

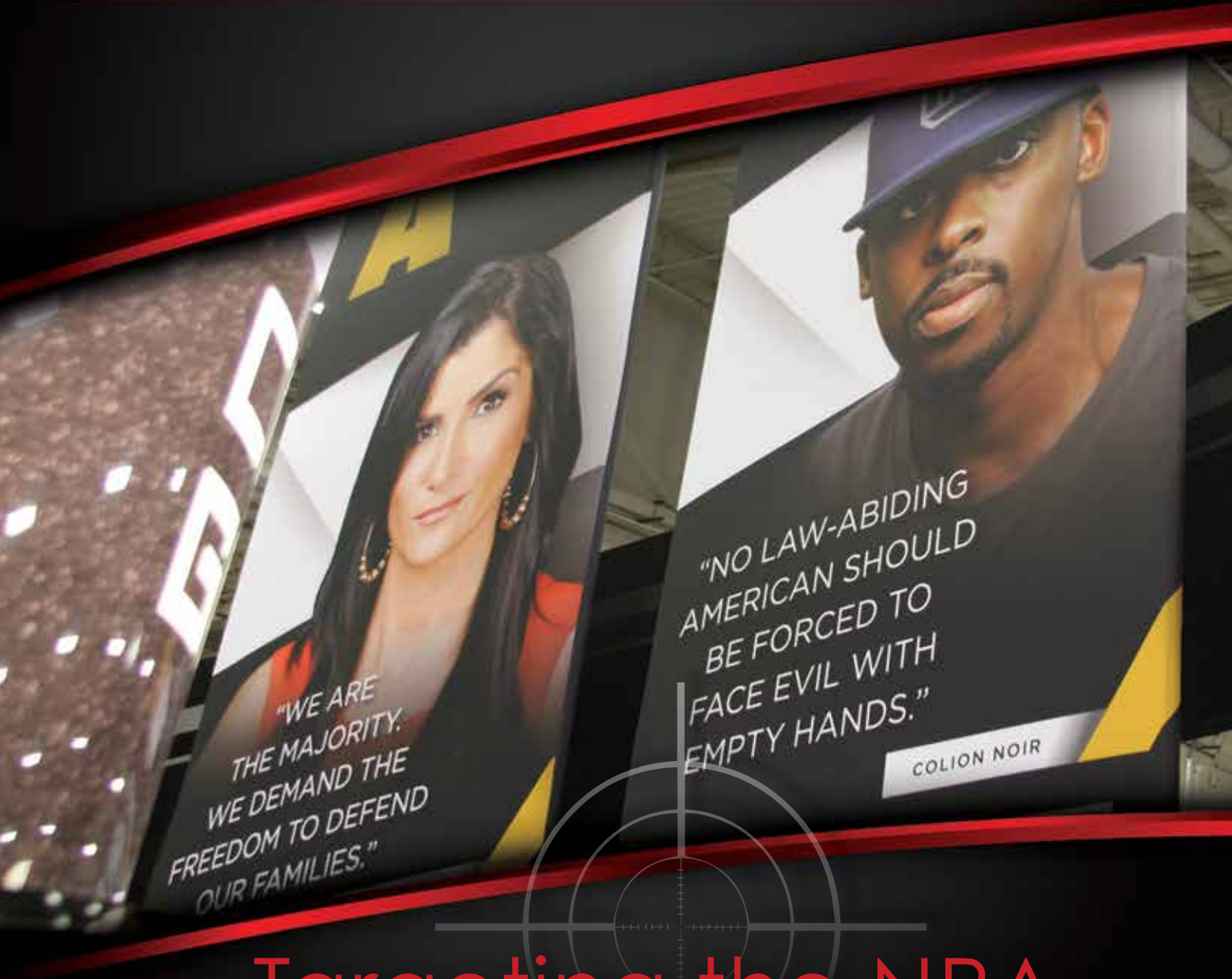
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BE FORCED TO
FACE EVIL WITH
EMPTY HANDS."

COLION NOIR

Targeting the NRA— to Get Your Guns



To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments:
The History of the First 100 Years of the War Against God and the Constitution, 1776-1876, and Its Modern Impact
 By Arthur R. Thompson, CEO, The John Birch Society
 (2016ed, 492pp, pb, 1/\$14.95ea; 2-14/\$13.95ea; 15+/\$12.95ea) BKTVMMPB

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SPREAD THE WORD

Targeting the NRA — to Get Your Guns

The mainstream media, and leftists in general, aim to demean the NRA in the hope that they can make gun ownership itself politically incorrect and socially unacceptable. Toward this end, they put out loads of negative press about the recent NRA convention. (June 4, 2018, 48pp) TNA180604



Their Plans With Your Money
Trump signed an omnibus spending bill that funds the priorities of most people in government and industries and organizations reliant on government funding, but shouldn't there be limits? (May 21, 2018, 48pp) TNA180521



The Opioid Epidemic: What's the Solution?
Americans are dying in droves from opioid overdoses. Government is going after doctors, saying they're to blame. Government has it wrong, and is making the problem worse. (May 7, 2018, 48pp) TNA180507



“March for Our Lives” Lies
After the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, student protests against guns and gun ownership were rampant, with the implication being that it's finally time for gun control. But everything Americans saw was deceptive. (April 23, 2018, 48pp) TNA180423



Monopoly: Fears, Fallacies, and Facts
Probably every high-school student in America has heard that Theodore Roosevelt busted monopolies that harmed Americans. That is just one fiction upended in this article. (March 5, 2018, 48pp) TNA180305

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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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Photo: Alex Newman



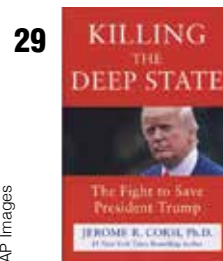
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Willful Ignorance?

Should federal judges be required to have a basic knowledge of the U.S. Constitution?

The very first word in Article I, Section 1, of the U.S. Constitution is “All”: “All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.” However, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was created (actually “legislated” into existence) in 2012 by President Barack Obama — not by Congress — as a stopgap measure that would shield from deportation people who were brought into the United States as children.

Participation in the program comes with a range of benefits. Along with permission to remain in the country, recipients can also get work permits.

Recently, Judge John D. Bates of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia said that the Trump administration’s decision to terminate DACA was based on the “virtually unexplained” grounds that the program was “unlawful.” The judge stayed his decision for 90 days and gave the Department of Homeland Security, which administers the program, the opportunity to “better explain its reasoning” for canceling it. If the department fails to do so, it “must accept and process new as well as renewal DACA applications.”

Judge Bates described the Trump administration’s decision to phase out DACA as “arbitrary and capricious because the department failed adequately to explain its conclusion that the program was unlawful.” Immigration advocates hailed Judge Bates’ ruling, saying it highlighted the failure of the administration to “justify” the program’s termination. Under Judge Bates’ ruling, unless the administration can justify its decision within 90 days, the cancellation of the program will be rescinded.

The Trump administration argued that Obama had abused his authority and circumvented Congress to create DACA. President Trump urged Congress to find a legislative remedy to replace it and expressed support for giving the young immigrants a path to citizenship. Despite broad bipartisan support for the beneficiaries of the program, Congress has failed to agree on a solution. Trump has called for a tough crackdown on illegal immigration and construction of a wall along the border with Mexico.

Conclusion: President Obama, as a liberal Democrat, had the power to sidestep the Constitution, but President Trump, as a conservative Republican, must “explain his reasoning” and “justify his decision” to correct Obama’s ignoring of Article I of the Constitution and explain and justify his position that immigration laws of this country, enacted by the U.S. Congress, cannot be evaded. Judge Bates should read Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

RICHARD T. REGAN, J.D.
Metairie, Louisiana

Why Leave the Iran Deal?

In regard to President Trump withdrawing from the Iran nuclear agreement, I ask, “How can Trump justify this?”

How does Boeing’s loss of \$20 billion in aircraft sales to Iran, a nation that is unable to pose any danger to the United States, benefit America or its workers?

How can a single-subject Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the Iran nuclear deal), faithfully observed, be deemed to be “so flawed and dangerous” by almost all congressional Republican lackeys? Are these congressmen so afraid of Saudi Arabia and Israel meddling in their next campaigns that they abjectly follow every directive from the warmongers now populating the “Ministry of Love” surrounding our president, even to the risk of war?

Now that Congress is on the verge of ceding to all U.S. presidents unlimited war-making license, through provisions in the 2018 Authorization for Use of Military Force, how soon before made-in-America bombs start raining on Iran?

How many innocent civilians, worldwide, must continue to die from bombs and/or resultant plagues, before America is returned to the vision of George Washington, who advocated not being involved in the politics of any nation, much less being subservient to them?

Now, what nation would ever again consider negotiating with us?

RUSSELL W. HAAS
Golden, Colorado

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Mormon Church to Part Ways With Boy Scouts



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — the Mormons — announced May 8 that it will sever its ties with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) following a 105-year relationship with the organization.

In a joint statement with the Boy Scouts, the Mormons said the two groups had “jointly determined” that, as of the end of 2019, “the Church will conclude its relationship as a chartered organization with all Scouting programs around the world.”

The statement noted that over the past several years the Mormon Church “has grown from a U.S.-centered institution to

a worldwide organization, with a majority of its membership living outside the United States. That trend is accelerating. The Church has increasingly felt the need to create and implement a uniform youth leadership and development program that serves its members globally. In so doing, it will be necessary for the Church to discontinue its role as a chartered partner with BSA.”

The joint statement explained, “While the Church will no longer be a chartered partner of BSA or sponsor Scouting units after December 31, 2019, it continues to support the goals and values reflected in the Scout Oath and Scout Law and expresses its profound desire for Scouting’s continuing and growing success in the years ahead.”

