving suspect, 19-year-old Jeremiah Trammel, may have only been spared from being mortally wounded because the homeowner's gun jammed as he was shooting at the suspects. Due to the state's felony murder rule, which makes any participant of a violent felony vicariously liable for the murders of anyone who dies during the crime, Trammel is being charged with the deaths of his two accomplices. Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco said that the three suspects broke in to the house armed and wearing masks, but that the homeowner was alerted by the sound of breaking glass and was able to arm himself and shoot at the suspects as they walked toward him. The investigation is ongoing, but Nocco added that the “victim in this case was exercising his Second Amendment right to protect himself in his home.”

## Social-media Activity May Lead to Gun Loss

Constitutional law scholar Eugene Volokh wrote an opinion piece for Reason.com on July 30 warning about the impending danger posed by so-called red flag laws that are now being used to confiscate guns without due process because of social-media postings.

The case that caught Volokh's attention involved a California man who was active online under a pseudonym and engaged in intentionally provocative trolling on racial issues. He was exposed, or “doxed” as it's popularly known, by left-wing activists. The reaction by local law enforcement was what struck Volokh as setting a dangerous precedent. Sacramento County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Lacey Nelson told the local CBS affiliate that detectives worked in coordination with multiple fed-

eral agencies to monitor the man for weeks before obtaining a “gun violence restraining order against him and a search warrant,” adding that his firearm was seized. Nelson boasted that the “search warrant is the first of its kind at least in the country. As far as how we obtained it and were able to serve it... He was posting enough racist rhetoric and propaganda on Facebook that it was concerning that his behaviors could become violent in retaliation.”

Volokh was alarmed by this rationale, and wrote that “nothing in the quoted statements from Sheriff's Office officials suggests that the ‘gun violence restraining order’ and gun seizure stemmed from any crime he had committed (including conspiracy or solicitation); it sounds like the basis for the ‘gun violence restraining order’ is his political rhetoric.” Volokh wrote that just because the man had posted things that might be considered politically incorrect, that alone is not sufficient to proactively take a person's guns. “A person's hateful and pro-violence rhetoric — whether it's hatred for blacks and Jews, as Casarez [the California man] seems to espouse, or for police officers or capitalists or government officials — is by itself the exercise of First Amendment rights, and the government can't retaliate against such speech by using it as a basis to deny Second Amendment rights. While the government can use speech as evidence of what one has done or why one has done it (a common use in criminal procedures), I don't think it can use it as evidence of future dangerousness sufficient to deny someone a constitutional right.”

Volokh concluded his editorial by stating that he remained unconvinced these actions were constitutional, but he's waiting for more information to be released that might prove that the man had actually committed a crime by engaging in or conspiring to engage in violence or solicited acts of violence. He added that the current record showed no such thing. Red flag laws could be expanded to take guns from people who post conservative views on social media about immigration or social issues. If recent events are any indicator, things might move from bad to worse. ■

— PATRICK KREY



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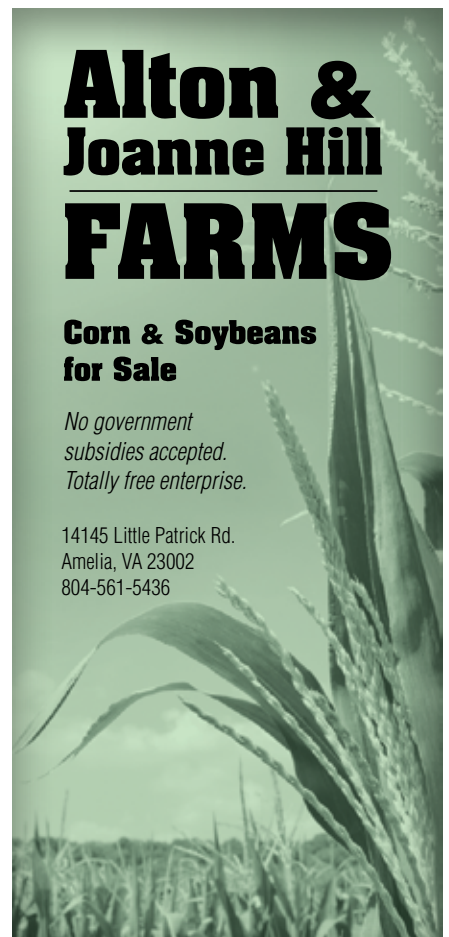
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## Threatening Strikes, Teachers' Unions Resist Reopening Public Schools

