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Reviews

4.5 ★★★★★



Joan Brown

★★★★★ July 10, 2017

I have had nothing but satisfaction and praise for this very unique organization



Allen Banks

★★★★★ March 30, 2016

They have always told the truth and have in almost every prediction been right on the money with world events

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Texan Goodness

I live in Corpus Christi, Texas, but I'm from Ohio. I made a decision to stay home during Hurricane Harvey prior to it becoming a category 4. Having three dogs and two cats made it easy to stay — although at 1:00 a.m., staying seemed stupid. I've never experienced wind like that. There was no power and no weather reports, and the generator wouldn't start.

The total destruction in Port Aransas and Rockport was unbelievable, like bombs went off. People lost everything. There wasn't one leaf on a tree — crazy. I cried almost every time I went there. But after a few short days, the sadness was replaced by love and kindness. The love of people for one another at their darkest time was beautiful. No one cared about skin color or if you were rich or poor. They just cared about how they could help. Men and women from everywhere showed up just to help. People donated; people with a BBQ pit were on a street corner cooking. It's hard to find words to cover it all. I feel blessed to have experienced Harvey. What I have felt and seen has made me a better person, and I will carry it with me always. Thank you for Raven Clabough's story about Harvey in "The Goodness of America" (October 9 issue).

SHELLEY CROLL
Sent via e-mail

Schools Are Horrible

Over the past year, I have seen articles in your magazine discuss the problems of public education. The one thing that amazes me is how light the articles are on the severity of what is happening. Unless he is in education, your average reader has no idea the extent of what is going on.

Until recently I worked for 17 years in a high-school district in Southern California. I have witnessed a teacher try to show a bloody horror film to students, reported another for keeping a stack of semi-pornographic material in the room, seen teachers pepper their lectures with repeated foul language, seen both the b-word and f-word posted by the teacher on items on their walls, and seen others post openly

pro-homosexual, pro-"transgender" materials, such as a full-sized rainbow flag.

I once watched in amazement as a school buried the fact that an administrator had been arrested on campus for being with a student. He was treated as if he never existed, and all questions went unanswered so that the media would not find out.

I have seen a special-ed teacher, who was absent most days, have students every day dig into a pile of magazines such as *People* and *Sports Illustrated*, read an article, and write a summary. The magazines were thrown together in a pile on the floor for students to dive into, and were mostly torn up after years of daily use.

Students went to school in jeans so torn they barely still existed. They were addicted to their cellphones, and about 80 percent of all classrooms in the district had at least one student listening to foul-language rap music at any given hour. Some students had it written into a contract that they could do so. And it was not unheard of to have a class use 40-50 expletives in a single period.

JOHN WELDON
Midway City, California

Don't Use the Term

"Gun violence"? How can a "thing" be "violent"? Does it load, aim, and fire itself?

"Gun violence" is a hate term by the liberal Left and a lie, so why do you use it? It also transfers guilt from a murderer to a "thing."

A swift lawyer — knowing some real "liberals" are on a jury — could use it to get his guilty client off: The gun did it!

RICK SCHWEMLER
Cathedral City, California

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



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French Author: Divide France to Avoid “Civil War” With Muslims



Fair or not, people have long made jokes about the French surrendering at a conflict's very start. Now a French author proposes surrender before a conflict has even begun — to avoid civil war with Muslims.

Writing November 17 at the French website *causeur.fr*, intellectual Dr. Christian de Moliner proposes what essentially is a quasi-Sharia state within France, where Muslims who so choose could live by the Koran. He writes that they “will have the right to vote ... but they will apply Shariah in everyday life, to regulate matrimonial laws (which will legalize polygamy) and inheritance. They will no longer apply to French judges for disputes

between Muslims, but to Cadis. On the other hand, conflicts between Christians and believers will remain the responsibility of ordinary courts.”

Moreover, de Moliner states, “This system would involve schools or hospitals reserved for believers and therefore the creation of local committees that will manage them independently. A council of ulemas [a body of Muslim scholars] will fix the religious law, but the autonomy will stop there. It is obviously out of the question that an embryonic Muslim government should develop in France.”

De Moliner justifiably warns of political correctness, stating that for “fear of appearing Islamophobic, to satisfy this bustling fringe of Muslims, governments are ready to accept the spread of radical practices throughout the country.” He rightly (and naturally) speaks of no-go zones, writing, “In addition, [some] territories are outside the control of the Republic. The police can come only in force and for limited durations.”

De Moliner correctly notes that if “the English never managed to tame the Irish Catholics, we will never be able to eradicate radical Islamism [under the West's current framework of rights].” This analogy well illustrates the insanity of the West's diversity worship, whose logic makes as much sense as the slogan of the autocratic government in the novel *1984*: “War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength.” In our case, we say diversity is strength — and it didn't even take a tyrant to get us to accept it.

Studies Show Women Prefer What Feminists Call “Toxic Males”

Recent studies reveal that despite the feminist Left's best efforts, women continue to prefer what feminists have dubbed “toxic masculinity.”

One such study, published in August by Feminist Media Studies, reveals that women continue to be attracted to muscular males who convey an image of financial security. Researchers at the U.K.'s Coventry and Aberystwyth Universities found that women prefer males with perceived wealth and muscles. The study analyzed women's responses to “guy candy” photos published on Tube Crush, a website featuring secretly snapped photos of men on the London Underground. The researchers found that the women seemed to focus on traits that conveyed wealth and manliness.

Women tended to comment on the men's physically masculine traits such as biceps and chest muscles, as well as perceived sexual ability. They also responded positively to displays of wealth, such as suits, watches, and cellphones. Adrienne Evans, lead author of the study, noted that the results reveal that women's desires have not moved away from “masculinity in the form of money and muscle.” “This celebration of masculine capital is achieved through humor and the knowing wink, but the outcome is a reaffirmation of men's position in society,” said Evans.

Another study published in May in *Evolutionary Behavior Science* found that women whose husbands rated themselves as behaviorally masculine based on notions of dominance, power, and assertiveness became more satisfied during the ovulation portion

of their cycle. By contrast, women whose husbands reported less masculine behavior experienced no change in satisfaction during the more fertile phases of their cycles.

Amanda Prestigiacomo of the Daily Wire noted November 21 that these studies underscore exactly why the Left will continue to fail at eradicating what it has dubbed the “toxic male”: “The Left longs for this dystopian future of sameness, a world purged of traditional masculinity, and will seemingly stop at nothing to indoctrinate their message. But these dystopian fantasies discount the reality of human nature, something innate and bred through evolution, where women will opt for the alpha male over the beta male feminist.”



EU Superstate Agrees to Plan for EU Military

With the United Kingdom set to “Brexit” the European Union, globalists in Brussels are on the move to further centralize control: The EU has unveiled a formal plan to integrate the armed forces of its formerly sovereign member states into a full-blown EU military.

The scheme to gradually turn over all military forces to self-appointed transnational authorities is being marketed as the “Permanent Structured Cooperation on Defence,” or PESCO. In official statements published November 13, various organizations of the EU superstate admitted what was going on. “The aim is to jointly develop defence capabilities and make them available for EU military operations,” the EU’s “External Action Service” declared November 16 in a “fact sheet” about the scheme, without giving more details on what sort of “EU military operations” were being envisioned. “This will thus enhance the EU’s capacity as an international security partner, also contributing to protection of Europeans.”

For now, 23 EU member governments have signed on to the scheme under provisions of the “Treaty on European Union” that permits such regimes. The EU member governments that did not join include those in Denmark, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. With the U.K. government expected to leave the EU soon, despite efforts by globalist operatives in London and Brussels to sabotage Brexit, that is understandable. There are hints that the U.K. may be roped in, anyway. Other EU members are expected to join the scheme soon.

But even supporters of globalism are sounding the alarm about the potential for it all to backfire. Speaking November 20 at the Centre for European Reform in Brussels, Münster University Professor Johannes Becker said the EU would face even more “strong resistance” from European peoples if it continued to centralize more power in Brussels. The EU, he said, is supposed to be based on the subsidiarity principle, an idea calling for as much decentralization as possible. But in reality, the EU appears determined to centralize as much power as possible, as quickly as possible, in the hands of unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats in Brussels.



Claude Truong-Ngoc

State Department Sued for Records on Paris Climate Accord



AP Images

On November 11, the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) filed its second lawsuit against the State Department to obtain illegally withheld documents related to the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The lawsuit is the result of the State Department’s failure to respond to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request filed by the Washington, D.C.-based think tank in October of 2017. CEI is requesting e-mails of two State Department officials involved in the Obama administration’s maneuvering to circumvent the Senate in order to join the Paris agreement.

Those officials, Trigg Talley and Alexandra Costello, “were both members of the State Department when the decision was made to avoid characterizing the Paris agreement as a treaty,” according to a November 13 CEI press release. “The Obama admin-

istration cut the Senate out of the treaty process in order to join the Paris agreement,” CEI asserts. “Documents obtained under a previous FOIA production show Costello’s correspondence with a lawyer for Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker,” the press release notes, stating further, “In response to an August 2014 *New York Times* report about Obama’s plan to circumvent the Senate, the lawyer said this news ‘indicate[s] a disturbing contempt for the Senate’s constitutional rights and responsibilities.’ Yet, Chairman Corker never publicly opposed Obama’s circumvention of the Senate. CEI seeks to learn just why this silence occurred.”

CEI is seeking “certain text message and email correspondence to and from Talley and Costello,” which is specified in its FOIA request. According to the plaintiffs, “to date, the State Department has provided no production of records, prompting CEI to sue.”

“President Obama purported to commit the United States to the December 2015 Paris climate agreement as an agreement among executives requiring no legislative approval,” CEI states in its October 6 FOIA request.

As we have reported, economists have placed the price tag for the Paris agreement, which will have no effect on global climate, as high as \$100 trillion — or higher. The cost in terms of loss of freedoms, due to vastly enlarged and empowered government regulation, is incalculable. ■

Alabama's Senate Candidate Urges Senate Leader to Step Down

"The person who should step aside is Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. He has failed conservatives and must be replaced. Drain the swamp!"

After Senator McConnell advised the GOP nominee to abandon his race for the U.S. Senate seat, candidate Roy Moore responded by aiming the suggestion at him.



AP Images

Democrats Should Be Wary of Condemning Roy Moore

"Democrats shouldn't gloat. They, after all, have had a past president — Bill Clinton — credibly accused of rape, an allegation his admirers have dismissed or shrugged off over the years."

Boston Globe columnist Scot Lehigh reviewed the accusations against Roy Moore and decided that his fellow Democrats could hardly attack him for unverified accusations, which Moore has vehemently denied, when Bill Clinton's far worse conduct before and during his presidency was unquestionable.



AP Images

Associate Points to Numerous Bush Aides in the Trump Administration

"If Donald Trump's presidency fails, it will be because he has perhaps inadvertently surrounded himself with Bush associates."

Longtime Trump friend and associate Roger Stone pointed to such former Bush aides as Jerome Powell (nominee for chairman of the Fed), Alex Azar (health and human services secretary), Elaine Chao (transportation secretary), and Dina Powell (national security advisor). He wonders why President Trump has appointed these and other former Bush supporters.

Religious Toleration in Saudi Arabia Doesn't Exist

"There is no life here as a Christian or a Catholic. Life here is either as a neutral person or as a Muslim. You have to pray in your heart if you want to pray."

After working in Saudi Arabia for eight years, Lebanese Catholic Danny Nasrallah is well accustomed to not having a church to attend or being able to participate in public religious observances of his faith.

Democrat Says Bill Clinton Should Have Resigned in Wake of the Lewinsky Scandal

"Yes, I think that is the appropriate response."

Asked if she believed Bill Clinton should have stepped down as a result of the revelations about his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand answered that he should have resigned. Gillibrand's stand surprised many, since she is known to have a close relationship with Hillary Clinton, whose place as one of New York's two senators she took when Mrs. Clinton resigned to become U.S. secretary of state.

Recruiting for the Afghan Army More Difficult Because of Taliban Threats

"The Taliban tell the father of an army soldier to either call back your son or give us a Kalashnikov rifle and 400,000 afghanis [currency]."

The head of army recruitment in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province, Mujtaba Khan finds his job almost impossible. He explains that the fine is the equivalent of \$6,000, obtaining a rifle is difficult, and should the son return home, he is beaten and imprisoned.

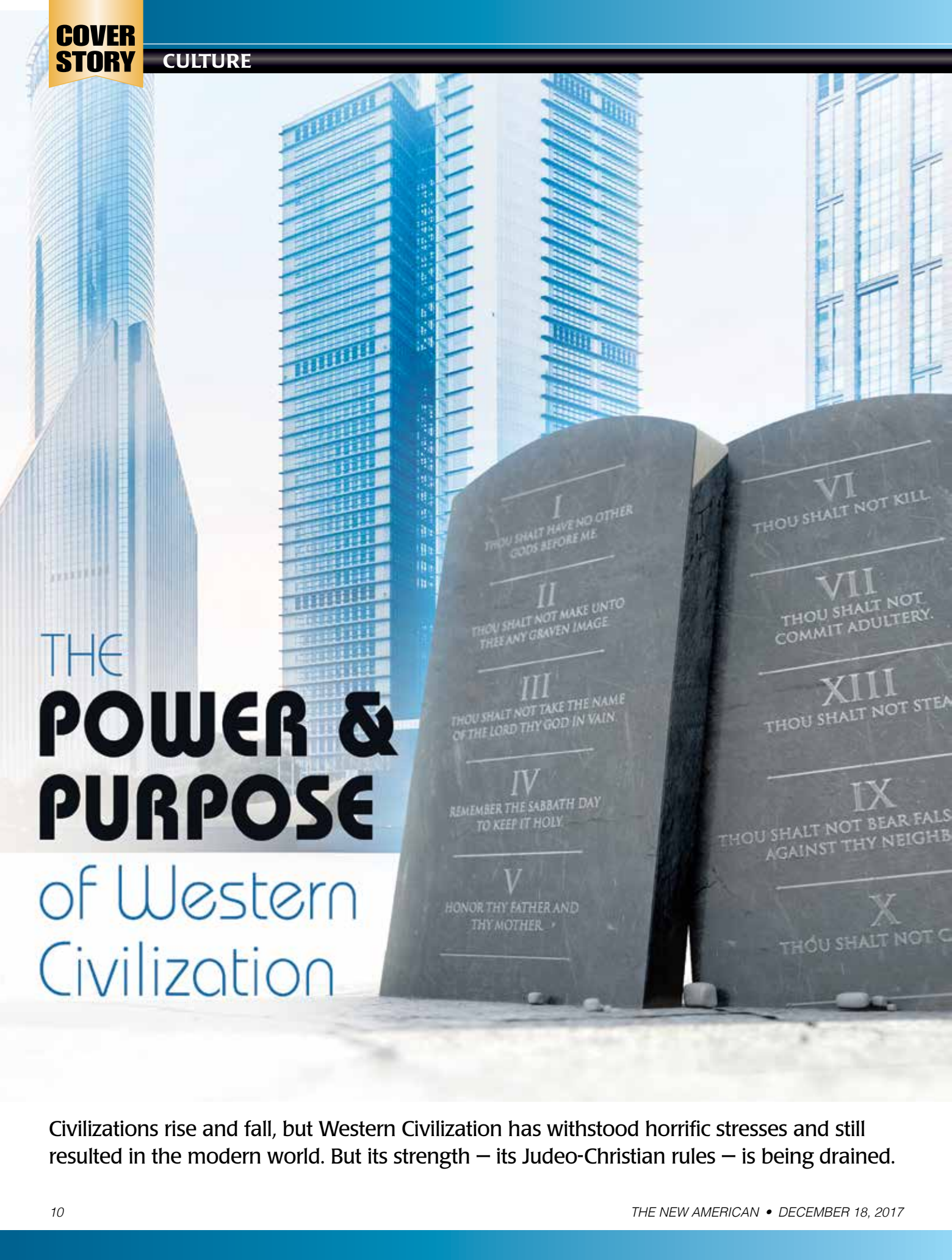
Campaign for Freedom of Religious Views Attracts Attorney General

"Many Americans have felt that their freedom to practice their faith has been under attack. The challenges our nation faces today concerning our historic First Amendment right to the 'free exercise' of our faith have become acute." *Speaking to the conservative group Alliance Defending Freedom, Attorney General Jeff Sessions joined in the fight to rely on the First Amendment, which he believes enables anyone to avoid being forced to cooperate with such matters as same-sex weddings.* ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. McMANUS



AP Images



THE POWER & PURPOSE of Western Civilization

Civilizations rise and fall, but Western Civilization has withstood horrific stresses and still resulted in the modern world. But its strength — its Judeo-Christian rules — is being drained.