While there was no indication from the statement of ideological or moral differences between the two organizations, one suspects this might have been a factor. In 2014, BSA officials announced that the organization would allow boys who self-identify as homosexual to join its ranks, and in 2015, the organization announced that it would allow openly homosexual adults to serve as Scout Leaders. Following that move, the Mormon Church issued a statement saying it was “deeply troubled” with the direction the Boy Scouts were heading, and that the church would be evaluating its future relationship with the BSA. Also keep in mind that the May 8 statement comes on the heels of the BSA’s announcement that it will change its name to simply Scouts BSA and transition into allowing girls to participate in all scouting activities.

Iowa Latest State to Reject Convention of States

With the adjournment of the Iowa Legislature May 5, the failure of the Iowa Senate to vote on the Convention of States (COS) proposal (HJR 12) made it the 15th state this year to kill the effort to call for a national convention to consider changes to the U.S. Constitution. No states have passed the proposal so far this year.

Those Americans who believe that the document produced by men such as George Washington, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton in 1787, and ratified by the states over the next few years, is far superior to anything that our present generation of politicians, such as Nancy Pelosi and Mitch McConnell, could produce can now breathe a sigh of relief. After all, as the late Justice Antonin Scalia once opined, “This century is a bad century in which to write a Constitution.”

Patriotic members of The John Birch Society (JBS, the parent organization of *THE NEW AMERICAN* magazine) were successful, along with their like-thinking allies, in keeping the COS from even coming to a vote in the Iowa Senate. As part of the effort to kill the Con-Con proposal, the Society sent Robert Brown into the state in January to speak, as part of the JBS’s “The Constitution Is the Solution” series. In Urbandale, Iowa, a Des Moines suburb, Brown explained why the solution to our



present problem is *not* in invoking an Article V Convention, but rather by implementing an “Article VI solution.”

Brown also engaged in a public debate with the Iowa chairman of the Convention of States effort. But members of the JBS did not sit idly by and let Brown do all the work against the Con-Con. They made the critical difference by writing informed letters and e-mails to Iowa senators, providing them with many reasons that a “no” vote was best for Iowa, and best for America.

More Than 62 Million Americans Now Receive Social Security Benefits



courtney/Getty Images Plus

According to the Social Security Administration, more than 62 million Americans are now receiving benefits from the program as of the end of the first quarter of 2018. That's an increase of 330,318 in just three months. Doing the math, that means at the current rate of increase, every month 110,000 more people on average are receiving benefits than the previous month, increasing the demand for those benefits by \$150 million every month. That's based on the average check being received, according to the trustees, of \$1,360 every month.

And this from a program that is using up its assets faster than they are being replenished through payroll taxes. Just how long can this last?

When Social Security became law, Section 709 was written in anticipation for times such as these. When assets dwindled to less than 20 percent of the program's total annual payouts, the trustees were to inform Congress: "If the Board of Trustees ... determines at any time that the balance ratio [assets versus annual payouts] ... for any calendar year may become less than 20 percent, the Board shall promptly submit to each House of the Congress a report setting forth its recommendations for statutory adjustments ... to maintain the balance ratio ... at not less than 20 percent."

This is recognition that Social Security was unsustainable from the very beginning, and that "statutory adjustments" would have to be made from time to time to keep the program from going bankrupt.

As Boston University Professor Laurence Kotlikoff noted in 2016: "The system is in horrible financial shape. Its fiscal gap — the present value of its projected future benefit commitments net of both its projected future taxes and the value of its trust fund — is \$26 trillion.... Social Security is 31 percent underfunded. [That's] another way of saying that Social Security's 12.4 percent FICA payroll tax rate needs to rise, immediately and permanently, by almost one third to permit the system to pay all of its promised benefits over time."

United States Will Be World's Largest Oil Exporter by Next Year

Citigroup announced April 25 that exports of crude and finished oil products from the United States would overtake Saudi Arabia's by next year. The last week of April, the United States exported 8.3 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude and finished petroleum products. While Saudi Arabia exported 9.3 million bpd of crude and refined products in January, the kingdom plans to cut crude exports to under seven million bpd in May.

With the coming sanctions against Iran thanks to the president's termination of the Iranian "nuclear deal," up to another million bpd of crude could be removed from global supply, tilting further the advantage to U.S. producers.

Those sanctions set up the U.S. oil industry to continue to fill the vacuum just as quickly as it can find skilled roughnecks to put up idled rigs and complete wells that were drilled, just waiting for an opportunity such as this. Those DUCs — drilled but uncompleted wells — number above 4,000 and are being brought online as quickly as possible. Labor and material bottlenecks are being resolved, and with oil in the high 60s and lifting costs in the low 30s, the boom in U.S. production will continue to set records — all at OPEC's expense.

OPEC's problems are largely self-inflicted. As a result of its oil-production cuts, it has removed nearly two million barrels per day from world supplies. With help from Marxist Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela's supply to the world market is scheduled to decline by another 600,000 bpd. And now, the arbitrage trade —



AP Images

the difference between the London price of crude (Brent) and the Oklahoma price (West Texas Intermediate) — is over \$5 a barrel in the United States' favor, adding additional push behind U.S. producers.

OPEC meets in June to determine whether it will continue its production-cut agreement, scheduled to terminate at the end of the year, or allow the cartel's members out from under its limitations. As more and more of its market share is being taken away by American producers, there is little talk of extending the agreement into 2019.



Attorney General Issues Tough Talk

"Today we're here to send a message to the world that we're not going to let the country be overwhelmed. People are not going to caravan or otherwise stampede our border. If you cross the Southwest border unlawfully, we will prosecute you. It's that simple."

*Delivering a tough anti-immigration message in both Arizona and California, Attorney General **Jeff Sessions** also took aim at those who plan to use children to speed acceptance of their own illegal border crossing.*

President Severely Chides Kerry for Meddling

"The United States does not need John Kerry's possibly illegal shadow diplomacy on the very badly negotiated Iran deal. He was the one that created this mess in the first place."

*Prior to President **Donald Trump** voiding the 2015 pact, he learned that former Secretary of State Kerry had contacted European leaders and Iran's foreign minister in hopes that his unofficial opinions would keep the pact alive.*

Female Cadet Will Lead the Citadel

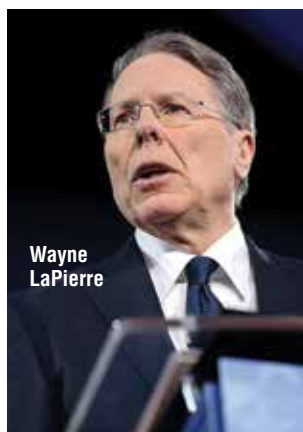
"I will tell you that I've only had one negative phone call about the selection of Sarah Zorn as regimental commander."

*The formerly all-male military school capitulated and began admitting women in 1995. **Geno F. Paluso**, the current commandant of cadets and a Citadel graduate, supports the elevation of women students at the state-funded institution. Cadet Zorn will be the first female to lead the students.*

Iran-Contra Standout Named National Rifle Association President

"Oliver North is a legendary warrior for American freedom, a gifted communicator and skilled leader. In these times, I can think of no one better suited to serve as our President."

*NRA Chief Executive **Wayne LaPierre** selected the former Marine Corps lieutenant colonel to be the organization's president. North will leave his post as a political commentator and television host for Fox News.*



Wikimedia Commons/Gage Skidmore

She's Not a Fan of the #MeToo Movement

"No amount of digging through score archives, however useful that enterprise may be for discovering unfamiliar works, is going to unearth a female counterpart to Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, or Brahms. So what? We should be grateful — profoundly grateful — for the music these men created."

*A fellow at the Manhattan Institute, **Heather Mac Donald** is virtually alone in her stand against condemning disparities in the number of female employees and participants in an array of institutions.*

Trump's U.S. Embassy Move in Israel Generates Rebuke

"Trump has empowered what's worst in Israel, and as long as he is president, it may be that Israel can kill Palestinians, demolish their homes, and appropriate their land with impunity."

*New York Times columnist **Michelle Goldberg** deemed Israel's killing of scores of Palestinians who protested the U.S. embassy's relocation a "grotesque spectacle."*



Photo: Trevecca Nazarene University

Education Secretary Wants Federal Aid for Religious Schools

"We do appreciate Secretary DeVos' commitment to ensuring students are able to obtain quality educations at the institutions of higher education that will best serve their needs, including religious colleges and universities."

*President **Shirley Hoogstra** of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities seems unaware that whatever the government finances will ultimately be controlled by the government. ■*

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



Targeting the NRA— to Get Your Guns

According to mainstream media, the recently convened NRA convention in Dallas was a disaster, with protesters everywhere, but such was not the case – at all.

by Alex Newman

DALLAS, Texas — In multiple North Florida cities, drivers on major highways have been seeing huge billboards reading “The NRA is a terrorist organization.” That particular cam-

paign was launched by “Mad Dog PAC,” an outfit run by former Bill Clinton staffer Claude Taylor. The group plans to pay for similar billboards in GOP-controlled states across America, including Texas, in the weeks and months ahead. They sell t-shirts accusing the NRA of terrorism, too.

While the text on the billboards may sound extreme to everyday Americans, and especially to law-abiding gun owners, the fanatical and hateful rhetoric targeting the National Rifle Association and its members has reached a fever pitch this year. Along a major highway in Kentucky,

anti-NRA vandals wrote “Kill The NRA” across a billboard. And on television and in newspapers across America, the NRA has seemingly become public enemy number one.

Speaking on CNN, two of the ubiquitous Parkland students plastered across America’s TV screens by the media described the NRA as “child murderers.” Not only did the host let the incredibly malicious smear slide unchallenged, CNN was more than happy to push the narrative, running the headline: “Shooting survivor calls NRA ‘child murderers’” after the segment aired. Countless anti-gun protesters given a megaphone by the establishment media were allowed to make similarly outlandish accusations, generally without being challenged.