**ITEM:** The print version of the New York Times for July 30 carried the following headline on page one, covering the pending status of (largely) public schools in the United States: "Teachers Push to Have a Say on Reopening." The left-wing paper reported: "Teachers in many districts are fighting for longer school closures, stronger safety requirements and limits on what they are required to do in virtual classrooms, while flooding social media and state capitols with their concerns and threatening to walk off their jobs if key demands are not met.... Already, teachers' unions have sued Florida's governor over that state's efforts to require schools to offer in-person instruction."

Deeper in the article, well down on page 8, it said: "Some critics see teachers' unions as trying to have it both ways: reluctant to return to classrooms, but also resistant in some districts to providing a full day of remote school via tools like live video — the kind of interactive, online instruction that many parents say their children need after watching them flounder in the spring."

The paper's coverage has done its utmost to play up risks and promote lockdowns. The same day, for example, another major Times piece had this headline: "States Saved Thousands of Lives by Closing Schools in Spring, Study Says." Not covered were the huge financial, health, and other ramifications of locking down much of the nation's economy.

**ITEM:** A lengthy article in Esquire, dated July 10, kicked off with this lede (albeit un-sanitized): "Let's face it: We're f\*\*\*ed." The tone of the overall piece, about schools being reopened or not, was accurately reflected in its title: "How Many Sick Children and Teachers Are Worth It? What About Dead Ones?"

**ITEM:** American Federation of Teachers (AFT) president Randi Weingarten was a featured guest on NBC's Today show on July 9, which provided her with a soap-



**Teachers against students learning:** Using COVID as an excuse, teachers' unions across the country have fought (often successfully) against having children attend school, against putting in more than a couple of hours of work a day, against private schooling, and more.

box and a nationwide audience to berate the president and his administration. "Frankly," said the organized labor leader, "just because Donald Trump wants to take a risk with people who go to bars or beaches, those of us who have spent our life teaching kids are not going to take a risk with kids or with our members' lives.... The president trying to ignore research and science or trying to pressure the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] to change that science is not okay with parents or with teachers."

**CORRECTION:** Stretching is said to be good for your health — but it doesn't help the truth. And one way that presumptive news organizations like to stretch the truth is by omission and the selective use of facts.

It would have been simply honest of NBC, for example, to point out (before giving the outspoken head of the American Federation of Teachers a powerful electronic podium to demean the president) that the AFT had actually endorsed Trump's political opponent, Joe Biden, way back in March. But that was ignored on the Today show. And that the AFT generally hands over millions of dollars to the Democrats for political purposes. Such donations to the Dems (as was recalled by the Washington Free Beacon) represent 98 percent of the AFT's political expen-

ditures; the funding goes to the party "that has repeatedly used the coronavirus as negotiating leverage in Congress."

The New York Times and other left-wing media claim the teachers' unions want more "safety" measures in schools. Those measures were spelled out during a labor-backed "National Day of Resistance" in early August, which included protests in dozens of cities. Before activists would allow children back into public schools, they demanded, among other things, "Medicare for All," wealth taxes (against the "rich," of course), and the banning of new charter schools that might compete with education union monopolies. Of course, the Demand Safe Schools Coalition also pressed for vast amounts of federal money.

The "resistance" event was intended, we were told, to advance "a racial justice agenda in public education" — certainly not reading, writing, and arithmetic. As Just the News reported:

The group, which consists of at least 10 teachers unions, the Democratic Socialists of America, and the racial activist group Journey for Justice Alliance, argues that "the government must go much further to provide the resources to ensure a safe and equitable school reopening and must pro-



# Correction, Please!



AP Images

**Engaging students:** After the damage that COVID-related school lockdowns caused last year to student learning, everyone is hoping for better this year. But many public schools are going with abbreviated online classes and little student-teacher interaction.

vide for our communities and working families through transformational Common Good demands.”