Far away and cold beyond cold. The words do not do the reality justice in describing the state of the *Voyager 1* spacecraft hurtling outward into the galaxy. The furthest man-made object from our warm, watery world, its now antique instrumentation peers back to its origin, and in the lens of its camera, that origin is merely a speck. Forward, into the great void beyond the planets, the little probe hurtles, an infinity awaiting it.

Voyager 1 is mankind's first interstellar spacecraft, something that, when stated in such terms, seems a matter only of science fiction, rather than science fact. Yet, the truth remains: In 1977, the United States, the wealthiest and most technologically advanced nation in history, built and launched the very first interstellar spacecraft. In fact, it launched a pair of them. Like *Voyager 1*, *Voyager 2* is exiting the solar system. In 300,000 years, it will pass the great star Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky.

For the *Voyagers*, eternity is the future, and for that eternity they will represent the greatest achievement, to this point in any case, of a great civilization of epochal importance. The *Voyagers* were created by technological means derived from the epistemological practice of science, a means of interrogating the material world and increasing our understanding of it. But science itself is predicated on a whole host of other civilizational characteristics, all of which coalesced in what was once known as "Christendom" and has, more recently, come to be known as Western Civilization.

Today, that civilization is under increasing pressure. It is derided, even hated, in some quarters. The derision is unjustified, and even dangerous, for Western Civilization has almost single-handedly made the modern world; given us our technology; elevated mankind from intellectual darkness and slavery of body, mind, and soul; and provided a platform for a future of limitless hopes and possibilities.

Unique to Creation

Unique in its achievements as compared to other mere human-scale activity, the greatness of Western Civilization is only truly appreciated when its inconceivable

Today, that civilization is under increasing pressure. It is derided, even hated, in some quarters. The derision is unjustified, and even dangerous, for Western Civilization has almost single-handedly made the modern world.

rarity is understood. That rarity has to be set against the entire background of creation. Not only within the vast extent of our own solar system, but of the entire cosmos, there is no other sign of life, let alone any evidence of some other, alien, civilization.

This is despite the fervent desires of many, who, perhaps fearful of a terrifying existential loneliness, hope for the discovery of some shred of life anywhere. Modern hope for this discovery reaches back to the mid-20th century and famed astronomer Frank Drake. While working at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, in 1961, Drake first presented what has come to be known as the "Drake Equation," which has been used ever since to estimate the likely number of advanced civilizations in the galaxy.

The Drake Equation takes into account a number of factors, including how often

stars suitable for life are formed, the fraction of those stars that actually have planets, the number of planets per such solar system that might have life-sustaining environments, the fraction of those on which life actually appears, a further fraction on which civilizations exist with the ability to develop technology that can be detected from space, and the length of time over which those civilizations release signs of their existence into space.

The most famous solution for the Drake Equation has long been that offered by astronomer Carl Sagan.

"When we do the arithmetic," an optimistic Sagan wrote, "the number that my colleagues and I come up with is around a million technical civilizations in our Galaxy alone. That is a breathtakingly large number, and it is exhilarating to imagine the diversity, lifestyles and commerce of those million worlds."

The fly in the ointment of this optimis-



The *Voyager 1* probe: Launched in 1979, the probe visited Jupiter and Saturn. It later entered interstellar space and became the most distant human-made object in space on February 17, 1998.



Thinkstock

Families create communities, nations, and cultures: The roots of Western Civilization are neither mysterious nor lost in the mists of time. Instead, the vital roots of the civilization are found with the family.

tic conclusion is something known as the Fermi Paradox. About a decade before Drake came up with his equation, commonly accepted lore has it, famed physicist Enrico Fermi realized that a sufficiently advanced civilization would be able to colonize the galaxy, and would thus be detectable. As explained by the SETI Institute:

Fermi realized that any civilization with a modest amount of rocket technology and an immodest amount of imperial incentive could rapidly colonize the entire Galaxy. Within ten million years, every star system could be brought under the wing of empire. Ten million years may sound long, but in fact it's quite short compared with the age of the Galaxy, which is roughly ten thousand million years. Colonization of the Milky Way should be a quick exercise.

So what Fermi immediately re-

alized was that the aliens have had more than enough time to pepper the Galaxy with their presence. But looking around, he didn't see any clear indication that they're out and about. This prompted Fermi to ask what was (to him) an obvious question: "where is everybody?"

Now, Fermi never really formulated his eponymous paradox quite that thoroughly. As Robert H. Gray pointed out for *Scientific American*, it's much more accurate to attribute the thinking behind the Fermi Paradox to astronomer Michael Hart and physicist Frank Tipler. Still, despite finding significant numbers of exoplanets orbiting stars outside our own solar system, we seem to be confirming not Sagan's optimism, but the pessimism of the Fermi Paradox realization that there is no other civilization out there. Moreover, there might not even be other, simpler forms of life.

Heretofore, civilization has been an ephemeral thing, waxing and waning, but Western Civilization is different. Though numerous authors and respected authorities have repeatedly predicted its demise, it continues to grow in scope and influence.

Our own remarkable little planet might be the only redoubt of life anywhere in the universe. On that point, Peter D. Ward, professor of geological sciences at the University of Washington and his colleague, University of Washington, Astronomy Professor David Brownlee, penned the book *Rare Earth* in 2000, pointing out the many startlingly rare factors that had to coalesce in order to make our small planet capable of hosting complex forms of life. They concluded that "it appears that Earth indeed may be extraordinarily rare."

Just how rare, exactly, is difficult to know. We can't see everything in the galaxy, much less the universe. But what we can see hasn't provided any reason to lean toward Sagan-like optimism in a profusion of alien life. Just the opposite, in fact. It seems that the conditions required for life, and especially for intelligent life of the human sort, are astronomically rare. Commenting on this conclusion for the *Washington Post* in 2016, Harvard University astrophysicist Howard A. Smith noted:

The bottom line for extraterrestrial intelligence is that it is probably rarer than previously imagined, a conclusion called the misanthropic principle. For all intents and purposes, we could be alone in our cosmic neighborhood, and if we expand the volume of our search we will have to wait even longer to find out. Life might be common in the very distant universe — or it might not be — and we are unlikely to know. We are probably rare — and it seems likely we will be alone for eons. This is the second piece of new evidence that we are not ordinary.

Smith concludes with the exhortation that we "acknowledge the compelling evidence to date that humanity and our home planet, Earth, are rare and cosmically precious."

"And may we act accordingly," he advises. Indeed, as far as our current scientific capabilities inform us, there is nothing like human intelligence anywhere else in the universe. The greatest outcome of that intelligence has been Western Civilization.

From Family to Civilization

Alone on our planet among the cosmic wilderness, the individual human can never live alone, and is never fully self-reliant. From birth, the child, alone, faces a near certainty of a quick death. An infant has no physical defense against the myriad terrors it faces. The helpless child has no ability to eat or drink on its own, cannot provide for itself shelter from the heat or the cold, from the rain, wind, or snow.

Family, the mother and father, provide for the needs of the child. Yet for the most robust health, growth, and success, this core family benefits from the extended help and care offered by grandparents, aunts, and uncles. More, cousins add to the increasingly rich and varied life and experience of the family. And each of these has outward connections, friendships, and ultimately marriages with others beyond the core family, creating a community. In this community grows a commonality of thought, practice, and belief, a rising of modes of living, codes of conduct, and a sharing of knowledge. Tastes and preferences are formed. Writ large, a village arises, then a town, a city, a nation. And over this aggregate a culture. As this culture carries itself forward, from one generation to the next, it becomes something more: a civilization. Finally, said the great historians Will and Ariel Durant, "It is the civilization that makes the people: circumstances geographical, economic, and political create a culture, and the culture creates a human type."

But culture can change as circumstances change. Historically, war and conquest have laid waste, ruining civilizations. Famines and diseases have erased whole cities and cultures. Sometimes, the end remains a mystery. We see today the remains of civilizations and know not what led to their downfall. What happened to the Indus Valley civilization? What happened to the Anasazi? Or, perhaps most intriguing of all given its incredible antiquity, what transpired with the Old Copper Complex people, who flourished in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan nearly 8,000

years ago, mining and working copper long millennia before the pyramids of Egypt were conceived?

Heretofore, civilization has been an ephemeral thing, waxing and waning, but Western Civilization is different. Though numerous authors and respected authorities have repeatedly predicted its demise, it continues to grow in scope and influence. In his tremendous work *From Dawn to Decadence*, the great historian Jacques Barzun argued that "in the West the culture of the last 500 years is ending," in a conclusion that followed Oswald Spengler. In his *Decline of the West*, Spengler argued that culture lived, then transitioned to civilization, which was then moribund and ultimately dead. "Civilizations are the most external and artificial states of which a species of developed humanity is capable," Spengler wrote. "They are a conclusion, the thing-

become succeeding the thing-becoming, death following life, rigidity following expansion."

This was true for civilizations of the past, but it is not now true of the Western. The civilization that we now inherit has at its core certain facets that make it different than all others. They are the same facets that enabled the development of the advanced science and technology of the *Voyagers* and beyond, and they are the same facets that make Western Civilization more robust and enduring.

Roots of Resilience

Unlike the ossified civilizations of Spengler's description, what we today call Western Civilization has unique characteristics. Where other civilizations had changeable, human-centered foundations that, once they failed to function, led to downfall and discord, the core of Western Civilization is based on the Decalogue (i.e., the Ten Commandments). Whether one is religious in the Judeo-Christian faith tradition or not, these remain both legal and moral truisms and the essential means of ordering and limiting authority in society.

Consider the first four commandments. These not only provide a framework for the proper orientation of mankind to God, but also set the framework for the proper power relationship within human society. "Thou shalt not have strange gods before me," God proclaims in the First Commandment, and this is normally taken as a prohibition against worshipping the pantheon of innumerable pagan gods and goddesses that haunted the mind of the ancient world. Yet, it is similarly a prohibition against worshipping the false gods that mankind would raise, most notably and commonly the false god of government as represented in the era of the Roman Empire by whichever Caesar had donned the purple.

So we find that the early Christian martyrs would not worship Caesar, even on pain of torture and death. The earliest account of such a martyrdom to reach us is that of Saint Polycarp, martyred, most agree, in 155 A.D. In the letter from the



The great Saint Polycarp refused to worship the Roman emperor and state because to do so would be to fall into idolatry. For that, the state murdered him.

“The experience of the past leaves little doubt that every economic system must sooner or later rely upon some form of the profit motive to stir individuals and groups to productivity,” noted Will and Ariel Durant in their little text on *The Lessons of History*.

church in Smyrna where Polycarp was bishop that recounts his death, we learn that the Roman authorities met him after his arrest “and taking him up into the chariot, they seated themselves beside him, and endeavoured to persuade him, saying, ‘What harm is there in saying, Lord Caesar, and in sacrificing, with the other ceremonies observed on such occasions, and so make sure of safety?’” Refusing, Polycarp was led to the stadium, where a crowd had assembled to watch his death. Again, the Roman authorities demanded he renounce Christ in favor of Caesar. To this Polycarp refused, replying: “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: how then can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?” After this, he was to be bound and burned alive, but when he was not consumed by the flames, he was stabbed to death. This, his reward for adhering to Christ and the First Commandment against the false god of government.

In Saint Polycarp’s martyrdom, we see devotion to Christ and Scripture, and an indictment of government as a totalitarian institution. Within the heart of Western Civilization is the legal truism that totalitarian government is illegitimate, a recognition that is carried down to the very foundation of the American Republic. When Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal ... with certain unalienable rights,” he was acknowledging that no government could usurp the role of God and abridge those rights. This is the First Commandment in action.

Similarly, the other commandments order the good relation of person to person in a complex society. Thou shalt not kill is a protection of the inviolable personal right to live. Thou shalt not steal is a protection for private property. Though shalt not bear false witness is the moral foundation of contract. That such truisms have

a solid universality is evident in that, so many millennia after they were delivered to Moses, they continue to be so obviously relevant and practical.

Extended, emphasized, and refined by Christ through His salvific mission and His establishment of the Christian church that carried the Word of God to the European world, and then worldwide, the Judeo-Christian ethical and theological tradition protected and nurtured the revolutionary ideal of individual value, and of the possibility and desirability of individual rights and actions.

Emerging and arising from this was the modern economic foundation of Western civilization. If individuals could have a legitimate ability to maintain their own lives even against the state and to keep the product of their labor, in the sense of owning property, to the point that it could be stolen from them by neither taxmen nor highwaymen, then could arise an impetus for creative initiative and voluntary exchange. “The experience of the past leaves little doubt that every economic system must sooner or later rely upon some form of the profit motive to stir individuals and groups to productivity,” noted Will and Ariel Durant in their little text on *The Lessons of History*. “Substitutes like slavery, police supervision, or ideological enthusiasm prove too unproductive, too expensive, or too transient.”

This played no small part in the rising prosperity of the 12th and 13th centuries in Europe that saw the end of what is often incorrectly referred to as a Dark Age. Im-



Scourge: The plague revisited Europe repeatedly from the Renaissance through the 17th century, decimating the continent's population. Despite this, Western Civilization, its science, technology, art, literature, philosophy, and systems of law, expanded and grew, enriching lives then and now, and proving its resilience.

portantly, as historian David Hackett Fisher points out in *The Great Wave*, his 1996 study of economic and monetary history from the 12th century to the present, 800 years ago Europe experienced an age of diffuse political power and rising industry and commercial exchange.

Politically, Fisher notes, “The twelfth century in Europe was marked by the simultaneous development of monarchy, aristocracy and popular government in open and pluralistic systems that were unique to the Western world. Power was broadly distributed among kings, clergy, nobles and commons.” A greater dispersion of power necessarily makes it likewise more diffuse and less of a threat to individual liberties.

Not surprisingly, then, during an era of more diffuse power, coupled with a decrease in war and violence, peaceful trade and commerce expanded, as did the population. “Families, cities, markets, guilds, and fairs multiplied everywhere in Europe,” Fisher points out. “Centers of commerce and industry grew at a great rate.... The economy of medieval Europe rapidly developed from a comparatively primitive system of barter exchange toward a more complex system of market relationships.”

The great symbols of what was then an opulence and wealth that hadn’t been experienced since the height of Rome’s power some thousand years earlier were the magnificent cathedrals erected during the age. These include Chartres, Reims, Strasbourg, Siena, and Lincoln Cathedral in England, among many other examples.

The 12th-century Renaissance, the commercial practices it fostered, and the renewed impetus it gave to science through the intellectual efforts added to the immense labor and artistry that brought the great cathedrals into being laid the groundwork for the even greater Renaissance to come in 14th- and 15th-century Italy.



New heights: The soaring spires of Chartres Cathedral are among the greatest achievements of Gothic art and architecture. The cathedral and many other Gothic cathedrals throughout Europe remain visible reminders of the flowering of commerce, art, architecture, and building technology during the High Middle Ages.

This came about under the most improbable circumstances. In the early 14th century, the great plague swept through Europe, killing by some estimates a third of the population. On the back of this catastrophe, the economy faltered and political instability grew. Amazingly, even against this backdrop, the growth of Western Civilization continued and flowered brilliantly in the fiercely independent city-states of the Italian peninsula.

Chief among these were the city-states of Venice and Florence. Here commerce and trade expanded, experiments with republican forms of government flourished, and the first brilliant stirrings of science, art, literature, and historical inquiry set Western Civilization on an arrow-straight course to our modern world. From this period we have such luminaries as Michelangelo, Leonardo, Brunelleschi,

Donatello, and Raphael, to name but a few in art. In literature and historical inquiry, we find Francesco Petrarca bursting onto the scene, following Dante, and accompanied by Machiavelli and Giovanni Boccaccio, again to name but a few. Significantly, in terms of future developments of considerable importance, Fisher points out, during the early decades of the 15th century, leading thinkers “such as Leonardo Bruni, Coluccio Salutati and Poggio Bracciolini produced a literature which celebrated republican virtue, the rule of law, and the power of reason.” Connected to this, in science, we have a growing understanding of matters in optics, symmetry, and perspective that informed the magnificent art of the period; developments in pigments used in painting that presaged, along with the striving of the alchemists, the coming of the science of chemistry; and, in the overlap of art with science, the unequalled genius of Leonardo and the engineering brilliance of Brunelleschi,

whose great dome over Florence’s Santa Maria del Fiore astonishes now as it did then as the largest brick dome ever constructed.

It is in commerce that we find the most direct evidence that individual freedom and property rights spur creativity and prosperity. In his study of the age entitled *Renaissance Florence*, historian Gene A. Brucker observed:

The tempo and direction of the business activity of the Florentine mercantile community was constantly changing, according to inclination, opportunity, and circumstance. A merchant might temporarily abandon his moneychanging table in the Mercato Vecchio to invest his capital in foreign trade. Or he might decide to withdraw from the manufacture of

Robin Poitou

It is in commerce that we find the most direct evidence that individual freedom and property rights spur creativity and prosperity.

woolen cloth to concentrate on the more profitable production of silk.... Rarely were the economic interests of Florentine merchants ... fixed irrevocably. The business world was in constant flux.

