

Federalism Is the Best Step • Equality Act • State Nullification

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A photograph of a man with glasses and a beard reading a book to three children in a library. The man is holding a blue book titled "AND TO THINK THAT I SAW IT ON MULBERRY STREET". The children are looking at the book with interest. The background shows wooden bookshelves filled with books.

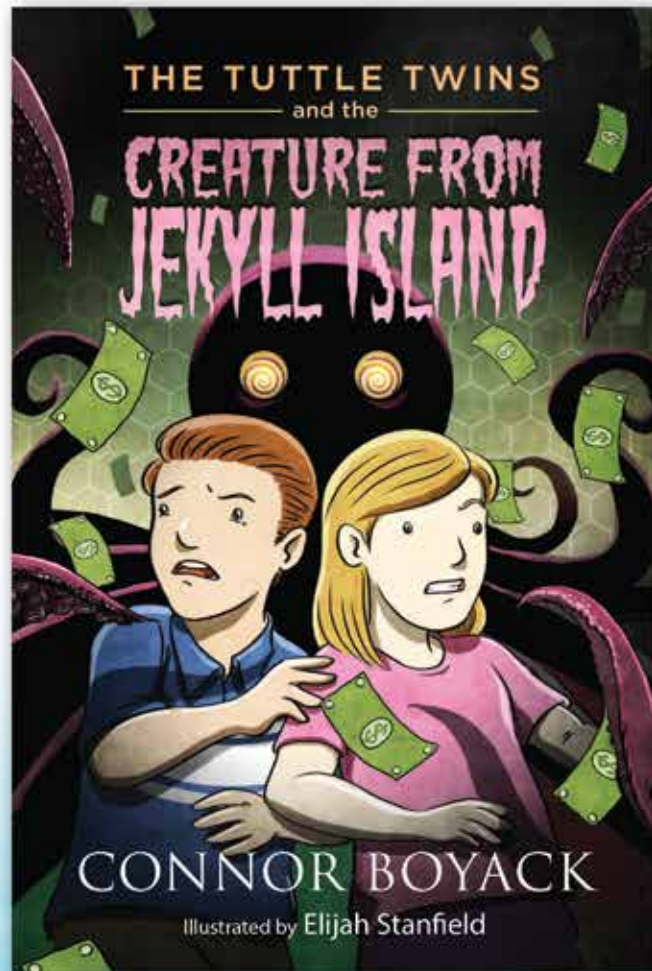
CANCELING

Cancel Culture



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Dennis Behreandt

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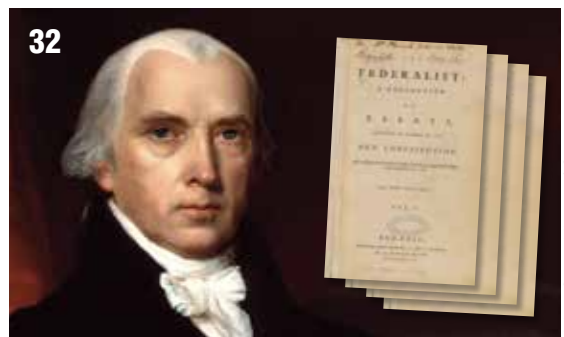
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Changes Over Time

Americans, let me tell you about what it was like during my growing up in World War II. It was much like now. We, like now, were not able to go anyplace, and mostly stayed at home due to gas rationing. There were no more Sunday drives to visit friends or have gatherings we once enjoyed. Restrictions were not due to a fear created by our government, like now, but out of deep respect to the thousands of our men and women dying to save our country.

Deep anger motivated us to do all we could to help the war effort: buying bonds and gathering scrap iron by tons, as well as newspaper and magazines day in and day out. Flags waved and patriotism was overflowing. If anyone dared to burn or tread on our flag, it would have been the last time he did it! Our efforts soon paid off, and the war was won by Americans.

After the war ended, a new one started, a cold war. It slowly and gradually seeped into our culture, our colleges, and everyday lives through a virus called socialism. We fought two more undeclared wars that cost us thousands more lives, and we did not come out as winners!

Americans ignore the virus and its effects, desiring never-ending games and other distractions to keep our minds away from what is being done to our country by an insidious Marxist involvement. Many Americans would only acknowledge the war if bombs and gunfire told them we are being attacked. Alas we are being attacked in a far different way: mainly by brainwashing by those who are experts in using people by lying, deceit, and other insidious ways!

Corrupted Americans blame and smear those who try to warn Americans of what is happening. Our youth, in most part, no longer are taught in schools the needed patriotism to keep the country strong. It is a wake-up call for all who still feel that America is the greatest nation on Earth. More now are willing to do all they can, awakening those who

still think there is no problem, even when it is screaming at us. Our country is a huge boat sailing upstream against a rushing river, using oars to propel it. What is needed now more than ever is a huge gathering of pullers at the oars and not riders in the boat! Where do you fit in?

JIM KINDLE
Sent via e-mail

The War's Failure

The great majority of rioting, murders, and general crime seems to occur in Democratically controlled cities. This began back with the "War on Poverty," which broke up the poor families by giving less welfare to married parents. Then the dollars associated with welfare became too large, and the incentive was removed to get off welfare. How many times have you heard, "I can't go back to work; I would lose my welfare!"

We were finally on the road to fixing this system, but then socialistic groups started riots, the defund-the-police campaigns, and general mayhem. Giving in to their demands will only worsen this system and create a permanent underclass who will reliably vote Democratic in order to preserve and enlarge the system.

It is time for true reform that will remove the incentive to remain on welfare, put families back together, enhance and promote education and its value, and put the police back to doing real police work and actually deterring crime with community programs.

WILLIAM F HINESER, DPM
Sent via e-mail

On Policing

I used to say, "If you don't like the way police officers arrest you, don't commit the crime," but now I say, "If you don't want to be charged with murder, don't become a police officer."

LUKE MORELL
Sent via e-mail



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Netflix Slams NRA and Gun Rights With Blasphemous Cartoon

As NewsBusters reported March 17, “The liberal fever dream of disarming lawful gun owners came through in Season Three of Netflix’s *Paradise P.D.* Along with attacking gun rights, it was also blasphemous against Christianity, featuring a video of a gun-wielding Jesus that turns into a porno.”

“The crazy, over-the-top animated series was released on March 12 and took on the topic by ridiculing white male gun owners for using guns as a replacement for testosterone in Episode 4, titled ‘Trigger Warning,’” the site continued. “Paradise’s police chief confesses to needing a gun to get an erection and

the head of the NRA says the initials stand for Nards Removed Association.”

Among other things, the episode portrays a tour of the NRA, which “includes a gun pit with a dead kid buried in it and the corpse of Charlton Heston used as a statue, complete with a quote — ‘Pry this gun from my cold, dead hands and win a Republican Senate seat,’” NewsBusters also relates. “The head of the NRA, Mr. Chip F[***]-Yeah, shows them a video using Jesus as a prop to show how ‘guns make a better world.’ The video is horrifically offensive, with Jesus coming down from the Cross to kill his persecutors with machine guns then have sex with two women.”

Moreover, the “guns take on the personality of their owners,” NewsBusters further informs about the episode. “The NRA programs them to shoot anyone deemed a threat. When a black officer walks into the room, for example, the guns turn on him.”

The only good news is that this propaganda is so over the top that it may not be as effective as its immature writers would like.

Christians and “right-wingers” are targeted today not because they’re a threat, but partially because they’re not a threat, at least not physically. The Left is greatly threatened, however, by the moral standard Christianity upholds, for its resurrection would mean the imperilment of their cherished sexual devolutionary passions and addictions.



Lockdowns Cost More Lives Than They Save

The evidence that lockdowns have prevented COVID-19 deaths is “inconclusive” at best, avers *City Journal* columnist John Tierney in a March 21 article. “But one effect is clear: more deaths from other causes, especially among the young and middle-aged, minorities, and the less affluent.”

Tierney marshals an array of indisputable evidence to bolster his contentions. He is especially interested in whether the lockdowns led to an increase or decrease in excess mortality, the number of deaths in one year that one would not expect based on trends in previous years. “That measure rose among older Americans because of Covid-19,” he notes, “but it rose at an even sharper rate among people aged 15 to 54, and most of those excess deaths were not attributed to the virus.”

There are a variety of reasons for this, most of which can be traced directly to lockdowns. Many people either were too frightened or were unable to obtain treatment for serious health issues. “The reported levels of anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts increased dramatically, as did alcohol sales and fatal drug overdoses,” writes Tierney. Meanwhile, motor-vehicle accident fatalities went through the roof despite Americans’ staying home much more, probably because of increased substance abuse and reckless driving on empty roads.

The very people politicians claim to be helping are suffering the most. “The number of excess deaths not involving Covid-19 has been especially high in U.S. counties with more low-income households and minority residents, who were disproportionately affected by lockdowns,” pens Tierney. And their problems aren’t

over: Researchers expect the United States to experience more than a million excess deaths over the next two decades because of unemployment’s lasting effects.

Don’t expect government to solve the problems it created, either. In fact, federal stimulus checks, supposedly aimed at offsetting the economic effects of the lockdowns, are actually causing an increase in drug overdoses, county officials in several states recently told Fox News.



Poll: Most Americans View “Cancel Culture” as a Threat to Freedom

A majority of Americans say they view “cancel culture” as a threat to their freedom, according to a new Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll survey conducted for *The Hill* and published March 29.

According to the survey, 64 percent of respondents said there is “a growing cancel culture” that is a threat to their freedom, while 36 percent said they did not view it as a threat to their freedom.

Additionally, the poll found that 36 percent of Americans said cancel culture is a “big problem,” while 32 percent called it a “moderate problem.” Another 20 percent said it was a “small problem,” and 13 percent said it is “not a problem.”

There is no single accepted definition of the term “cancel culture,” but it is generally used in reference to unaccountable groups successfully applying pressure to punish someone for perceived wrong opinions and words or actions deemed offensive. Victims of cancel culture often end up losing their jobs and/or having their reputations destroyed, and are sometimes harassed, threatened, and even physically harmed.

One of the most distinctive characteristics of cancel culture is the fact that its adherents are nearly always progressive liberals. The victims, i.e., those being “canceled,” are typically either conservatives or libertarians, or just people driven by common sense, knowledge of history, and statistics. Very rarely is it the other way around.

Cancel culture certainly has no reservations against operating with double standards. We see conservative media such as Zero Hedge and the Federalist being pressured by Google to censor their content and being barred from Google’s ad platform if they don’t. However, this never happens to mainstream-media outlets that promote acts of violence committed by “woke” leftist forces, no matter how ugly they are. Twitter and Facebook canceled the president of the United States while keeping Chinese communists and Islamic fundamentalists and complying with censorship requests from autocratic governments such as Russia and Turkey.

The CAPS-Harris Poll survey shows that many Americans are waking up to how bad it really is.



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IMF to Redistribute U.S. Wealth Via Proto-global Currency

The International Monetary Fund, in cahoots with the Biden administration, is preparing to issue \$1 trillion worth of new “Special Drawing Rights” (SDRs), paving the way to replacing the U.S. dollar as the global reserve currency while redistributing America’s remaining wealth to foreigners and Third World regimes. It is all part of a much-broader agenda being peddled as the “Great Reset” that will — if successful — fundamentally transform the world. COVID-19 is merely the pretext.

According to media reports from late March, the Biden Treasury, led by radical activist Janet Yellen, is so anxious to shower U.S. dollars on foreign nations that it is even working quietly to bypass the U.S. Congress. Under U.S. law, America’s elected representatives must approve any SDR issuance by the IMF in which the U.S. government allocates more than \$120 billion — the amount of its proportional stake in the global organization — during any five-year period.

The U.S. share of the new \$1 trillion SDR allocation being pushed by the IMF and its allies amounts to almost \$175 billion, triggering the legal requirement for congressional approval. To get around that, the IMF and Yellen are scheming to break the \$1 trillion issuance into two parts. The first batch, to be issued this year, would amount to \$650 billion total — the highest amount possible without Congress. Part two would come next year.

Special Drawing Rights are basically the proto-global currency issued by the IMF that globalists are planning to use to replace

the U.S. dollar as the global reserve asset held by governments and central banks. It is based on a basket of currencies including the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Japanese yen, the British pound, and the Communist Chinese yuan.

Instead of a Great Reset and a switch to a global currency and global centralization of power, a real reset to a legitimate U.S. dollar backed by something of value is the only true, sustainable solution to the economic catastrophe facing humanity. ■



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Texas Senator Points to Democrats' Recent Use of Filibuster, and Their Changed Attitude

"Over the last six years, they filibustered countless bills on everything from pandemic relief to police reform. But now it appears that our Democratic colleagues — at least their leadership — have flip-flopped. The political tides have shifted and, since the radical Left wants to get rid of the filibuster, so do they."

Senator **John Cornyn** (R-Texas) pointed to past Democratic reliance on the filibuster when that party was a minority. Now in control of the Senate, Democrats want to be rid of the filibuster to stifle Republican measures.



AP Images

Female Professor Criticized for Publishing Truths About Transgender Fantasies

"I said that a person could not change their biological sex. I said that children are not 'born in the wrong body' and I said that children cannot have the brain of one sex and the body of another. I called claims that these things are true 'fantasies.' I made no anti-transgender statements. Nonetheless, the university decided to criticize me for speaking these truths."

University of Rhode Island Professor **Donna Hughes** aired her thoughts in a February issue of the campus online platform known as "something outside of the liberal mainstream." What she stated on that occasion included likening the stands taken by LGBTQA+ partisans to QAnon conspiracy theories. Her forthrightness upset more than 100 students and earned condemnation from her academic superior. University officials condemned what Hughes had written while acknowledging her right to freedom of speech.



AP Images

Radical Leftist Member of Congress Working to Silence Conservative Voices

"We're going to have to figure out how we rein in our media environment so no one can spew disinformation and misinformation."

New York's far-left Congresswoman **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** plainly aims to deny access to Internet channels for anyone disseminating conservative views. She obviously has no regard for the U.S. Constitution's insistence on the God-given right to freedom of speech.

Senator Insists the \$1.9 Trillion "COVID" Giveaway Will Raise Prices of Everything

"You are going to see gas prices going up, interest rates going up, mortgage rates going up, loans going up, and prices at the grocery store going up. People are going to be bothered by the effect of this massive spending measure."

Expressing his disdain for the massive spending bill, veteran Senator **John Barrasso** (R-Wyo.) issued his warning to the American people. Numerous other Republican senators expressed a similar view.

Trump Provides His Opinion About the Border Crisis

"All they had to do was keep this smooth-running system on autopilot. Instead, in the span of just a few weeks, the Biden administration has turned a national triumph into a national disaster."

The **Republican State Leadership Committee** cited former President Donald Trump's response to the Biden administration's creation of the current crisis at the Mexico-U.S. border.

Kentucky Congressman Issues Brilliant Comment About New Gun-control Measure

"Is it fair to surround yourself with armed guards, with Capitol Police who have guns, with personal bodyguards, and ask the people to pay for it when you make it harder for those same people to protect themselves?"

Directing his question to House leaders who had shepherded passage of H.R. 8, a new measure designed to make it harder for a citizen to own a gun, Representative **Thomas Massie** (R-Ky.) angered his Democratic colleagues as he called out their hypocrisy. ■



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— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



CANCELING Cancel Culture

The Left's strategy in its political war is to win the culture war — by belittling opposing viewpoints and personages to the point of removing economic opportunity and displacing them.

by Selwyn Duke

In 212 B.C., 460 scholars were “canceled,” permanently, when Emperor Qin Shi Huang had them buried alive for owning forbidden books. The Qin, who’d united China, made the argument, “We don’t want to hear people criticize the present by referring to the past,” Harvard University Chinese history professor Peter Bol told the BBC in 2012. “The past is irrelevant. History is irrelevant. And so you have the burning of books, you have the burying of scholars, of scholarly critics.”