Among the numerous demands the group lists on its website are “police-free schools,” a “moratorium on new charter or voucher programs and standardized testing,” reduced class sizes, the “canceling [of] rents and mortgages,” a “moratorium on evictions/foreclosures,” and “direct cash assistance to those not able to work or who are unemployed.”

The group is also calling for a “massive infusion of federal money to support the reopening funded by taxing billionaires and Wall Street.”

No sensible folks want to ignore safety. But resources are finite — even if teachers’ unions pretend otherwise: In order to reopen government-run schools, the AFT has been demanding up to *\$116 billion*. Corey DeAngelis, the director of school choice at Reason Foundation, observes that is “about twice the total amount the federal government allocated towards K-12 education in the most recent school year. It’s also close to the amount the U.S. dedicated to the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II.”

The AFT is not the only player making

inordinate ultimatums. Earlier this year, for example, there was an agreement made between United Teachers Los Angeles and the city of Los Angeles. As recounted by Frederick Hess, the arrangement

created heavy restrictions around virtual learning — including provisions stating that teachers could not be required to provide live remote instruction or even to work during the school day. In Brevard County, Florida, the union and district agreed to a memorandum of agreement (MOU) that capped teachers’ instructional time at three hours per day. In Boston, the union-district MOU imposed a two-hour limit on synchronous (live) instruction.

Elsewhere, as noted by Hess — the director of Education Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute — union affiliates rejected

the idea of reopening schools early, urged schools to slow down academic work, refused to consider proposals for the early retirement of COVID-susceptible, and (in an ironic twist) demanded childcare for teachers who can’t work remotely. In short, they

aren’t showing a lot of evidence that their first priority is finding a way to get kids safely back to school.

Meanwhile, activists have been showing off their thoughtful deportment — including displaying signs such as the one seen at a Milwaukee demonstration: “I can’t teach dead kids!” Or this one: “Your Multiplication is NOT worth MY LIFE!”

Never mind that Robert Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has explained that the COVID-19 mortality risk for school-aged children is “one in a million.” “Opening schools,” maintains Redfield, “will be good for the health of our children because so many depend on schools for mental health & nutrition services.” He argues that the risk to children is “far greater by not being in face-to-face education.”

Meanwhile, the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has recommended that children be “physically present in school,” pointing to potential harms of (among others) social isolation, growing child abuse, depression, and increasing untreated learning deficits. In the view of the AAP, “All policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”

While much of the recent public discussion about reopening has centered on public schools, another major concern of the monopoly-minded teachers’ unions is homeschooling. Once the pandemic ends, as David Henderson has written (*Wall Street Journal*, July 30), many parents will want to continue educating their children at home. Henderson, a research fellow at Stanford’s Hoover Institution, pointed to a poll that found that 40.8 percent of parents said they were

more likely than before the pandemic to enroll their child in “a home school, a neighborhood home-school co-op, or a virtual school” once the lockdowns ended. There are now about 56 million children in K-12 schools. Before the pandemic, an estimated two million children were home-schooled...

Even many who don't home-school will push for an expansion of charter schools, which tend to be responsive to parents and can more easily fire poor teachers. The advantage for taxpayers is that charter schools cost, on average, thousands of dollars less than traditional public schools.

Private schools have also been affected, including some being caught in the cross-fire during the reopening squabbling. In Maryland's Montgomery County, right outside Washington, D.C., the county's health officer was just forced to abandon his determined attempt to prevent private schools from holding in-person classes. He issued his initial remote order despite the fact that many of the private and parochial schools had spent considerable money and effort for protective alterations in schools; the county did not even deign to look at what had been done. (The county's public schools are opening with online classes only for at least the first semester, as is the case with most in Maryland.)

The pushback by a Republican governor (not a conservative), as well as a threatened lawsuit by parents, forced the left-wing county to retreat. As matters stand, private

and religious schools in the county, along with parents, will be allowed to decide for themselves about schooling in the fall.

It is an open secret in Montgomery County (where this writer resides) that the attempt to keep the private and parochial schools closed was driven, in part, by the fear of the teachers' union that the public schools would (again) be shown up.