Indeed, after the Parkland shooting — as usual, carried out in a gun-free zone where law-abiding citizens are disarmed by law — it was open season on the NRA. Many large corporations severed ties with the organization, including First National Bank of Omaha, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent A Car, National Car Rental, Symantec, Hertz, MetLife, SimpliSafe, Avis, Budget, Allied, North American Van Lines, TrueCar, Wyndham Hotels and Resorts, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, Paramount Rx, Starkey, and more. A trickle turned into a flood, quickly, as well-funded AstroTurf groups pressured companies to cut ties with the NRA.

In multiple North Florida cities, drivers on major highways have been seeing huge billboards reading “The NRA is a terrorist organization.”

The establishment’s strategy appears to be to relentlessly demonize the NRA as a stand-in for gun owners generally, and the unalienable rights enshrined in the Second Amendment specifically. And if all a person watched were the “fake news” outlets formerly known as “mainstream media,” it would be easy to believe that America was now fervently opposed to guns and the Second Amendment. It would also be easy to believe that the only thing standing in the way of “common-sense gun-safety measures” was the evil but dying “gun lobby” more commonly referred to as the NRA.

Massive Convention, Political Celebs

But for gun rights, the reality is not nearly so bleak. Instead, as the recent NRA convention in Dallas showed clearly, the media is painting a wildly distorted picture of what is happening in America. Consider that in addition to recent record-breaking fundraising and membership numbers, the annual NRA gathering smashed previous attendance records. In all, close to 90,000 NRA members converged in Dallas for

the three-day summit between May 4 and May 6, beating out the previous record set in 2013. In fact, it seems like the anti-gun jihad being bankrolled by establishment billionaires is actually backfiring in a major way.

Aside from the record attendance by the grassroots members, the NRA convention was attended by President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, both U.S. senators from Texas, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, and countless other state and national political leaders. All of those individuals must deal with voters as they are — not as the media and the establishment wish them to be — in order to win elections. So the fact that virtually all of Texas’ state and national senior political leadership attended the convention is highly significant. It means politicians realize that the NRA (and by extension gun owners who support the Second Amendment) retains enough influence to make or break their campaigns.

The rhetoric of the political leaders was significant, too. During his well-received speech, Trump showered praise on the NRA and its members for standing in defense of “those sacred rights, given to us by God, including the right to self-defense.” Treating them as crucial allies in his fight to “Make America Great Again,” Trump urged them to remain involved in politics. “The Constitution can’t be changed by judges, bureaucrats, or the United Nations,” Trump added, calling on judges to protect the Constitution and U.S. sovereignty. The president also spoke of how gun control in France and the United Kingdom had turned disarmed citizens into helpless victims in the face of jihad and terror.

Vice President Mike Pence, who reportedly has his own presidential ambitions, also spoke strongly in defense of gun rights, even touting efforts to arm school teachers in response to mass shootings in gun-free zones. “The quickest way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a



Photo: Kurt Hyde

Outlandish attacks: One of the anti-gun groups against the NRA even claimed, without any evidence, that the NRA was somehow linked to Russia. (Where have we heard that before?)

The establishment's strategy appears to be to relentlessly demonize the NRA as a stand-in for gun owners generally, and the unalienable rights enshrined in the Second Amendment specifically.

gun,” said Pence, echoing a longtime NRA slogan. Pence also blasted the media for covering up “the whole story about firearms in America” and how “firearms in the hands of law-abiding citizens” make American communities safer.

Other top political leaders made similar comments about gun rights. “The Second Amendment is about the God-given right each and every one of us has to defend our lives, to defend our homes, to defend our children, to defend our family, and when the Second Amendment says ‘shall not be infringed’ it means exactly that!” declared U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas). The other U.S. senator from Texas, John Cornyn, a fellow Republican, told the NRA that there are some three million incidents each year in which guns are used to protect life or families. He urged gun owners to teach others about the benefits of guns, and called for more judges who would respect the Constitution and the Second Amendment as written by the Founders.

Popular Texas Governor Greg Abbott, a liberty-minded Republican, told attendees at the convention that the answer to gun violence was stronger protections for gun rights. As an example, he spent time talking about hero Stephen Willeford, the man who grabbed his AR-15 to confront the mass murderer who targeted Christians at a church in Sutherland Springs late last year. “Because he had a gun, he saved lives,” Abbott said, speaking of Willeford’s actions. Other speakers also touted Willeford’s armed heroism, and Willeford himself spoke at the convention, too. The establishment media mostly ignored him and those who spoke about his deeds.

Inside the NRA convention, the massive crowds were enthusiastic, optimistic, and heavily armed. Almost a thousand exhibitors showed off everything from guns disguised as cellphones to high-powered rifles to firearm accessories and all sorts of ammunition. The venue was so packed

that the NRA reportedly ran out of space for companies hoping to set up booths. People of all races, ages, colors, and creeds mingled and laughed together. And virtually every attendee who spoke with THE NEW AMERICAN had a solid understanding of gun rights and the real purpose behind the Second Amendment.

“The overarching aspect of the Second Amendment is to protect us from — to give us the ability to fight off — a tyrannical government,” Colion Noir, a child of Nigerian immigrants who now hosts the incredibly popular NRA Freestyle web series NOIR, told THE NEW AMERICAN in an interview. “But not only that, it symbolically represents the freedom that we cherish in this country. It’s something that is incredibly important in establishing the idea of self-preservation and also self-reliance, something that’s unique to our country compared with other places around the world.”

Indeed, throughout the conference, almost everybody who was asked about gun rights agreed that the rights to keep and bear arms and to self-defense are inalien-

able, God-given rights. That means even if the Second Amendment were repealed, as some anti-gun extremists such as former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens advocated recently, Americans would still retain their rights. And virtually every attendee, including young people who spoke to THE NEW AMERICAN, understood why the Founding Fathers included gun rights among those specifically protected in the Bill of Rights. Hint: It was not for hunting.

Fringe Protests

Outside the NRA convention, a small group of fringe anti-gun demonstrators — a few hundred at most — blasted the NRA and demanded “common-sense gun-safety” legislation. But for every one protester outside the convention seeking more infringements on the right to keep and bear arms, there were almost 500 NRA members inside standing firm for the Second Amendment, based on the NRA’s official numbers and a Reuters estimate on the size of the anti-gun protests. And yet, somehow, the anti-gun protests dominated the establishment media’s coverage of events in Dallas, possibly because there were no shootings for the media to obsess about despite 90,000 gun owners in one place.

Even outside the convention, the anti-gun protests were dwarfed by counter-protests supporting gun rights. Many of the pro-gun activists were heavily armed, and more than a few told THE NEW AMERI-



Photo: Alex Newman

Gun rights from God: There was widespread understanding among pro-gun activists in Dallas that the right to keep and bear arms is God-given. This Christian man said he didn’t even own a weapon.



Photo: Alex Newman

Determined: Pro-gun activists who were across from protesters seeking gun control put up a giant banner with the image of an “assault weapon,” taunting anti-gun forces to “come and take it.”

CAN that they did not think the NRA was vigorous enough in protecting gun rights. The pro-gun activists at the rally, many of whom were not affiliated with the NRA in any way and were not counted among the nearly 90,000 attendees, also set up a massive white banner with an image of an “assault rifle” on it with the words “Come and Take It” across the bottom. The anti-gun side was not amused.

A significant number of pro-gun activists rallying outside, touting the God-given right to keep and bear arms, said any permits or regulations were infringements and should be abolished. “Right now we’re pushing for constitutional carry, which means that if you’re legally able to own a firearm, you are legally able to carry it without having a license,” Truman Hubbard with Open Carry Texas, who was not attending the NRA convention, told *THE NEW AMERICAN* in an interview. “I should not need the government’s permission to carry a firearm.” Many attendees were fans of Gun Owners of America, which, unlike the NRA, refuses to compromise on Americans’ gun rights, even for seemingly small infringements.

The press was hardly interested in speaking with the pro-gun activists, though. Instead, they relentlessly hyped the anti-gun protests, using dishonesty to brazenly mislead their readers to give the impression that the tiny protests were the stars of the show. *THE NEW AMERICAN*

interviewed more than a dozen anti-gun protesters to see what they were thinking, and one common thread throughout most of the interviews was a lack of knowledge on their part, reliance on feelings and emotions, and a naïve trust in the establishment media. Ironically, many of those pushing gun control thought Trump was a dictator in waiting, though he has been reducing government controls, unlike his immediate predecessors.

Despite their naïveté, the protesters were certainly creative. A truck driving around the area, for instance, featured a picture of NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre and Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, along with Russian-style writing. Questions such as “How much money have you taken from Russia?” and “Why have you cozied up to Vladimir Putin’s Kremlin?” adorned the sides of the advertisements. The implication was clear: Anybody who stands against the establishment agenda of gun control, Big Government, globalism, and the far-left must be an agent of Big Government leader Putin.

Many of the protesters who spoke with *THE NEW AMERICAN* magazine, including Cassi Marietti, who identified herself as a leader with the group “Indivisible Rock-wall,” echoed the claims made on the side of the trucks. “The NRA is a vehicle for Russia,” she told this reporter, sounding totally serious. When asked to elaborate,

she claimed that “Russia” had “given money” to the NRA and President Trump. Some of her associates vigorously nodded in agreement and made similar claims. When asked for evidence, though, the best they could come up with was that they had read it “somewhere.” By contrast, they denied receiving funding or guidance from billionaire anti-gun extremists George Soros or Michael Bloomberg, who have bankrolled much of the anti-NRA machine including the AstroTurf “March for Our Lives” protests exposed by *THE NEW AMERICAN* in our April 23 issue.