When the renders and “reimaginers” of civilization today bury people and the past, figuratively, it’s the reputational and career destruction known as “cancel culture.” Ah, that’s a trendy term, it is, and people unmoored from tradition love trendy terms. Whatever you call it, however, the process is obviously nothing new. And though perhaps Bol is correct in saying that we “wouldn’t have a China without Qin Shi Huang” — and, maybe then, also no Mao Tse-tung — we’d still have cancel culture without Qin, China, or Mao.

For its practice reflects a truth: You can’t reprogram a computer so it performs as you wish without first eliminating conflicting programs. Likewise, to really change the hearts and minds of man, you must change his foundational beliefs. As Orwell said, he “who controls the past controls the future.” And our cancel cultists control the present well enough so that they’re delivering a Year Zero — a remaking of our culture — by a thousand cuts.

There were earlier victims of what could be called American cancel culture. There was the old *Amos ‘n’ Andy* TV show, canceled in 1953 under pressure from the NAACP, which claimed it stereotyped blacks (never mind that it portrayed a well-functioning black world in Harlem). There was economist Larry Summers being compelled to resign the presidency of Harvard University in 2006 after being

Selwyn Duke has written for THE NEW AMERICAN for more than a decade. He has also written for The Hill, Observer, The American Conservative, WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications.

When the renders and “reimaginers” of civilization today bury people and the past, figuratively, it’s the reputational and career destruction known as “cancel culture.”



The \$1,000 that could be remembered for 1,000 years: While Brendan Eich may very well be among America’s brightest, he nonetheless was forced in 2014 to resign as CEO of the company he co-founded, Mozilla, because he’d dared defend marriage six years earlier with a donation.

pilloried for expressing a scientific finding: that women are relatively rare in elite science and engineering positions because most of the highly gifted in these fields, and most people with genius-level IQs, are male. And tech innovator Brendan Eich was forced to resign as CEO of Mozilla Corporation (which he *co-founded*) in 2014 because, six years earlier, he’d donated \$1,000 to California’s pro-marriage measure, Proposition 8. The Left never forgets — or forgives.

But now, with the Left cementing its cultural hegemony, this phenomenon has kicked into high gear. The occasional salvo against sanity has become an unending barrage of culture-consuming locusts that leave devastation in their wake.

This more recent attack began with the soft targets that are Confederate monuments, with even famed Virginian Stonewall Jackson unable to stand up to the onslaught. Some of this was effected by government decree and much of it by rampaging mobs enabled by the impotence, if not the imprimatur, of local officials. Meanwhile, a statue of crack-using felon and ex-Washington, D.C., mayor Marion Barry was unveiled in his city in 2018.

Statues of Christopher Columbus were targeted as well, with one being thrown into Baltimore’s Inner Harbor on July 4. His holiday has also been canceled in many municipalities; taking its place is “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.” Never mind that Columbus practically divided his-

Of course, saying “A black man should be killed if he’s messing with a white woman” is extreme. Only, Wayne didn’t say that. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali did — as a 30-something man in a 1975 *Playboy* interview.



They think they’re better than him? While Columbus discovered America, culture-renders who’ve discovered anti-American hate have been tarnishing his memory. Here, rabble at the Minnesota State Capitol are taking turns stomping on what is part of our country’s soul and history.

tory, discovering a world the West didn’t know existed and ushering in a perhaps unprecedented exchange of plants, animals, foods, ideas, technology, and people (and, yes, diseases) called “the Columbian Exchange.”

This means the Founders couldn’t have birthed the United States without a Columbus, but this would apparently suit the cancel cultists just fine. Statues of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln — whose birthdays long ago were rolled into “President’s Day” (while Martin Luther King, Jr. has a dedicated holiday) — were toppled in Portland last year, along with one of Theodore Roosevelt. Names of

lesser historical figures with slavery ties or who’ve been accused of “racism” (such as physician Samuel Bard of Bard Hall at Columbia University) have been removed from buildings. Strikingly, even *abolitionists*(!) such as Civil War hero Colonel Hans Christian Heg (Madison, Wis.) and Matthias Baldwin (Philadelphia, Pa.) have had their statues felled. Meanwhile, the legacy of Islam’s Mohammed, not just a slave owner and trader but also a caravan raider, mass murderer, and employer of torture, remains unquestioned (among other things, the cancel cultists like their heads right where they are, though I can’t imagine why).

Not Very Entertaining

Entertainers have also found themselves typecast as anathema. Legendary singer Kate Smith’s version of “God Bless America” was nixed by sports teams the New York Yankees and Philadelphia Flyers, the latter of which also removed her statue from in front of its stadium, because she performed “racially insensitive songs” 90 years ago. Never mind that the Yankees themselves should be canceled first, since they “denied qualified black baseball players the right to make a good living for more than half a century,” as the *Federalist*’s David Marcus put it in 2019. The “Star Spangled Banner” has been targeted, too, with the *Los Angeles Times* last year explicitly advocating its cancellation as our national anthem; leftists have called the song “elitist, sexist, and racist.” Yet rapper Cardi B’s quite, uh, let’s say, libertine “song” WAP — which she recently performed at the 2021 Grammy Awards while doing mock lesbian acts — is culture. You’re definitely a prude if you criticize it, too, and probably a racist. Oh, I won’t explicitly explain what “WAP” stands for because this is a family magazine. But the first word is “Wet,” the second is the a-word meaning “derrière,” and the last is the p-word that can describe a feline. Kids listen to it, do note. But, hey, just keep them away from Dean Martin’s “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” which also is in disfavor because it supposedly reflects “rape culture.”

Then there’s the Duke (no, not me, I was born canceled). John Wayne might have often played a man of few words on screen, but some he uttered in a 1971 *Playboy* interview expressing opinions that were later slammed as “racist” and “homophobic” have sparked a movement to remove his name from Orange County, California’s airport. Of course, saying “A black man should be killed if he’s messing with a white woman” is pretty extreme. Only, Wayne didn’t say that. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali did — as a 30-something man in a 1975 *Playboy* interview.

Oh, authorities just named Louisville, Kentucky’s airport after Ali in 2019.

Bad News

Wearing blackface is reprehensible, right? Maybe. NBC canceled media personality Megyn Kelly’s *Today* show in 2018 sim-

ply because she questioned whether darkening your skin as part of a Halloween costume is wrong. Yet Governor Ralph Northam (D-Va.) refused to resign after it emerged in 2019 that he'd years before actually worn blackface and/or a KKK outfit; the same year we learned that liberal Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had worn blackface on multiple occasions. Both men got a pass. But they have the "right" politics: Northam expressed support for what could be called "post-birth abortion," and Trudeau has vowed to raise "feminist sons" (a.k.a. tomorrow's sexual harassers).

Then there's ex-*Hardball* host Chris Matthews, of Obama "thrill up my leg" fame. He's "ex" because his show was canceled early last year after he used a WWII analogy involving the fall of France in reference to Senator Bernie Sanders' Nevada caucus victory. He also, it then emerged, was just too darn complimentary of female co-workers' looks. But the real reason he was purged, wrote the *New York Post*'s Kyle Smith in 2020, was that he represented "the non-crazy, 'No Kool-Aid for me, thanks' Left on television, while being entertaining and pointed and wacky." He also suffered from oldwhitemaleism. But that's been cured: His MSNBC slot was filled with Joy Reid, who's sufficiently female, copiously "melanated," and just an all around Kool-Aid cat.

Book 'Em, Dano

They used to call it book burning, at least figuratively; now it's called eliminating Hate™. Perhaps not a week after famed children's book author Dr. Seuss was accused of having drawn "racist and insensitive imagery," Dr. Seuss Enterprises announced, on March 2, that six of his books would be canceled. This includes his work *If I Ran the Zoo*. Yet the inmates do run the asylum. After all, highly acclaimed now is author Ibram Kendi's new children's book *Antiracist Baby*, which, as the Federalist's Katie Miller put it last year, "teaches even babies to hate white people."

Then, if you're confused and hate the sex you were born, don't look for help from scholar Ryan Anderson's 2018 book *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment* — at least not on Amazon. Because Jeff Bezos's behemoth bookseller has transitioned the work from



Wikimedia Commons / Trudeau Ramadan



Wikimedia Commons / Trudeau Ramadan

Was he black by popular demand? Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau got away with wearing blackface on multiple occasions, while conservatives have gotten canceled for far less. It's another example of liberal privilege, which means never having to say you're sorry.

available to "doesn't exist." Anderson is far from Amazon's first victim, too, as the company has been banning books at least since 2017. For example, Amazon initially told ex-*New York Times* reporter Alex Berenson that his coronavirus booklet, *Unreported Truths About COVID-19 and Lockdowns: Part 1*, didn't meet company guidelines. The online retailer only relented after other high-profile journalists and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk rallied to Berenson's side. His work then became the No. 1 best-seller in Amazon's Kindle Store.

Note here that Amazon quietly altered its book policy during the last year to make it prohibitive of "hate speech" and "offensive content" (as defined by desert mystic techies). Yet this is enforced selectively. As author Christina Sommers pointed out in a February 21 tweet, "One can [still] buy Valerie Solanas' SCUM (Society for Cutting Up Men) Manifesto, Ted Kaczynski's Unabomber Manifesto, and Adolph Hitler's Mein Kampf on @amazon @amazonbooks."

What's more, Big Tech is now censoring even nonpolitical businesses and non-profits, reported the Federalist's Phillip Stutts March 4. One example is the book *The Lifestyle Investor: The 10 Commandments of Cash Flow Investing for Passive Income and Financial Freedom*, by author Justin Donald. While it ended up number

one on the *Wall Street Journal* best-seller list, it "almost didn't happen," writes Stutts, because as "Justin was planning to launch his book, he needed to get it loaded onto Amazon's platform for sale. Amazon refused." Why? Donald "had dared to describe (in his book) how he invested and made money during the COVID-19 pandemic," Stutts explained. Amazon "said Justin was not a medical professional, so he wasn't allowed to even use the following words in his book: 'pandemic,' 'COVID,' 'COVID-19,' and 'coronavirus.' I'm not making this up." Striking.

This matters because Amazon isn't "just another bookseller." The company represented roughly 50 percent of major-publisher print book sales as of 2017 and 83.3 percent of e-book sales, and these numbers are surely higher now. And if conservative books won't be distributed via major platforms, *publishing houses won't publish them in the first place*.

Digital Despotism

Big Tech censorship really is nothing new. It was occurring even before I wrote my May 10, 2016 piece "Facebook Fraud: Ex-workers Admit They Censored Conservative News." A month later, the online U.S. News & World Report published "The New Censorship," in which it called Google "the world's biggest censor." "The

Unreported Truths about COVID-19 and Lockdowns

Part 1: Introduction and Death Counts and Estimates

Alex Berenson



Corporatism and big government: Amazon initially told author Alex Berenson that his coronavirus booklet couldn't be sold on its platform because it didn't meet company guidelines. It was an example of principles over profit — Amazon wouldn't allow criticism of government.

company maintains at least nine different blacklists," the site wrote, and is an Internet "master manipulator, blocking access to millions of websites."

Yet as will happen as entities grow closer to obtaining absolute power, the mask dropped in 2018 as a new term entered the popular lexicon: deplatform. Describing the overt removal of an individual from social-media platforms, this fate was visited on colorful commentator Milo Yiannopoulos even before the term's origination (he was banned from Twitter in 2016). But "iconoclastic" InfoWars proprietor Alex Jones was the real canary in the coal mine. He was "disappeared" in 2018 by the Who's Who of Big Tech influence: Apple's iTunes, Facebook, YouTube, Spotify, Mailchimp, radio broadcaster Stitcher, Pinterest, and Twitter. Later on, PayPal payment processing company also nixed InfoWars.

There were other examples, too, including liberal Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s removal from Instagram in early February for questioning COVID-19 vaccines' safety. But the big move was when the tech world came out in force against arguably the world's then-most powerful man: President Donald Trump. Using the January 6 Capitol event

as a pretext and in its wake, more than a dozen companies ranging from Twitter to Paypal placed "unprecedented restrictions [on] or outright banned" Trump "from using their services, and in some cases, [they banned] some of his associates and supporters as well," wrote TechCrunch.com at the time. Trump's Twitter ban is permanent, mind you.

Oddly timely (God works in mysterious ways?), on March 17, the day before this essay's deadline, Twitter suspended my account for the first time ever. Honestly, I'm surprised it took so long. What finally attracted the Twitter twits' attention wasn't that I'd called them Twitter twits on their platform for years, but a tweet I'd sent that day to the aforementioned Cardi B. After she cited Melania Trump's past actions as a justification for her WAP Grammy performance and asked why commentator Candace Owens was taking issue with her, I responded, "Maybe because you're acting like a greedy slut who's corrupting the young? Just a thought. Here's a pro tip: You don't justify bad behavior by citing other bad behavior. Children do that."

Comically, Twitter explained my trespass thus, "You may not promote violence against or directly attack or threaten

other people on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, caste, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or serious disease." Now, first note that I never called the esteemed performer a "greedy slut," but said she was *acting* like one. But I'm stumped: Into which of the categories does "slut" fall? Does being a slut result from a disability or disease? Is there a sluterovirus? Help me out here.

Oh, for the record, I will never, ever delete the tweet as per Twitter's demand.

Note here that while this is happening, there have been "no such efforts to crack down on any of the Twitter accounts of Democrats such as Senator Kamala Harris, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Representative Maxine Waters, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, or ex-NFL player Colin Kaepernick, all of whom applauded and encouraged the Antifa/BLM violence last summer," wrote THE NEW AMERICAN'S Raven Clabough January 21. "So-called 'comedian' Kathy Griffin tweeted out a photo of herself holding a decapitated head intended to look like that of President Trump. She is still on Twitter." Moreover, "Ayatollah Ali Khamenei of Iran continues to enjoy virtually unfettered access to the media giant, despite his account's frequent anti-Semitic, anti-Israel tweets and Iran's ban against Twitter for ordinary citizens," Clabough continued.

Know, too, that Big Tech is also sometimes used as a vehicle through which to transmit child porn (and Cardi B). But, hey, don't think for a moment any of this is political.

Cartoons and Leftist Loons

Along with Dr. Seuss' drawings, a number of quite-famous cartoon characters have of late found themselves sans careers. Chronically amorous skunk Pepé Le Pew was canceled for supposedly normalizing "rape culture" (even if he didn't sing "Baby, It's Cold Outside"). Then, "negative stereotypes" were cited when Disney+ recently "removed several movies, including 'Dumbo,' 'Peter Pan,' 'The Aristocats,' and 'Swiss Family Robinson,' from children's profiles," reported NowThis news in a March 9 tweet. The *Muppets*' Miss Piggy is also being highlighted for being a female Pepé and

not leaving Kermit the Frog alone (never mind the interspecies lust). Incurious minds were as well going bananas over cartoon simian Curious George, whose books have “racist undertones” and are based on the “premise of a white man bringing home a monkey from Africa,” wrote The Daily Caller in March. Whether George is now destined for a research lab remains to be seen.

Before concluding the cancel culture examples, a dishonorable mention goes to Dictionary.com. Sometime between November 1 and December 1, the site canceled the true definition of “court packing.” While it had previously defined the term as what it is — increasing the number of justices on a court so as to “pack” it with co-ideologists — it changed its first definition to include the process of simply *filling vacant seats with co-ideologists*. Of course, this is what both major parties do routinely, which means that any time judicial seats are filled now it will be “court packing” (talk about rendering a term meaningless). Note that Dictionary.com made this change after only a few weeks of Democrat/Big Media propaganda that involved this new conception of court packing and was an ef-

Perhaps not a week after famed children’s book author Dr. Seuss was accused of having drawn “racist and insensitive imagery,” Dr. Seuss Enterprises announced, on March 2, that six of his books would be canceled.

fort to scuttle Trump’s attempt to fill the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s seat. Just as preposterously, the site recently announced that it “will no longer include the word ‘slave’ as a noun identifying a person,” wrote yahoo!life March 11, because it’s “dehumanizing.” Never mind that slaves still exist in Africa and elsewhere and, essentially, in China.

Speaking of which, note here that the worst of the cancel-cultist, value-signaling companies generally pander to China’s tyrannical regime, which uses slave labor, murders dissidents and harvests their organs, currently has a million people in concentration camps (the Uighurs), and is accused of genocide. So it’s not just that these companies’ “virtue” isn’t actually virtue — it’s that it isn’t even sincere.