In the meantime, the coronavirus deaths and cases in the county (as well as in Maryland as a whole) have been dropping. Facts didn't deter the county's health officer (that is, until he was outflanked). James Bovard is on target with his comments (for the American Institute for Economic Research):

What does it require to justify boundless power in a county of a million people? A COVID positive rate of 0.000008%. Surprise — the dictatorship will last forever — or at least until the Democratic political machine that runs the county decides it can profit from loosening the tourniquet it imposed that helped destroy more than 50,000 jobs and countless small businesses.

Yet, ham-handed progressives who usu-

ally swear they follow only "science" and "data" look the other way when the facts don't fit their political narrative.

Indeed, Dr. Scott Atlas, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and former chief of neurology at Stanford University Medical Center, commented earlier this summer that he was astonished at the "ludicrous" level of "hysteria" among Democrats who were seeking to keep the public schools closed. As Atlas put it in televised remarks: "I'm not sure how many times it has to be said, but the risk of children from this disease and the fatality [rate] is nearly zero. The risk of children for a significant illness is far less than from the seasonal flu."

Yes, it does make sense to protect more vulnerable older teachers — perhaps by having them doing some remote instruction. But don't overreact. Consider, as Dr. Atlas recently explained to the *Washington Times*, that the "majority of teachers are not high risk: 92% are under 60, and half are under 41.... This is a young profession."

Avik Roy, president of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, lays out some related statistics. As he has written, while the harm

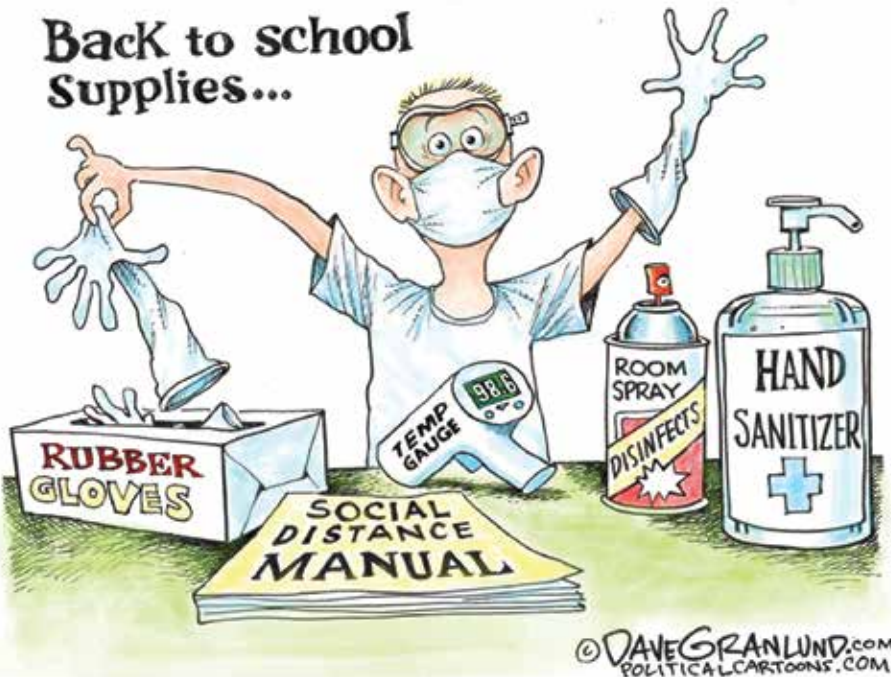
caused by school closures is obvious, the risk to children of severe Covid-19 illness or death is very low.... As of July 29, only 28 Americans ages 1-15 have died of the coronavirus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Though 28 is not zero, it is a number worth putting in context. For example, in 2016, 190 children ages 1-14 died of influenza or pneumonia, 625 died of homicide, 1,257 died of cancer and 2,895 died of unintentional injuries like car accidents, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

If zero risk is the goal, where is the campaign to ban car travel? Answer: There is no political gain in that.