Marietti argued against arming teachers. Among other concerns, she said it would lead to police shooting them. “The police will come in and shoot the coach,” she insisted. And she called for a gun-buyback program such as the one implemented in Australia. But when informed that that was mandatory gun confiscation, she quickly said that her envisioned program would be optional. “But I would love to take their AR-15s,” added Marietti, referring to America’s most popular rifle. She pointed to her poster, which featured a gory wound on somebody’s arm or leg that she said had been caused by an AR-15.

When asked what they wanted, and whether gun-rights activists were correct in asserting that the protesters wanted to take away guns, most of those interviewed by *THE NEW AMERICAN* insisted that they had no intention of totally disarming Americans. Instead, they called for “common-sense gun-safety” laws, which is a carefully crafted marketing slogan that has been pushed by gun-control groups and media outlets that realize Americans overwhelmingly support the right to keep and bear arms. “We *do* want to ban stock bumps [sic],” said one of the Indivisible Rock-wall protesters. Another quickly chimed in: “Bump stocks, we want to ban bump stocks.” Another said all gun owners should be licensed and registered, “like car owners.” All of them agreed that they wanted “automatic weapons” banned, perhaps unaware that such weapons have been practically illegal for civilians for generations.

Fake News

Beyond the bogus conspiracy theories linking Trump and the NRA to the Kremlin, the gullibility of protesters and their reliance on fake news was clearly taking

The coverage of the tiny protests also illustrated the fake-news problem well. Consider that the protesters represented the fringe of the fringe, making up about 0.2 percent of those at the convention. And yet, from reading the press, it would be easy to believe that embattled NRA members were cowering in the face of massive protests.

its toll on public discourse across many subjects. Other protesters, for instance, apparently reading too much propaganda from the establishment media, carried signs attacking the NRA for hypocrisy for allegedly banning guns at its own convention. That meme was thanks to misleading headlines and media reports such as one by the Huffington Post, which claimed “NRA Convention Bans Guns to Protect Mike Pence. Parkland Survivors’ Jaws Drop.” It began earlier with fake news from the Associated Press, which reported, “NRA bans guns at President Trump, VP Pence speeches during it’s [sic] annual meeting in Dallas.” The *Washington Post* followed up with another phony headline: “The NRA said guns will be banned during a Pence speech; Parkland students see hypocrisy.”

In reality, though, guns were everywhere throughout the massive convention hall and all around it — openly strapped to people’s waists, concealed under their belts, on display in cases on the convention floor, and more. The only exception to the ubiquitous presence of guns was when the U.S. Secret Service took control over one area of the convention so President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence could give speeches. Obviously, guns were not allowed there by Secret Service order — after all, more than a few anti-Trump activists have openly called for his assassination. The NRA had nothing to do with the decision, and guns were most definitely not banned at the convention. In short, it was total fake news.

The coverage of the tiny protests also illustrated the fake-news problem well.

Consider that the protesters represented the fringe of the fringe, making up about 0.2 percent of those at the convention. And yet, from reading the press, it would be easy to believe that embattled NRA members were cowering in the face of massive protests all around them demanding gun control. CNN was by far the most ridiculed media outlet in Dallas. But other outlets were even more dishonest. Tax-funded propaganda outlet National Public Radio (NPR), for instance, showered coverage on the anti-NRA protesters in a series of articles about them while practically ignoring the army of gun-rights activists.

One of its essentially “fake news” stories on the protesters, headlined “Students, Celebrities And The Faithful Protest Outside Of The NRA Convention,” was picked up by tax-funded affiliates nationwide. But the piece was more than a little misleading, to put it mildly. “Thousands of gun enthusiasts,” NPR “reporter” Sasha Ingber claimed, were there to “revel in displays of firearms and hunting accessories.” In reality, almost 90,000 gun enthusiasts were there — and their primary purpose was to defend the Second Amendment and stand by those who protect it, not “revel” in “displays of firearms.” NPR is normally far more specific on numbers, especially when trying to hype anti-gun protests.

It got even worse from there, though. Suggesting equivalency, Ingber continued by claiming that “some crowds are staying outside to protest.” In reality, the alleged “crowds” of protesters represented less than one-fourth of one percent of the number of those who gathered for the NRA convention, if that. But reading the article without knowing more, a naïve reader outside Dallas could easily be duped into believing the “crowds” were equal and opposing forces, rather than realizing that the “crowds” were just a few hundred fringe activists.

The dishonest article goes on to quote a number of those fringe activists, never challenging the false assumptions and outright falsehoods they parroted. In what has become standard operating procedure for the establishment media, the tax-funded propaganda outlet presented a handful of people — three, maybe four — as if they were a “group” with broad support. For instance, the NPR report claimed a “group” called “Faith Forward Dallas”



Photo: Alex Newman

CNN terrorist: The establishment media, and especially the “fake news terrorists” at CNN, were the subject of universal scorn and ridicule among the legions of Second Amendment enthusiasts at the convention.

hosted a “vigil.” During the entire weekend, *THE NEW AMERICAN* never observed more than four people associated with the “vigil.” And even some of those were also representing other groups such as “Moms Demand Action,” which were similarly hyped by the media as if they represented an equal and opposite force to the NRA. The NPR report failed to mention the fact that even outside the NRA convention, pro-gun rallies dwarfed the minuscule anti-gun rallies.

Even Fox News ran an Associated Press article making a big deal out of the tiny protest under the headline “Protesters gather as NRA members meet in Dallas.” According to the report, a group called #NoRA, founded by actress Alyssa Milano, was behind the rally. Milano told AP that her group was “trying to shine the light on the NRA’s stronghold over policymaking in Washington.” With millions of politically active members and a positive reputation among most voters, it is hardly a surprise to anyone that the NRA is influential in policymaking, so it was not immediately clear why Milano and her group found it necessary to “shine the light” on that. Indeed, top policymakers at all levels of government were proudly giving speeches inside — if only the media had cared to look.

Another media outlet owned by Fox parent News Corporation, the *Wall Street Journal*, used a similarly misleading headline: “Protests Outside NRA Convention Pull Focus to School Gun Violence.” A video under the headline included mostly interviews with anti-gun protesters, lots of emotion, and a handful of pro-gun protesters carrying scary-looking weapons. The only reason the tiny group of protesters pulled “focus” to “gun violence” was because the dishonest media hyped the protests relentlessly while ignoring the facts and the real world.

Even the handful of articles that did not primarily focus on protesters worked to mislead people. In an article about the 2018 NRA convention’s record attendance, *The Hill* noted: “Protesters also gathered outside the convention, calling for stronger gun control.” Of course, that is true. But it does not give any sense to the reader about the reality on the ground — again, there were about 500 times more NRA members than anti-gun protesters. But reading *The*

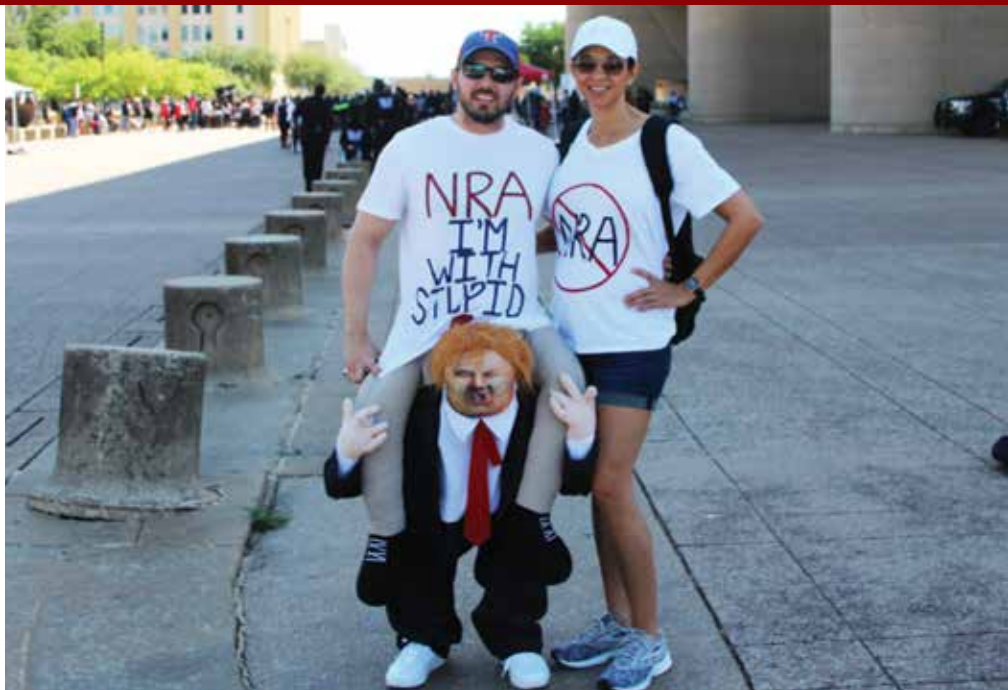


Photo: Alex Newman

The opposition: Fringe anti-NRA protesters mocked President Trump and spoke out against the pro-gun rights organization after his speech there, but they were outnumbered by about 500 to 1.

Hill or virtually any other establishment publication, one would never know it.

Fighting Back

Inside the convention, dozens of attendees who spoke with *THE NEW AMERICAN* ridiculed the so-called mainstream media, blasting them as “pathetic,” “fake news,” “anti-American,” “liars,” and more than a few words that cannot be printed here. One man photographed by this reporter outside the convention wore a t-shirt reading “CNN Terrorist,” poking fun at the far-left activist network masquerading as a “news” operation for its constant stream of what he derided as “fake news.” Indeed, disdain for the media — and the “fake news” kings at CNN in particular — was ubiquitous among the massive crowds in attendance. The establishment press seemed to be even less popular than gun-grabbing far-left Democrat politicians.