All of these developments — commercial, scientific, cultural, and many more — were direct outgrowths of the essential core of Western Civilization that recognized the value of the individual and encouraged individual creative activity in concert and partnership with others. In no other civilization had this been explicitly acknowledged, protected, and revered.

Vitality and Flexibility

Again and again, crisis follows periods of expansion and growth. But Western Civilization, by virtue of its theological and moral insistence on the innate value of the individual as a creation of the Divine, has, through that insistence, an ability to learn, adapt, and absorb. As a result, unlike Spengler's other civilizations that were stultified endpoints, Western Civilization endures and grows.

Following immediately on the heels of the Renaissance, European civilization embarked on the age of exploration, when the Atlantic nations superseded those that had thrived along the coast of the Mediterranean. A steady stream of bold mariners followed the path of Columbus into the trackless, watery wastes.

Broadly, there were two results of the new age of exploration, if viewed from the wide-angle perspective of civilization. First, the smaller, less sophisticated civilizations of the new world were largely unable to cope with the challenges presented by the incandescent vitality of Western Civilization. While they withered over the succeeding centuries, Western Civilization prospered.

Of late, this has been viewed darkly by the modern inheritors of the West. Columbus is widely scorned now, and the age of exploration he led is viewed in some quarters as a genocidal crime.

In some details, these charges ring true. Native populations and cultures were decimated, and the Atlantic slave trade, a terrible crime against generations, flour-

ished. But, simultaneously, Western Civilization learned from the experience. Importantly, Western Civilization, with its religious and moral foundation, became the first civilization in human history to eliminate slavery.

Meanwhile, the commerce that initially quickened life in 12th- and 13th-century Europe, and that built the fame and fortune of the Italian city-states in the Renaissance, grew to new heights with the rise of trans-oceanic navigation and trade. So too did that trade further push the demand for new technologies in shipbuilding, navigation, construction, engineering, medicine, and all areas of science and technology. The effects of the explorations of the mariners that followed Columbus "were felt in every phase of European life," wrote Will and Ariel Durant in their *Story of Civilization*. "The voyages of 1420-1560 nearly quadrupled the known surface of the globe. New fauna and flora, gems and minerals, foods and drugs, enlarged the botany, zoology, geology, menu, and pharmacopoeia of Europe." The direct outcome was to set in motion the modern world. "Modern science and philosophy rose, and undertook the epochal task of reconceiving the world," the Durants concluded.

The key is that Western Civilization continued to advance as it spread outward. Even more remarkable is that this



Jean-Christophe BENOIST

From banality to beauty: The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was painted by Michelangelo, who was arguably the greatest artist of the Renaissance, and is emblematic of the flowering of art, literature, and science that burst forth in the city states of the Italian Peninsula. Florence, Italy, during the Renaissance, was the scene of some of the most astonishing civilizational enrichment and accomplishment yet witnessed by history.



Florence

Steve Hersey



The resilient West: *The Frozen Thames*, by artist Abraham Hondius (1677), highlighted the Little Ice Age that froze the famous river and visited disaster upon disaster on Europe. In spite of the disasters, Western Civilization grew in vitality and strength nonetheless.

occurred while at home, in the Europe of the 17th century, disaster piled on disaster. The era of the Little Ice Age brought crop failures, disease, and famine on a scale not seen since the ravages of the Black Death. Entire communities were buried by ice and snow. But even the winter chill inspired, and Pieter Bruegel the Elder added his name to the list of great master artists, not least through his famous winter landscapes, such as *The Hunters in the Snow*.

As if nature's predations were not enough, war ravaged the continent for a century. "During the entire century from 1551 to 1650, peace prevailed throughout the continent only in a single year (1610) — a record unmatched since the 14th century," wrote David Hackett Fisher.

The core tenets of Western Civilization, though, were by this time surrounded by the more sophisticated tools of what was rapidly becoming the modern mind. The tree of civilization was now tall and strong, and like a great oak, it withstood those ravages, its spreading crown encompassing all other civilizations, even as it shaded them and sometimes crowded them out.

Adaptability and the Future

Looking back from the vantage point of the newly minted 21st century, Western Civilization is remarkable not only for what it achieved, but for what it survived.

By the time it emerged from the medieval period, there was no reason to conclude that the then-Christian civilization of Europe would survive, much

less prosper. The competing and neighboring Islamic civilization was vital, wealthy, strong, and expansionist. It could lay claim to the world's leading teachers, philosophers, explorers, and mathematicians. Its commercial and military exploits were reaching throughout the known world. Yet, here Western Civilization demonstrated one of its key attributes, the ability to absorb characteristics from other civilizations. In its encounter with Islam, Western Civilization rediscovered many of the works of classical antiquity, became acquainted with a broader swath of the world, and learned new mathematics, science, and technology.

Much the same happened later, when Western Civilization confronted the ancient and vital civilizations of India and the Far East. The West grappled with these, grew strong from them, and even exported much of its thought to them. The impact is felt down to the present. The great and ancient kingdom of China has been increasingly in the grasp of significant Western ideas for more than two centuries now, with the last century in particular being significant, first, for the imposition of communism there, and, more recently, for the dilution of communist tyranny and the growth of individualism. Both are exports from Western Civilization.

From an external viewpoint, Western Civilization is now ascendant and unchallenged. The only civilization that remains to challenge the West is Islam, and despite

fearfulness in the West, Islam's resurgent vitality is overmatched by the West's global dominance. Already the tide of Islamic resurgence in the Middle East seems gradually to be falling back from its recent confrontation with the rocky shores of the West. The signs of the West's individualism are everywhere evident in the bosom of Islam, of most note in the region's blossoming commercial ties with the West. Islam will not fade away, but in coming centuries the conflicts of our age between the two remaining civilizations will fade into history as the West adapts again, and Islam accommodates the overwhelming abundance of life that Western Civilization provides.

The only true challenge to Western Civilization is now found internally. Alarming, internal dissent from the traditions of the civilization are growing in strength and influence. This is most especially true of the growing post-Christian population that hungers to see the Judeo-Christian heart of the civilization torn from its breast.

These enemies of civilization have been wrongly led to conclude that this central pillar is illiberal, dogmatic, tyrannical, and prejudiced beyond reform. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. The essential strength of the Judeo-Christian core is that it boldly proclaims the dignity of the individual as inviolable against the tyranny of government.

That dignity is essential to the future. Astronomer Carl Sagan, a perennial favorite of those who would now count themselves critics, if not enemies, of Western Civilization, was part of the Voyager Program for NASA, those interstellar probes that mark one of the singular achievements of Western Civilization.

As *Voyager 1* was heading to the edge of the solar system and interstellar space, it was Sagan who convinced NASA to turn the probe's camera lens back toward Earth and record the image that became known as the "pale blue dot." That image was indeed of a dot, four billion miles distant, suspended inconspicuously in a sunbeam.

"That's us," Sagan wrote of that dot. "On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suf-



Thinkstock

Reducing inequality: Wealth and prosperity are more dispersed than ever before, an outcome unique to Western Civilization made possible by the West's tradition, stretching back to the Ten Commandments, of respecting and protecting private property.

fering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every 'superstar,' every 'supreme leader,' every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there — on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

And that's it. In the vastness of the cosmos, there is likely no other place like it, and certainly no other intelligence like humankind, and no other civilization struggling to understand the universe it confronts.

"And he said: Let us make man in our image and likeness: and let him have dominion over the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the air, and the beasts, and the whole earth, and every creeping creature that moveth upon the earth. And God created man in his own image: in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them."

So says the Creation account of Genesis, and so it appears to our science. Alone among the stars, the individual human consciousness is unique, exactly as described in the Judeo-Christian tradition. And the greatest achievement of the divinely created human mind is Western Civilization, which demands that the dig-

nity of the individual be respected and protected, and which fosters personal growth and improvement.

Without this foundation of Western Civilization, we are lost. "Civilization is not inherited," Will and Ariel Durant taught in their *Lessons of History*; "it has to be learned and earned by each generation anew; if the transmission should be interrupted for one century, civilization would die, and we should be savages again."

And the reverse is likewise true. If Western Civilization is robustly embraced, its teachings respected and extended, the dignity of the human individual fully protected and respected, the idolatry of the state finally extinguished, there is no limit to what may be achieved. And there is no reason to think the achievements of the future will be elusive.

Western Civilization has produced an unprecedented standard of living, delivered technologies that border on magical, and enabled us to reach beyond our own solar neighborhood. Only a few centuries ago, what we now take for granted, if it had been described to the population at large, would have been declared something that could only spring from the outbursts of a lunatic.

"The heritage

that we can now more fully transmit is richer than ever before," proclaimed the Durants. "It is richer than that of Pericles, for it includes all the Greek flowering that followed him; richer than Leonardo's, for it includes him and the Italian Renaissance; richer than Voltaire's, for it embraces all the French Enlightenment and its ecumenical dissemination." Thus, the great historians concluded, we may advance further than ever before "because we are born to a richer heritage, born on a higher level of that pedestal which the accumulation of knowledge and art raises as the ground and support of our being. The heritage rises, and man rises in proportion as he receives it."

We are the inheritors of the greatest of civilizations, the pinnacle of knowledge and achievement. We are unique among the whole of creation.

And the future that we make, if we build upon, rather than tear apart, the amazing civilization we've inherited, will be a marvel even beyond the wildest musings of our imagination. ■



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CATALONIAN INDEPENDENCE & THE EU

AP Images

Catalans, a people from northeastern Spain, and other groups wish to form their own countries. But the political entity running Europe – the EU – will not let that happen.

by Charles Scaliger

On October 30, a small band of fugitive politicians arrived in Brussels, Belgium, seeking support from the European Union for their dramatic bid to form a new European state. Carles Puigdemont and several of his political allies were fleeing the Spanish government, which was determined to quash the independence bid of Catalonia. A prosperous region of northeastern Spain, Catalonia's government, led by the fiery Puigdemont, had just declared independence after a centuries-long union with Spain forged by Ferdinand and Isabella.

Pro-independence sentiment has been simmering in Catalonia for decades. Until recently, though, the Catalans have been largely placated by Spain's agreement to grant them a measure of autonomy under the Generalitat, a regional government that has for nearly 40 years discharged most of the functions of an independent state.

But now, the partnership with Spain has frayed. Many Catalans have come to be-

lieve, with more than a little justification, that Spain wants to keep control of prosperous Catalonia in the wake of Spain's crippling financial crisis because of a desperate need for tax revenues.

Catalonia's Puigdemont, erstwhile president and independence leader, was on the run from Spanish authorities, who have effectively imposed martial law on Catalonia and sought to arrest all of Catalonia's political leadership. He expected to find a sympathetic audience in Brussels, seat of the European Union. The EU, after all, supposedly represents the values of open, democratic society traditionally espoused by the West. The right to self-determination, vindicated in recent centuries by the likes of the Americans, the Irish, and the former Eastern Bloc nations at the end of the Cold War, is surely among the most fundamental of those values.

But Puigdemont and his compadres have found no sympathetic ears in Brussels — or anywhere else, for that matter. Instead, the Catalan leaders have been subjected to a storm of condemnation, not

Breaking away: Pro-independence Catalans gather at a demonstration in Barcelona. While their will to achieve self-determination is admirable, the leftist leanings of their nationalist movement are not.

only from other EU governments, but even from that supposed champion of national self-determination, Washington, D.C. Despite early signals that the Trump administration would respect whatever outcome was decided upon among the Spanish and Catalans, President Trump eventually announced his support for a unified Spain. "I think Spain is a great country, and it should remain united," the president opined in late September — with Spanish president Mariano Rajoy standing beside him on the White House lawn. Through the separatist turmoil that has continued to roil Spain, the Trump administration has continued to back Rajoy.

In Brussels, meanwhile, the Belgian authorities initially offered asylum to Puigdemont and the other fugitive politicians. But on November 2, the Spanish government issued a European Arrest Warrant for Puigdemont and four other Catalan politicians in Belgium. Two days later, the five surrendered to Belgian authorities, and (as of this writing) they are awaiting the outcome of extradition negotiations

with Spain. By all appearances, Catalonia's long-sought independence has been quashed, not only by the Spanish government, but also by the EU in lock-step with the government of every other major Western country, including our own.

Lost Autonomy

Historically, Catalonia was associated with the kingdom of Aragon, which was united with Spain into one country when Ferdinand II of Aragon was married to Isabella I of Castile in 1474. But despite the passage of more than 500 years, Catalonia has always maintained a separate geographical, cultural, and linguistic identity.

Catalonia includes Spain's second-largest city, Barcelona, as well as a number of other sizable cities, such as Gerona, Tarragona, and Lerida, which are some of Spain's most economically productive areas. It is a picturesque region of rugged coastlines (the so-called Costa Brava) made famous in the art of Salvador Dali, and has produced many of Spain's best-known creative minds, including both Dali and Picasso, the writer Josep Pla, the medieval philosopher and theologian Raymond Lully (or Llull), and cellist Pablo Casals. To the north, Catalonia forms part of Spain's border with France along the Pyrenees Mountains. The language of Catalonia, Catalan, is spoken by as many as nine million speakers, not only across Catalonia but also as the official language of Andorra, a tiny country in the Pyrenees; in south-central France; in the Balearic Islands; in the area of Valencia and Alicante along Spain's southeastern coast; and even in a small part of Sardinia. Once upon a time, Catalonia was one of medieval Europe's power brokers, with the "Catalan Company," a group of mercenaries led by Roger de Flor, wreaking havoc as far away as Greece in the eastern Mediterranean. With the union of Aragon and Castile to form Spain, Catalonia surrendered full autonomy but remained fiercely proud of its rich heritage.

Catalan leaders have been subjected to a storm of condemnation, not only from other EU governments, but even from that supposed champion of national self-determination, Washington, D.C.



Closing ranks: After earlier pledging to let the Spanish and Catalans settle their own disputes, President Trump, shown here with Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, has since reversed his stance, supporting the claims of the Spanish government and the EU in opposition to Catalan independence.

In the early 20th century, when the leftist upheavals that had been convulsing Europe since the French Revolution finally arrived in conservative Catholic Spain, a movement for Catalan independence, allied with radical socialists, united with Spanish leftists to form the Second Spanish Republic. An autonomous Catalan republic, constituted by a movement known as the Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (Republican Left of Catalonia, or ERC), was formed within the socialist Second Spanish Republic and supported the programs of the Spanish Left, which included not only the disestablishment of the Catholic Church but also systematic persecution and harassment of Catholics. As such, the leftist Catalan independence movement found itself on the losing side of the Spanish Civil War that ensued with General Francisco Franco and his conservative, anti-leftist forces representing traditional Catholic Spain.

When Franco and his allies won the war, Catalans became marginalized and

persecuted. Franco revoked Catalan autonomy and cracked down on the use of the Catalan language, although it continued to be spoken in rural areas.

After Franco's death, a new Spanish constitution, which restored Catalonia's autonomy but denied it the right of outright secession, was promulgated in 1978. Because the new "democratic" government in Spain was also socialist, Catalonia set aside its demands for independence and was content for several decades to govern itself via its own government, the Generalitat. The Catalan language reappeared in street signs, newspapers, television, schools, and halls of parliament.

In 2006, the Statute of Autonomy spelling out the conditions for Catalan autonomy within Spain, which had been approved by referendum in 1979 and included in the constitution, was modified and again approved by referendum, as well as the Spanish Parliament. But in 2010, the Spanish Constitutional Court imposed restrictions and modifications on the statute, leading to widespread demonstrations in Catalonia and the resurgence of pro-independence sympathies.

Since 2010, the independence movement has been driven primarily by the old Catalan Left, including the ERC and the Candidatura d'Unitat Popular (Popular Unity Candidacy, or CUP), whose platform calls for "an assembly-based political organization

spread throughout the Catalan Countries that works for a country that's independent, socialist, environmentally sustainable and free from the domination of the patriarchy."

Catalans voted in favor of independence on October 1, and the Generalitat formally declared independence from Spain on October 27, despite a massive police crackdown that tried to prevent Catalans from voting. Thousands of Spanish military police (the Guardia Civil) were deployed to Catalonia, which forced the leaders of the independence movement to flee to Belgium.

The modern Catalan independence movement has been from its inception a leftist, pro-socialist movement, most of whose ideology closely mirrors that of the "Eurocrats" at the EU. Yet their leftist ideology has earned Puigdemont and his associates no sympathy with bureaucrats in Brussels. And, we predict, any other European secessionist movement will be met with the same institutional hostility, both in Brussels and abroad, regardless of its ideology.