Unpopular but Unstoppable?

Cancel cultist faux virtue also isn’t popular. Yet this raises a question: How is it that virtually every “cancellation” is successful despite its unpopularity? The answer is that just as 10,000 armed and organized men can control 50 million disorganized, atomized people, so can a powerful cultural oligarchy control a nation’s social sphere. Such an oligarchy is what we have, too, with leftist ideologues controlling the mainstream media, academia, entertainment, most of big business, and GoogTwitFace. What’s a possible solution?

“Know thy enemy,” counseled ancient Chinese philosopher and general Sun Tzu. When combating a threat we must ask: What is its *nature*? What is, in this case, “cancel culture”?

Cancel culture is extreme social pressure exercised in the enforcement of a social code via scorn and ostracism. Yet this doesn’t make it unique. Every time and place has had its social codes which, when violated, brought consequences. For example, being exposed as communist didn’t do you much good in 1950s America, and ancient Greek philosopher Socrates was executed for, the charges went, “corrupting the young” and “mocking the gods” (it wasn’t just Christians who had “heresy” laws). What makes cancel culture unique is what it enforces: not Truth but lies, what we today call leftist ideology.

So the problem isn’t having a social code that can end careers. We’ll always have such because, as a writer once put it, stigmas are the corollaries of values; when we value certain things, such as honesty or diligence or kindness (or “equity”), it follows that their opposites will be devalued. And since we’ll always have values, we’ll always have stigmas. In other words, simply trying to eliminate social stigmas per se is fruitless.



Will we all be keeping up with the Joneses? InfoWars proprietor Alex Jones was deplatformed in 2018. Since then, the cancel cultists are becoming ever bolder as Big Tech seeks to silence opposition.

Speaking of which, note here that the worst of the cancel-cultist, value-signaling companies generally pander to China's tyrannical regime, which uses slave labor and murders dissidents and harvests their organs.

What would work? "To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete," counseled famed architect R. Buckminster Fuller. So we need to erect a different social-code model. But ours shouldn't be built around anything *new*, or anything "old," but something eternal. That is, our "values" must be *virtues* — those "good moral habits." Just as only power negates power, only actual virtue can supplant faux virtue. Only when people have something better than political correctness to animate them, only when there's a revolution of hearts and minds, can there be a revolution against our cultural oligarchy.

This starts with authentic education, but doesn't end there. For with virtue, it's not enough to know it; we must with example

and *stigmas* show it. This means that while we should learn what the virtues are (charity, diligence, courage, chastity, prudence, etc.) and model them, something more is necessary: enforcing them with our own "cancel culture," with an iron will and, sometimes, razor-like tongue.

In other words, conservatives are often good with logical, intellectual appeals, but they fall short on what really moves people: the emotional content that can inspire — and *intimidate*.

We must stigmatize the stigmatizers. To this end, Civis Americanus (a pen name — because he fears cancel culture!) suggested at American Thinker March 18 that we try to make "canceler" a pejorative just as "racist" is, and avoid hiring or doing business with people thus labeled.

Also writing at American Thinker, editor-in-chief Thomas Lifson wrote March 19 that conservatives "need to learn from our foes when it comes to forcing the major institutions of our society away from the Left's agendas, back toward sanity." He presents the example of how activists compelled Tufts University to finally expel from its campus its Confucius Institute, a Beijing propaganda organ. Not only were the activists relentless, but they also took a leaf from the leftists' book: They protested *outside the university president's home*.

Lifson used to find such tactics unpalatable. "But face reality," he wrote, "the left has grabbed institutional dominance in 21st century America by a combination of infiltration and intimidation. These tactics work. And if only one side uses them, then only one side will predominate and shape the future." Note that this Tufts tactic accords with the last part of socialist Saul Alinsky's rule 13 from his infamous book *Rules for Radicals*. To wit: "Go after people and not institutions; people hurt faster than institutions."

Whether or not you can stomach this (and we must condemn, not replicate, any leftist tactic based on the false premise that



Money beats meanness: Leftists were upset when their effort at putting Indiana's Memories Pizza out of business resulted in good Americans raising almost a million dollars for its owners. Such solidarity is one way to combat cancel culture.

“the ends justify the means”), conservatives for sure must stop being so, well, conservative — as in defensive. That is to say, leftists are virtually always wrong but behave as if they’re right, with faux righteous anger; conservatives are often right but behave as if they’re wrong. Part of this, of course, is that they don’t enjoy institutional support. Yet another part is timidity.

Here’s an example: Sexual devolutionaries don’t shrink from demonizing those opposing the Made-up-Sexual-Status (MUSS, or “transgender”) agenda as bigots or worse. In response, conservatives make their rational arguments, which is fine, but they must do more. Be clear: Say, “This agenda *hurts kids*. It’s child abuse — and if you support it you’re a *bad person*.” Be passionate, resolute and, when necessary, condemnatory. This isn’t debate club or a theology class. It’s culture war! Act like it! To paraphrase writer and ex-ambassador Alan Keyes, Ph.D., “Social pressure is history’s most effective method for controlling human behavior.”

As for “new models,” there is one we can build that would be truly new. Word is that President Trump will be launching his own social-media site. As commentator Andrea Widburg pointed out March 22, however, to avoid having it canceled, he (or someone else) also “needs to create a communication, finance, and platform empire.” She mentions that this should include freedom-and-Truth-oriented versions of an encrypted e-mail service; a credit-card company; a bookseller; a GoFundMe-like fundraising site; a stripe payment processor; a bank; an Internet server; and an entertainment business that could create movies, TV shows, and magazines. This idea for birthing a “parallel society” and economic realm isn’t new, but it’s more necessary than ever. Though the Left would surely try to scuttle these efforts, too, it’s harder canceling people who live in their own economic country. Call it economic secession.

In this vein, there’s something else tangible we can do. Cancel culture is effective partially because it can destroy livelihoods. To mitigate this fear, conservatives need to provide moral and financial support to those of moderate means who are targeted; this was done with Memories



Kathy Griffin Holds Donald Trump's Bloodied Head In ISIS Like Video

577,064 views

Two-faced standards: Comedienne Kathy Griffin is one of many leftists who, either tacitly or explicitly, either with words or symbolism, have encouraged violence during the last few years. Yet, despite a resulting 600 violent riots during the last year, no consequences befall the leftists, while conservatives have been fired simply for having been in the Capitol area on January 6.

Pizza in Walkerton, Indiana, in 2015 after it was shut down via sexual devolutionary threats — a crowd-funding campaign raised \$842,000 for the business. To this end, traditionalists could create a quick-response organization that would provide material aid to any American suffering cancel-cultist-caused economic damage. If this organization had one million citizen members — precious few in a nation of 328 million — each pledging to donate a mere \$1 to any targeted individual, that’s \$1,000,000. And it would send a message: “You can try to ‘hurt’ Americans who disagree with you. But your actions will only result in the object of your hatred becoming rich.” This could help empower Truth-speaking dissenters.

As for an even more immediate remedy, remember how I likened our cultural oligarchy to 10,000 armed and organized men? Well, only organization can trump organization. And one organization doing great work countering the establishment is The John Birch Society, the entity of which THE NEW AMERICAN is the official magazine. With chapters in all 50 states, it’s “giving patriots a fighting chance,” wrote TNA’s C. Mitchell Shaw in “The Great Awakening” March 8, 2021. “It has been successfully warding off global-

ist advances for decades,” he continued. “Consider just the past 10 years. The JBS has played a leading role by bogging down Deep State initiatives to rewrite our Constitution, nationalize our local police, build a North American Union, and establish a UN-led one-world government.”

Moreover, in “Are you Awakened — or Woke?” April 5, 2021, TNA’s William F. Jasper reported that the JBS’ membership ranks have been swelling lately as many Americans are waking up to our real existential threat: a burgeoning Big Brother government that’s stripping away rights and promoting creeping totalitarianism and (though it’s under-emphasized) the moral decay that forges such fetters.

Speaking of which, the remedy for moral decay is moralization; to this end, stand up for Truth. Never apologize for speaking it, especially since it won’t save you, anyway (cancel cultists don’t take prisoners, but scalps). Be courageous, not conciliatory. Remember that political correctness, now “wokeness,” is the “suppression of Truth for the purposes of advancing a left-wing agenda.” Its goal is to get you to lie. And if its orchestrators can turn us into liars, we’ll have lost far more than a career. ■

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FEDERALISM

Is the Best Step

Federalism is the division of power between the national and state governments. America is driving away from federalism, and the consequences are many and costly.



Enumerated powers prevent tyranny: Federalism is the division of power between the national and state governments. The Constitution delegates certain powers to the three branches of the national government. All powers not so delegated are retained by the states and the people.

by **Laurence M. Vance**

Although the word *federalism* does not appear in the Constitution, it is one of the most important and innovative concepts in it.

When the Constitution was adopted in 1789, a federal republic, *not* a democracy, was established. As future president James Madison wrote in *The Federalist*, No. 10:

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“Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.”

Federalism is the division of power between the national and state governments. Articles I through III of the Constitution delegate certain powers to the three branches of the national government. The Ninth and Tenth Amendments make it clear that all rights and powers not delegated to the federal government are retained by the people and the states.

The states of the United States of Amer-

ica created the national government — not the other way around. The states had been in existence as independent, sovereign colonies for many, many years. Only Georgia (1732) among the original 13 colonies was not established in the 1600s.

The Declaration of Independence (1776) states:

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies,

Since as far back as the New Deal, liberals and progressives have been derisive of federalism and supportive of increasing the spending, size, and scope of the federal government.



Blowing your financial future: According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the federal debt of over \$28 trillion now exceeds GDP. The debt was on this trajectory before the “pandemic,” thanks to the spendthrift Congresses under Presidents Trump, Obama, and Bush.

AP Images

the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties and properties of the people; and the internal order, improvement, and prosperity of the State.

Since as far back as the New Deal, liberals and progressives have been derisive of federalism and supportive of increasing the spending, size, and scope of the federal government.

Spending

The U.S. federal government has become a monstrosity. With an annual budget of over \$5 trillion and a national debt of over \$28 trillion, federal spending is out of control. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), federal debt now exceeds GDP. Even before the COVID-19 “pandemic” relief efforts, the federal government was spending over \$11 billion per day, \$468 million per hour, \$7.8 million per minute, or \$130,000 per second.

There are two types of spending by the federal government: mandatory and discretionary. Mandatory spending, which accounts for about two-thirds of the federal budget, refers to the portion of the budget that Congress legislates outside of the annual appropriations process: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, welfare and subsidies, food stamps, unemployment benefits, and refundable tax credits. Discretionary spending, which accounts for about one-third of the federal budget, refers to the portion of the budget that is decided by Congress through the annual appropriations process: military spending, education, NASA, foreign aid, job training, Head Start, and research grants.

But it’s not just the *spending* of the federal government that is the problem, it is also the *size* and *scope* of the federal government.

Size

The federal government contains a multitude of agencies, bureaus, corporations, commissions, administrations, authorities, and boards organized under 15 departments. The following is a list of the Cabinet-level, executive-branch departments, along with the dates of their creation: Agriculture (1862), Commerce (1913), Defense (1947), Educa-

solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.

This status continued when the states adopted the Articles of Confederation (1781): “Article II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every Power, Jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.” And most importantly, this status persisted after the Constitution was adopted. The Constitution refers to the United States in the plural in Article III, Section 3, Paragraph 1: “Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in ad-

hering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.”

The best explanation of American-style federalism is that given by Madison in *The Federalist*, No. 45:

The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the Federal Government, are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State Governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce; with which last the power of taxation will for the most part be connected. The powers reserved to the several States will extend to all the objects, which, in

tion (1979), Energy (1977), Health and Human Services (1979), Homeland Security (2002), Housing and Urban Development (1965), Interior (1849), Justice (1870), Labor (1913), State (1789), Transportation (1966), Treasury (1789), and Veterans Affairs (1989). (Some of the departments existed earlier under other names.) The Department of Agriculture includes the food stamp program. The Department of Energy operates national laboratories and maintains the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The Department of Health and Human Services includes Medicare, Medicaid, and myriad other welfare programs. The Department of Homeland Security includes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The Department of Housing and Urban Development administers Section 8 housing vouchers. The Department of the Interior includes the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The

Department of Justice includes the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). The Department of State funds the United Nations and foreign aid. The Department of the Treasury includes the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the U.S. Mint.

There is also the alphabet soup of independent agencies of the federal government, each of which has its own budget. The most well-known ones are the Federal Reserve, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Agency

(NSA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the Social Security Administration (SSA).

And then there are the federal corporations, many of which Americans have never heard: the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps), the Legal Services Corporation, the National Endowment for Democracy, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), and, of course, the United States Postal Service (USPS).

According to the latest report on the federal workforce by the Congressional Research Service, over 2.1 million federal civilian employees work at these departments, independent agencies, and corporations, not counting the post office, which employs about 580,000 people, and not counting the legislative and judicial branches, which employ another 64,000 people. And then there are the 1.4 million active-duty uniformed military personnel — most of whom are not actively engaged in defending the United States by securing U.S. borders, protecting U.S. soil, guarding U.S. shores, patrolling U.S. coasts, and enforcing no-fly zones over U.S. skies. They are too busy doing these things in other countries, and being the world's policemen, firemen, and social workers.

Although it makes sense that tax evasion, mail fraud, and counterfeiting are federal crimes, the federal government has categorized over 4,000 actions as federal crimes, including things such as domestic assault by a habitual offender, drug possession, carjacking, obscenity, animal cruelty, and art theft from a museum. The exact number of federal crimes is unknown. As the American Bar Association's Task Force on the Federalization of Crime concluded a few years ago: "So large is the present body of federal criminal law that there is no conveniently accessible, complete list of federal crimes."

Does the Constitution authorize all of these federal departments, agencies, corpo-



Wikimedia Commons / dbking/flickr

Building its power: The federal government contains a multitude of agencies, bureaus, corporations, commissions, administrations, authorities, and boards. As with other departments, the Department of Housing and Urban Development administers unconstitutional things, such as housing vouchers.

The federal government contains a multitude of agencies, bureaus, corporations, commissions, administrations, authorities, and boards organized under 15 departments.



Doing their duty? Most of the 1.4 million active-duty uniformed military personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces are not actively engaged in defending the United States. U.S. troops are still in Iraq and Afghanistan. Shown is a U.S. soldier working with Iraqi security forces.

AP Images

rations, employees, and crimes? Does the Constitution authorize any of them? (Please, go and look for such authorization.)

Scope

The scope of the federal government is without limit. There is no area of American life that the federal government does not have an impact on. The federal government reads our e-mails, listens to our phone conversations, tracks our bank deposits and withdrawals, regulates the size of the holes in our Swiss cheese, gropes us and forces us to throw away tubes of toothpaste over 3.4 ounces before we can

board airplanes, regulates the amount of water that toilets are allowed to flush, and owns more than 40 percent of the land in nine states. As Charlotte Twight wrote almost 20 years ago in *Dependent on DC: The Rise of Federal Control Over the Lives of Ordinary Americans*:

Growing federal power — driven by legislation, validated by Supreme Court decisions, and accelerated by presidential ambition — has eroded the rule of law in our nation, leaving almost no activity that the central government cannot at its discretion

regulate, manipulate, or prohibit. A constitutional counterrevolution has occurred in America — one so profound that few today can imagine Americans free of dependence on government.

And this was all before the “pandemic.”

During the holiday season last year, the federal government’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued “guidelines” for holiday celebrations and gatherings. Americans were told not to travel, not to get within six feet of anyone who didn’t live with them, not to go out in public or be around people who didn’t live with them without wearing a mask, not to have indoor gatherings, not to have long gatherings, not to have crowded gatherings, not to hug, not to shake hands, not to take off their face mask unless eating or drinking, not to shout, not to sing, not to play loud music, not to drink alcohol, not to let pets interact with anyone from outside of the household, not to have potluck-style gatherings, not to have more than one person serve food, not to have sharable items such as salad dressings and condiments, and not to touch their mask, eyes, nose, or mouth.