President Trump was perhaps the most high-profile voice to speak out. Not surprisingly, he ridiculed what he called “fake news CNN,” an outfit he routinely derides as among the worst “fake news” offenders, for promoting what he described as a “witch hunt” against him and Americans. And indeed, nothing and nobody was less popular at the NRA convention than CNN, which was frequently lambasted by attendees as the “Communist News Network” or

the “Clinton News Network.” Even worse than CNN, though, Trump said, was CBS. The audience repeatedly booed the media every time the media was mentioned.

“People realize that a lot of what you read and see on television is fake,” Trump said, touting his increasing poll numbers amid constant hostile reporting and even fake news designed to attack him. “People are smart.” Trump also ridiculed the “phony polls” showing Clinton would win, suggesting his current approval ratings are much higher than the press admits. Of course, Trump’s electoral victory proved the establishment media’s credibility and influence were all but gone among mainstream Americans.

NRA heavyweights at the convention were not amused by the media’s antics either. Dana Loesch, an NRA spokeswoman who has become something of a celebrity among pro-gun citizens, ridiculed the press in comments to *THE NEW AMERICAN*. “The fake media, the so-called mainstream media, I haven’t even seen any of them here, so I don’t know how they think they can write about these folks with any accuracy,” said Loesch, who previously had been mobbed during a phony CNN “debate” in which pro-gun questions from students were reportedly banned and the crowd was packed with anti-gun activists. “These folks here are the real America. These are the nic-



Photo: Alex Newman

Indivisible Rockwall: Protesters with “Indivisible Rockwall,” among the anti-NRA forces hyped by the press, said they wanted to ban “stock bumps” (sic) and “automatic weapons,” unaware of how uninformed they sounded.

est people you’ll find anywhere. The media doesn’t want to show that.”

In an interview with *THE NEW AMERICAN* before going on NRA TV, Noir, the NRA star, explained why the media spends so much time dishonestly demonizing the group. “They understand how important the NRA is in preserving the Second Amendment,” he said, adding that the NRA is a “freedom” organization. “If they weren’t worried about the NRA preserving the Second Amendment when they would like to destroy it, they wouldn’t be attacking them so vehemently.” In response, he called on Americans to use social media to promote the Second Amendment and bypass the “misinformation” being disseminated by CNN, MSNBC, and other anti-gun outlets.

Propaganda Backfiring

With the brazen dishonesty of the media on full display throughout the NRA convention and beyond, it is no wonder that less than one-third of Americans surveyed by Gallup say they have even a “fair” amount of trust in the press. Among Republicans, less than 15 percent expressed any trust in the press. If the media keeps this up, even those last stragglers may eventually wake up. For perspective, in 1976, the highest point on record since Gallup began asking in 1972, almost three-fourths of Americans expressed a great deal or a fair amount of trust in the press. Today, it is at the lowest level ever recorded, 32 percent, and still plummeting fast.

Ironically, despite the media’s frothing over civilian gun ownership, public sup-

port for gun control continues to plummet to historic lows. An NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll released two days before the March for Our Lives, for example, revealed that almost 60 percent of American adults now recognize the fact that widespread gun ownership enhances public safety. For perspective, those numbers were basically flipped 20 years ago, meaning Americans are getting more and more pro-gun as time passes. In other words, the media narrative is not just falling flat — it is backfiring in spectacular fashion.

Even among teenagers, who the media claims are preparing an uprising against guns and the NRA, a *USA Today*/Ipsos poll taken after the Parkland shooting found less than half of students 13 to 17 believe stricter gun control or background checks would help prevent mass shootings. As they get older and wiser, even more will see through the media’s lies.

Perhaps more interesting and revealing, even the anti-gun protesters at the anti-gun rally in Dallas mostly shied away from calling for outright gun bans or confiscation. Instead, they parroted the “common-sense gun-safety” mantra, part of the establishment’s strategy to slowly chip away at gun rights rather than reveal their hand. But if anything, their hesitation to admit their true goals is a testament to just how badly the establishment is losing the battle for the hearts and minds of Americans.

While the future certainly looks bright for firearms ownership in America, it is much too early to declare victory — and the establishment does not give up easily. The fight is not over, and it may never truly be over. Those who seek to disarm Americans have been working patiently for decades, and they will continue to exploit every tragedy to advance their objective.

And it is not just about guns. As more than a few NRA convention attendees told *THE NEW AMERICAN*, disarming law-abiding citizens is only a prelude to infringing on other fundamental freedoms — free speech, religious liberty, and more. “Being an Orthodox Jew in America, I know that once our firearm freedoms go, our religious freedom and our other rights will all be under threat too,” said Jonathan Burstyn, a concealed-carry instructor from Illinois. “That is why I consider the NRA to be at the forefront of protecting freedoms in this country.” He was also a fan of the organization Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, which understands better than most the deadly implications of gun control, with many Jews having relatives killed in the Holocaust.

The Second Amendment has always been the one that protects all the rest, as America’s Founders intended and as most of the NRA convention attendees understood well. Even communists have understood this. Mao Tse-tung famously put it this way: “Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.” He was right. For now, Americans have 300 million guns, and as such, they retain political power. But if that should ever change, freedom would no longer be secure. Considering the full-blown assault on the Second Amendment being waged by the establishment and its propaganda machine, Americans must urgently get involved in defending gun rights. Freedom is literally on the line. ■

Kurt Hyde and John Jennings contributed to the reporting for this article.



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The American Gun Culture

In attempting to diminish gun rights in the United States, the Left is attempting to convince Americans that guns weren't common in the founding era. They are lying.



miss./Getty Images Plus

by Roger D. McGrath

“It’s alive. It’s alive. It’s alive!” So exclaimed Dr. Frankenstein when his monster with the brain of a criminal began to move after jolts of electricity. I now think of that famous scene when I see the fraudulent work of Michael Bellesiles, which was quoted and cited as fact recently by the mainstream media and liberal authors. I thought we had buried that corpse long ago.

This whole sorry saga starts back in 1996, when an article by Bellesiles was published in the *Journal of American History*. Bellesiles argued that during America’s Colonial and New Nation eras, guns were scarce, and Americans weren’t proficient in their use. There was no American gun culture. He claimed that not until the

middle of the 19th century did a gun culture arise, artificially created by gun manufacturers through advertising and promotion. He later expanded the article into a book, *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*, published in 2000.

Taken Aback by Claims

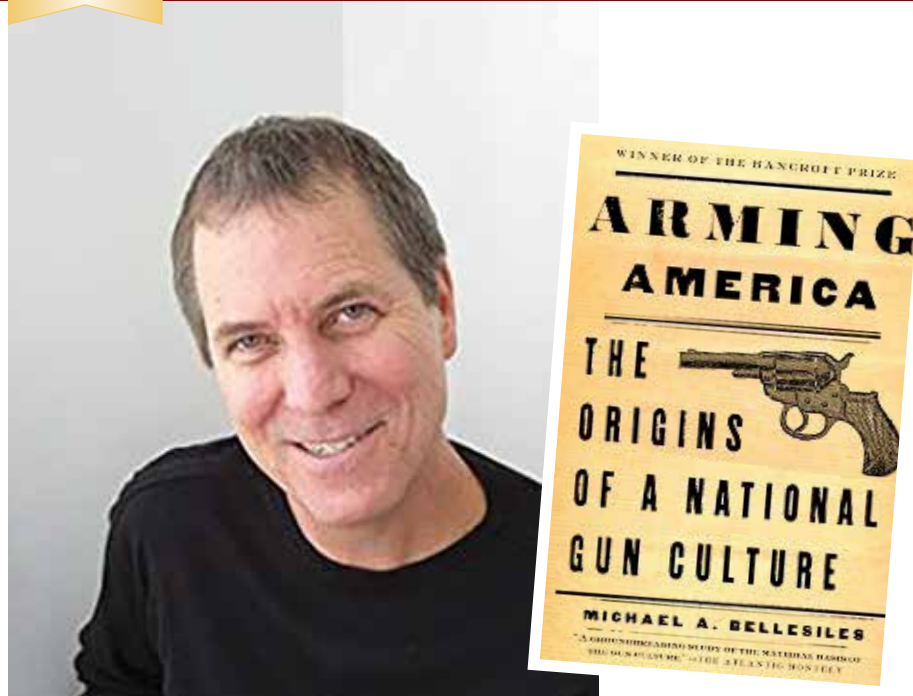
Bellesiles’ book was praised and promoted by the media and reviewed favorably and enthusiastically in academic journals. Many said it was the answer to the National Rifle Association’s argument that an armed citizenry was an American tradition going back to the earliest Colonial days. Now, they said, Bellesiles has proved Americans were not well armed and were not proficient with firearms — that was all an invention of the marketing department of gun manufacturers. Americans

and guns was a myth. Hallelujah! The trustees of Columbia University awarded *Arming America* the esteemed Bancroft Prize for excellence in American history for the year 2000.

Most of us on the other side of the issue were shocked at Bellesiles’ claims. They were contrary to everything I, for one, knew about Colonial and New Nation American history. My e-mail traffic on the issue was heavy. I happened to be part of a network of Second Amendment and gun-rights advocates organized in the 1980s by Don Kates, an attorney and civil libertarian from San Francisco. He showed up at my office at UCLA one day after reading my *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, & Vigilantes* book and said, “Let’s talk guns.” He was about as far from the Left’s image of a “gun nut” as any human being could be. He was also the most knowledgeable person I had ever met on the Second Amendment and all constitutional and legal issues pertaining to guns. He wanted to organize proponents of the Second Amendment who taught in universities, especially those in history and law. Within a couple years, he had created a network that included an impressive array of scholars. With the arrival of the Internet, we all became connected with chain e-mail. Now, in reaction to *Arming America*, that chain was ablaze.