Another European independence movement whose time may have come is that of the Flemish, the Dutch-speaking people of Flanders, one of Belgium's two dominant regions (the other being French-speaking Wallonia). Originally part of the United

Kingdom of the Netherlands, Belgium won its independence with the help of France in 1830 — whereupon the triumphant French and French-speaking Belgians of Wallonia immediately set about trying to suppress the Dutch language and Flemish culture, which predominated in Flanders, including major Belgian cities such as Antwerp and Ghent.

As with Catalonia in relation to the rest of Spain, Flanders is significantly wealthier than Wallonia. As a result, the Flemish effectively subsidize the French-speaking part of the country via government-sanctioned transfers of wealth. It has been estimated that as much as six percent of the Flemish GDP is transferred to Wallonia.

Many Flemish now favor either outright independence or reunification with the Netherlands, to whom they are ethnically and linguistically akin. A broad panoply of Flemish political parties now supports the bid for independence; unlike the Catalans, the Flemish pro-independence movement represents interests on both the Left and Right (with the latter, as emblemized by the New Flemish Alliance, invariably characterized as the "far right" by a news media reflexively hostile to nationalism). Belgian elections scheduled for 2019 may end up being a referendum on Flemish

independence, which is no more likely to find traction with the EU than Catalonia's independence bid has.

And there are other separatist movements simmering across western Europe, which may find encouragement from the Catalan example. One of them is elsewhere in Spain, in the Basque region, whose unique language and rugged, mountainous territory have nurtured a culture and language with no apparent ties to any other in Europe, and which has had a history of violent advocacy for independence. Although the Basque separatist movement officially renounced violence a few years ago, the once-feared terrorist organization ETA (or Euskadi ka Askatasuna, Basque for "Basque Homeland and Freedom") kept the Spanish government on its heels for decades with frequent attacks against the Spanish military and police. Should the Basque independence movement reignite, the Basques are unlikely to be as committed to nonviolence as the Catalans.

Then there's Italy, cobbled together out of dozens of fractious republics and other independent Italian-speaking states during the 19th century, in a half-century project known as the Risorgimento. Inspired by the French Revolution and largely carried out by the Carbonari, a secret society of radicals dedicated to the socialist and secularist goals of the French revolutionaries, Risorgimento succeeded in uniting almost all of Italy by 1871 into the Kingdom of Italy, with Rome its capital.

But in modern Italy also, economic injustices have prompted several more prosperous regions to seek independence, most prominently Venice and Lombardy. Venice, the site of medieval Europe's most powerful and prosperous republic, joined Italy in 1866. In 2014, in a non-binding referendum, nearly 90 percent of Venetians voted for independence. As in Spain, Italy's highest court has ruled all such independence bids unconstitutional.

International Socialism Predominates

The modern movement to unify Europe, which has culminated in the European Union with its various subsidiary organizations such as the European Parliament and the European Central Bank, had its genesis in the leftist revolutionary movement birthed in France in the late 1700s and continued in Italy and across Western



Defiance: Carles Puigdemont (center, with political allies) protests moves in October by the Spanish government to take control of Catalonia and imprison the leaders of its independence movement. Puigdemont, now in Belgium, is awaiting extradition to Spain and presumable conviction and imprisonment.



Photo: Saffron Blaze

Making waves: Venice, an independent republic until the Napoleonic conquest little more than 200 years ago, is agitating to withdraw from Italy. As with Catalonia in Spain, however, any independence bid by “la Serenissima Repubblica” will be met by EU-supported crackdowns.

Europe in the 1800s. The aforementioned Carbonari, the driving force during the Risorgimento, had motives of their own to press for Italian unification: It was a necessary starting point for the larger, longer-term leftist Utopian project of European unification. Far from being a modern, post-World War II movement, European unification was a key goal of the European radical revolutionary underground from the French Revolution onward. In 1848, Europe’s famous “year of revolutions,” Marxist-inspired revolutions seeking an overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the establishment of socialism across Europe convulsed France, the Italian states, the German states, Hungary, Austria, Denmark, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and others. While many of these revolutions masqueraded as nationalist uprisings, their aims were identical — because they all originated with the same international communist underground movement, Marx’s “specter” that haunted the entire European continent and sought a socialist new world order.

Socialism eventually overcame every European country, whether in the guise of Marxism-Leninism in the “Eastern Bloc”; national socialism in Germany; revolutionary socialism in France and, later, Spain; or more moderate strains of socialism known variously as labor parties, social democrats, and the like. Although not

all of these strains of socialism have led — so far — to death camps and bloody purges, it must be remembered that all were once widely and properly recognized for the subversive and radical secular movements that they were. European socialists of nearly every stripe have been and remain militantly secular, and have sought to diminish the influence of religion throughout the formerly staunch Christian nations of Europe. As a consequence, modern European socialism has created a homogeneous post-Christian culture and morality, and this secular cultural unity is mirrored by the political unity the European Union has imposed on the continent.

The longer-range goal of international socialism is the creation of a single global post-Christian secular culture, enforced by a global socialist order. Thus political unification and not self-determination is the most important structural objective of all who seek this goal. The European Union is not the only regional government bloc — the African Union, NAFTA, and the Andean Community are other examples — but it is by far the most successful, from the point of view of its boosters. The organization that began life as a simple trade bloc, the Common Market, has been almost completely transformed into a continent-wide government that has managed to wrest most of the sov-

ereignty from its formerly independent member states. The Spanish government had only to issue an international arrest warrant under EU authority to set in motion the machinery of the European superstate to bring to heel the recalcitrant Catalan leadership.

Internationalists everywhere are well aware of the danger to the nascent international order posed by separatist movements. They are well aware that, should one such movement — even a leftist movement such as the Catalan separatist one — succeed in fully breaking away from a large, important country such as Spain, other separatist movements would become emboldened. If a precedent of respecting the right of self-determination were ever set by a transnational organization such as the EU, a breakup of the organization might follow swiftly, as separatist regions and unwilling nation-states alike would renounce their entanglements in that organization. Should the EU recognize the independence of Catalonia, they would soon be confronted with Basque, Venetian, Flemish, and various other separatist demands. If such came to fruition, it would surely occur to states such as Denmark and the Netherlands — which have robust euroskeptical movements — that the principle of self-determination implied an obligation to secede from the European Union. Given the already fragile state of the EU, after years of economic turmoil, such a scenario might trigger its dissolution.

That scenario is anathema to globalists everywhere, and not only in the EU. After all, the European Union is living proof that regional governments can be assembled using trade as a pretext. Any disintegration of Europe would set the drive toward global government back generations.

For this reason, Catalans and other would-be separatists, be they left-wing, right-wing, or anything else, will be quashed by the EU. Although Catalonia’s leftist separatists are resolutely socialist, and are primarily interested in being their own oppressors, they will never find any support from their fellow socialists in the EU, because the latter wish to maintain the unity of Europe above all else. Only in that way can they maintain the foundation for world order entailed by regional governments such as the EU. ■

SAVE A GIRL'S LIFE, GET TREATED WORSE THAN A TERRORIST

After Boston Children's Hospital used specious diagnoses and reasoning to claim custody of, and kidnap, a girl from her family, one man took action to help — and got arrested.



Joseph Barillari

Kidnapping as care: Justina Pelletier was far from the first child Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) took from her parents. In fact, BCH has done it so many times that they have a name for it: They call it "performing a parentectomy."

by C. Mitchell Shaw

In February 2013, when Linda Pelletier took her 14-year-old daughter, Justina, to Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) for flu-like symptoms, the family had no idea of the nightmare that lay before them. Before the ordeal was over, Justina was the victim of what her father, Lou Pelletier, describes as medical kidnapping, torture, and abuse. It would take 16 months and the bravery of a man the Pelletiers had never met for Justina to finally be released and allowed to go home.

That man is Martin Gottesfeld, and he is now in prison awaiting trial on charges that he hacked BCH and knocked out its Internet during a major fundraising drive. He is facing a possible 15-year sentence, and based on court records provided to *THE NEW AMERICAN*, it appears he is being railroaded by a legal system that — after refusing to protect young Justina — seems

intent on punishing him with a heavy dose of persecution by prosecution.

Long before Justina was taken to BCH, she had already been diagnosed with (and was being treated for) mitochondrial disease, a rare genetic disorder. Even with her condition, Justina was an active teenager. She was involved in competitive ice-skating and other activities enjoyed by kids her age. That all changed because a BCH doctor in the seventh month of his internship decided to set aside Justina's diagnosis of mitochondrial disease (which had been made by Dr. Mark Korson, the chief of metabolism at Tufts Medical Center in Boston and one of the foremost experts in the field of metabolic disorders, who had been successfully treating Justina).

Instead, that freshly minted BCH intern decided that Justina was suffering with a mental illness called somatic symptom disorder. That new diagnosis was then rubber-stamped by BCH psychologist Dr. Ioana

Simona Bujoreanu, who just happened to be researching somatic symptom disorder under a grant from the National Institutes of Health. Eschewing even the appearance of objectivity, Bujoreanu approved the diagnosis after one 25-minute examination of Justina, without consulting any other physicians. As investigators say, follow the money. With her funding dependent on the grant, one is left to wonder if Bujoreanu conveniently "found" a case of the disorder to study. After all, if the only tool covered by your expense account is a hammer, every problem gets treated like a nail.

On Valentine's Day 2013, Justina's parents tried to discharge her from the hospital. BCH staff sought and received the "help" of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF), which took Justina into custody as a ward of the state. DCF justified the action by accusing the Pelletiers of "medical child abuse." Justina was transferred to "Bader 5," BCH's psychiatric ward, and all treatment for her disease was stopped. She was held there and at another facility for 16 months, during which time she was in constant pain and her health declined to the point that the girl — who had led an active lifestyle before her incarceration at BCH — was bound to a wheelchair and unable to use the bathroom without assistance.

The Pelletiers fought a protracted battle to free their daughter and save her life. Time after time, the decision of the court was against them. And while BCH was exposed in the media, the well-connected hospital (BCH is a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School) seemed willing and able to weather the storm of bad press. It also appeared to have enough pull to avoid being investigated.

Enter Martin (Marty) Gottesfeld, a senior systems engineer with extensive knowledge of computer networks and a bone to pick with the "troubled teen industry" — a loosely connected, multi-million-

A Boston Children's Hospital doctor in the seventh month of his internship decided to set aside Justina's diagnosis of mitochondrial disease (which had been made by Dr. Mark Korson, the chief of metabolism at Tufts Medical Center in Boston).

dollar industry made up of hospitals, boot camps, behavioral modification programs, and residential treatment programs that too often manage to fly under the radar of accountability.

Justina's father had bravely broken a gag order and told of the abuse, torture, and mistreatment of his daughter. He told of notes she had managed to sneak out to him folded up in origami that spelled out — in horrid detail — hospital staff laughing as they left her sitting on the toilet for hours, dragging her across the concrete floor causing her toenails to tear off, and refusing her pain medications. Her untreated genetic condition left her in a dangerous position. Lou Pelletier said his daughter's life was in very real danger.

When Gottesfeld heard about Justina's plight, he decided to do something about it. Since bad press was ineffective and the likelihood of an investigation was at or near zero, Gottesfeld decided on a different approach. As he explained in a piece he wrote for the Huffington Post entitled "Why I Knocked Boston Children's Hospital Off the Internet," he decided to hit them where they would feel it: On April 20, 2014, he knocked them off the Internet during a major fundraising drive. Marty wrote that "to save Justina from grievous bodily harm and possible death," he would "have to hit BCH where they appear to care the most, the pocket book and reputation. All other efforts to protect Justina weren't succeeding and time was of the essence." He added, "Almost unbelievably, they kept their donation page on the same public network as the rest of their stuff. Rookie

mistake. To take it down, I'd have to knock the whole hospital off the Internet."

Two months after the BCH hacking, the hospital released Justina, and she went home. Her father had to carry his once-active daughter into their home.

When authorities — who had previously refused to investigate the claims of the Pelletiers and other families that the hospital had taken their children from them under false pretenses and whose children had been subjected to torture and other mistreatment — began to investigate the cyber-attack, they honed in on a YouTube video posted by Gottesfeld on March 23, 2014. That video lays out the details of Justina's

abuse at the hands of the state and the hospital, lists the contact information of those involved in the case, and implores viewers to "use this information to your maximum potential in order to save Justina's life."

Ignoring the fact that the video — which only specifically asks viewers to write letters and make phone calls — should not have been seen as evidence of a crime and used to obtain a search warrant (since encouraging people to write and call is not illegal), FBI investigators used the fact that the video was posted from Gottesfeld's account and IP address to get a "Tap and Trace" order for records related to his Internet traffic. Based on the information gathered by executing that order, investigators filed for and received a search warrant for Gottesfeld's house.

Investigators using the video to obtain both a Tap and Trace order and a search warrant is only the beginning of government malfeasance in this case. As documents provided to THE NEW AMERICAN (and published online*) show, the persecution by prosecution of Marty Gottesfeld — for daring to do what he could to save the life of an innocent child — is mired in overreach, conflicts of interest, and fraud.

As Marty's wife, Dana Gottesfeld, told THE NEW AMERICAN in an exclusive interview, the search warrant based on the Tap and Trace order — and issued after that order was carried out — listed information about particular Internet traffic that was gathered by authorities "exceeding what the Tap and Trace allowed." She told us, "The search warrant affidavit mentions traffic obtained from the Tap and Trace. However the Tap and Trace, as ordered, shouldn't have given them those details."

Add to that the errors, misstatements, exaggerations, and outright falsehoods found in the search warrant affidavit, and one is left to wonder how the search warrant ever could have been issued in the first place. The answer to that question opens up a whole new can of worms — one that stinks of conflicts of interest. The



But he saved a life: Martin Gottesfeld faces a possible 15-year prison sentence. His crime? He knocked Boston Children's Hospital off the Internet during a major fundraising drive to save the life of a child.



Helping or hurting? During the 16 months that Justina was in the custody of Boston Children's Hospital and Wayside Youth and Family Support Network and denied treatment for mitochondrial disease, her health declined to the point that the girl — who had been active in competitive ice skating — was bound to a wheelchair.

“judge” (she is actually a federal magistrate — not a judge — and should not be signing off on search warrants in the first place, according to constitutional lawyer Joe Wolverton) who signed off on the search warrant has direct ties to BCH and Harvard University. Magistrate Marianne Bowler is married to Dr. Marc Pfeffer, a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, which oversees BCH. Furthermore, Bowler was employed as a research assistant in biochemistry at Harvard Medical School prior to starting her legal career.

Since FBI Special Agent Michael Tunick made the connection to Harvard explicit in the affidavit, Bowler cannot even claim ignorance of the conflict. In paragraph 8, Tunick wrote, “The incoming traffic resulted in significant disruptions to the BCH website and additional disruption to the network on which BCH and other Harvard University-affiliated hospitals communicate.”

Bowler is the same magistrate who refused Marty bail, leaving him to sit in prison while awaiting trial. In a statement provided to THE NEW AMERICAN in April, Marty wrote, “Magistrate [Marianne] Bowler’s deep personal connection to Harvard Medical School and therefore its affiliated pediatric teaching hospital, Boston Children’s call into question every aspect of her involvement with [this] case.” He added, “From her original approval of the search warrant for my residence to her five month delay in issuing a bail finding to my detention over the

last 14 months. I am deeply concerned about her ability to remain impartial.”

That was written in April. Bowler eventually outright refused bail in Marty’s case. To put that in perspective, Marty Gottesfeld — who was arrested in February 2016 — has already spent more time in prison for taking action to free Justina than she spent in medical incarceration. And he hasn’t even been tried yet.

Bowler’s refusal to grant Marty bail is particularly noteworthy given that she went out of her way to make sure Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev knew his rights (going so far as to read him his Miranda rights from the bench), which resulted in his refusal to continue talking to investigators. Furthermore, she ordered the release of his friend (and suspected accomplice) Robel Phillipos — who was accused of lying to investigators — on \$100,000 bond, on the conditions that he remain in his mother’s house and wear an electronic monitoring bracelet.

Granted, she was right to make sure Tsarnaev was aware of his rights, and she had the legal authority to release Phillipos on bail. But given the difference in the way she has handled this case, it appears that Gottesfeld’s rights would be better protected by Bowler if he were a terrorist. At least then, he’d probably be out on bail and home with his wife.

The malfeasance and conflicts of interest do not end there, though. The search warrant affidavit signed by her also mentions Wayside Youth and Family Sup-

port Network (the BCH-affiliated facility to which Justina was transferred after months at BCH). Paragraph 27 says:

Since the attack against BCH in April 2014, the FBI has learned of other DDOS [distributed denial of service] attacks against entities associated with BCH, the Justina Pelletier custody battle, and the troubled teen industry. Additional victims include: NSTAR (which has a relationship with BCH), Wayside Youth and Family Support Network, Judge Rotenberg Educational Center, Greatschools.org, Sorenson’s Ranch, and Logan River Academy. These victims all experienced similar attacks.