Earlier this year, the CDC even sought to control how Americans watched the Super Bowl. Sports junkies were reminded to wear masks, maintain social distancing, wash their hands often, only have small gatherings, and bring their own “food, drinks, plates, cups, utensils, and condiment packets” to parties, if they dare go to one. The CDC even warned Americans against “shouting, cheering loudly, or singing” while they watched they game.

States

The United States is far removed from the limited government of the Founders, and has been for some time. The liberties of the American people are in peril as never before. But this is not just because of the spending, size, and scope of the federal government. As we especially saw last year throughout the COVID-19 “pandemic,” the state governments — mainly the ones headed by Democratic governors, but not exclusively — can be authoritarian, tyrannical, and even totalitarian.

Many Americans took the CDC’s paternalistic and draconian “guidelines” as law.

But in some states, government officials turned the guidelines into de facto laws. Holiday gatherings in California were restricted to no more than three households, had to be outside, had to have enough space so that everyone could stay six feet apart, had to use single-serve disposable containers, and were restricted to two hours.

In Oregon, no more than six people could gather in one home, and they could not represent more than two households. Church funeral services were limited to 25 people. Restaurants could only offer take-out.

The city of Philadelphia banned all indoor dining at restaurants and indoor gatherings of any size, public or private, of people from different households.

The mayor of Tampa, Florida, was furious that thousands of people ignored the city's mask and social-distancing mandates while celebrating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Super Bowl win. Some cities shut down all indoor dining for many months in 2020.

According to the National Restaurant Association, more than 110,000 restaurants have permanently closed in the United States because of state government restrictions due to the "pandemic."

Steps

There are a number of steps that have been proposed to help restore the constitutional federal republic of the Founders in which liberty was proclaimed throughout the land. Since the advent of the Biden administration, the nullification of unconstitutional federal actions by the states has been increasingly mentioned. Term limits for members of Congress are a perennial step that some have proposed, even though voters can remove anyone from Congress at any election. Some have called for a new constitutional convention to propose additional amendments to the Constitution, as if Congress actually follows the Constitution in the first place. Others say that we just need to elect more Republicans to Congress, even though congressional Republicans rarely reverse the bad policies enacted by Democrats and often enact bad policies of their own. But in spite of the problems with the governments of the several states, federalism is still the best step to reining in the out-of-control federal



AP Images

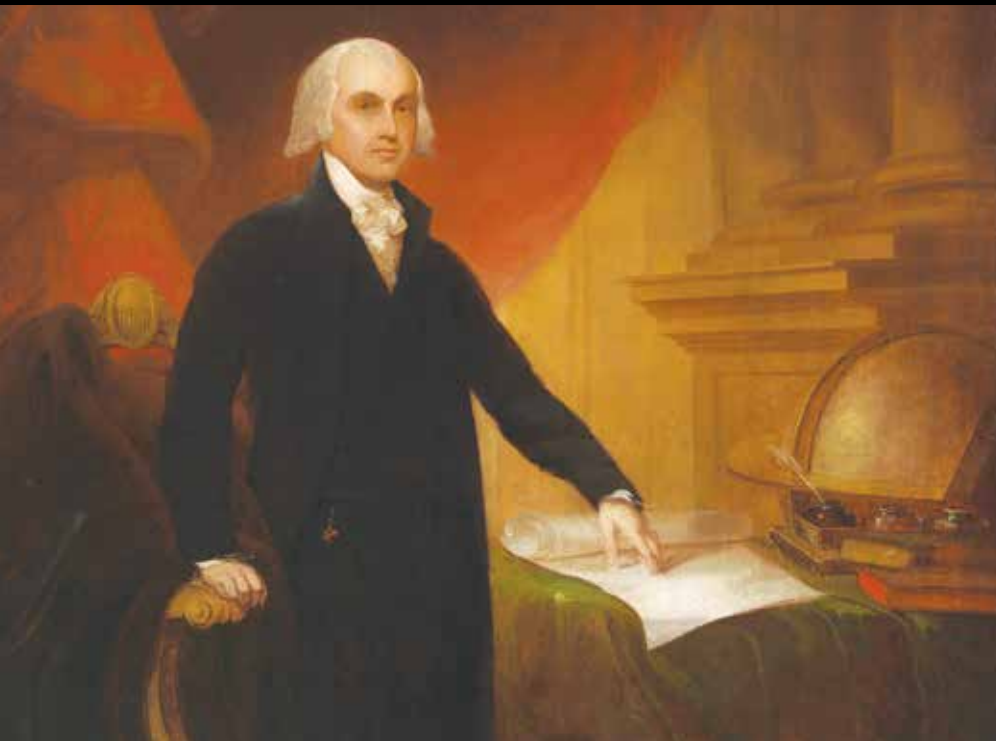
We need to stand up to government abuses: As we especially saw last year throughout the COVID-19 "pandemic," state governments — mainly ones headed by Democratic governors, but not exclusively — can be authoritarian and even totalitarian, such as masking kids all day.

government and restoring the liberties of the American people. And what a big step it is. Let's look at some key issues through the lens of federalism.

The Drug War: Not only does the Constitution not mention drugs of any kind, it nowhere authorizes the federal government to regulate, monitor, or restrict the medical, recreational, or consumption habits of Americans. The federal government has no authority under the Constitution to prohibit or otherwise criminalize the manufacture, sale, possession, or use of any drug; no authority under the Constitution to interfere with what Americans put in their mouths, noses, veins, or lungs; no authority under the Constitution to intrude itself into the personal eating, drinking, or smoking habits of Americans; no authority under the Constitution to have an Office of National Drug Control Policy, a Drug Enforcement Administration, a Controlled Substances Act, a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a National Drug Control Strategy, a National Survey on Drug Use and Health, or a drug czar. Under our federal system of government, any laws banning drugs would have to exist only at the state level.

Education: The Constitution nowhere authorizes the federal government to have anything to do with education or to pay for anyone's education. This means not only no Department of Education, but no Higher Education Act, no Elementary and Secondary Education Act, no bilingual-education or special-education mandates, no math and science initiatives, no desegregation orders, no Pell Grants, no student loans, no research grants to colleges, no scholarships, no school accreditation, no anti-discrimination policies, no standardized-testing requirements, no Common Core standards, no Race to the Top funds, no No Child Left Behind Act, and no Head Start funding. If there is to be any government involvement in education, it must be limited to the state level.

Welfare: The Constitution nowhere authorizes the federal government to provide welfare in cash or in kind, feed anyone, have a safety net, fight poverty, or help the sick, aged, disadvantaged, underprivileged, or disabled. This means no Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), no Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), no Temporary Assistance to Needy



Not an all-powerful central government: According to James Madison in *The Federalist*, No. 45: “The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the Federal Government, are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State Governments are numerous and indefinite.”

Although it makes sense that tax evasion, mail fraud, and counterfeiting are federal crimes, the federal government has categorized over 4,000 actions as federal crimes, including things such as domestic assault by a habitual offender, drug possession, carjacking, obscenity, animal cruelty, and art theft.

Families (TANF), no Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), no Special Milk Program (SMP), no refugee assistance programs, no job training programs, no Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), no Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), no housing-assistance programs, no homeless-assistance grants, no family-planning programs, no adult basic-education grants, no legal-services block grants, no Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRP) initiative, and no refundable tax credits. If there are to be government welfare programs, they must be provided only on the state level.

Subsidies: The Constitution nowhere

authorizes the federal government to provide subsidies for art, culture, science, housing, agriculture, the humanities, or any particular segment of the economy or society. This means that there is no justification for the existence of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), section 8 housing vouchers, farm bills, or the National Science Foundation (NSF). If there are to be government subsidies for these things, they must be provided only on the state level.

Healthcare: The Constitution nowhere authorizes the federal government to have anything to do with healthcare or health insurance. This means no laws, mandates,

regulations, requirements, licensing, standards, programs, agencies, funding, guidelines, oversight, restrictions — absolutely nothing of any kind on the federal level. Nowhere does the Constitution authorize the federal government to have programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, or ObamaCare. Nowhere does the Constitution authorize the federal government to have agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or the Department of Health and Human Services. Nowhere does the Constitution authorize the federal government to fund clinical trials, laboratories, community health centers, medical research, HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives, or family planning. Nowhere does the Constitution authorize the federal government to have nutrition guidelines, vaccination mandates, drug schedules, or prescription drug plans. Nowhere does the Constitution authorize the federal government to mandate the reduction of co-payments and deductibles, the elimination of annual and lifetime caps on benefits, or the issuance of insurance policies without regard to pre-existing conditions. Nowhere does the Constitution authorize the federal government to provide a healthcare safety net or ensure that anyone has affordable healthcare and health insurance. If there is to be any government involvement in healthcare or health insurance, it must be limited to the state level.

Now, none of this means that the states *should* have a drug war, *should* provide or pay for education, *should* provide welfare, *should* subsidize anything, or *should* provide or pay for healthcare. It simply means that the federal government *should have nothing to do* with any of these things, since they are not among the enumerated powers of the national government and, under our federal system, are retained by the states or the people. Federalism is not some policy proposal issued by a Republican politician or conservative think tank. It is part and parcel of the very fabric of the Constitution and the limited government established by the Founders. Although the state governments have their problems, a strict adherence to federalism is the best step to reining in the out-of-control federal government and restoring the liberties of the American people. ■

EQUALITY ACT

The Equality Act is a poster child for the claim that congressional bills have titles that are completely opposite of the content. It is anti-religion, anti-woman, and anti-child.



Proudly mandating perversion acceptance: Representative Darren Soto (D-Fla.) and his staff members Nicole McLaren and Clarissa Rojas hold up an LGBTQ+ pride flag outside the U.S. Capitol after the House voted to pass the misnamed Equality Act.

by **Hunter Pribyl-Huguelet**

On St. Patrick's Day, the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), began deliberations on the Equality Act, which threatens religious freedom, the safety of women and children, and the unborn. Yet, to kick off the debate, the senators watched a sentimental propaganda video about the struggles and progress of the LGBTQ movement and the supposed need for the proposed federal legislation to end discrimination and injustice against LGBTQ people.

Hunter Pribyl-Huguelet is a freelance writer and recent graduate of the University of Chicago.

The Equality Act passed the House on February 25 with the votes of all Democrats and even three Republicans. If it passes the Senate and is signed into law, federal mandate will force women to allow men into their bathrooms and shelters, and likely into their sports and dorms. Christian charities almost certainly would be forced to hand children over to LGBTQ couples, and Christian hospitals could be forced to perform abortions and sex changes — or close down. And this barely begins to scratch the surface of the destructive mischief this legislation could cause.

The militant LGBTQ lobby and its political and media allies say that these concerns are exaggerated, the result of

right-wing fearmongering. According to the left-wing Center for American Progress, “The Equality Act would benefit many religious people and would not undermine existing religious exemptions in the amended civil rights laws, despite the suggestions of opponents of LGBTQ equality.” However, as we show below, the Equality Act does indeed represent a deadly blow aimed at American institutions and the very heart of American society.

Recent Supreme Court Background

Proponents of the Equality Act claim that it will prevent people from being fired just because of their sexual orientation. Case law already does that. The Equality Act comes in the wake of, and goes beyond, Supreme Court decisions that have ruled that the 1964 Civil Rights Act covers sexuality. *Bostock v. Clayton County* and two other cases were decided collectively on June 15 and held that “An employer who fires an individual merely for being gay or transgender violates Title VII” of the Civil Rights Act.

The *Bostock* case involved a man who was fired from a job in juvenile court working with vulnerable and abused children. He was investigated for using \$12,294 of court fees on his gay softball league and related activities at restaurants and bars under the auspices of recruiting volunteers to work with juvenile prisoners. Local media from the time of the investigation, such as WSB-TV's June 4, 2013 story, “Clayton court official under investigation over misused money,” did not refer to his sexual orientation, but rather to his lavish use of court money on food, alcohol, and “his Atlanta softball team.” Allegations of discrimination based on sexual orientation arose later. After finding out about the softball team

Ironically, some of the main groups served by Christian foster care services are refugees, asylum-seekers, and immigrants, groups whom the Left constantly virtue-signal about supporting, yet whom they may deprive of necessary services for the sake of ideology.



Stopping Christian adoption: Michigan resident Lee Hartman looks on as his wife, Jessica, plants a kiss on their soon-to-be adopted son Blake, three. LGBTQ advocates not only want to force Christian adoption agencies to place children with LGBTQ “couples,” but also want to deny adoption to couples who are not “LGBTQ-affirming.”

and the use of court funds to support it, his office got suspicious and started looking into Bostock’s use of money. Bostock’s counsel in the case portrayed the suspicion as arising from coworkers finding out that he was gay. His attorney admitted in a petition that the audit for misuse of funds occurred, but dismissed it as “a pretext for discrimination against him because of his sexual orientation.” According to the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, Bostock’s former boss applauded the Supreme Court’s anti-discrimination ruling, but maintained that Bostock was fired for the misuse of funds, not for being gay. Nevertheless, mainstream sources and even the opinion of the court cast the situation as Bostock being fired simply for being gay and join-

ing the gay softball league. Seemingly, not only are homosexuals protected from being fired due to their homosexuality, but, much more than that; homosexuality seems to provide a legal defense for wrongdoing.

Religious Freedom

The Equality Act would change the wording of the Public Accommodations section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to read [in Sec. 3 (a)(1)] that “All persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, ... and accommodations of any place of public accommodation, as defined in this section, without discrimination or segregation on the ground of race, color, religion, sex (including

sexual orientation and gender identity) or national origin.” “Public accommodation” would now apply not only to public spaces and private businesses, but also to “any establishment that provides a good, service, or program, including a ... service or care center, shelter, ... funeral parlor, or establishment that provides health care, accounting, or legal services” and to any “establishment that provides ... public gathering.”

Churches notably do offer public gatherings, at least during normal times. By legally equating noncompliance with gender ideology to racial discrimination, the act could potentially be used to force churches to either host gay functions or stop hosting functions entirely. The text of the Equality Act is specifically inimical to religion, stating, “The Religious Freedom Restoration Act ... shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title.”

The act also defines that “The term ‘sex’ includes ... a sex stereotype.” Though phrased opaquely, this seems to suggest that any establishment affirming the traditional definition of marriage could run afoul of the act. Such a definition of marriage is elsewhere in the act labeled a “sex stereotype,” with the findings section stating that “discrimination against a married same-sex couple could be based on the sex stereotype that marriage should only be between heterosexual couples.” Despite specific language in the act overriding religious freedom, proponents continue in the usual pattern of accusing right-thinking people of lying and inventing conspiracy theories for pointing out that freedoms will be curtailed. For instance, a recent NBC opinion piece said that “the idea that LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections undermine protections for religious Americans is an egregious mistruth.”

Restrooms

Regarding the restroom question, the answer is yes, the Equality Act would make it federal law that, everywhere in America, “an individual shall not be denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual’s gender

identity.” Democrats once again belie their claim to be the protectors of women, placing ideology as a higher good than protecting women and young girls from sexual abuse in bathrooms.

Adoption, Foster Care, and Child Welfare

Some Christian adoption and foster care agencies cannot hand children over to homosexuals due to the religious conviction that, in the words of Pope Francis, “Children have a right to grow up in a family with a father and a mother capable of creating a suitable environment for the child’s growth and emotional development.” The act could force the closure of such agencies. This has already happened on the state and local level, from Massachusetts to San Francisco. A Heritage Foundation report states that “Catholic Charities alone provided adoption services to over 82,000 children from 2006-2016,” and estimates that “2,000-3,000 children were displaced” by Illinois’ 2011 order that adoption and foster care agencies be willing to hand children over to homosexuals regardless of religious compunctions. This

was reported on in *THE NEW AMERICAN* in August and November of 2011.

In the pending Supreme Court case *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, foster parents and foster children came forward in favor of Catholic Social Services (CSS) when the city took action against them for anti-LGBTQ discrimination. Sharonell Fulton, the named plaintiff in the suit against the city, was a foster parent through CSS. The story of her and her foster son, and others like it, is available in an amicus curiae brief. *USA Today* also published a piece by a woman who found “a loving home” through CSS Philadelphia, and who was shocked that it may be closed “in the name of equality.”