Most of us noticed individual problems with what Bellesiles had done. For example, one of his citations was for a volume of records I had wanted to use for my *Gunfighters* book. I had seen the source quoted and cited in the 19th-century works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, the great historian of California and the American West. Much to my dismay, I learned the volume had been destroyed in the great fire that followed the earthquake of 1906 in San Francisco. *Mirabile dictu*, Bellesiles quoted from the volume and cited it as if it existed.

Taking the lead in our group was Clayton Cramer, a software engineer, historian,



Fraud: Michael Bellesiles' *Arming America* received glowing reviews and great publicity from the mainstream media and academic journals upon its publication, but was later revealed to be a fraud. After his fall from grace, Bellesiles moved to Connecticut and worked as a bartender. He still writes history, hopefully more honestly and accurately this time around.

and author of articles in gun magazines. He had recently earned a master's degree in history, specializing in the New Nation era, and was familiar with many of the sources Bellesiles was citing. Cramer would soon be teaching in college as an adjunct professor. Through assiduous research, he discovered hundreds — yes, hundreds — of instances in which Bellesiles had cited sources that were not extant or were misrepresented, misquoted, or entirely falsified. Cramer also found quotations with words omitted or words inserted to change the meaning of the quoted material, as well as contrived statistical evidence and altered dates.

Unlike the immediate recognition and praise heaped upon Bellesiles by the liberal media and his fellow travelers in academe upon publication of *Arming America*, Cramer toiled in relative obscurity until his criticisms of Bellesiles' work, at first publicized only by the various gun rights organi-

zations, finally became so devastating they couldn't be ignored. Bellesiles didn't address the criticisms but relied on the Left's favorite tactic: *argumentum ad hominem* — argue against the man, attack the messenger! Cramer was nothing but, said Bellesiles, “a long time advocate of unrestricted gun ownership,” while, he, Bellesiles, was a professor at Emory University, who had “certain obligations of accuracy that transcend current political benefit.”

Bellesiles then resorted to another favored tactic of the Left: He said he was the object of hate mail and death threats. The American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians rallied to Bellesiles' defense, endorsing a resolution that supported Bellesiles and condemned the alleged attacks on him. Bellesiles felt vindicated and said “academic historians would not let their expertise be impugned by a rank and partisan amateur like Cramer.”

Through assiduous research, he discovered hundreds — yes, hundreds — of instances in which Bellesiles had cited sources that were not extant or were misrepresented, misquoted, or entirely falsified.

Cramer was soon joined by others, though, including eminent scholars Joyce Lee Malcolm, writing in *Reason* magazine and in the *Texas Law Review*; Dave Kopel, in *National Review*; James Lindgren, in the *William & Mary Law Review* and in *The Yale Law Journal*; Robert Churchill, in *Reviews in American History*; and Ira Gruber, Gloria Main, and Randolph Roth, in the *William & Mary Quarterly*. These scholars and others not only reinforced Cramer's criticisms of Bellesiles but added more of their own. It was becoming clear *Arming America* was a fraud.

By now Bellesiles was admitting to what he claimed were only minor errors in his citations or saying his improbable statistical tables were the result of his never being good in math. When asked to produce the notes he took from all the documents he supposedly perused, Bellesiles said they had been destroyed when fire sprinklers in his office went off accidentally.

Reduced to Rubbish

Emory University finally launched an investigation of its own and had a committee of historians examine *Arming America*. The committee reported that Bellesiles had falsified portions of his book and violated Emory's policies and standards. Largely because of the book, Bellesiles had recently been awarded tenure. Now, because of the book, Bellesiles resigned. A few months later, Columbia University revoked his Bancroft Prize and asked him to return the prize money. The publisher of the book, Alfred A. Knopf, announced it would cease printing copies, and unsold copies returned by bookstores would not be sold as remainders but turned to pulp.

Those who had heaped lavish praise upon Bellesiles when *Arming America* first appeared were now left with egg on their faces. To their credit, several acknowledged their mistakes. Garry Wills, who had written a glowing review for the *New York Times*, now declared, “I was took. The book is a fraud.” Edmund Morgan, the author of a very positive review in the *New York Review of Books*, now viewed the book as highly flawed. Roger Lane, who had called Bellesiles' research “meticulous and thorough” in the *Journal of American History*, now said, “It's now entirely clear to me that he's made up a lot of these records. He's betrayed us. He's betrayed the cause. It's

100 percent clear that the guy is a liar and a disgrace to my profession.”

Clayton Cramer was not done with Bellesiles. In 2006, Cramer’s book *Armed America* was published. As Bellesiles had expanded an article into a book, Cramer expanded many articles into a book and, in an organized whole, exposed the misdeeds of Bellesiles. There is page after page of specific examples of Bellesiles deliberately misrepresenting, misquoting, altering, and fabricating original source material. Case closed.

At least that’s what we all thought. In 2010, Bellesiles came out with a second book, *1877: America’s Year of Living Violently*, published by New Press. He certainly deserved a chance to do it right this time, but promotional copy for the book was Orwellian: “A major new work of popular history, *1877* is also notable as the comeback book for a celebrated U.S. historian. Michael Bellesiles is perhaps most famous as the target of an infamous ‘swiftboating’ campaign by the National Rifle Association, following the publication of his Bancroft Prize-winning book *Arming America*.”

It’s mind-boggling that a publicist actually wrote such copy, and even more mind-boggling that Bellesiles allowed it to be used in promotion of his book. Northwestern University Professor of Law James Lindgren reacted immediately. “The idea that the NRA had anything substantial to do with Bellesiles’ case,” said Lindgren, “is utter nonsense.” Lindgren noted that Charlton Heston criticized *Arming America* in a column in an NRA magazine, but beyond that the NRA was on the sidelines. Moreover, Lindgren said, when Clayton Cramer asked the NRA for a small travel grant to check Bellesiles’ sources in New England libraries, the NRA turned him down. Just how did the NRA influence all the scholars who independently criticized *Arming America*? asked Lindgren. “It is ironic that a historian whose book spread unsupported and untrue stories about early America,” concluded Lindgren, “is now defended by an editor at the New Press who is spreading unsupported and untrue stories about the dispute over that book.”

Stunningly, Bellesiles’ discredited arguments were resurrected in Pamela

Haag’s *The Gunning of America* in 2016. Haag says she thinks Bellesiles was right about the scarcity of guns and the absence of a gun culture in

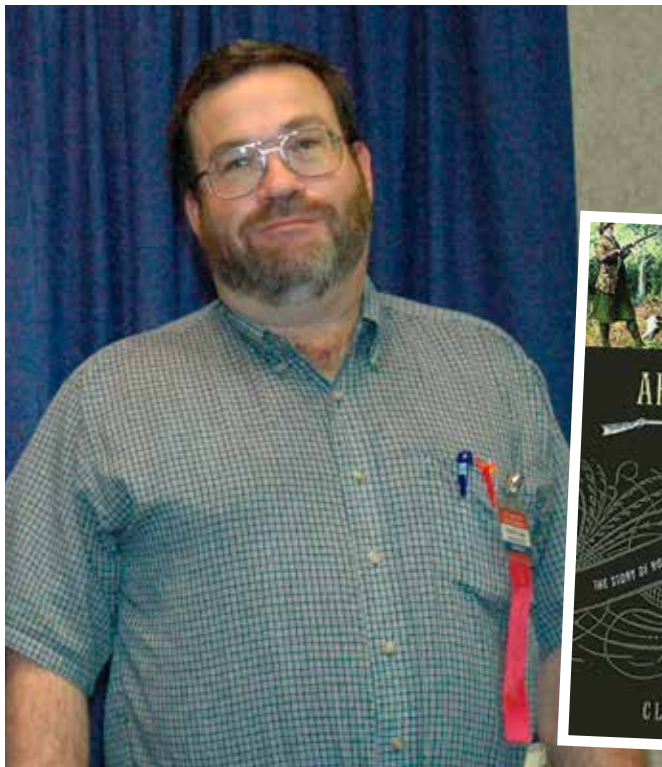
Colonial and New Nation America. She essentially repeats everything Bellesiles said about the early days of the United States and argues forcefully that an American gun culture was an artificial creation of Colt and Winchester and other gun manufacturers advertising and promoting their products beginning in the 1850s and ’60s. Her book received a warm welcome by the media; evidently 14 years was enough time to forget that Bellesiles’ thesis had been destroyed.

Proof Positive

Fortunately, Clayton Cramer, the leading figure in exposing Bellesiles, has a new book out, *Lock, Stock, and Barrel: The Origins of American Gun Culture* (Praeger, 2018). It’s not only a must-read, but a must-addition to one’s library as an invaluable reference work. Cramer provides incontrovertible evidence that guns were fundamental to the American way of life from the very earliest Colonial days, more than 200 years before Bellesiles and Haag said a gun culture was created by the gun-manufacturing industry. Examples abound in colony after colony of laws requiring freemen to arm themselves and for the owners of indentured servants to supply each servant with a gun when his term of indenture was completed.

In 1631, Massachusetts Bay Colony enacted a statute requiring every adult male to have a musket, one pound of gunpowder, and 20 bullets. A 1637 ordinance required adult males to carry their muskets to public assemblies and to carry their firearms when traveling more than a mile from home. There was even an ordinance requiring men to have their firearms with them when attending church. The neighboring Plymouth Colony enacted a statute in 1632 requiring “every freeman or other inhabitant of this colony provide for himselfe and each under him able to beare armes a sufficient musket.” A later addition to the law required each person to also have two pounds of powder and 10 pounds of bullets.