This is important because Bowler is an emeritus member of the Board of Directors of The Boston Foundation, which raises money for Wayside Youth and Family Support Network. She is listed as such on page 18 of their December 2, 2015 report.

The facts demonstrated by these court documents, Bowler’s connections to the entities involved, and her refusal to treat Gottesfeld with the same decency she willingly showed to terrorists, seem to bear out his claims about Bowler’s lack of “ability to remain impartial.” This whole case smells of a personal vendetta. Bowler’s allegiance appears divided between justice and Harvard, with justice getting the short end of the stick. It is not every day that a federal magistrate is given the opportunity to abuse her power by bringing the full weight of her bench against someone who is accused of attacking something near and dear to her. When that does happen, she is supposed to recuse herself. In fact, procedure requires it. Yet, in the face of all of that, Bowler continues to preside over the case.

America does not need those who abuse power to sit in places of power. Magistrate Marianne Bowler needs to be removed from this case — if not the bench.

It is a sad commentary when innocent children and those who take action to defend them have less protection under the law than those who abuse and torture children in the name of medical science. It seems more than a little like 1930s Germany. ■

** The court documents referenced in this article can be found at www.FreeMartyG.com.*



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Why Not Lower Taxes Through Less Government?

The ongoing debate over tax cuts has been framed, as it always is, in stark terms: Either we stimulate the economy by cutting taxes — leading to a rise in deficits and debts — or we raise taxes to pay the ever-higher cost of government. In general, Republicans have tended to favor the former, arguing that tax cuts, paradoxically, will lead to economic expansion and higher tax receipts over time. Democrats deny this, arguing that tax cuts will increase the debt and deficit, and leave America unable to defray the costs of government.

There is, however, an excluded option that neither side is willing to acknowledge: the possibility of cutting the size and cost of government. The debate over whether to raise or lower taxes is a false dilemma: It is the size of government, and not the level of taxation, that is the real rub.

The notion that tax cuts can lead to greater tax revenues has been popularized in recent decades by economist Arthur Laffer, whose “Laffer curve” suggests that somewhere between zero and 100 percent taxation rates (two extremes that are both assumed to yield zero revenue), there is an optimal rate that will lead to more revenue than either a lower or a higher rate. Economists disagree widely on what that rate may be, but the notion that there exists an optimal tax rate — which is significantly lower than current rates — is what is driving the GOP push for tax cuts right now.

But note well the underlying premise: Trump and the GOP want to cut taxes so that the government can maximize tax revenues. The entire notion of economic stimulus via tax cuts is motivated by the belief that it will actually lead to more revenues and facilitate more government spending.

That is precisely what happened back in the '80s, when the Reagan administration, heavily influenced by Laffer and his acolytes, pushed for deep tax cuts. The economy did indeed take off, at least in part because of lower taxes (although they weren't the only stimulus; monetary policies at the Federal Reserve under Chairman Paul Volcker and his successor, Alan

Greenspan, also helped to fuel the long bull market of the '80s and '90s). And with the soaring economy, tax revenues soared as well.

But somehow, despite nearly two decades of unremitting economic growth, the government grew and grew. Deficits and debts exploded, prompting Reagan's successor, President George H. W. Bush, to raise taxes. No sooner was he ousted from the White House for breaking his infamous “read my lips” promise not to raise taxes, than President Clinton raised taxes again.

The lesson to be extracted from the last three decades of taxing and spending is that while tax cuts do indeed stimulate the economy, they are no remedy for the larger problem, which is out-of-control government spending. Indeed, successful economic stimuli such as tax cuts tend to encourage higher levels of government spending, especially when the entire motive for such stimuli is to increase tax revenues. Nowhere in Washington does the notion that government itself needs to undergo drastic cuts have any traction.

Absent a moral commitment to cut government spending, the tax-and-spend cycle seems to run roughly as follows: The economy is in the doldrums, and public deficits and debts are sky-high, so taxes are cut to provide economic stimulus, causing the economy to grow, but also propelling government debt higher still. Once the economy is recovered, tax revenues have indeed risen, but not enough to make a dent in government debt. At this point, taxes are hiked to get debt under control, but eventually, higher tax rates discourage productivity and the economy goes back into the doldrums. New cries for tax cuts ensue, and the cycle starts anew.

At no point in this cycle is government spending cut. Indeed, even to persuade politicians to reduce the rate of spending increase is regarded these days in Washington as an affront to decency. If President Trump's long-hoped-for tax cuts pass and produce more tax revenue in the long run, government spending will simply rise accordingly, since there is no consensus on

the part of either major party on the need to meaningfully reduce government spending.

America seems to have entered a stage of widespread capitulation where debt and taxation are concerned. On Capitol Hill, there is no longer any political will even to craft annual budgets; instead, government is now financed by an endless series of temporary mammoth spending resolutions, with congressmen expected to vote for the entire spending package so as to avoid a government shutdown. Meanwhile, the general public has largely given up hope that our elected leadership will ever muster the political will to bring taxation and spending under control, no matter which party is in charge. President Trump's calls for deep government cuts have been met with fury and derision in Congress and the media, and the president himself is now committed to the same course of “tax cuts now, tax hikes later” encouraged by the tax cut stimulus crowd. It is very possible that Trump and the GOP will finally score a long-sought legislative and political victory with the current tax cut proposal. But absent corresponding wins in the spending cuts column, the end result will be — in the well-worn Washington metaphor — to kick the can down the road.

The two keys to cutting federal government spending are getting rid of burdensome and unconstitutional “entitlement” programs and ending our massive military commitments around the world. As to the former, no entitlement program, once created, has ever been ended, and recent events suggest that ObamaCare, against all expectations, will not break that trend. As to the latter, the global war on terrorism has no end in sight, and provides an open-ended pretext for military occupation and nation-building that has added trillions to the national debt since 9/11.

Only by restoring America's traditional foreign policy of nonintervention and constitutional limits on government power will spending cuts become possible. And only with such deep spending cuts will tax cuts confer any permanent economic benefit. ■

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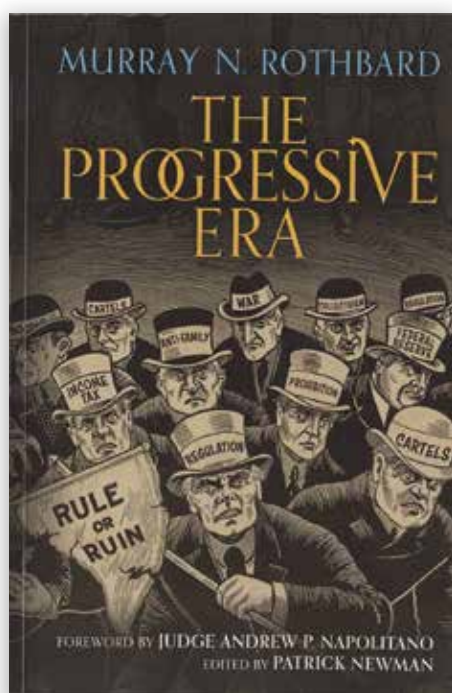
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THE REGRESSIONISM OF PROGRESSIVISM

We are typically told in school that the Progressive Era was a time when “good government” saved America from free markets run rampant, but historical facts tell a different story.



by Steve Byas

The Progressive Era, by Murray N. Rothbard, Auburn, Alabama: Mises Institute, 2017, 539 pages, paperback.

The late Murray Rothbard was an advocate of liberty, having learned under the great professor Ludwig von Mises, the namesake of the publisher of this book. Rothbard was a prolific writer, and this work was unpublished at the time of Rothbard's death in 1995. Fortunately, the Mises Institute has shared this masterpiece with the rest of us.

I first heard of Rothbard in 1976 when I purchased his book *America's Great Depression*. In it, he provided me with an understanding of the cause of that horrible

event. It was not the free market, but rather government intervention, that brought on the collapse of 1929, and it was government intervention that turned it into what we know as the Great Depression.

In *The Progressive Era*, Rothbard destroys all credibility of the myth that the government interventions driven by the “Progressive Era” saved us from the excesses of the free market. In the Introduction, Patrick Newman summarizes Rothbard's central thesis: “Big business had previously tried to cartelize on the free market around the turn of the 20th century, but had failed to do so.” Having failed, they turned to government to create the myriad regulations sold as somehow controlling the big “trusts,” but which in reality were designed to reduce competition from smaller businesses.

Try as they might, cartels formed in a free market situation are doomed to failure. As difficult as it is for the players inside the cartel to stick to the agreements on prices and production, they always have to fend off new players in the market. Government regulations, however, favor big business interests over smaller, less-capitalized small businesses. For example, there were the dairy producers who wanted protection from such “fraud” as oleomargarine. In 1886, the dairy interests won a federal tax against the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine.

The politician most important in providing the leadership for the progressives was Republican Theodore Roosevelt. “It was during his administration that progressivism began to take shape as a political force,” Rothbard wrote. Roosevelt was a key player in advancing the cause of “civil service reform,” an effort to take “politics” out of government. “Civil service reform was the first proto-progressive cause to

blend moralistic attacks on ‘corruption’ with a supposedly scientific plea for ‘efficiency’ and non-partisanship in government,” Rothbard argued. These laws, such as the federal Pendleton Act, removed large numbers of federal bureaucrats from partisan appointment — and ultimately, partisan responsibility for subsequent performance.

While this appears to be a good thing to most people, Rothbard contended “the consequence was to build and preserve a continuing ruling oligarchy that was not subject to the democratic check of the voting public,” and thus “fastening of a permanent bureaucratic elite upon the hapless public.”

This appears to be the pattern of the progressive agenda — a “reform” that appears to solve some “problem,” real or imagined, but only advances the causes of Big Government and cronyism.

Expertly, Rothbard explodes myth after myth taught as fact in our history textbooks and history classes (both high school and college), in popular culture, and in the media. America was cursed with many problems in the late 1800s, the progressives argued then (and now), but fortunately government (the more centralized the better) rode to the rescue, saving the people from rapacious capitalism.

Teddy Roosevelt was known as “Teddy the Trust-buster,” with a mythical image as a slayer of Big Business monopolies. The reality is that T.R. separated such monopolies into two types, “good trusts” and “bad trusts.” Supposedly, the federal government, led by such “civic-minded” men as Roosevelt, could fairly determine which was which.

Rothbard notes that T.R.'s definition of a good trust was one run by his good friend J.P. Morgan, and the bad trusts were those that stood in Morgan's way. “T.R.'s closeness to the Morgan interests may also be

seen in several of his key appointments,” Rothbard wrote, such as Morgan lawyer Elihu Root as secretary of war. In fact, Roosevelt’s selection as President McKinley’s runningmate in 1900 was a result of intense lobbying by Morgan’s partner, George Perkins. After the 1900 election, Roosevelt gave a “lavish” dinner for Morgan. When Roosevelt ran for reelection in 1904, Morgan provided \$150,000 (nearly \$4 million today) to the cause.

Although supported by both Roosevelt and Morgan in 1908, President William Howard Taft soon ran afoul of both. First, he filed an antitrust suit against Morgan’s U.S. Steel, and followed that up with opposition to the effort to create an American central bank, eventually called the Federal Reserve System. The creation of the “Fed” is yet another example of how the progressives were successful in appearing to oppose Big Business while actually favoring it. Morgan and others were the strongest backers of the Fed’s creation, yet it was sold as a “check” on the power of these same big-banking interests.

When Taft ran for reelection in 1912, Morgan dumped large amounts of money into Roosevelt’s campaign against him on the Progressive Party ticket, which so badly split the Republican Party that it led to the election of only the second Democrat president since the Civil War, Woodrow Wilson. That was fine with Morgan, however, because Wilson was another politician firmly in league with Morgan. Upon taking office, Wilson led

the charge for the creation of the Federal Reserve system.

Another popular myth busted by Rothbard is that the progressives took on the alleged unsanitary conditions in the meat-packing industry, in the health interests of the public. After a fictional book by Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, “revealed many alleged horrors of the meat packing industry,” J. Ogden Armour, owner of one of the largest meat-packing companies, wrote an article in the *Saturday Evening Post* in strong support of government inspection of meat. But, as Rothbard pointed out, “Government meat inspection ... lures the public into always thinking the food is safe and reduces competitive pressures to improve meat quality.” Rothbard added, “One advantage to imposing uniform sanitary conditions on all meat packers is that the burden of the increased costs would fall more heavily on the smaller than on the bigger plants.” Some of the smaller plants were forced out of business, which Rothbard argued was a major reason the bigger plants supported strict regulation.

In more recent times, we can still see the favoritism of progressives for big business over small business. When Hillary Clinton was pushing legislation to force businesses to provide healthcare for their employees, she was unmoved by the argument that this was a heavy burden on small business owners. Her answer: she could not be held responsible for “every undercapitalized business” in America. In other words, if small business cannot cough up the money for HillaryCare, then let them fail.

Rothbard offers similar examples in such well-known “progressive” crusades as conservation, workers’ compensation, and women’s suffrage. The pattern then is the pattern now. Something is brought forward as a problem, with the offered solution always the same: more government regulation and control.

Back then, big business interests formed the National Civic Federation (in 1900), and soon began to advocate for passage of workers’ compensation laws. The stated purpose of these new workers’ compensation laws was to protect both injured workers and companies from potential financial ruin. In practice, such laws have led to unsatisfactory medical care and rising labor costs for the employer, particularly tough on small businesses. Before workers’ compensation laws, Rothbard says, “Under the sensible and cogent doctrine of the common law, employers were not liable for accidents to workers if: (a) other workers were responsible for the accident, (b) if the worker knew the risk and therefore could be held to have voluntarily assumed it, or (c) if the worker himself contributed to the accident by his negligence.”

Before the progressive era, labor unions opposed workers’ compensation laws, instead arguing that the liability laws should be changed to make the employer liable “when the worker himself did not contribute to the accident.” This union position stands in stark contrast to the perceptions of the general public today, yet Rothbard offers strong evidence that it was big business that pushed through such laws, not the unions. At the annual 1911 meeting of the National Civic Federation, August Belmont, Jr. announced that six major corporations, such as Edison Electric, had publicly endorsed workers’ compensation laws. “The NCF frankly saw a major reason as the forestalling of any application of employer liability laws to manufacturing.”

This book is full of examples of how progressives have always advanced the cause of big government to the detriment of small business and average workers across America. It should be in the library of every person who needs to recognize the progressive propaganda machine that is still promoting the expansion of government and the retraction of individual liberty to the present day. ■



Murray N.
Rothbard



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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

In Honor of Thanksgiving: TJ's Turkeys

Teen TJ Tracy of Saratoga Springs, New York, started his own charity at the age of nine, and nine years later, it has blossomed under his stewardship.

When Tracy was just nine years old, he enlisted the help of his family and friends to assemble Thanksgiving baskets for the less-fortunate members of his Saratoga Springs community.

Tracy's GoFundMe page tells the story of his charity's origins:

In 2009, when I was 9 years old, my mom and I were talking about what we could do together as a family during Thanksgiving. I remember her explaining to me that one of our options was to "help families that don't have much and might need help" and that we could do something to help them. I felt completely shocked and sad that there were families in our own community who didn't have the means to celebrate a Thanksgiving dinner with their loved ones. I knew I had to do something.

In the first year of his charity, he raised \$200, which helped to feed many needy members of his community. Nine years later, the charity has grown into something bigger than he could have ever predicted. According to TJ, he has raised a total of \$50,000 since its inception. Last year alone, he managed to raise \$17,000 to create Thanksgiving baskets.

According to TJ's mother, Beverly, his efforts are time-consuming, but he uses his lunch period at school to get a lot of his work done. For all of Tracy's hard work, WNYT reported that the high-school junior has been recognized as a "national kid hero" by crowdfunding site GoFundMe.

And while Tracy is honored by the recognition, it's clearly not his motivation. Instead, he takes pleasure in doing something good for others and inspiring other young people to do the same. "It's just incredible how we've been able to get the community involved and get kids involved. That's a big part of TJ's Turkeys

— giving the kids opportunities to give back and make a difference in their community," he said.

If These Children Are Our Future, It May Be Bright Yet

Children can often be the perfect examples of the type of people we should strive to be. Three-year-old Cohen Chastain and four-year-old Sidney Fahrenbruch prove to be just such examples with their surprisingly mature acts of kindness.

Cohen Chastain of Rockmart, Georgia, decided on his own that the best way to honor the local police force's first-ever fallen officer was to stand and salute each passing officer for two hours during the officer's October 3 funeral procession.

Polk County Detective Kristen Hearne was shot and killed while investigating a stolen vehicle, and though Cohen had never met her, he knew he wanted to pay his respects. "It was all his idea" Cohen's mother, Mindy, told *Today*. "He had a lot of questions with all the police officers at church that day and I decided I should just tell him the truth. He was really heartbroken when I explained what had happened and he wanted to wear a police uniform and stand for the procession."