These stories highlight the importance of a Christian childcare agency in turning these children’s lives around and connecting them with loving new homes, often while facilitating good relationships with the biological families. The author of the *USA Today* piece even recalls CSS helping her foster-to-adoptive parents solve a marital spat. Christian agencies take a loving and personalized approach, and they often prioritize keeping children with relatives if possible. They work closely with birth

mothers, and are concerned that “birth mothers’ wishes and children’s best interests” will not be taken into account if the Equality Act passes.

Tens of thousands of children currently relying on the compassionate and personal care of Christian organizations could be harmed by the Equality Act. It is not some small boutique charitable organization that hangs in the balance, but instead “the largest non-governmental provider of human services in the United States.” Ironically, some of the main groups served by Christian foster care services are refugees, asylum-seekers, and immigrants, groups whom the Left constantly virtue-signal about supporting, yet whom they may deprive of necessary services for the sake of ideology.

Potentially even worse, Christian sources warn that the Equality Act could ban adoption agencies from adopting to couples who are not “LGBT-affirming,” effectively barring many Christians, who are among the most likely to adopt and to provide a happy home, from adopting. The “Findings” section of the act even laments “the difficulty of finding affirming foster placements.”

Women’s Shelters and Prisons

Shelters are specifically listed as accommodations to be desegregated under the Equality Act. Women’s shelters would almost certainly be forced to close if they do not place female-identifying males in the same facilities as women, putting women at risk. Men are already housed in women’s shelters in Department of Housing and Urban Development-funded facilities in accordance with the 2016 Gender Identity Rule. Even in red-leaning Alaska, the Anchorage Civil Rights Commission attempted in 2019 to force the Hope Center, a Christian women’s shelter, to admit men identifying as women.

When a drunk and injured man dressed in drag showed up one night, having been kicked out of another homeless shelter, the Hope Center did what any compassionate person would do: paid for his ride to the hospital. The next day, he came back, was told that it was not yet check-in time, and left peaceably. However, local authorities said that the Hope Center should have immediately admitted the man to their shelter. The Civil Rights Commission even



War on privacy, safety, morality: The LGBTQ lobby and its allies are determined to use the Equality Act to strike down all state restrictions barring access to restrooms, locker rooms, dressing rooms, etc., by individuals who now “identify” with the sex that is the opposite of that on their birth certificates.

Despite specific language in the act overriding religious freedom, proponents continue in the usual pattern of accusing right-thinking people of lying and inventing conspiracy theories for pointing out that freedoms will be curtailed.

filed a complaint against the Hope Center's attorney for press comments in defense of the shelter, violating freedom of speech. A *National Review* article points out that the shelter was not in fact discriminating against those identifying as transgender: They have previously allowed "transgender men" (biological women identifying as men) to stay in the shelter. They had also fed the man in question on other occasions, and even let him shower there alone. This incident was about protecting abused women from the possibility of more abuse at the hands of men, not about discrimination. Luckily, the Hope Center won the day, and even a countersuit for legal fees, taken up by the Alliance Defending Freedom. However, if the

Equality Act is passed, the Hope Center and others like it nationwide will likely be forced to admit men identifying as women or shut their doors.

Additionally, there is the possibility of men identifying as women being allowed into women's prisons. This has already happened in at least a few cases, though not often enough according to NBC, which featured a sympathetic report in 2020 pleading the case that transgender convicts should be assigned to institutions according to their gender identification. In her written testimony on the Equality Act for the Senate Judiciary Committee, Abigail Shrier, a journalist who fights against trying to transition kids to the opposite sex, documents that rape has already oc-

curred as women's prisons have been allowing biological men. As she stated in her March 17 oral testimony, "You don't need to be transgender to take advantage of this act. This is not about transgender people being violent. They aren't violent. That would be a libel against them. This is about the fact that the law is so over-broad that any male felon can announce he's a female, make absolutely no changes, and transfer to a woman's prison."

The threat to women is exacerbated by the fact that the Equality Act would write the academic fad of relativism into federal law, redefining race and sex to include "a perception or belief, even if inaccurate, concerning the race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or national origin, respectively, of the individual." In other words, to be admitted to women's prisons, dorms, and shelters, men would not even need to pass any reasonableness test to demonstrate that they are, at the very least, legitimately confused about their gender. Rather, any man could gain access to women in their beds simply by expressing "a perception or belief" that he is a woman.

Education

Neither your daughters nor their curriculum will be safe at school if progressives get their way.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website points out that "Title IV of the Civil Rights Act, on public school desegregation, was used by some courts to require curricula to undo the harms of racial discrimination. The same logic could apply" to sexual orientation after the passage of the Equality Act, mandating pro-LGBTQ curriculum in public and perhaps even private schools. Mainstream media sources including *USA Today* assert that students are not receiving enough "positive representations of LGBTQ+ people, history or events in their schools," but are optimistic that "The Equality Act might change that."

The act could be used to force teachers to present pro-LGBTQ content to their students, and could become another means of firing and blacklisting conservative or Christian teachers, yet another step in the transformation of the history classroom into a leftist indoctrination chamber. Religious schools would be bludgeoned by this act, with Catholic bishops and



AP Images

Say goodbye to girls' sports: Transgender athlete Terry Miller (second from left) wins the final of the 55-meter dash over transgender athlete Andraya Yearwood (left) and female runners in the Connecticut girls Class S indoor track meet. The Equality Act would mandate more such disparity.

Protestant leaders warning, “The Equality Act also threatens the withdrawal of financial aid like Pell grants to the neediest students and federal research grants to any religious educational institution.”

Also on the education side, the already-mundane reality of men identifying as transgender besting women in women’s sports could be spread nationwide by federal mandate. The Trump-era Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights defended the original sense of Title IX by attempting to prevent Connecticut from allowing two men identifying as females to continue accruing women’s track victories, as they had been doing for a couple of years. However, as previously covered in THE NEW AMERICAN, one stroke of President Biden’s pen reversed the federal stance on this issue and allowed this to continue. The Equality Act would enshrine in law that all states must allow men to compete in women’s sports.

Maxing out the creep factor, the act could force colleges to allow men identifying as women in girls’ dorms. Especially given the current outrage surrounding rape

culture and toxic masculinity on campuses, surely any reasonable parent would be concerned for their teenaged daughter’s safety knowing that she might have to spend every night of her freshman year sleeping inches away from a strange man. Again, this is not so much about the danger of people who are actually gender-confused. They too are victims of the Left’s gender ideology. The danger is from that minority of men who might pose as trans to gain sustained access to women in their most intimate spaces.

The Unborn and Healthcare

Another disturbing part of the act is the fact that it may increase the number of babies murdered per year through abortion. The current official numbers from the CDC stand at 619,591 “legal” abortions in the last reported year (2018), not including those in some states such as California, which infamously does not report abortions to the CDC, and not including morning-after-pill abortions. The act states that “pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition shall not re-

ceive less favorable treatment than other physical conditions,” and includes them in the protected category of sex. The act also applies to “any . . . establishment that provides health care.” As discussed in a Lozier Institute report, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals in *Doe v. C.A.R.S. Protection Plus* already ruled, “We now hold that the term ‘related medical conditions’ includes an abortion.” Therefore, the Equality Act could force Christian hospitals to perform abortions or shut down, while also leading to the nullification of the Hyde Amendment, resulting in taxpayer-funded abortions.

Given the act’s purpose of promoting LGBTQ, doctors and facilities could similarly be forced to perform or support gender reassignment surgeries in violation of both their consciences and the best interests of the patient. ■

To urge your U.S. senators to reject the anti-religious freedom “Equality Act,” visit The John Birch Society’s legislative alert: <https://jbs.org/alert/oppose-the-equality-act/>.



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“This is a republic, not a democracy — Let’s keep it that way!”



Coffee Caravan

A coffee shop in Ohio says its purpose is to give jobs to people with special needs.

The Coffee Caravan, located in Lebanon, Ohio, began as a food truck launched by Residential Community Care, an organization that “advocates for the empowerment, employment, and dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities,” Breitbart News reported. Residential Community Care also runs programs such as Skidz Reimagined, a vocational habilitation program that focuses on woodworking.

Tony Mitchell, president of Residential Community Care, teamed up with Mark and Jodi Titmas to open Coffee Caravan as an opportunity for Residential Community Care folks to have “a job that is more customer-based.”

“Their ability to communicate effectively with a coworker, a customer, a supervisor, is where they struggle,” Mitchell told the *Dayton Daily News* in 2019. “We utilize programs like Coffee Caravan and Skidz, our day program, to be able to teach them those social communication skills needed so they can not only get a job in the community, but they can maintain that job.”

“For example, watching our employee, Alex, push limits, like our individuals are going to do, and then figuring out where we need to bring him back to use that as a teaching moment, is the fun part of the job,” added Mitchell.

Jodi Titmas is a teacher and works with the employees to teach them the skills they need to be successful, according to the *Dayton Daily News*. “Our mission is to provide employment for these adults with special needs. Our employees are capable, giving and successful adults in our community. We just want to provide them with employability skills and give them the opportunity to share their skills with everyone,” she said.

Coffee Caravan proved to be such a success that the owners transitioned the food truck business into a brick-and-mortar store. According to the shop’s Facebook page, the employees put their woodworking skills to use as they worked on getting the building ready. On March 8, Coffee Caravan hosted its grand opening as the first coffee shop in Warren County to focus on employing in-

dividuals with special needs. The business employs eight people, but says it has room to expand its staff.

“Everybody has ability, it’s just a question of what it is. That’s why one of the things we have on our shirts is ‘What’s Your Ability?’” co-owner and manager Mark Titmas told WLWT.

Haircut Hero

When middle-school student Anthony Moore of Indianapolis got a bad haircut, which he tried to cover with a hat to avoid embarrassment, his principal responded with kindness and understanding.

Stonybrook Intermediate and Middle School principal Jason Smith knew immediately that something was wrong when Moore showed up to school on February 26 wearing a hat in violation of the school’s dress code and refused to remove it, despite being asked numerous times.

“I sat across from him and asked, ‘What’s wrong? Why are you being defiant, why are you refusing to take your hat off? It’s a pretty simple request,’” Smith recalled. “And he explained that his parents took him to get a haircut and he didn’t like the results.”

Smith said he thought Moore’s hair looked fine, but he also understood that boys his age care more about “social acceptance.”

“He didn’t say straight out, but I feel like he didn’t want to be laughed at,” Smith told CNN. “The barbershop and haircuts as Black males is very important in the community and looking your best and being sharp, it’s just a cultural aspect.”

Fortunately for Moore, Smith has been cutting hair since he was a teen. Instead of taking disciplinary action against Moore for wearing a hat in school, Smith offered his services and fixed the student’s haircut himself, after obtaining parental permission.

Smith has been applauded for going above and beyond, but he contends he did exactly what he should do, according to Fox 19.

“We’re not disciplining with a hard fist. You could call and have the parent pick the kid up for defiance, or you can sit and get to the root of the problem and see what can

I do to help you? What do you need right now?” Smith said.

Tempura Broccoli

When Brandon Jones’ mother-in-law was in the final stages of lung cancer, he reached out to chefs from her favorite restaurant in the hopes of getting the recipe for her favorite meal. To his surprise, the chefs instead offered to make the six-hour drive to her home to make the meal themselves.

Jones’ mother-in-law (whose name is not published to respect her privacy at the end of her life, the *Washington Post* writes) lives in Vermont but fell in love with a tempura broccoli dish from Ekiben, an Asian fusion restaurant in Baltimore, Maryland. Each time she would visit her daughter, Rina Jones, and her son-in-law in Maryland, they would go to the restaurant for her favorite plate.

“Whenever she’d fly to see us or take the train, that’s the first place she wanted to go to eat,” Rina said. “She’s probably been to the restaurant with us at least 20 times.”

“She had always told us, ‘When I’m on my deathbed, I want to have that broccoli,’” Rina told the *Washington Post*. “In fact, when I was packing on Friday to drive up to Vermont, I called my mom to see if she wanted us to bring anything special and she jokingly said, ‘tempura broccoli!’”

Brandon thought he would surprise his mother-in-law by e-mailing one of the restaurant owners, Steve Chu, for the recipe so that he could make it himself when they arrived at her home in Vermont. Instead, Chu’s response provided an even more incredible surprise. Chu offered to drive to the woman’s home in Vermont and make it fresh.

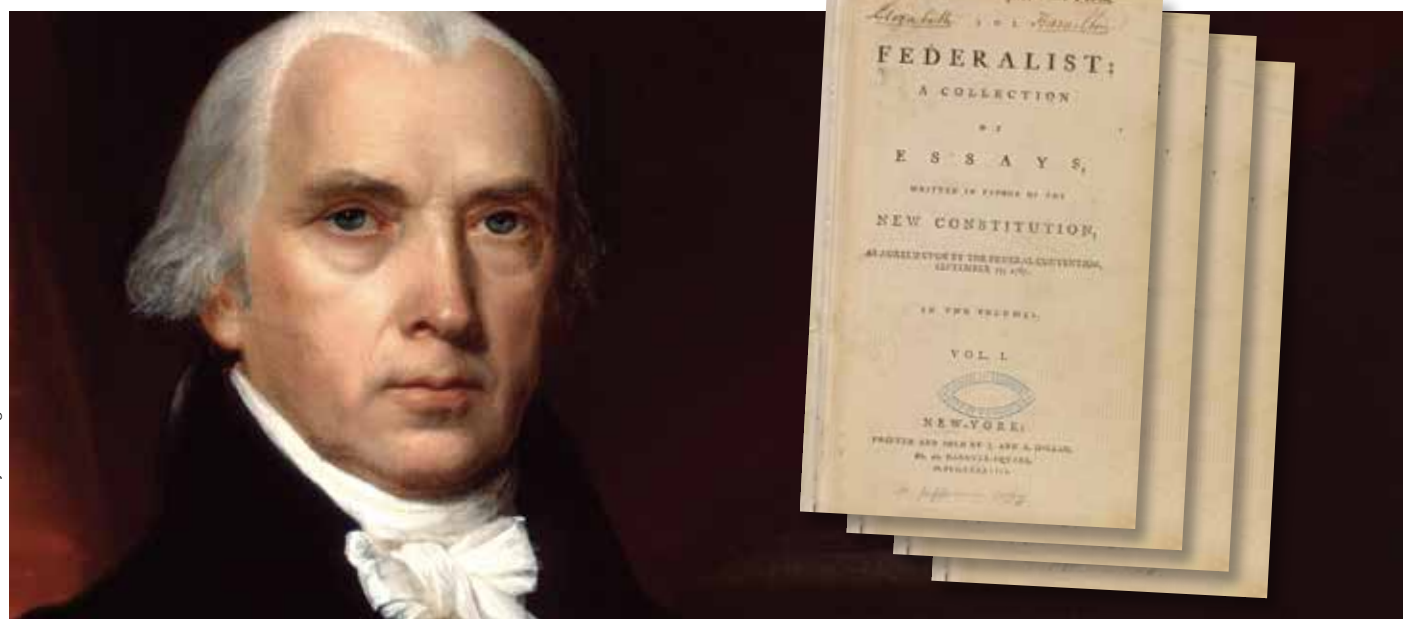
On March 12, Chu, along with his business partner, Ephrem Abebe, and employee Joe Anonuevo, loaded up his food truck and made the six-hour drive to Vermont. In addition to making the highly requested broccoli tempura, the trio made a tofu dish with peanut sauce and steamed rice.

Rina recalled her mother’s response: “She was so happy and touched to have that broccoli. She couldn’t believe it.” ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

State Nullification: An Idea Deeply Embedded in American History

Nullification — whereby states nullify the effect on their citizens of unconstitutional U.S. laws — is regularly derided, but it was designed by the Founders for that very purpose.