During the 1630s, Connecticut enacted laws requiring adult males to have guns and ammunition at home, and those too poor to purchase the firearms for themselves to be provided with them at taxpayers’ expense. In 1643, Connecticut passed a law requiring men attending church to “bring a musket, pystoll or some peece,



On point: The author of several books, including *Armed America* and *Lock, Stock, and Barrel*, Clayton Cramer led the way in exposing the fraudulent work of Bellesiles. After writing several articles on the misrepresentations and fabrications in Bellesiles’ *Arming America*, Cramer came out with *Armed America*, a point-by-point correction that sets the record straight.

with powder and shott to each meeting.” New Hampshire required every “Male person from Sixteen Years to Sixty,” with a few exceptions, to have a firearm. Rhode Island enacted a statute reading, “noe man shall go two miles from the Towne unarmed, eyther with Gunn or Sword; and that none shall come to any public Meeting without his weapon.”

Laws similar to those cited for the New England colonies were enacted in all the colonies, although by the 18th century the southern colonies were beginning to draw a color line. The colonists were well armed, and for good reason. Indian attacks were common, and the threat of European wars spilling over the Atlantic into the colonies was ever-present. Then, too, the colonists became hunters of wild game, something denied the common man in Europe. A 1632 Virginia law required a license to hunt wild pigs, but “any man be permitted to kill deare or other wild beasts or fowle in the common woods, forests, or rivers.... That thereby the inhabitants may be trained in the use of their arms, the Indians kept from our plantations, and the wolves and other vermine destroyed.”

In his 1682 Frame of Government for Pennsylvania, William Penn granted the settlers “liberty to fowl and hunt upon the

lands they hold, and all other lands therein not inclosed.” A 1698 traveler’s account suggests Pennsylvania was a hunter’s paradise. “Here is curious Diversion in Hunting, Fishing, and Fowling,” said Gabriel Thomas. Deer are everywhere and “there are vast Numbers of other Wild Creatures, as Elks, Bufalos, etc., all which as well [as] Beasts, Fowl, and Fish, are free and common to any Person who can shoot or take them, without any let, hinderance or Opposition whatsoever.”

Virginia and Pennsylvania were not atypical — hunting was common throughout the colonies. The tons of gunpowder imported into the colonies gives some indication of the volume of shooting that occurred. Good records exist for gunpowder passing through American ports from 1769 through 1771. A stunning 1,030,694 pounds was recorded, which is enough gunpowder for 40-50 million shots. Some of that gunpowder went to British troops stationed in the colonies, British naval stores, and Indian trade, but the great bulk went to the colonists themselves. Remembering Americans, not liking British taxation, were smugglers, there may have been considerably more gunpowder imported. I suspect there was enough gunpowder imported each year for two million shots

a month. If the colonists weren’t armed, as claimed by Bellesiles and Haag, what were they doing with hundreds of thousands of pounds of gunpowder each year — sprinkling it on their oatmeal?

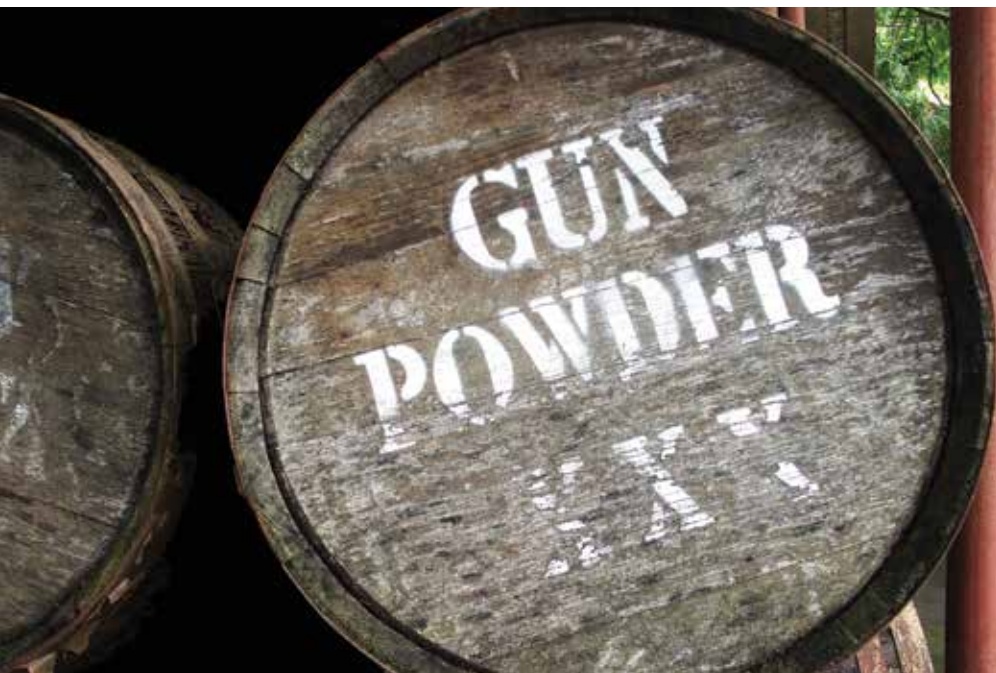
Another indication of widespread gun ownership in the colonies is the large number of gunsmiths. A look at city directories, census reports, tax lists, and newspaper advertisements reveals it was a common occupation. Then, too, persons who described themselves as blacksmiths and locksmiths were often gunsmiths as well. Many gunsmiths had indentured servants or apprentices working for them. There was a black slave, called Caesar, in South Carolina who served as gunsmith for the local militia, cleaning and repairing all the militia’s firearms.

Most of the colonial gunsmiths, like Caesar, repaired existing firearms, but there were also many dozens who manufactured guns from scratch. The greatest concentration of gunmakers was in Pennsylvania, which makes sense because of the great number of German immigrants — the Pennsylvania Dutch — who settled there. In Europe, the Germans were known as the finest gunsmiths and makers of guns. In Pennsylvania, it was German gunsmiths, especially in Lancaster and Reading, who developed the rifle that conquered the colonial frontier, the famous long rifle or Kentucky rifle. It was in 1719 in Lancaster that the first boring mill was established to make high-quality barrels. Pennsylvania gunmakers supplied thousands of muskets for American militiamen during the Revolution. When the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety ordered muskets during the fall of 1775, 4,000 were delivered by April 1776.

As with gunpowder, if there wasn’t widespread ownership and use of guns, why were there so many gunsmiths and gunmakers in America?

Traveling Tales

Perhaps the most outrageous thing said by Bellesiles in *Arming America* was that most Americans, even on the frontier, did not hunt until the mid-1830s, when it became fashionable for wealthy Americans to do so in imitation of the British upper class. Bellesiles cited travel accounts to support his claim. Like so much of what Bellesiles asserted, this stunned me. However, unlike most of the sources Bellesiles cited for



Berryspun/Getty Images Plus

Of what use is gunpowder? Those who have argued Americans weren’t well armed in the Colonial era have a difficult time accounting for the hundreds of thousands of pounds of gunpowder imported each year into the colonies.



Long-used long rifle: Designed and manufactured by German gunsmiths in Pennsylvania, the Kentucky rifle was the gun that won the West in the Colonial and New Nation eras. To their dismay, the British learned of the weapon's deadly accuracy in the Revolutionary War.

other things in his book, I was very familiar with travel accounts. For me they always made for great reading — Europeans traveling through the United States and commenting on America and Americans — and most of the travel accounts included chapters devoted to the American frontier, my field of specialization.

Travel accounts were also dear to the heart of Clayton Cramer, and he devotes a chapter of *Lock, Stock, and Barrel* to the very accounts Bellesiles cites, and he reveals that Bellesiles, again and again, said just the opposite of what was actually in the accounts. Cramer treats the reader to dozens of descriptions by travelers, which should leave no doubt in anyone's mind that Americans were a gun-toting and hunting folk on a scale never seen before in history.

Renowned English astronomer Francis Baily in his *Journal of a Tour in Unsettled Parts of North America in 1796 & 1797*, while visiting Washington, D.C., said, "Game is plenty in these parts, and, what perhaps may appear to you remarkable, I saw some boys who were out a shooting, actually kill several brace of partridges in what will be one of the most public streets of the city." He described Fredericktown, Maryland, as a "large and flourishing place" with a "large manufactory of rifle-guns carried on." He noted Hagerstown is "also a manufactory of rifle-guns." While descending the Ohio River, he said the boatmen every day go "into the woods with their guns to hunt for deer, turkeys, bears, or any other animals fit for food." Baily also said even the farmers lived "a great deal upon deer and turkeys, which they sho[t] wild in the woods." Although Baily didn't observe anyone hunting in the streets of New York City as he had in the

capital, he said people would "go over to Long Island to hunt, shoot, and fish."

Anglo-Irish explorer and writer Isaac Weld also traveled through the United States in the mid-late 1790s. He noted German gunsmiths in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, sold rifles which, "although not as handsome as those imported from England, are more esteemed by the hunters, and are sent to every part of the country." He was, of course, referring to the famous and deadly accurate Kentucky rifle. "An experienced marksman with one of these guns," said Weld, "will hit an object not larger than a crown piece, to a certainty, at the distance of one hundred yards." Weld then described an exhibition of shooting prowess with one rifleman holding a square piece of wood between his knees while another rifleman, a hundred yards away, shot it. But that was just one of many feats. "Were I," said Weld, "to tell you all the stories I have heard of the performance of riflemen, you would think the people were most abominably addicted to lying."

Upper-crust Englishman and real estate speculator Fortescue Cuming recorded his impressions of America during the years 1807-1809. In *Sketches of a Tour to the Western Country*, he noted the armed citizenry and the popularity of hunting. In Kentucky, he said, "little or no bread was used, but that even the children were fed on game; the facility of gaining which prevented the progress of agriculture." The settlers were such expert marksmen that they thought "it a bad shot if they miss the very head of a squirrel, or a wild turkey, on the top of the highest forest tree with a single ball."