Cohen donned a police officer's uniform, which appears to be an old Halloween costume, and stood for more than two hours, quite a long time for a toddler to remain in the same position. "He's just a regular 3-year-old little boy with a love for law enforcement," Mindy said of Cohen. "We can hardly get him to stand in one spot for 60 seconds, much less two hours."

Police officers at the Floyd County Sheriff's Office, where Detective Hearne launched her career, were so touched by Cohen's display that they wanted to honor him as well. They chipped in and bought him his very own battery-powered squad car, LittleThings.com reported.

And while many have recognized Cohen for his beautiful deed, he does not believe that he did anything extraordinary, which arguably makes it even better. "When I tell him that people are talk-

ing about what he did, he just smiles. He doesn't feel like he's done anything really major," his mother told *Today*.

Sidney Fahrenbruch, of Colorado, also did something extraordinary for a local police officer. When she learned that Officer Kyle Zulauf of the Longmont Police Department had cancer, she immediately opened her piggy bank, donating its approximately eight dollars. When asked why she made that sacrifice, her response was simple: "It's the nice thing to do."

Officer Zulauf was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer more than a year ago, *Today* reported, and his department has been raising money to help him pay for another surgery.

Fahrenbruch's name may sound familiar. We recently reported in this column that she had befriended another officer from the same department, David Bonday, who was kind enough to visit her family's new house to check for monsters.

According to Sidney's mother, Megan, she has a great deal of reverence for the police and often brings them goodies and treats. "It all started about two years ago when she saw an officer directing traffic. It was hot outside and she said, 'He looks thirsty; he needs water,' and she brought him a bottle of water," Fahrenbruch told *Today*.

It was during one of Sidney's regular visits to the police station that she noticed the poster for the fundraiser to raise money for Zulauf's surgery. She immediately turned to her mother and said she wanted to donate the contents of her piggy bank, as well as a half Ziploc bag of change that she has managed to save. She had been saving money for a toy, but thought nothing of giving her savings to Zulauf instead.

Her good deed did not go unnoticed. Her mother is understandably proud of Sidney's unfailing generosity, and Longmont's Department of Public Safety honored her good deed in a Facebook post on October 24. "Today, Sidney was back at the department with a different purpose. She brought the contents of her piggy bank ... to provide to our fundraiser for one of our officers who has been diagnosed with cancer. Words are not available for what this means to us." ■

—RAVEN CLABOUGH

JESUS

A Man of History

Skeptics of the deity and even the existence of Jesus Christ abound, but the historical evidence of Him is strong, and even Jesus' enemies didn't deny that He did miracles.

by Steve Byas

Josh McDowell, a well-known Christian apologist (a person who defends the truth of the Christian faith), titled chapter five in his best-selling *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* “Jesus — a man of history.” Christians, of course, believe Jesus is the Man who made history, while non-believers hold to a wide variety of beliefs about Him, ranging from “great teacher” to saying Jesus never even existed. Yet even those who deny His existence cannot deny that belief in Him has profoundly influenced the last 20 centuries of history.

It is untenable to believe that Jesus, considered by millions of individuals worldwide as the Second Person of the Trinity, is fictitious. If the historical evidence documenting His existence were to be dismissed, then weaker evidence supporting the existence of historical figures such as Alexander the Great would have to be dismissed as well. Yet no one claims Alexander the Great never existed.

Even Rudolf Bultmann, a noted liberal theologian, had no patience with the view that Jesus did not even exist, writing, “The doubt as to whether Jesus really existed is unfounded and not worth refutation. No sane person can doubt that Jesus stands as the founder behind the historical movement” that evolved into the world's largest religion.

As Everett Harrison puts it in *A Short Life of Christ*, “Jesus walked the earth a flesh-and-blood individual.”

And because “Jesus walked the earth,” we can find a great deal of material that historians can use to reconstruct His life. First, we have the gospels, and the rest of the New Testament, with multiple references to Him. The gospels were, of course, written for an evangelistic purpose — to persuade the reader to accept Jesus as more than just an historical figure, but rather God in the flesh.

While the gospels would ordinarily be accepted as valuable source material for historians, an anti-supernatural bias causes secular historians to reject the miracles in the gospels and some of the other claims about Jesus found therein. Still, when we take the gospel accounts and compare them with other historical accounts, we can recreate much of the life and times of the Man



Icon: No person has affected life on Earth more than Jesus. Millions in the past 2,000 years have believed He was not only a major historical figure, but that He was the Christ, the Messiah predicted by the Jewish Scriptures.



Gerard van Honthorst

The birth of Christ: Millions around the world celebrate Christmas, remembering the birth of Jesus. While we do not know the exact date of His birth, our knowledge of when the Jewish King Herod the Great died gives us a narrow time frame of around 5-4 B.C. The early Christian theologian Tertullian said that Roman records mentioned Jesus' mother. Unfortunately, few such Roman records still exist today.

that millions of people around the globe consider the Christ, the Son of God.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

One would think that, considering Jesus was regarded as so significant as to date history from the time of His birth, assigning a specific date to His birth would be quite easy. Everything before His birth was considered as B.C., or Before Christ, and everything since His birth was referred to as *Anno Domini* (A.D.), or in English, "In the year of our Lord."

Pope John the First asked Dionysius, a monk, to prepare a standard calendar for the Roman Catholic Church. The birth of Christ would be 1 A.D. (there is no such thing as "the year zero"). Unfortunately, Dionysius' calculations were off by a few years, meaning that Jesus was born during the time designated as B.C. Through reading the gospels of Matthew and Luke, we find that Jesus was born before the death of Herod, designated king of the Jews by the Roman Senate, which gives a good starting point for making some educated guesses about the general time period of His birth in a Bethlehem stable.

The timing of Herod's death can be ascertained with some certainty because the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus noted that Herod died shortly after an eclipse of the moon — which occurred on the night of March 12-13, 4 B.C. And since a Passover celebration occurred (April 11, 4 B.C.) shortly after his death, it is safe to say Herod died within that time frame.

The biblical account states that Herod ordered the slaughter of babies in and around Bethlehem because he was told by the Wise Men that a new king of the Jews had been born there, so it is logical to presume that Jesus was born sometime before March of 4 B.C.

While there are no existing extra-biblical accounts of this atrocity, it does fit well with what we know about Herod. In his book *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel recounted his interview with John McRay, author of *Archaeology and the New Testament*. McRay said, "Herod the Great was a bloodthirsty king: he killed members of his own family; he executed lots of people who he thought might challenge him."

In his book *The Virgin Birth of Christ*,

J. Gresham Machen, a noted professor at Princeton Theological Seminary for almost a quarter century, addressed the question as to why this particular incident is not found in other historical accounts of Herod. "No doubt, from our point of view, the massacre of young children would be a particularly atrocious form of murder.... But in ancient times, when the exposure of infants [abandoning them to die] was a common practice ... the murder of children would probably not be regarded with any special horror."

The slaughter probably involved a relatively small number of boys, under the age of two. "If Bethlehem was a small village, as it probably was, then the number of male children in it under two years of age would not exceed perhaps twenty or thirty," Machen added.

The accounts of Jesus' birth are grounded in history. Here, we have reference to a historical figure, Herod. But the gospel account of Luke also tells us why Jesus was born in Bethlehem, rather than in Nazareth, where his mother, Mary, and her husband, Joseph, had been living. Caesar Augustus had proclaimed a census was to be taken (for purposes of taxation) in the Roman world.

Josephus also mentions a census that took place in 6 A.D., and Luke makes reference to the same census in the New Testament Book of Acts. But since Jesus was born sometime around 5 B.C., or even earlier, this cannot be the same census. Machen notes, "In Egypt, where, because of the discovery of the non-literary papyri, our information is particularly abundant, we find a census being taken under a regular fourteen-year cycle." If this 14-year cycle was also used in Palestine, then a previous census' proclamation could be dated at 8 B.C. Allowing for a certain amount of time between the proclamation of the census, and its actual implementation in Palestine, it is logical to date the arrival of Jesus with his mother and Joseph in Bethlehem at about 6 or 5 B.C.

Not surprisingly, such census records could not be expected to still exist today. But North African theologian Tertullian did mention them in 197 A.D., in his book *Against Marcion*. In it, he noted that the "enrollment in the census of Augustus" was "kept in the archives of Rome." In

another writing, Tertullian mentioned that “Mary is described in the census.” What is striking about this is that Tertullian made his remarks in a straightforward, confident way, with no weasel words such as “those records are probably there.” It is doubtful that he would make up something so easily disproved.

Several questions have been raised about this census. For example, why did Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem? Harold Hoehner, writing in *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, cited the existence of a papyrus from 104 A.D. that records the prefect of Egypt ordering Egyptians to return to their “home” so that the census might be carried out. “Since the Jews’ property was the property of the fathers’ estates the Romans would comply to the custom of laying claim to one’s family estate in order to assess it for taxation,” Hoehner explained. There has been speculation that Joseph had recently moved to Nazareth from Bethlehem, and had recently inherited land in or near the city from his father.

Perhaps the most serious objection to the historicity of the biblical account of the census is that Luke’s account has been translated as follows: “This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.” Considering that Quirinius was not governor until after the death of Herod, this appears to be an “historical blunder,” as Hoehner put it.

“But certainly Luke was conscious of chronology in his works,” Hoehner continued. “Luke was not ignorant of the census mentioned by Josephus which was conducted by Quirinius in A.D. 6-7 since he mentions it in Acts 5:37. He knew that Jesus was not born that late.” Therefore, there must be an explanation.

Several have been offered. One that has been suggested is that the verse is better translated, “This census was before that [census] when

Even Rudolf Bultmann, a noted liberal theologian, had no patience with the view that Jesus did not even exist, writing, “The doubt as to whether Jesus really existed is unfounded and not worth refutation. No sane person can doubt that Jesus stands as the founder behind the historical movement” that evolved into the world’s largest religion.

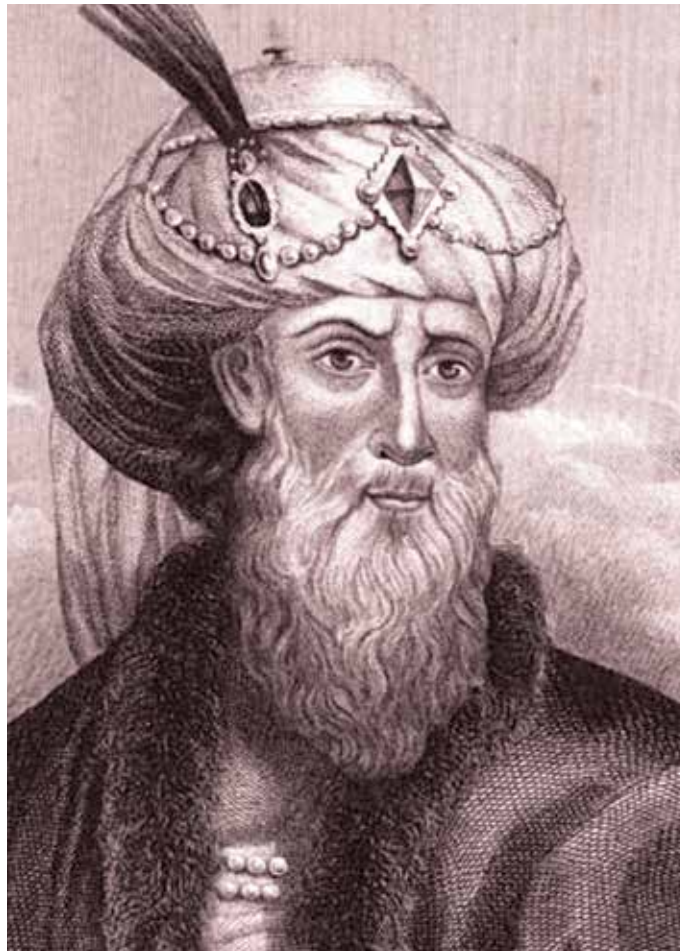
Quirinius was governor of Syria.” The census of 6 A.D. was well known (as has been said, Luke mentions it himself in the Book of Acts, which he also wrote) because of all the resistance to it. Hoehner believes that the best explanation is that the verse should have been translated as, “This census took place before Quirinius was governor of Syria.”

Mentions of Jesus by Non-Christians in First Century

It is not surprising that nothing is said directly in non-Christian sources about the birth of one who was believed to be the son of two Jews from a little village. But the life, death, and especially the resurrection of Christ would be expected to at least be referred to, even if Jesus’ deity was not accepted by Roman and Jewish writers.

Perhaps the most famous first-century reference to Jesus was the one made by Josephus. Writing in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, Josephus said, “Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day.”

Josephus also made a reference to Jesus’ brother James, the leader of the early church in Jerusalem. He stated that the Jewish high priest had “a council of judges, and brought before it the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ, whose name was James, together with some others, and



Experts agree: The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus famously made mention of both Jesus and His brother James, who was a leader in the early church. While most scholars accept both references as original with Josephus, it is believed by both Christian and non-Christian scholars that the reference to Jesus was most likely modified.



Washington Allston

Modern enemies versus ancient ones: Many today reject that Jesus performed miracles, such as making the lame able to walk. Interestingly, however, even His enemies did not deny that He performed miracles. Sadly, they attributed this power to the devil, rather than to God.

having accused them as law-breakers, he delivered them over to be stoned.”

The apparent contradiction of these two passages, one in which Josephus unequivocally calls Jesus the Christ, and the second one in which he calls Jesus “the so-called Christ,” leads one to the logical conclusion that one of them has been altered.

In *The Case for Christ*, Strobel asked Miami University professor Edwin Yamauchi about these two passages. Yamauchi said, “I know of no scholar who has successfully disputed” the passage referencing James. Concerning the other passage which appears to accept the Messiahship of Jesus, Yamauchi said, “Today there’s a remarkable consensus among both Jewish and Christian scholars that the passage as a whole is authentic, although there may be some interpolations.”

Yamauchi explained that it is believed

that “early Christian copyists inserted some phrases that a Jewish writer like Josephus would not have written.” He offered that the first line, “Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man,” as authentic, but that “if it be lawful to call him a man,” as most likely a later addition.

Despite this, Yamauchi considered the Josephus passages very important because Josephus “corroborates important information about Jesus: that he was the martyred leader of the church in Jerusalem and that he was a wise teacher who had established a wide and lasting following, despite the fact that he had been crucified under Pilate at the instigation of some of the Jewish leaders.”

In other words, certain important historical facts about Jesus were widely accepted in the first century, even by those who were not Christians.

Pope John the First asked Dionysius, a monk, to prepare a standard calendar for the Roman Catholic Church. The birth of Christ would be 1 A.D. (there is no such thing as “the year zero”). Unfortunately, Dionysius’ calculations were off by a few years, meaning that Jesus was born during the time designated as B.C.

We certainly have no record of any history from the first century arguing that Jesus did not even exist. But what of the miracles attributed to Jesus in the gospels? It is quite interesting that in the biblical accounts, Jesus is opposed by many in the Pharisee sect of the Jews who did not dispute that he performed supernatural acts, including giving sight to the blind, healing the lame, and the like. They simply accused Him of having the ability to do such acts by the power of Satan.

In the Jewish Talmud, much the same explanation was given for Jesus’ miracles. It noted that Jesus “practiced magic,” which enabled Him to lead many Jews “astray.” (Most of the early Christians were Jews.) Finally, it concludes that He “was hung on the eve of the Passover.” (This is a reference to crucifixion — the Apostle Paul calls crucifixion “hanging” in his letter to the churches in Galatia.) Again, while these statements are rejections of His deity, they are not a denial that He performed miracles. Denials that Jesus performed miracles would only come later, by “learned” scholars writing centuries after the fact.

Roman References to Jesus

It was not just the Jews who considered Jesus a historical person. So did the Roman historian Tacitus. He said that the Emperor Nero blamed the sect of Christians for the great fire of Rome of 64 A.D. And he tied the Christians to their founder: “Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome.”

This is an unmistakable corroboration of the facts found in the gospel accounts, even naming the Roman governor who ordered the execution of Jesus.

Another Roman reference to Jesus was made by Pliny the Younger, the governor of Bithynia in what is now Turkey. Writing to the Emperor Trajan, Pliny spoke of difficulties he had experienced with Christians, and their willingness to die for

their beliefs. “I have asked them if they are Christians, and if they admit it, I repeat the question a second and third time, with a warning of the punishment awaiting them. If they persist, I order them to be led away for execution.”

Pliny added that the Christians told him that their only “guilt” was “they had met regularly before dawn on a fixed day to chant verses alternately amongst themselves in honor of Christ as if to a god, and also to bind themselves by oath, not for any criminal purpose, but to abstain from theft, robbery, and adultery.”

Written very early in the second century, this letter makes very clear that the Christians considered Jesus not only a very real historical figure, but they worshipped Him as God.