United States Library of Congress

Always the plan: While state nullification of unconstitutional federal laws is generally thought to be an innovation only introduced in 1798 with the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, James Madison — the “Father” of the Constitution — discussed the concept in *The Federalist Papers* a decade earlier. He suggested that states could interpose themselves between citizens and the federal government.

by Steve Byas

In today’s American history textbooks, nullification is treated as a fringe idea at best, and treasonous at worst. Yet not only did two of America’s greatest Founding Fathers (James Madison, the “Father” of the Constitution, and Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence) fully embrace the concept, but nullification was employed in the

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Northern states to restrain the federal government, as well as in the South.

A review of American history prior to the Civil War reveals that nullification was actually a common political tool. But because of the Civil War, the practice fell into disfavor, as pro-Union propaganda portrayed just about any effort to retard the centralization of government as somehow disloyal.

Nullification is the idea that, if the federal government extends its powers beyond those found in the Constitution, a state has both a right and a duty to resist such usurpations by declaring the law or other unconstitutional action of the federal government null and void. It is important

to keep in mind that both federal and *state* officials — including the members of the federal and state legislatures as well as “all executive and judicial Officers” — are bound by oath to support the U.S. Constitution, under Article VI. State officials who accept unconstitutional federal usurpations within their state borders are neglecting their oath.

In practice the concept of nullification was employed in various ways, but always with the intention of insisting that the federal government follow the Constitution and of preserving the Union. It was *not* secession, but was intended to prevent an open split among the American states.

Typically, historians begin their discussion of the doctrine of nullification with the Kentucky Resolutions (written anonymously by Jefferson) and the Virginia Resolutions (written anonymously by Madison), written in opposition to the clearly unconstitutional Sedition Act of 1798. While that was the first use of nullification, Madison had argued for its use as a tool against an out-of-control federal government even before the Constitution was ratified.

In order to win ratification of the Constitution in New York State, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay penned several newspaper articles, known today as *The Federalist Papers*. Writing in *The Federalist*, No. 46, Madison addressed the widespread concern that the federal government being created by the Constitution could eventually expand its powers beyond those delegated to it. Admitting that it was a possibility that the federal government could try to do so, Madison argued that the state governments “would still have the advantage in the means of defeating such encroachments.”

His solution was simple. “Should an unwarrantable measure of the federal government be unpopular in particular states, which would seldom fail to be the case ... the means of opposition to it are powerful and at hand. The disquietude of the people; their repugnance and, perhaps, refusal to cooperate with the officers of the Union; the frowns of the executive magistracy of the state; the embarrassments created by legislative devices, which would often be added on such occasions, would oppose, in any state, difficulties not to be despised; would form, in a large state, very serious impediments; and where the sentiments of several adjoining states happened to be in unison, would present obstructions which the federal government would hardly be willing to encounter.”

It should be noted that, at the time, Madison was a leading *federalist*, strenuously arguing for a stronger central government than that found in the Articles of Confederation. These words certainly did not evoke opposition from the *anti-federalists* — those who had reservations about the Constitution, fearing it handed over too much power to the new central government. There is no record of opposition to his suggestion of nullification

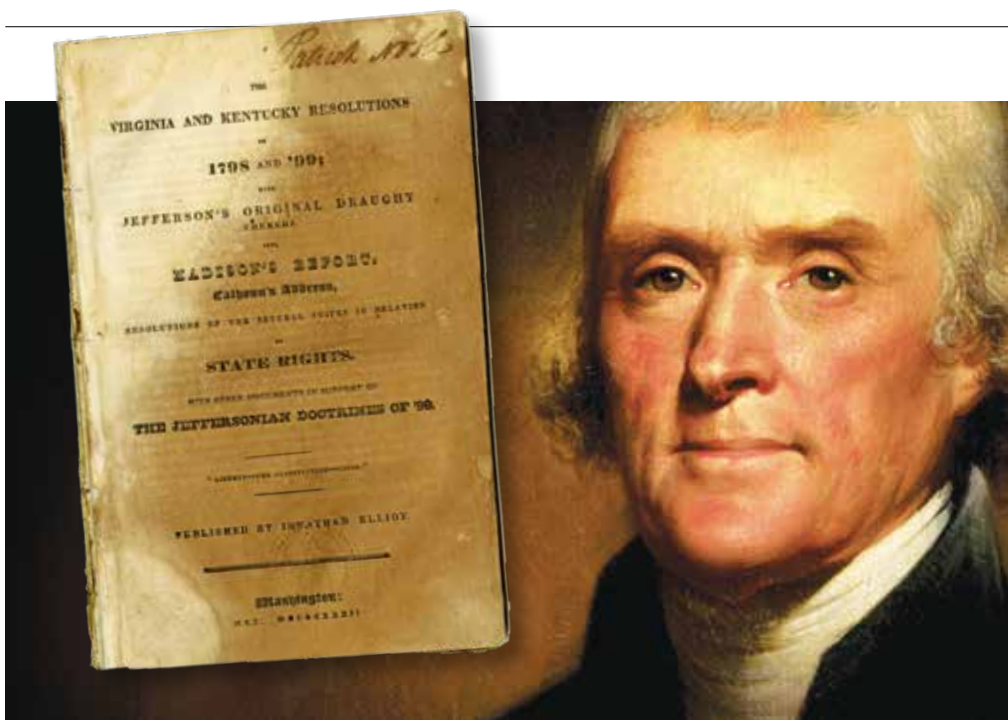
Federal judges, who had taken an oath to follow the Constitution — including the First Amendment’s protections of free speech and press — routinely applied the clearly unconstitutional law.

(although he did not use that term in *The Federalist Papers*) from supporters of the Constitution’s ratification, either.

Madison initially opposed adding a bill of rights to the Constitution, arguing that it was both unnecessary and dangerous. His reasoning was that it was unnecessary because the federal government would only have those powers delegated to it, enumerated in the Constitution. Therefore, the federal government would have no constitutional authority to infringe on rights, such as freedom of speech or of the press. He also contended it was dangerous to add a bill of rights, as some might someday argue that those specifically protected rights were the sum total of the liberties of American citi-

zens. (This is why the Ninth Amendment makes clear that there are other rights not mentioned in the Bill of Rights.)

The Bill of Rights, largely written by Madison, was ratified by the states in 1791, including the First Amendment, which said, “Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” Despite this quite explicit language, that is exactly what Congress did in 1798, with the passage of the Sedition Act. The United States was involved in the so-called Quasi War with France at the time, essentially a naval war, and President John Adams and the Federalist Party leaders who controlled Congress were concerned that the French government could sow discord inside the coun-



Using the Constitution to chain up abuses: When Congress enacted the clearly unconstitutional Sedition Act of 1798, Thomas Jefferson — the author of the Declaration of Independence — and James Madison — the “Father” of the Constitution — anonymously wrote resolutions for the Kentucky and Virginia legislatures, offering the idea of nullification to stop the law’s enforcement.

While the Constitution carefully defines treason only as making war against the United States, or aiding its enemies, even today far too many throw around the “T” word as a response to strong political rhetoric.



Northern uses: Nullification was actually employed more by Northern states than by Southern states. For example, Massachusetts used the nullification doctrine against Jefferson’s Embargo Act of 1807. Later, they used the nullification doctrine to declare a military draft — being considered by Congress during the War of 1812 — unconstitutional.

try among Americans sympathetic to the French Revolution. (This was actually a legitimate concern, with the establishment of so-called Democratic Societies that had sprung up around the country.)

The Sedition Act Abridges Freedom of Speech & Press

But Congress overreacted, passing the Sedition Act, which provided for fines and even jail time “if any person shall write, print, utter, or publish, or shall cause or procure to be written, printed, uttered, or published, or shall knowingly and willingly assist or aid in writing, printing, uttering, or publishing any false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the

government of the United States, or either house of Congress of the United States, or the President of the United States, with intent to defame the said government, or either House of the said Congress, or the said President, or to bring them, or either of them, into contempt or disrepute; or to excite against them, or either or any of them, the hatred of the good people of the United States, or to stir up sedition within the United States.”

Clearly this went too far: Congress had passed a bill that abridged freedom of speech and the press. President Adams reluctantly signed the bill into law. As if to emphasize the partisan nature of the law, the vice president received no protection

under it. Thomas Jefferson was the vice president, and he was the clear leader of the opposition Republican Party (not to be confused with the present-day Republican Party, formed in 1854).

Congressman Matthew Lyon of Vermont wrote a letter critical of President Adams, charging him with a “thirst for a ridiculous pomp, foolish adulation, and selfish avarice.” Lyon’s words were clearly not sedition — calling for the violent overthrow of the government — but it was enough for him to be fined \$1,000 and get a four-month prison sentence. Several others endured fines or imprisonment, including a man who, upon leaving a tavern, opined that he would like to see a cannonball strike Adams in the rear-end.

Jefferson said the Sedition Act was “a nullity as absolute and as palpable as if Congress had ordered us to fall down and worship a golden image.” He also expressed misgivings in finding relief from the judiciary. “To consider the judges of the Supreme Court as the ultimate arbiters of Constitutional questions would be a dangerous doctrine which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy.”

Federal judges, who had taken an oath to follow the Constitution — including the First Amendment’s protections of free speech and press — routinely applied the clearly unconstitutional law. This created a troubling question for Thomas Jefferson and James Madison (who by this time were close political allies). If the judges (who were partisan Federalists, having been nominated by Adams and confirmed by a Federalist-majority Senate) were not going to follow the Constitution instead of the unconstitutional Sedition Act, what was the proper recourse?

Some Republicans called for open rebellion, but Jefferson counseled patience, arguing that the “reign of the witches would soon be over.” He could say little more than that, fearing that he could wind up in prison himself — or worse. In the toxic atmosphere of the time, Jefferson might have been charged with treason. While the Constitution carefully defines treason only as making war against the United States, or aiding its enemies, even today far too many throw around the “T” word as a response to strong political rhetoric.

The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

This is why Jefferson and Madison opted to keep their roles in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions — in which the doctrines of nullification and interposition were proposed as a solution — secret. Jefferson crafted his resolutions condemning the Sedition Act as unconstitutional, along with his solutions, and passed them along to State Senator Wilson Cary Nicholas of Virginia. Nicholas then gave them to John Breckinridge (a member of the Kentucky Legislature and the grandfather of a future vice president of the United States), who introduced them in his state.

The 1798 Kentucky Resolutions did not use the term “nullification,” but a modified version passed the next year did. The 1798 version, adopted by the Kentucky Legislature, asserted that “the several states composing the United States of America are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their general government; but that, by compact, under the style and title of a Constitution for the United States, and amendments thereto, they constituted a general government for special purposes, delegated to that government certain definite powers, reserving,

each state to itself, the residuary mass of right to their own self-government; and that whensoever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force.”

Specifically, Kentucky said that the 1798 Sedition Act violated the First Amendment directly by abridging the freedom of the press, and was therefore “not law, but is altogether void, and of no force.”

The resolutions were then sent to Congress urging “a repeal of the aforesaid unconstitutional and obnoxious acts.” Furthermore, the Kentucky Legislature authorized and requested the governor of Kentucky to work with other states to overturn the Sedition Act. Clearly, Jefferson — and the Kentucky Legislature — was not calling for armed rebellion.

The consequences of allowing the Sedition Act to stand were also addressed, arguing that “the general government may place any act they think proper on the list of crimes, and punish it themselves, whether enumerated or not enumerated by the Constitution,” and allow “the President, or any other person, who may himself be the accuser, counsel, judge, and jury, whose suspicions may be the evidence, his order the

sentence, his officer the executioner, and his breast the sole record of the transaction” to lay charges.

Rather than calling for the overthrow of the government, Jefferson’s Kentucky Resolutions called for following the Constitution. “In questions of power, then, let no more be said of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution,” Jefferson wrote in the resolutions adopted by the Kentucky Legislature.

The Virginia Legislature soon thereafter adopted its own “Virginia Resolutions” of 1798. Somewhat milder than those of Jefferson and Kentucky, these were written secretly by Madison, and began with the assurance that the Virginia Assembly had a “warm attachment to the union of the states.” But it also declared the “powers of the federal government” were a result of “the compact to which the states are parties, as limited by the plain sense and intention of the instrument [the Constitution] constituting that compact, as no further valid than they are authorized by the grants enumerated in that compact; and that, in case of a deliberate, palpable, and dangerous exercise of other powers, not granted by the said compact, the states, who are parties thereto, have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose, for arresting the progress of the evil, and for maintaining, within their respective limits, the authorities, rights and liberties, appertaining to them.”

One would think that considering his designation as the “Father” of the Constitution due to his great influence over its wording and meaning, Madison’s opinion would have great weight. In his Virginia Resolutions, he uses the word *interposition*, which essentially means that a state should use all of its powers to protect its own citizens from the unconstitutional actions of the federal government in the state.

The Virginia Resolutions expressed fear that without the resistance found in this doctrine of interposition to such unconstitutional actions as the Sedition Act, the states would be consolidated “by degrees, into one sovereignty,” with the “inevitable result” of transforming the “republican system” into “an absolute, or, at best, a mixed monarchy.”

Madison’s Virginia Resolutions also noted that the Virginia Convention, which ratified the Constitution, made it



Victory, not defeat: Most history books portray the resolution of the tariff crisis of the 1830s as some sort of defeat and humiliation for South Carolina. The state had declared the federal tariff law nullified, and the federal government threatened harm. Actually, South Carolina got what it wanted — a lower tariff — when Henry Clay’s 1833 law lowered the tariff rates. Had South Carolina not declared nullification, the rates would not have been cut.

Daniel Webster, then serving in Congress from New Hampshire, said if such a bill were enacted by Congress, it would be the solemn duty of the state governments to interpose between their citizens and “arbitrary power.”

clear that “the liberty of conscience and the press cannot be cancelled, abridged, restrained, or modified, by any authority of the United States.” Therefore, citing the First Amendment, the resolutions declared the Sedition Act “unconstitutional,” and encouraged the governor of Virginia to “transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to the executive authority of each of the other states, with a request that the same be communicated to the legislature thereof, and that a copy be furnished to each of the Senators and Representatives representing this state in the Congress.”

Both the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, then, rather than calling for armed insurrection, were calling for cooperation from other states and urged the repeal of

the Sedition Act by Congress. Hardly seditious, but that is how the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions have been mischaracterized. Other smears against the resolutions have included insinuations that nullification and interposition were, and are, simply tools to protect slavery, but any fair reading of the historical record proves that the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions had nothing to do with slavery.

Unfortunately, Jefferson and Madison’s resolutions found little support among the other states, and this can be attributed to two things: (1) fear of being arrested, convicted, and jailed under the Sedition Act; and (2) partisan politics. After all, if members of Congress, such as Congressman Lyon, could be arrested, then state legis-

lators might be, as well. In other states, the Federalists were in agreement with the Sedition Act.

Nullification in the New England States

The Sedition Act expired early in the term of the next president, Thomas Jefferson, and was not renewed. But the idea of nullification was resurrected, surprisingly enough, in some of the very states that had not supported it in 1798. When President Jefferson tried to avoid war with Britain or France (who were at war with each other, and seizing American ships bound to the country of their enemy) by getting Congress to enact an Embargo Act — cutting off trade to both belligerents — this caused economic hardship in the New England states. While nullification wound up not being used in states such as Massachusetts, they did threaten to use it.

The Massachusetts Legislature declared that “the laying [of] an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States” was “not warranted by the Constitution of the United States.” They added that, since “the power of prohibiting to the citizens the exercise of these rights was never delegated to the general government; ... all laws passed by that government, intended to have such an effect, are therefore, unconstitutional and void.”

Later, in the aftermath of the War of 1812, Congress considered instituting a military draft. Connecticut responded that such an effort was “not only intolerably burdensome and oppressive, but utterly subversive of the rights and liberties of the people of this state, and the freedom, sovereignty, and independence of the same, and inconsistent with the principles of the Constitution of the United States.” If the federal government did implement conscription, the legislature asserted, it would be “the duty of the legislature of this state to exert themselves to ward off a blow so fatal to the liberties of a free people.”