Parents and students need flexibility and the freedom to choose what is best. It's past time to stop making spurious government-mandated cures worse than the contagion. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR



# “The Great Reset”

Some very powerful and self-important folks are planning to “reset” the entire world. Completely *re-engineer* and *remake* it, actually: economically, politically, socially, intellectually, morally, and spiritually. In other words, a *total* remake. If you haven’t already heard about “The Great Reset,” get set for hearing a whole lot about it in coming weeks and months, since the Great Resetters have timed their public rollout of this grand scheme to coincide with the convenient (but so-far mythical) “second wave” of the COVID-19 “pandemic.”



most participate, and every industry, from oil and gas to tech, must be transformed. In short, we need a ‘Great Reset’ of capitalism.” The Resetters, you see, are also A-1 revampers and transformers, and they just happen to have a plan ready to revamp and transform the world.

“As we enter a unique window of opportunity to shape the recovery,” the WEF continues, “this initiative will offer insights to help inform all those determining the future state of global relations, the direction of national economies, the priorities of societ-

They want to begin implementing this global plan in 2021.

The Great Reset is the latest and greatest pet project of the World Economic Forum, the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Royal Institute for International Affairs, and other globalist organizations. These world saviors unleashed the first propaganda installment for their global utopian plan on July 9, with the release of a book by World Economic Forum (WEF) co-founder and president Klaus Schwab entitled *COVID-19: The Great Reset*. The WEF website announced: “There is an urgent need for global stakeholders to cooperate in simultaneously managing the direct consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. To improve the state of the world, the World Economic Forum is starting The Great Reset initiative.”

“COVID-19 lockdowns may be gradually easing, but anxiety about the world’s social and economic prospects is only intensifying,” the WEF warns. “There is good reason to worry: a sharp economic downturn has already begun, and we could be facing the worst depression since the 1930s.” Hmm. Let’s recall a few historical facts. The COVID-19 “pandemic” is by no means the worst in modern times (up to 100 million died globally from the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918-1919), but thanks to the hysteria caused by the WEF-UN-CFR-RIIA masterminds, it has been turned into an unprecedented global economic crisis that threatens life as we know it on this planet. Now, after COVID lockdowns have destroyed businesses and farms and bankrupted families and nations, billions of people face unemployment, homelessness, hunger, and starvation — not to mention nearly total loss of freedom. But not to worry, because the WEF Resetters have plans to “revamp” everything.

“To achieve a better outcome,” says the WEF, “the world must act jointly and swiftly to revamp all aspects of our societies and economies, from education to social contracts and working conditions. Every country, from the United States to China,

ies, the nature of business models and the management of a global commons.” And thanks to the “vision and vast expertise” of the WEF leaders, “the Great Reset initiative has a set of dimensions to build a new social contract that honours the dignity of every human being.”

If this sounds a bit Orwellian to you, then you understand why some people are referring to the Wuhan coronavirus as a “plandemic” and “COVID-1984.” Here we have the Deep State globalist elites of the WEF — Wall Street bankers, megacorp CEOs, princes, prime ministers, presidents, and mass-murdering communist dictators — clinking champagne glasses and sipping on caviar while posing as social-justice warriors. These are the folks whose luxury Learjets and grandiose Gulf Streams clog the skies over Europe every January as the world’s billionaires, along with their kept politicians and NGO activists, flock to Davos, Switzerland, for another virtue-signaling, world-government-promoting extravaganza.

It is obvious from the hundreds of pages dedicated to The Great Reset on the WEF website, and its many conferences, webinars, studies, and reports on this project, that it didn’t begin with the Wuhan outbreak. And, in fact, as Alex Newman reported for us online in July (“UN-Backed ‘Great Reset’ to Usher in New World Order”), the moderator for one of the WEF events admits that Schwab and the Davos cabal have been working on this agenda “for many decades.”

What then is the most immediate, concrete goal for The Great Reset? The most obvious is the WEF’s insistence on enactment and implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, the massive 17-point plan for regimentation of the entire planet — and everyone on it. If allowed to succeed, The Great Reset will bring us global tyranny. Fortunately, this brazen power grab is so transparent that we are no longer alone in exposing and opposing it. ■

**News Spread**



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