At the crucifixion of Christ, the gospel accounts state that darkness covered the Earth. In his book *Pontius Pilate*, Paul Maier cited historical references to this event. “This phenomenon, evidently, was visible in Rome, Athens, and other Mediterranean cities. According to Tertullian ... it was a cosmic or world event. Phlegon,

a Greek author from Caria writing a chronology soon after 137 A.D., reported that in the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad (i.e., 33 A.D.) there was ‘the greatest eclipse of the sun’ and that ‘it became night in the sixth hour of the day [i.e., noon] so that stars even appeared in the heavens. There was a great earthquake in Bithynia, and many things were overturned in Nicaea.’”

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Despite all of this historical evidence, Jesus would have been a mere footnote in history, if that, had the early Christians not believed that Jesus had risen from the dead on the Sunday following His crucifixion. This is the principal belief that propelled the spread of the Christian faith across the Roman Empire, inspiring thousands who persisted in that belief in the face of either a martyr’s death or loss of fortune or even family. That faith was so strong and persistent, in fact, that instead of the mighty Roman Empire stamping out Christianity in its infancy, Christianity subsumed the empire. Had these early Christians not

believed in the resurrection of Jesus, it is certain that Christianity would not exist today, because it would never have existed at all.

Christian apologist Wilbur Smith, author of *Therefore Stand*, wrote, “The meaning of the resurrection is a theological matter, but the fact of the resurrection is a historical matter.”

So why did the early disciples of Jesus believe in His resurrection? Is the resurrection of Jesus historical?

When historians attempt to determine what happened in the ancient world, they must rely on what we call legal-historical proof. In the study of history and in the courtroom, we examine evidence and draw conclusions. While we can no longer cross-examine the eyewitnesses who assert they saw the resurrected Christ, we can look at the character of those witnesses. Based upon the evidence that is available, we can certainly draw some reasonable conclusions.

In First Corinthians, chapter 15, verses 3-7, the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth what was apparently an early creed, or statement of belief, on this very subject: “For first of all, I delivered to you that which I received.” Received from whom? After Paul’s dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, he made his way to the leaders of the early church in Jerusalem and spoke to some of them, such as the Apostle Peter, and heard their first-hand accounts of the risen Christ.

He told the Corinthians that he was told “how Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He arose the third day, according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen of Cephas [Peter], then of the twelve. After that, He was seen of more than five hundred brethren at once, whereof many remain unto this present, and some also were asleep. After that, He was seen of James [the half-brother of Jesus, who became the leader of the Jerusalem church].”

“Last of all, he was seen also of me,” Paul concluded, recalling his own encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus.

This establishes there was a multitude of witnesses who claimed they saw Jesus alive, risen from the dead, after His brutal death on a Roman cross. If this were a reference to any other event in the ancient



Hubert Robert

A place in history: The Emperor Nero blamed the Great Fire of Rome on the unpopular sect of Christians, who were recognized as the followers of Jesus the Christ. The fire happened in 64 A.D., by which time Jesus’ followers had already become so numerous as to be mentioned by more than one Roman historian.



Nicolas Bernard Lépicie

From anti-Christian to Christian: A pivotal turning point of Christian history involved the conversion of Paul. The Apostle Paul was instrumental in taking the gospel of Jesus beyond its Jewish origins to the Gentiles. As with Jesus, Paul never advocated using the power of the state to win new converts to faith in Jesus, but by the time Constantine legalized the faith in the early fourth century, it is estimated that one-third of the empire was Christian.

world, historians most likely would not even question its historicity.

Certainly, a resurrection is an unusual event. By nature, a resurrection is very much out of the ordinary. If resurrections happened all the time, then one resurrection of one man — Jesus — would be, simply put, no big deal. But of course, it is a very big deal. One does not expect to see someone at the shopping mall one week

after you have been to his funeral. Dead people tend to stay dead.

But we cannot conclude simply from what is the ordinary that the resurrection of Jesus Christ did not happen.

The question, then, is simple: What did happen on that first Easter Sunday?

First of all, we can assume that the tomb where the dead body of Jesus was placed on Good Friday was empty on Sunday

morning. Clearly, if Jesus was in the tomb — dead — that would have been the end of it. But, of course, the tomb was empty.

Why was the tomb empty?

Those who reject the resurrection of Christ cite one of the following alternative scenarios: (1) the disciples stole the body; (2) the enemies of Jesus stole the body; (3) everyone went to the wrong tomb; (4) the Swoon Theory, i.e., Jesus really did not die on the cross; and (5) The Myth Theory — which asserts that the disciples of Jesus never believed or taught that Jesus rose from the dead.

What possible motivation would the disciples of Jesus have had for stealing His body from the tomb? Clearly, they gained no wealth or immediate power from such a claim, but rather faced persecution instead. While some might die for a lie, no one has presented a logical explanation for why the disciples would not only lie about the resurrection, but that they would lie about it for the rest of their lives.

There is no record that any person who ever said that he saw Jesus alive again after His resurrection ever recanted — not one.

The argument that the enemies of Jesus stole the body is no better. Why would they want to create a resurrection myth of a man and a movement they despised? When the disciples went public with their testimonies that they had not only seen, but had even touched and spoken with the resurrected Jesus, if His enemies really did have His body, all they would have needed to do to snuff out the movement was to produce His body. But, they did not — because they could not. They did not have His body.

Then, there is the proposition that the tomb was just thought to be empty because everyone — the Roman guards, the women disciples, the apostles Peter and John — all just forgot where Jesus was buried, and all went to the wrong tomb. Under this reasoning, the body of Jesus has been in some unknown tomb for over two millennia. This simply defies credibility — maybe one person could lose his way, but not all of them. (Under the Wrong Tomb Theory, even Joseph of Arimathea, the owner of the tomb, forgot where the tomb was located.)

Another theory is the so-called Swoon Theory. This is the belief that Jesus did not

The argument that the enemies of Jesus stole the body is no better. Why would they want to create a resurrection myth of a man and a movement they despised?

die on the cross, but just passed out. Under this theory, the Roman authorities allowed a still-living Jesus to be removed from the cross, and placed in a tomb of a man named Joseph. There, in the cool of the tomb, He revived, had enough strength after having been flogged and crucified to push away the stone, and then appear to His disciples as having “risen from the dead.” Exactly what happened after that, the proponents of the theory are not quite sure.

There is also the Myth Theory. Under this belief, Jesus’ followers never really believed that Jesus rose from the dead. As Denny Kuhn, apologetics professor at Randall University, said of this belief: “These stories of Jesus’ Resurrection represent mythological or legendary developments by later Christians long after the earlier eyewitnesses had already fallen off the scene. Accordingly, the claim is that the early followers of Jesus only believed Him to be a wise spiritual and moral teacher, not the Resurrected Lord. After the death of the eyewitnesses, mythical accounts of a divine Jesus who resurrected from the dead gradually crept

into Christian belief at a much later date.” However, just like the previous theories, the Myth Theory cannot be reconciled with the historical evidence.

Indeed it cannot. This is why Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is so relevant to this discussion. He specifically cited the resurrection of Jesus as a belief he had “received” from men who had personally witnessed the risen Lord, which takes the belief back to a very short time after the actual historical event.

Why did they believe they had seen Jesus? It wasn’t just an empty tomb. They saw Jesus. They heard Him speak. They witnessed Him eating a broiled fish. They touched Him. He was not just a disembodied spirit. He was flesh and bones. And, as Paul told the Corinthians, more than 500 people testified that they had seen the resurrected Jesus — and most were still alive.

Some have argued that this was a case of “mass hallucination.” According to this theory, the disciples only thought they saw Jesus. Again, it is simply not credible to believe that more than 500 people were all

hallucinating, all at the same time. Moreover, these disciples believed strongly that they had seen a risen Jesus, and all but one endured martyrdom in the name of Jesus.

From these early witnesses, we can also create a “chain of evidence,” which is similar to what we do with other historical events. After all, there is not one person living today who could testify to having seen George Washington cross the Delaware River, but no one doubts that he did. It is considered a historical event. If anyone were to posit the thesis that all of those Hessians just hallucinated that Washington’s Continental Army defeated them at the Battle of Trenton, that person would — rightly — be laughed at.

And just so with the resurrection. There were, simply put, just too many witnesses. In this case, the Apostle John had his own disciples, prominent among them Ignatius and Polycarp. Ignatius (A.D. 35-117) was the bishop at Antioch, and he wrote letters about John’s recollections of the resurrection of Jesus with a physical body and His appearances to many. Likewise, Ignatius’ friend Polycarp (A.D. 69-155) also wrote of John’s remembrances of the resurrection of Jesus.

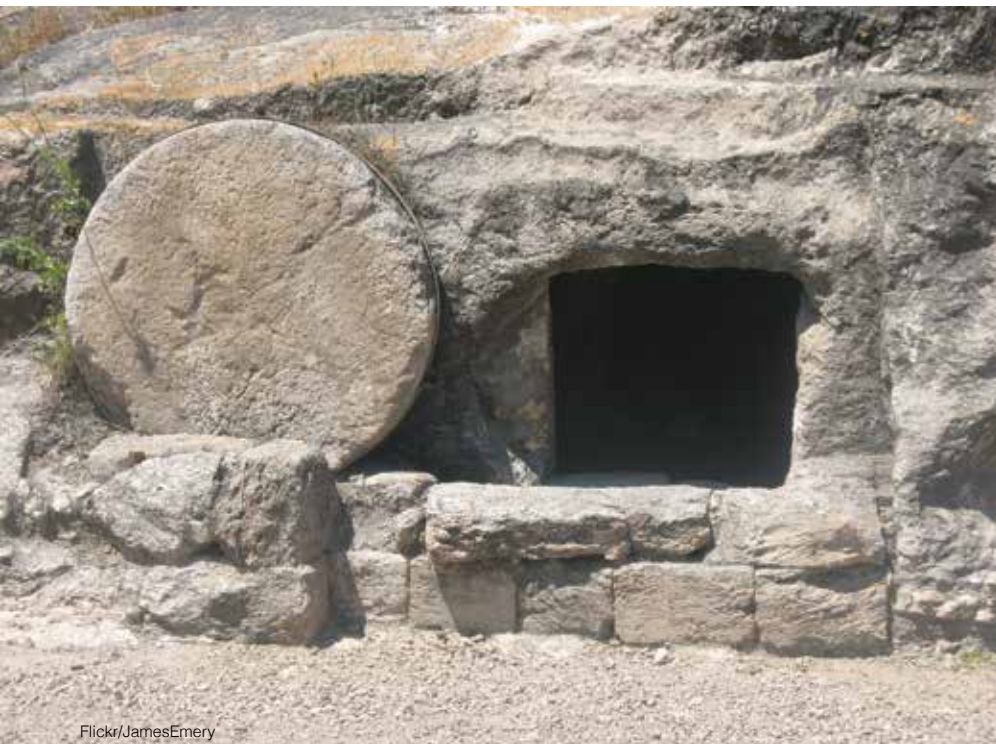
These two men taught Irenaeus (120-202). Irenaeus wrote of Polycarp’s personal conversations with John in which they discussed the bodily resurrection of Jesus. And Irenaeus passed this on to his disciple, Hippolytus (170-236).

John was exiled as an old man to the island of Patmos, off the coast of present-day Turkey. There he wrote the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, in which he continued in his belief not only that Jesus rose from the dead, but that He would one day return physically, in that resurrected body, to the Earth.

Why would John persist in his belief that Jesus rose from the dead, several decades after the event? Why did all of the other disciples likewise persist in their belief that Jesus rose from the dead?

The most logical conclusion is that Jesus did, indeed, rise from death. It is clearly a historical event, with overwhelming evidence to support this conclusion.

We are uncertain about some aspects of the life of Jesus Christ, but from what we do know, we can safely say that not only is Jesus a man of history — He is *the* Man of history. ■



The “empty tomb” in Jerusalem: Had it not been for the belief of early Christians that Jesus had emerged victoriously alive following His death by crucifixion, Jesus would most likely be an unknown figure today. Were it not for the serious ramifications of this belief that Jesus rose from the dead, it would easily be a well-accepted historical event. Of course, Christians believe that this event established Jesus not only as an important man of history, but as *the* Man of history.



EXERCISING THE RIGHT

“... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Banning Gun Stores?

The owners of the Southern California retail chain Turner's Outdoorsman were excited about a new location opening in San Carlos City, California. The owners of the store, whose website describes it as “California's #1 Hunting, Shooting & Fishing Headquarters since 1971,” had done all the required legal work to comply with local zoning laws and were on track to have their grand opening in November. The owners even signed a 10-year lease and spent \$120,000 on the new store. Then the unthinkable happened. Local liberal activists started a campaign against the store, decrying the opening of the store and urging local voters to contact city officials and implore them to do anything in their power to stop it.

Since San Carlos City is a liberal city where registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans two to one, the campaign went viral, and constituents bombarded local officials with complaints about the opening of the store.

The campaign was masterminded by Episcopal Reverend Alan Gates, who told Fox KTVU that “following the shooting in Las Vegas I just decided I didn't want any more guns in San Carlos, I certainly didn't want to see another gun store in San Carlos.”

Gates and the local chapter of the Brady Campaign manufactured such an outcry that the city council called an emergency session to address the issue.

The owners of Turner's Outdoorsman were dealt a devastating blow on November 15 when the San Carlos City Council voted four to one to delay the opening of the new gun store by passing a 45-day moratorium on establishments that sell ammunition or firearms.

The only dissenting vote belonged to Vice Mayor Matt Grocott. Grocott complained that the moratorium on the opening of the Turner's Outdoorsman store was unfair to the owners, who had already complied with all the local requirements to open their business and spent a fair amount of money on it as well. Grocott also expressed concern that the seemingly arbitrary action might bring a lawsuit either from Turner's or the National Rifle Association (NRA).

The rest of the city council made statements to the media that revealed their ignorance on the issue. Councilman Mark Olbert said he voted “hell yes” for the moratorium because “since guns are the only commodity mentioned in the Bill of Rights, government is allowed to regulate guns.”

One of Olbert's political advisors might want to have him check that reading of the Constitution with an attorney familiar with constitutional law.

Olbert also explained that his actions were motivated by the desire to please his constituents. Olbert told reporters that he had received more correspondence on the issue from local citizens than he had on anything else he voted on in his previous 16 years as a public servant.

Not to be outdone in displays of ignorance, the citizens of San Carlos also made their voices heard on the issue. On the night of the vote, there was a large turnout from citizens who wanted to speak on the gun store. Like so many advocates of gun control, the people most opposed to guns based their opinions on emotions and an ignorant understanding of firearms. Lorrie Low read a letter written by her five-year-old son in which he stated there “is no point in guns.”

Others expressed anger that Turner's Outdoorsman advocates for Second Amendment causes on its website. Leslie Doochan crowed that the store is “actively working to reverse gun safety laws, (and make it) easier to secure semi-automatic firearms.”

Bill Ortiz, vice president of compliance at Turner's Outdoorsman, tried to talk sense into the crowd and assured them that there was no public safety risk in the store's opening. Ortiz explained that their line of stores has been in the heavily regulated and scrutinized industry of firearm sales for decades and that they work closely with local law enforcement, as well as the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to prevent people from buying guns who are legally prohibited from doing so. Sadly, Ortiz's efforts would be for naught as democracy won the day, and the howling mob of anti-gunners got their wishes.

The news just got worse for Turner's Outdoorsman: They were told that it's likely the city council would pass a new

ordinance extending the moratorium to 10 and a half months! The councilmen who voted for the moratorium also implied that they would think up new laws that would prohibit a second gun store in the city.

This story is far from over, though, as onlookers expect there will be legal actions taken by either Turner's Outdoorsman, the NRA, or the California Rifle & Pistol Association.

Home Repair Man

The *Democrat and Chronicle* out of Rochester, New York, reported on November 11 about a man whose life may have been saved by him being able to carry a gun. A repairman was working on a home in the city of Rochester around 10:15 p.m. when an armed suspect ran up to him and demanded his money. The repairman was able to pull out his own gun and shoot at the suspect, and the two men exchanged gunfire. The repairman was the better shot and shot the suspect in the lower body. The injured suspect ran from the scene but was later dropped off at Rochester General Hospital by a friend. Police responded to the reports of a man suffering a gunshot wound and quickly identified the suspect as the man who tried robbing the repairman. The suspect is being treated for a non-life-threatening injury, and charges are pending.