Daniel Webster, then serving in Congress from New Hampshire, said if such a bill were enacted by Congress, it would be the solemn duty of the state governments to *interpose* between their citizens and “arbitrary power.” In fact, Webster, who later became known as the champion of *national* power as opposed to



Protecting slaves, not slavery: It is often asserted — falsely — that nullification was a Southern doctrine used to protect slavery. Actually, it was not, as there were no laws against slavery to nullify. On the contrary, several Northern states used nullification to frustrate enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.

state power, in this instance rejected the idea that the states should adopt a policy of non-resistance to usurpations of power by the federal government, calling such a policy of non-resistance “absurd, slavish, and destructive.”

There were numerous other examples, in both the North and in the South, which could be cited in which the doctrines of nullification and interposition were defended. While today it is typical to attack the idea of nullification as a tactic used by slavery-defending politicians, the fact of the matter is that defenders of slavery in the time before the Civil War never used the principle of nullification — there was nothing to nullify to defend the institution of slavery.

South Carolina Uses Nullification to Lower the Tariff

Some have made the inaccurate assertion that nullification was used to defend slavery in the tariff dispute involving South Carolina in 1832-33. The tariff was the principal source of federal revenue at the time, but many Northern states favored raising the tariff rates so as to protect the growing Northern industry from foreign competition. Since the South had little manufacturing at the time, they purchased their manufactured goods either from Northern factories or foreign sources. While the protective tariff helped the owners of and the workers in Northern factories, it only raised the price of such goods for Southern consumers. Thus, it was a transfer of wealth from Southern agricultural states to Northern industrializing states.

When the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 continued their protective natures — Southerners called them tariffs of abominations — South Carolina decided they had had enough, and passed a nullification bill, refusing to collect the odious tariff at their harbors. President Andrew Jackson thundered that he would hang the first man who defied federal law (and Congress passed the Force Bill to allow him to use force to collect the tariff, if need be), though behind the scenes Jackson worked with his political enemy, Henry Clay, for a compromise tariff that would lower the rates over a period of years.

Typically, this entire incident is falsely portrayed as one in which South Carolina



Used for good: When newspaper editor Sherman Booth was arrested for inciting a mob to obtain the release of fugitive slave Joshua Glover, the Wisconsin Supreme Court declared the Fugitive Slave Law unconstitutional. It issued a writ of habeas corpus ordering that Booth be let out of jail.

capitulated under the threat of federal invasion, but the reality is that it was a victory for South Carolina — and the doctrine of nullification. Without South Carolina’s bold stand to nullify the tariff, it is doubtful any compromise would have been reached.

Again, slavery was not an issue in the confrontation between South Carolina and the U.S. government in 1832-33 — it was all about the tariff rates.

Nullifying the Fugitive Slave Act

But slavery was an issue in another instance when nullification was used — when multiple Northern states used the method to frustrate the Fugitive Slave Law, part of the Compromise of 1850, also championed by Henry Clay. For decades, each time a new state was added to the Union, the question of whether the state would be admitted as a “free state,” in which slavery would be illegal, or as a “slave state,” a state in which slavery would be legal and protected by law, would be raised.

California became a territory of the United States in 1848 following the Mexican War. When gold was discovered, it led to the gold rush of 1849, and a rapid increase in its population, necessitating a rapid transition to statehood. Its admission as a state, however, would add another “free state” to the Union, thus giving the free states a one-state advantage. This threatened the continuation of the Union, as Southerners now feared being

dominated by the North on several issues, including the tariff and slavery. This led to a series of laws put together as the Compromise of 1850.

The only part of the Compromise of 1850 that was favorable to the slave-owning interests was a new Fugitive Slave Law, which removed the requirement for a jury trial for accused runaway slaves. Additionally, Northern citizens could be impressed into service in recapturing fugitive slaves, with fines for any person who helped a slave to escape, or otherwise obstructed capture. One could make a strong case that these new provisions made this law unconstitutional.

This law was quite unpopular in the North, and Northern states quickly turned to using nullification principles first enunciated by Madison and Jefferson to thwart the law’s enforcement.

One of the most famous examples of the use of nullification against the Fugitive Slave Law was in Wisconsin. Joshua Glover was arrested by a federal marshal, accused of being a fugitive slave. A local newspaper editor, Sherman Booth, distributed handbills urging the town’s citizens to keep Glover from being sent back into slavery without a trial by jury.

Eventually, a mob forced its way into the jail where Glover was being held and released him. Booth was arrested and charged with inciting the mob, but a judge of the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued

a writ of habeas corpus, ordering him released, declaring the Fugitive Slave Act was unconstitutional and void.

The U.S. Supreme Court — four years later — ordered Booth to be turned over to federal authorities, but the Wisconsin Supreme Court simply refused to obey. The next year, the Wisconsin Legislature passed a resolution approving the action, or in this case, inaction, of its supreme court. It specifically cited the Principles of '98 in which Jefferson and Madison had urged nullification and interposition in declaring that the order of the U.S. Supreme Court was “without authority, void, and of no force.”

Wisconsin's legislature even agreed with Jefferson that the Constitution was a “compact among parties having no common judge, [with] each party [having] an equal right to judge for itself, as well of infractions as of the mode and measure of redress.” It added that, if the “general government is the exclusive judge of the extent of the powers delegated to it,” it will lead to “despotism.” The states that formed the federal union were “sovereign

and independent,” the legislature's resolution added, promising a “positive defiance” of “all unauthorized acts.”

In other words, they were nullifying both the Fugitive Slave Act *and* the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Despite this history, the doctrine of nullification is variously blamed for the Civil War and criticized as a method of defending slavery. Neither is true.

Nullification was *not* at issue in the Civil War. The states that formed the Confederate States of America were not nullifying any federal laws — they were leaving the Union. The response of the federal government was to invade the seceded states, thus touching off the Civil War.

After the Civil War, it became politically incorrect — to use a modern expression — to speak of nullification, since *nationalism* was the prevailing viewpoint. Anything that even hinted at even the mildest assertion of the right of a state was seen as part of the attitude that caused the Civil War. That included nullification, or so the nationalists have claimed; the Civil War had settled the issue.

But saying that the Civil War “settled” the issue of nullification is much like saying if a 220-pound man and a 110-pound woman had a dispute and he pounded her senseless, the issue was “settled” in his favor. Might does not make right. It is true that the balance of power between the federal government and the states was altered by the Civil War — in favor of the central government — but this was not the balance envisioned by the Framers of the Constitution.

If Jefferson and Madison could see our day, in which the federal behemoth has grown far beyond the constraints placed upon it by the Constitution, they would be appalled.

Fortunately, even though the doctrines of nullification and interposition have been mostly dormant for the past century, now states are beginning to rediscover the Principles of '98, crafted by Madison and Jefferson, and are making use of those principles to challenge the out-of-control federal government. *That* would make these two giants of American history happy and proud. ■

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“I Was in Fear for My Life”

The *Miami Herald* reported on February 9 about a self-defense shooting that showed the benefits of Florida’s Stand Your Ground law. The case involved a career criminal who tried to steal an SUV, but was shot when he drove the stolen vehicle toward a customer.

The shooting was caught on surveillance footage, and it showed the suspect, 58-year-old Jose Antonio Reyes Bermudez, attempting to drive away with a Mercedes SUV that had been just cleaned. Bermudez pretended to be the owner of the vehicle and took the keys from a car wash employee. The car wash manager recognized that Bermudez was not the man who brought the car in, and walked up to the vehicle and told Bermudez to get out of the car.

It was at that moment that Bermudez started the vehicle and tried to drive it from the car wash. Bermudez narrowly missed the manager with his car and turned toward the lot exit, but the man who had brought the Mercedes in for a cleaning, Stephen Allen Lott, stood near the exit. As Bermudez drove in Lott’s direction, Lott quickly pulled out a loaded pistol and fired two shots at the vehicle.

One of his bullets mortally wounded Bermudez. The Miami-Dade Medical Examiner’s Office later determined that one bullet penetrated the left side of Bermudez’ head. The fatally injured Bermudez lost control of the vehicle, which sped across the street and crashed into a nearby building. The local prosecutor’s office investigated the incident and released a memo explaining that under Florida’s Stand Your Ground law, Lott had no duty to retreat because, as Lott told responding officers, “I was in fear for my life and I shot.”

As the *Miami Herald* explained, Lott’s statement to police “helped make charging him legally untenable.” The paper reported that prosecutor Suzanne von Paulus wrote in her memo from the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office that Bermudez was driving the stolen SUV at “a high rate of speed,” which was a threat to others at the car wash. The *Herald* reported that “as the Mercedes SUV

approached, Mr. Lott stepped back and braced for impact, believing he was about to be hit by the vehicle.” She added that “Mr. Lott had the legal right to stand his ground and use deadly force to protect himself from death or great bodily harm while Mr. Reyes Bermudez was committing and escaping from committing a forcible felony.” In closing, she wrote that “after reviewing the thorough police investigation, statements of witnesses and the physical evidence, it is the conclusion of the undersigned that charges cannot be filed in this matter as the State would be unable to prove that this homicide was not the result of justifiable use of deadly force under all applicable laws in Florida.”

Leftists who want to ban guns were quick to seize on the case as evidence of why the Florida Stand Your Ground law needs to be repealed. Dustin Williamson, the general counsel at anti-gun group Everytown for Gun Safety, complained to the *Miami Herald* that the law encourages “shooters and other people who use deadly force when they could simply walk away.... Because there is no duty to retreat, this law encourages people to put themselves in harm’s way and then claim they had no choice but to use deadly force.”

The paper reported that Florida’s Stand Your Ground law, which was originally passed in 2005, was amended in 2017 by Florida lawmakers, making “prosecutors the ones to shoulder the burden of disproving a defendant’s claim of self-defense in a hearing before any jury trial takes place. Prosecutors must now prove by ‘clear and convincing’ evidence that someone was not acting in self-defense.” This change really helped buttress the legality of Lott’s actions.

As Lott told responding officers on the day of the shooting, “I fired because I thought I was about to be hit by the car.... I just knew I was going to die today.”

Lott’s defense attorney, Michael Grieco, also explained to the *Miami Herald* that it’s “not about what the car is doing, it’s about what the car could do.... A car is a deadly weapon and it’s appropriate to respond to deadly force when being faced with deadly force.”

Ammo Manufacturer Refuses to Sell to Biden Voters

Townhall.com reported on February 15 about a small ammo manufacturer who used its website to send a message to gun owners who support anti-gun politicians. Michigan-based company Fenix Ammunition set up a giant pop-up window on their homepage that asks visitors if they voted for Joe Biden. If you click “yes,” the website redirects you to Joe Biden’s campaign website page, which states his draconian gun-control positions.

So, basically only people who answer “no” to voting for Joe Biden can view their website. In a series of tweets, the company explained on Twitter why they employed this web-based tactic. “We’ve had a few potential customers call this morning to ask why they have to check a box stating they did not vote for Joe Biden in order to purchase our ammunition.

“First question — are we serious? Yes, we are serious. Joe Biden ran on a campaign built on the most radical gun control platform a major party candidate has ever had, including banning the online sale of ammunition. Essentially, a plan to bankrupt our company. Second question — couldn’t I have voted for him for other reasons? Sure, that’s possible, but if you did, you should immediately sell any firearms you own out of solidarity. Third question — are you really willing to walk away from a paying customer simply because they voted for Joe Biden? Yes, yes we are. We’re dead serious. We don’t want your money, and you shouldn’t want us to have it because we’re going to use it to make more ammo, sell it to the citizenry, and do everything in our power to prevent Joe Biden’s administration from usurping the rights of Americans. We have no problem talking to Biden voters and educating them on what they did, but they have to be willing to acknowledge their ignorance at the very least. We’re not going to sit here and debate with you. We’re a 2A [Second Amendment] company and these are our first principles.” ■

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Democrats Exploit Pandemic Relief Bill for Partisan Priorities, Progressive Pork

ITEM: *The left-wing Washington Post clearly believes that President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus bill is a poverty cure. An embarrassingly smitten March 6 headline sat atop the "news" account (and related Twitter post), declaring: "Biden stimulus showers money on Americans, sharply cutting poverty in defining move of presidency." (After this drew public mockery, the paper's editors toned down the headline just a tad, so that it later read: "Biden stimulus showers money on Americans, sharply cutting poverty and favoring individuals over businesses.")*

Naturally, the paper found an "expert" to justify its claims, saying: "The latest stimulus will reduce poverty by a third, lifting nearly 13 million Americans out of it, according to an analysis by Columbia University's Center on Poverty and Social Policy. Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, and poor families with children are set to benefit the most. Child poverty would be reduced by more than half, the researchers predict."

ITEM: *The New York Times also slobbered over the money shower, starting its "news analysis" in the print edition for March 10: "American political leaders have learned a few things in the last 12 years, since the nation last tried to claw its way out of an economic hole. Among them: People like having money. Congress has the power to give it to them. In an economic crisis, budget deficits don't have to be scary. And it is better for both the economy and the democratic legitimacy of a rescue effort when elected leaders choose to help people by spending money, versus when pointy-headed technocrats help by obscure interventions in financial markets."*

ITEM: *The taxpayer-funded NPR carried this headline on March 10: "Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Rescue Plan Set To Turbocharge U.S. Economy," for Scott Horsley's All Things Considered.*



flickr / Senate Democrats

COVID relief bill or Democrat bailout fund? The \$1.9 trillion Democratic COVID bill mainly bailed out hemorrhaging Democratic unions, cities, states, and organizations. Only a tiny fraction of the money actually went toward fighting COVID.

CORRECTION: Liberal pipedreams to the contrary notwithstanding, we can't spend ourselves to affluence. We will find this out in due course with the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus "relief" bill, which became a carrier of a much broader extremist agenda.

What did we get? Well, Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, boasted that the legislation is the "most progressive bill in American history." It's not a targeted relief package for those hurt the most by the pandemic, but a huge expansion of the welfare state. As always, it is not paid for by the president or members of Congress — but it comes from you and me and, like-ly, our children and grandchildren.

As the eminent Austrian School economist Ludwig von Mises explained (in *Bureaucracy*, 1944): "The government pretends to be endowed with the mystical power to accord favors out of an inexhaustible horn of plenty. It is both omniscient and omnipotent. It can by a magic wand create happiness and abundance. The truth is that the government cannot give if it does not take from somebody."

Former Representative Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.), who was at one time chairman of the House Tea Party Caucus, was direct, calling this "big-government" package "a self-dealing spending binge of handouts for and by Washington Democrats." The

Democrats, he charged, took advantage of COVID-19 "to mask this \$2 trillion partisan monstrosity."

The scope of the spending — which amounts to buying votes with borrowed money — is almost incomprehensible. Current Texas Republican Congressman Dan Crenshaw has tried to give it some perspective — with some arithmetic about those who get a payout and the overall population on the hook for payment. "If you're really happy about getting a \$1,400 check — again, imagine that: Giving free money to people is popular, I get that — but here's the thing: It's costing you \$5,700, give or take, and if you're not paying for it, your kids are."

One California professor uses more round numbers — noting that each trillion of spending works out to be about \$3,000 per person. As Stephen Huxley has explained, it helps (or perhaps hurts) to think that Congress just borrowed around \$24,000 on your behalf if you are part of a family of four, in the population of roughly 330 million. You and your descendants will pay the interest on this "relief" bill (technically called the American Rescue Plan) that totaled almost \$2 trillion.

The totals are likely to rise over time, in part because nothing is more permanent than a "temporary" government boost. The



Correction, Please!

“relief” bill has all sorts of pieces that have little or nothing to do with the virus. Consider, for instance, the expansion of three tax credits — the child tax credit, the earned income tax credit, and the child and dependent care tax credit.

As one analyst from the American Enterprise Institute observed: “A better estimate of the cost of the House-passed American Rescue Plan is a permanent extension of the increased tax benefits. The benefits related to children would alone raise the total cost by roughly 75 percent from \$1.9 trillion to \$3.3 trillion over 10 years.” Worse, this may be a pricey precursor. The left-wing *New Yorker*, ever willing to transfer your earnings to others, recently ran a feature about how the expanded child tax credit could “change the way that the United States addresses poverty” — describing it as an “experiment in Universal Basic Income.”

While historical comparisons have their deficiencies, they can also be helpful. Consider: America’s total COVID spending in the United States, as Michael Hendrix put it in the *New York Post* not long ago, “will soon total \$5.5 trillion in less than 12 months. By comparison, World War II cost the U.S. government roughly \$4.8 trillion in 2021 dollars.”

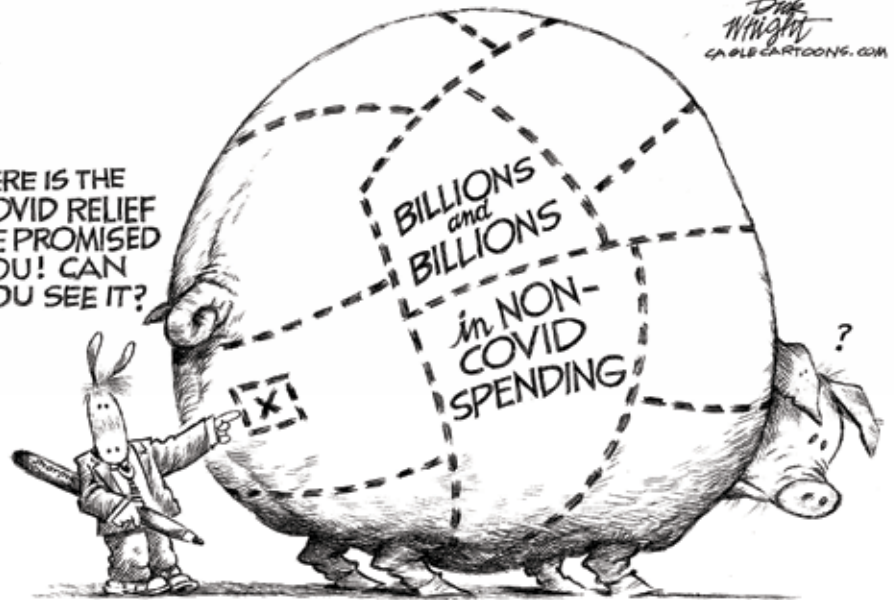
Here’s another big picture point of view. Brad Polombo recently wrote for the Foundation for Economic Education about the most recent “relief” bill, as well as virus monies approved during the Trump administration. Once the \$1.9 trillion bill “hits the books,” he observed,

total taxpayer expenditure on (ostensibly) COVID relief will hit \$6 trillion — which, roughly estimated, comes out to \$41,870 in spending per federal taxpayer.

Did you see anywhere near that much in benefit?

The sheer immensity of this spending is hard to grasp. For context, \$6 trillion is more than one-fourth of what the US economy produces in an entire year, according to Fox Business. The COVID spending blowout is at least eight times bigger than the

HERE IS THE
COVID RELIEF
WE PROMISED
YOU! CAN
YOU SEE IT?



(inflation-adjusted) price tag of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s “New Deal.”

Moreover, the COVID spending bills have all lost huge sums of money to unrelated carve-outs, politician pet projects, corporate bailouts, fraud, waste, and worse.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), citing recent studies, noted: “Despite being branded as ‘Covid relief,’ only 9% of funds in this bill actually goes to defeating the virus,” according to a statement. “Almost half the money, including more than 95% of the education funds, will not be spent until 2022 or later.” McCarthy was not exaggerating when he called the latest bill “a laundry list of left-wing priorities that predate the pandemic and do not meet the needs of American families.”

The unrelated, though expensive, aspects of the relief bill seem boundless. There are billions for union pensions, handouts for state and local governments, and more subsidies for ObamaCare premiums. And much more. Here are just a few from the *Wall Street Journal*:

There’s \$39 billion for child care; \$30 billion for public transit agencies; \$19 billion in rental assistance; \$10

billion in mortgage help; \$4.5 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program; \$3.5 billion for the program formerly known as food stamps; \$1 billion for Head Start; \$1.5 billion for Amtrak; \$50 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency; \$4 billion to pay off loans of “socially disadvantaged” farmers and ranchers; and nearly \$1 billion in world food assistance.

Are you wondering about the handouts for those particular farmers and ranchers? As Fox News noted, the “COVID” bill pushed by the Biden White House carved out monies for certain groups, including for “an equity commission, agricultural training and other assistance to advance racial justice in farming.” The Republicans tried, unsuccessfully, to delete a provision — which amounts to the nation’s first race-based reparations law — that enables nonwhite ranchers and farmers to write off government loans based on their alleged “social disadvantaged” status.

The economic relief for states (whether needed or not) has strings, added belatedly, intended to prevent recipient states from cutting taxes. In response, 21 angered state attorneys general have written to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, “seeking clarity” (in the words of the *New York*

What TV News Wanted Viewers to Know About Biden's \$1.9 Trillion COVID Spending Bill

\$1,400 checks for individuals	mentioned in 40 stories
Additional unemployment benefits	20 stories
Funding for vaccines/testing	20 stories
\$15 minimum wage	19 stories
Funding for schools	12 stories
Help for small business	12 stories
Money for state/local governments	5 stories
Previously unspent money	- ZERO -
Examples of bill's unrelated spending	- ZERO -
No huge state/local gov't shortfall	- ZERO -

MRC analysis of ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscasts, January 22 to March 5, 2021.

Could it be more obvious? To anyone with a modicum of analytical ability, it's been obvious for many years that big media companies are in the tank with Democratic socialism. Coverage of the Biden "COVID" bill, wherein media didn't cover any of the bill's huge negatives, made it obvious.

Times) about whether the provision applies "to the use of federal dollars to offset new tax cuts, or if it blocks them from cutting taxes for any reason, even if the cuts were in the works before the law passed." The provision, declared the attorneys general, is "the greatest attempted invasion of state sovereignty by Congress in the history of our Republic."

These federal subsidies for states and localities, you will not be surprised to learn, just happen to favor those run by Democrats. Such monies rose by a staggering 42 percent over the past year, according to testimony before a House Ways and Means subcommittee.

The testimony, by Michael Hendrix, pointed out that "fiscally profligate states like New York will be rewarded more than states where unemployment is lower and budgets stronger." He terms this phenomenon a "blue state bailout."

Hendrix also has called the bailout a "monstrosity." Writing in the *New York Post*, he noted that it is

so large it leaves America's states with a surplus after one of the costli-

est pandemics in history.

The numbers boggle the mind: \$195 billion goes to states with no strings attached (except, of course, to ban tax cuts). There's \$130 billion for reopening K-12 schools with no requirement they reopen. Another \$25 billion for public housing and \$20 billion for public transit. All in all, America's states and cities are seeing a direct windfall north of half a trillion dollars.

During 2020, noted the Manhattan Institute's Hendrix, state and local governments collected "more dollars" than

at any time in American history. With federal aid, states ended the year in a surplus. In 21 states, tax receipts actually grew year-on-year. AP reports that "California is again swimming in money," not that that has stopped Gov. Gavin Newsom crying poverty.

Some states have seen red, especially those dependent on energy and mining revenue, like Alaska. Declining tourism hurt Florida's budget to

the tune of \$2 billion, but the state's low unemployment means it will miss out on \$2 billion in Biden bucks it would otherwise get if aid were simply allocated based on population. Nine of the ten states with the lowest unemployment in America are led by Republican governors, and they are the ones punished under the relief bill's formula.

The biggest winners will be states who locked down the hardest during the pandemic.

Some startling aspects of the legislation did attract opposition attention before passage, though the Democrats' slim margins eventually prevailed. GOP lawmakers blasted taxpayer funding going to prisoners and illegal aliens; among those qualifying for a \$1,400 check, for example, was Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

With the Democrats in control of "both chambers of Congress and speedily pushing through Biden's aid package, [Arkansas Senator Tom] Cotton and Sens. Bill Cassidy and Ted Cruz offered an amendment seeking to block inmates from direct payments," reported MassLive. The amendment failed in a party-line vote.

The mainstream media did its worst to sell the bill, promoting what was attractive — free money from the government — and ignoring or playing down aspects that might have raised taxpayers' ire. NewsBusters took note of a study by the Media Research Center. It revealed: "Instead of scrutinizing the bill's spending choices, the broadcast networks built their coverage around its most popular provision as well as sympathetic anecdotes about those in need."

Next up on the Democrats' wish list are lavish expenditures on "green" infrastructure and a massive tax hike. Even before the latest coronavirus "relief" measure, the national debt had risen to \$27.9 trillion, or more than \$215,000 per household. Yet, the Left has demonstrated no inclination to slow spending — which means ever-larger interest payments on the country's credit card. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

Carve The Truth **in Stone**

Though the cause of Evil prosper, yet 'tis Truth alone is strong,

And, albeit she wander outcast now, I see around her throng

Troops of beautiful, tall angels, to enshield her from all wrong

Then it is the brave man chooses, while the coward stands aside,

Doubting in his abject spirit, till his Lord is crucified,

And the multitude make virtue of the faith they had denied

— James Russell Lowell, *The Present Crisis* (1845)



The “cause of Evil” is indeed prospering, and Truth does surely “wander outcast now.” The ruling elites of our political and cultural institutions have joined with Pontius Pilate in asking, “What is truth?” In fact, the intelligentsia of our age, for the past century or more, have been declaring there is *no such thing* as absolute truth, absolute morality, absolute right or wrong.

But the purveyors of moral relativism know that the soul of man has been instilled by his Creator with a desire and *need* for truth. So, while denying the incarnate Truth (Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life”) and denying objective truth in general, the moral relativists have no qualms about totally reversing themselves and positing new contradictory “truths” that they insist all humanity must embrace, absorb, and regurgitate as dogma. And they have their media “fact checkers” and “truth meters” to monitor and enforce their new dogmas.

The old truths are being completely uprooted and turned upside down, to be replaced by the new “truths.” This is happening with such ferocity and rapidity that many people are astounded, dumbfounded, and completely perplexed that such absurdities and perversions could be actually occurring. How to make sense of such dangerous and mendacious nonsense? What does one do when the whole world is being turned into a madhouse?

First, it is necessary to realize that the chaos and madness we face is *organized* chaos and madness. It is the work of several generations of conscious subversion and undermining of truth and the virtues that make a truly humane and just civilization possible: faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, temperance, fortitude. Christianity, Christian culture, biblical morality, the family, marriage, nationhood, patriotism, national symbols, national heroes, national borders, and more are all targeted for destruction. Who has organized this chaos and madness?

A century ago this madness was unleashed in its most violent

form in the Bolshevik Revolution. Under the iron fists of Lenin and Stalin, the Soviet Communist Party began forming the “New Soviet Man.” Tens of millions of corpses later (plus millions more souls banished to the prison gulags) — and after decades of brainwashing, censorship, and police-state surveillance — the communists had achieved a level of brain-dead conformity that almost approximated their

ideal of the New Soviet Man. Almost, but not quite.

In China, the communists sought to do the same, beginning in 1950 with their Thought Reform, based on Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-tung Thought. A decade and a half later, Mao launched the more radical and deadly version of this “reform,” the infamous Cultural Revolution, in which millions of his young Red Guards were unleashed to attack and cancel the “Four Olds”: old ideas, old culture, old habits, old customs. Statues, temples, churches, and shrines were pulled down and destroyed. Priceless, ancient books and manuscripts were burned. Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, Taoists, and followers of Confucianism were viciously persecuted and many were martyred. People (including communist professors and teachers) who were accused of politically incorrect thought were publicly humiliated, beaten, forced to confess their thought crimes, and sometimes killed.

Many on the revolutionary Left here in America today, including leaders of Black Lives Matter and Antifa, openly acknowledge their Marxist-Leninist-Maoist pedigrees, as do many of the professors who have trained them. What is different today is the open alliance between these communist-socialist revolutionaries rioting and agitating in the streets and their capitalist-globalist comrades who are not only financing them, but also bolstering them with free media propaganda. Bill Gates, George Soros, Mark Zuckerberg, and their ilk are in accord with Xi Jinping, Mikhail Gorbachev, Ayatollah Khamenei, and the would-be potentates of the United Nations in creating a “New World Order,” a global superstate ruled by the globalist Übermensch (Supermen, Overmen).

The United States of America is the main geopolitical obstacle to their new order, which is why they are moving so aggressively to destabilize and dismantle it with a series of fabricated crises founded on lies: the COVID crisis, climate crisis, migration crisis, race crisis, gender crisis, etc.

What must we do? Join the “*Troops of beautiful, tall angels*” and fearlessly, relentlessly seek the truth, speak the truth, and defend the truth — with all the strength we can muster. ■

William F. Jasper is a senior editor of The New American.

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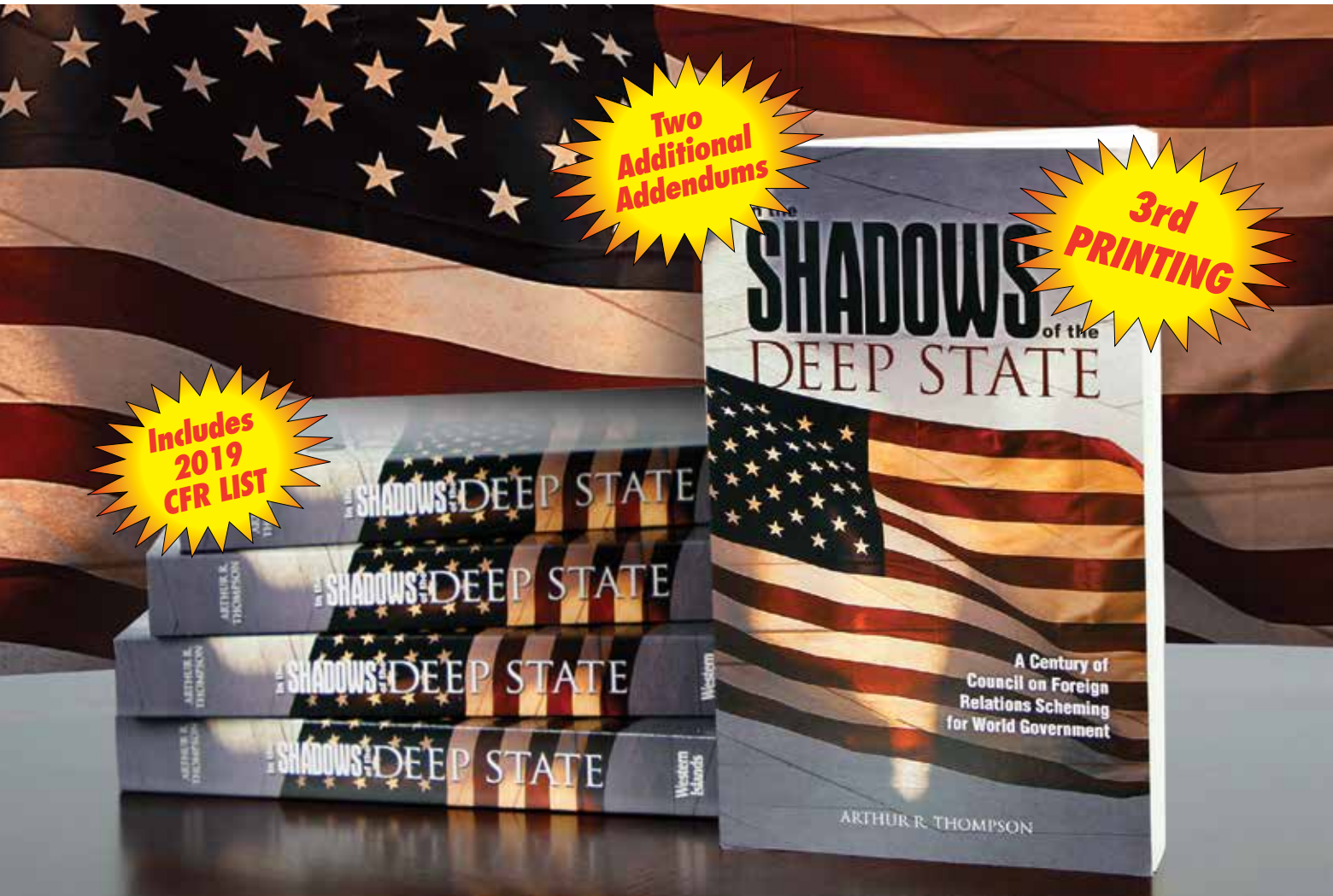
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