Officer at the Scene

KUSA reported on November 13 about an off-duty Denver police officer who ended a suspect's life of crime. The officer was asleep at home when he heard the sounds of an intruder forcing his way into the house. The officer grabbed his pistol and confronted the burglar, and then shot him in the chest. Authorities were called to the scene and took the injured suspect, 53-year-old Kerry Dean Hughes, to a nearby medical facility, where he later died. Hughes had a lengthy criminal record that included a prior conviction for burglary and charges of drug possession, identity theft, and other cases dating back almost two decades. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Bonn Climate Poseurs: Their Real Goals Are Money and Power

ITEM: An Associated Press story carried in the Chicago Tribune on November 11 sported a headline declaring, “Defying Trump, U.S. cities and states pledge to support goals of Paris climate deal.” Like many other liberal-left media reports on the United Nations climate talks that took place November 6-17 in Bonn, Germany, the AP article focused on the “alternative” delegation of U.S. state governors, mayors, and business leaders who claimed to be the “real” representatives of the American people. “It is important for the world to know, the American government may have pulled out of the Paris agreement, but the American people are committed to its goals, and there is nothing Washington can do to stop us,” billionaire globalist and former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg told attendees at the global climate meeting in Bonn, Germany.

ITEM: “Climate talks close with Trump administration on one track, world on another,” was the headline that NBC News drafted to fit the commonly adopted establishment media theme that President Trump and his supporters are totally out of step not only with the “consensus” of science, but with the entire population of the rest of the planet. “The world climate conference ended Friday much the way it began two weeks ago — with the Trump administration bolstering legacy fuels like coal and gas, separating itself from much of the world,” the NBC story reported. “California is not waiting for Trump,” Governor Jerry Brown told the conferees, according to NBC. “We are not waiting for all the deniers, we are committing ourselves to do everything possible to get on the side of nature instead of fighting it, to deal with the climate change challenge in a real way.”

ITEM: Similarly, the Huffington Post came up with this headline on November 14: “An Alternate Delegation Tries to Convince the World the U.S. Cares About Climate Change.” “Governors, mayors and



AP Images

Crisis charade: The UN’s recent Bonn summit to flesh out the “rule book” guiding the Paris climate accord continued promoting the discredited claim that “science” demands concerted action to stop alleged man-made global warming.

business leaders want to prove we’re not all deniers,” its subtitle declared. Michael Bloomberg told the Bonn activists, reported HuffPo’s Daniella Cheslow, that “he had gathered support for the Paris pact from public officials and leaders who represent some 130 million Americans, and he suggested their alternate delegation is just as relevant to the climate talks as the official U.S. negotiating team.” “If Washington won’t lead, mayors, governors and civil society will,” Bloomberg said.

ITEM: On November 14, Democracy Now!’s Amy Goodman broadcast live from Bonn, Germany, a radio/Internet/public television show interview with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), who attended the conference as a member of the “anti-Trump revolt here in Bonn,” as Goodman put it. “The primary point that I want to make is that the Trump administration is not only isolated in the world community on this issue, but also isolated within America on this issue,” the senator claimed. “Congress has many strong voices who oppose the Trump administration. Governors, mayors, American corporations, our NGO community are all continuing ahead.”

CORRECTION: Known officially as the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23) to the UN Framework Con-

vention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the recently concluded, two-week talkathon in Bonn, Germany, was held to further negotiations on what is being called the “rule book” that will guide the “historic” Paris climate accord concluded in 2015. As is par for the course with these UN confabs, however, the drawn-out event was as much about political theater and propaganda as it was about substantive issues involved in divvying up the world’s wealth and advancing “global governance.” To be sure, there were plenty of the never-ending litanies of apocalyptic predictions. As expected, politicians and media talking heads issued dire jeremiads warning that human-generated CO₂ and other greenhouse gases are fast bringing on unimaginable horrors that can only be averted by draconian global actions. UN Secretary-General António Guterres averred that global warming is “the defining threat of our time,” and said the world may have only five years to Doomsday. Patricia Espinosa, the new UNFCCC executive secretary, lamented that “the very fabric of life on Earth is under threat” from rising temperatures. “The message cannot get any clearer. We must act right here, right now,” she insisted.

Governor Jerry Brown, who along with Bloomberg leads the America’s Pledge



Correction, Please!

coalition, was even more pessimistic. “It is despairing,” he said in a Rome stop-over, according to *Politico*. “Ending the world, ending all mammalian life. This is bad stuff,” he gloomily forecast. “There’s nothing that I see out there that gives me any ground for optimism.”

Yes, the fearmongering concerning the supposed “existential threat” of anthropogenic (man-made) global warming, or AGW, continues unabated. However, despite all the usual hype and bogus claims of rising sea levels, disappearing icecaps, dying coral reefs, endangered polar bears, more virulent “extreme weather,” climate refugees, etc., there has been no genuine science-based evidence forthcoming to support the ongoing florid claims that global surface temperatures have increased beyond what can be attributed to natural variability, or that they represent any crisis that justifies wrecking our economy and granting global dictocrats absolute power over every aspect of our lives.

There have been many recent scientific reports underscoring the erroneous and fraudulent “research” that has been put forth by the AGW lobby, but the focus of our report here is not to refute the latest round of their outlandish claims. That has already been done in many previous articles in *THE NEW AMERICAN*. Nevertheless, we will cite two highly pertinent studies, one an admission against interest by a prestigious group of AGW alarmists, and the other by an equally distinguished group of AGW realists, or skeptics. First, the alarmists. In the “Oops, we goofed!” category, there is the mea culpa from warmist scientists at Oxford University and University College London (Professors Michael Grubb, Myles Allen, et al.) published in September in the highly regarded (by alarmists) journal *Nature Geoscience*. The authors admit that the predictive computer models on which all the climate fuss is based were “on the hot side,” meaning they grossly overstated the impact of emissions on global temperatures. Small island states are not in imminent danger of being inundated after all, they said. The Earth’s “carbon budget” might actually be four times larger

(!) than previously thought. Their findings have been described by other alarmists as “breathtaking” and a “game changer,” although climate realists have been pointing out the same problems with these models for years. Even more serious than the *Nature Geoscience* bombshell is the independent study authored by Drs. James P. Wallace III, Craig D. Idso, and Joseph S. D’Aleo, released on June 27, that documents the radical (and fraudulent) “adjustments” that have been made to the three main data sets (NASA, NOAA, and Hadley CRU) to produce the frightening specter of sizzling global average surface temperatures. When these “adjustments” are corrected — surprise — global warming disappears.

Naturally, these and other similar findings were completely ignored by the 20,000 politicians, bureaucrats, lobbyists, NGO activists, and media personnel who descended on the Bonn confab. They could not afford to allow even the slightest doubts to undermine the public message of dread and crisis, lest their whole edifice of AGW fraud and deceit come tumbling down. Hence, the media narrative became lockstep: Evil Trump and his mindless Myrmidons versus humanity and the planet. “The world shrugs at Trump as

global climate meeting begins in Bonn,” trumpeted the globalist *Washington Post* in a front-page headline. The *Post* then underscored this point with a quote from Paul Bledsoe, a former Clinton White House climate advisor, now lecturer at American University’s Center for Environmental Policy. “Trump is utterly isolated, and U.S. positions and negotiators will be largely ignored as a result. This has become a life-and-death issue for most countries,” Bledsoe asserted.

In this uniform media narrative, Jerry Brown, Michael Bloomberg, Paul Bledsoe, and other virtue signalers are cast as populist eco-saviors leading a citizen revolt against the Trump “establishment.” There are obvious credibility problems with this storyline, not the least of which is that Michael Bloomberg, George Soros, Tom Steyer, Henry Paulson, and the other billionaires financing the global-warming bandwagon are quintessential *elitists*, not populists. Ditto for the corporate/foundation backers of the movement: Goldman Sachs, Citi, JPMorganChase, Walmart, Google, Amazon, Facebook, ExxonMobil and other Big Oil heavies, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Tides Foundation, etc. In other words, these “citizen activists” are the epitome of



Criminal “populists”: California Governor Jerry Brown led a contingent of governors, mayors, and members of Congress that went to the Bonn climate summit, in violation of the U.S. Constitution, which gives the president and the Congress authority over foreign affairs.

AP Images



Money & power: The UN's two-week-long COP23 climate confab in Bonn was all about redistributing the world's wealth and empowering the UN with global regulatory and taxing authority.

“the establishment” they ostensibly are revolting against.

The climate fearmongers have another major problem: Despite non-stop, over-the-top AGW fright-peddling for more than two decades, poll after poll shows that “the people” still put global warming/climate change dead last on their lists of priority concerns. Polls by Gallup, Associated Press, CNN, Pew, Chapman University, and the UN itself have repeatedly shown that the public places fears over global warming way down the list (usually not even in the top 10 concerns) behind worries over crime, education, immigration, terrorism, healthcare, economic collapse, and other “mundane” issues. In fact, a poll conducted last year by Vox, a leftist media website with a definite AGW-alarmist bent, found (to Vox’s dismay) that Americans are more afraid of clowns than they are of global warming. But it’s not just these stupid, insane Americans who refuse to follow the elitist-led climate panic; it seems the real people worldwide — from A-Z, Afghanistan to Zimbabwe — have more important things to worry about. The UN’s MyWorld 2017 global survey of nearly 10 million people repeated the results of its previous polls: Concern for “action taken on climate change” ranked at the

very bottom (number 16 out of 16 priority issues considered).

The real purpose behind the contrived media narrative at the Bonn summit is to divert public attention (especially in America, but also in all developed countries) from the fact that the real action in the UN climate hustle is aimed at extracting massive sums of wealth from the middle classes in the United States and Europe for redistribution, through UN agencies and programs, to Wall Street “carbon credit investors” and the UN’s ruling viceroys in developing countries.

One of the very few journalists to hit the nail on the head concerning what the Bonn climate summit was all about is Dr. David Wojick, who wrote an analysis for the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow entitled “Most Americans don’t know the UN climate summit is about money.”

“Climate summit meetings like the UN COP, now going on in Bonn, are mostly about proposed massive wealth transfers from developed countries like America to the developing world, all in the bogus name of climate control,” Dr. Wojick observed. “But you would never know this from the US press coverage,” he noted. “News outlets in the developing countries, on the other hand, make sure that their readers know all about this get rich quick

scheme. In fact they expect their readers to already know about it.”

To make his point, Wojick juxtaposed the headlines and texts of two articles on the Bonn summit that appeared simultaneously, one from the *New York Times*, the other from the *Indian Express*. The *Times* piece focused entirely on the supposed AGW threat, what the UN Paris treaty would do about it, and how the Trump administration is trying to thwart this noble effort. The *Express* article, on the other hand, focused entirely on informing its Indian audience about the “finance gap” left by Trump’s announced pullout of the Paris Accord.

“Developed countries have promised to raise at least \$100 billion every year from 2020 to help developing countries deal with the impacts of climate change,” but now that bonanza is in jeopardy, unless the rest of the developed countries step in to take up the gap left by the American departure, the *Express* reports. But the \$100 billion/year sum is only the tip of the AGW financial iceberg. As we have reported, Danish statistician/environmentalist Dr. Bjørn Lomborg, using the UN’s own figures, calculates that the cumulative costs of the Paris accord would be an astronomical \$100 trillion by the end of the century.

“Most of the US left-wing press is dedicated to hiding the financing issue, because Americans would object to it if they knew about it,” says Dr. Wojick. “The US press pretends that it is all about saving the world (from a made-up threat). But the Indians are all for it because they get the money.” Of course, we have many confirmations of this from the horse’s mouth, such as the admission by Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer, a top author/expert in the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, who infamously remarked in a 2010 interview with German media, “But one must say clearly that we redistribute de facto the world’s wealth by climate policy.... One has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. This has almost nothing to do with environmental policy anymore, with problems such as deforestation or the ozone hole.” Precisely. ■

— WILLIAM F. JASPER

Paris: “We’re Still In!”— WHY?

“We are still in! We are still in!” That was the chant of U.S. protesters at the recently concluded United Nations climate conference in Bonn, Germany. “We Are Still In!” signs dominated the unofficial U.S. climate pavilion at Bonn, paid for by billionaire globalist — and former New York City mayor — Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg, former Vice President Al Gore, and California Governor Jerry Brown were some of the celebrity stars of a noisy coalition called America’s Pledge that came to Bonn proclaiming “We are still in” the UN’s Paris climate accord, regardless of President Donald Trump’s announced decision to take the United States out of the disastrous and unconstitutional agreement.

Amy Goodman, host of the ultra-left-wing *Democracy Now!* Internet-television-radio program, broadcast a series of live episodes from Bonn, including a November 13 segment entitled “‘We are Still In’: Sen. Markey & U.S. Lawmakers Stage Anti-Trump Revolt at UN Climate Talks in Bonn.” Senator Ed Markey (D-Mass.) told Goodman’s audience, “We’re here to tell the world that Donald Trump does not represent the majority view in our country, that overwhelmingly people do believe that the planet is dangerously warming and that human activity is causing it and that we have to do something about it.”

Bloomberg demanded “a seat at the table” in the UN negotiations. “This coalition represents more than half of the US economy,” he declared. “In other words, a group of citizens, states and businesses who remain committed to the Paris agreement represent a bigger economy than any country in the world, outside the US and China. We should have a seat at the table and the ability to work with our peers in other nations. That is the aim of our pavilion.”

One could be tempted to dismiss all of this posturing as simply more sour grapes and vain political theater by the “Never Trump” forces that will have no practical effect. That would be a huge mistake, and not only because of the enormous funding behind the climate activists from the Bloomberg-Soros Billionaires Club. The real danger comes from within the Trump administration. Despite President Trump’s announced withdrawal from the Paris Accord — and the vehement condemnations he has received from the globalist choir for doing so — *we are still in*. In this much, at least, the Bloomberg-Brown-Markey crowd is correct. The real question is: *Why* are we still in?

On June 1, President Trump announced that “as of today, the United States will cease all implementation of the non-binding Paris Accord and the draconian financial and economic burdens



Michael Bloomberg

AP Images

the agreement imposes on our country.” Hooray! Huzzah! That was very welcome news indeed, fulfilling one of his signal campaign promises. But as we have pointed out in *THE NEW AMERICAN*, the Trump “withdrawal” was far from adequate.

In an op-ed for *Forbes* magazine on November 19 entitled “It Looks Like the U.S. May Never Leave the Paris Climate Accord,” Dave Keating writes, “Donald Trump may have vowed to take the United States out of the Paris climate accord, but you wouldn’t have known it based on the words

of the negotiators he sent to the summit in Bonn to hammer out the rules of the agreement.” Keating quotes Judith Garber, the U.S. acting assistant secretary of state for international environmental and scientific affairs (and the lead U.S. negotiator at Bonn), stating, among other things, “Although [President Trump] indicated that the United States intends to withdraw at the earliest opportunity, we remain open to the possibility of re-joining at a later date under terms more favorable to the American people.” Garber, a holdover from the Obama-Clinton State Department, is but one of many climate activists populating the federal bureaucracy.

“By the end of the summit,” noted Keating, “many were beginning to suspect that this will not be a question of re-joining. The U.S. may never leave in the first place.” “When Donald Trump announced his decision in June,” Keating writes, “observers noted that out of several options to take the U.S. out of the accord, he chose the one that would take the longest. He could have declared Barack Obama’s decision to not put the agreement to the U.S. Congress (by not deeming it a ‘treaty’) to have been invalid. The Congress could have then rejected the agreement, taking the US out right away.”

“Instead,” Keating continued, “the Trump administration chose to go through the official process of withdrawal, which takes more than three years. The ‘earliest opportunity’ referred to by Garber just happens to be the day after the next U.S. presidential election in 2020. In the mean time, the US will continue sending delegates to take their seat at the table, ‘in order to ensure a level playing field that benefits and protects U.S. interests,’ according to a State Department official.”

The UN Paris Accord is not only a looming danger to the U.S. economy, as President Trump rightly noted, but a real threat to our national sovereignty as well. It is time for Americans who voted for Trump to tell the president and their senators and representatives that they want America out — really, truly, completely *out* — of the UN Paris Trap. ■

Spread The Word



Natural Disasters and Government Aid

After natural disasters, it is common for Americans to call on the federal government for direct aid and dollars, but not only is such aid unconstitutional, it is often counterproductive. (October 23, 2017, 48pp) TNA171023

Can You Be Kind, Caring, and Liberal?

Liberals have pronounced liberalism to be the tolerant, caring, open-minded political alternative — as compared to conservatism — but its results don't match its goals. (November 6, 2017, 48pp) TNA171106

The Power and Purpose of Western Civilization

Western Civilization brought us the modern world, and unlike other civilizations that crumbled, it has remained strong. But with the West abandoning the Judeo-Christian beliefs that have undergirded its rise, it may falter. (December 18, 2017, 48pp) TNA171218

Does NAFTA = Prosperity and Progress?

Some Americans claim NAFTA has been harmful, while others tout its benefits. So which is it? In truth, its effects till now have been innocuous compared to what's coming if we don't exit the pact. (December 4, 2017, 48pp) TNA171204

Bringing Justness to Justice

The United States incarcerates nearly a quarter of the world's prisoners. Since many of the convicts are non-violent, and imprisonment burdens families and society, America should reconsider its criminal penalties. (November 20, 2017, 48pp) TNA171120

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