William C. Smith was a circuit-riding Methodist minister who traveled the West in the early 1800s and recorded his obser-

vations in *Indiana Miscellany*. He noted the settlers hunted regularly, although, he was pleased to announce, usually not on Sunday. The settlers always went about armed for fear of Indian attack, especially during the years of the War of 1812. "All the men were excellent hunters," said Smith, "some of them real experts.... Some of [the women] could handle the rifle with great skill, and bring down the game in the absence of their husbands."

And so it goes, one traveler's account after another — that of upper-crust Englishman Pym Fordham, America's first woman journalist Anne Royall, American geographer and geologist Henry Schoolcraft, English aristocrat William Blane, English naturalist and marine biologist Philip Gosse, German Duke Karl Bernhard, French jurist and minister Alexis de Tocqueville, and a dozen others all give similar descriptions of guns everywhere, the shooting skills of the people, and the prowess of the hunters. This was our America long before, as claimed by Bellesiles and Haag, the gun industry beginning in the 1850s and '60s supposedly created the American gun culture. Sorry, folks, but you're more than 200 years late on that. Do you really understand so little about America?

Anglo-Irishman Thomas Cather said it all for me in his *Voyage to America*, a record of his travels to the frontier in 1836-1837. He watched pioneers headed west as they moved along a trail. "Each emigrant," said Cather, "generally had a wagon or two, drawn by oxen. These wagons contained their wives, children, and [the] rest of their baggage. The man walked by the side of his team with his rifle over his shoulder." ■

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Don't Blame the Left for the Student Anti-gun Movement; Blame the NRA

The Second Amendment references the necessity of guns for use by the Militia to secure a “free state,” yet the NRA virtually ignores this crucial aspect, leaving room for gun control.



dsmoulton/Getty Images Plus

by Joel Goodman

The Left blames the AR-15 and the National Rifle Association (NRA) for mass shootings, with media stoking the anti-gun flames. The Right blames the Left for distorting the truth and wanting to disarm Americans.

But of greater political consequence, blame should be laid on the gun lobby for the anti-assault weapon mania. By suppressing an honest argument about why citizens should own military-style guns, the NRA has left most citizens, especially impressionable youths, uninformed about citizenship and the Militia.

In its defense of guns and gun rights, the gun lobby never references the Citi-

zen Militia, and the weapons necessary to equip it. The only reference to the Militia on the NRA's lobbying ILA (Institute for Legislative Action) website is in the following title: “Virginia's House Sub-Committee Anti-Militia Taskforce.”

The NRA's lack of editorial copy about the Militia is striking, since the Second Amendment reads, “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

The Militia is front and center in the Second Amendment, yet the NRA refuses to advocate for the stated purpose of the amendment: protection of the Militia.

In defending the right to keep and bear arms, the gun lobby ignores the Militia and the military-style weapons necessary to fulfill the Militia's intended purpose.

The NRA's avoidance of the Militia and the military-style weapons it requires is ironic, considering the NRA was founded

NRA nearsightedness: The NRA has long defended the Second Amendment, but it often takes positions, such as not defending other constitutional amendments or ignoring the necessity of arming the Militia, that leave the Second Amendment vulnerable to gun haters.

to advance citizen marksmanship with military weapons.

It is embarrassing when the NRA defends the AR-15 as a hunting rifle. Of course, it can be used to hunt, but there are many less-militarily capable guns that could be used to hunt, so this argument is weak.

The NRA continues to portray all semi-automatic weapons as being the same, and paints the AR-15 as just another sporting rifle, instead of calling it exactly what it and others like it are, well-designed combat-styled firearms — something that might be used by the Militia.

Even after Justice Antonin Scalia's commentary in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, which detailed the pre-governmental right to bear arms, the gun lobby refused to faithfully support the Second Amendment, possibly afraid that the rarity of organized Militias in America might obviate the Second Amendment's reason for being.

But the lack of state-organized Militias was never a factor in the rationale for the continuing existence of the Militia or individual gun ownership in the early United States. In 1792, a year after the Second Amendment was passed, in a House debate on “a bill more effectively to provide for national defence, by establishing an uniform Militia throughout the United States” (Militia Bill), Representative Jeremiah Wadsworth of Connecticut said, “The Militia of the several states

Joel Goodman is a licensed firearms dealer and a longtime NRA safety instructor who has contributed to several conservative news outlets and has published a political novel.

exist at the present moment more by the consent of the persons forming them in the several states, than in consequence of any laws of the particular states.”

A motion was made to provide the poor and the young with military guns so that they would be better armed when called to the organized Militia. It was defeated because it was feared that the guns provided by the government might later be confiscated by that same government “who would wish to see so large a portion of the community ... armed by the United States, and liable to be disarmed by them.”

The author of the template for what eventually became the Bill of Rights, George Mason, described the Militia as “the whole people” — the individual American citizen. The citizens are the Militia. The Militia is the citizens. They are one and the same.

The gun lobby speaks of Second Amendment rights. Factually, we have no “Second Amendment rights.” The Bill of Rights does not give us Second Amendment rights. It shields from central government intrusion the right that we already had prior to the creation of the U.S. government. Some of our rights were considered so essential that it was demanded that they be enumerated in the Constitution before the Constitution was ratified.

The Supreme Court decision *Presser v. Illinois*, which was re-affirmed by the *Heller* decision more than a century later, made it quite clear that even if a state had no organized Militia, it could not disarm its citizens because those citizens constitute the unorganized (reserve) Militia, which exists de facto, without governmental benefit.

The Constitution gives the U.S. president the authority to call the Militia into federal service, and whether or not a state has organized the Militia, the state may do nothing to diminish the Militia’s capability, so that if and when it is called into federal service, it could become an effective part of the federal Militia.

Even if the Second Amendment were repealed, American citizens would still maintain their pre-governmental right to arms because they constitute the Militia. In other words, you can’t take guns away from Americans. As said decisively in *Presser*:

It is undoubtedly true that all citizens capable of bearing arms constitute the reserved military force or reserve militia of the United States as well as of the States; and, in view of the prerogative of the General Government, as well as of its general powers, the States cannot ... prohibit the people from keeping and bearing arms, so as to deprive the United States of their rightful resource for maintaining the public security, and disable the people from performing their duty to the General Government.

The NRA has consistently refused to promote the Militia in spite of anti-gun forces incessantly railing against “assault weapons,” even challenging the idea that a well-armed citizenry is the most natural defense of liberty.

It is beyond a doubt that the NRA is failing in its pledge to safeguard the rights protected by the Second Amendment, despite the fact that the Second Amendment could rightly be said to undergird and protect all other American rights from always-grasping and opportunistic government.

Few protesting students fully comprehend that *disarmed* Jews were shot by Nazis, or that it was *unarmed* middle-class Cubans who were shot by Fidel Castro’s regime.

There is large-scale resistance to AR-15 style rifles because much of the public sees no connection between the individual citizen and the protection of liberty and the protection of the public calm. Today, public-safety situations are responded to by paid professionals. We are led to believe that there is no need for a well-organized and well-armed Citizen Militia, in contradiction to the underlying philosophy of the American government wherein the existence of the Militia is necessary to protect liberty from government, which was stated thusly by Elbridge Gerry (House member from Massachusetts) during the debate on the Second Amendment:

What, Sir, is the use of a Militia?

It is to prevent the establishment of a standing army, the bane of liberty.... Whenever Governments mean to invade the rights and liberties of the people, they always attempt to destroy the Militia, in order to raise an army upon their ruins.

The availability or restriction of the AR-15 will determine whether we remain a participatory democratic republic, or continue becoming something more centralized, more tyrannical, less demanding of the individual citizen’s participation — and ultimately less uniquely American and less safe. ■



The Militia’s usefulness: Maryland State Militia’s heroic covering action at the Battle of Long Island, which allowed many of Washington’s regulars to retreat, has been called “an hour more precious to liberty than any other in history.”

Obama lackeys: Almost 70 percent of Senior Executive Service members, the highest caste of career federal employees, were inducted into the SES during the Obama administration. Many are now sabotaging Trump's agenda.

AP Images

They Decide What Government Does

Most of the federal government is run and controlled by the Senior Executive Service, a network of high-ranking managers who do what they want and are invulnerable to voters.

by Alex Newman

In the classic British comedy series *Yes Minister* from the early 1980s, career civil service bureaucrats regularly promise to carry out their minister's instructions. After all, he is technically their boss. But as soon as the minister, a political appointee, is out of earshot, the career bureaucrats get right back to doing whatever it is *they* think should be done. They frequently ridicule their boss behind his back. And when the minister asks why something hasn't been done, or why bureaucrats were doing something they were ordered not to do, the senior civil service official makes excuses, obfuscates, and then carries on with whatever he thinks ought to be done. Basically, what the minister wants matters little. What really matters is the implementation phase — or lack thereof — of policy. That is in the hands of the upper echelons of the civil service. The show, a favorite of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, is hilarious, a classic example of British humor at its finest. But when it happens in the real world, a frequent occurrence, it is much less funny. In fact, in America, it is not funny at all.

Deep within the bowels of the federal

government exists a small core of powerful government officials — more than two-thirds installed on their perch during the Obama administration — who largely run the machine. Sure, President Donald Trump was able to appoint a new team that includes a few thousand political appointees, who are ostensibly in charge of running the federal bureaucracies. But between those appointees and the millions of federal employees costing taxpayers trillions of dollars when regulations are factored in is a permanent buffer or barrier of senior executives. This layer essentially has the power to sabotage any potential swamp-draining. And its members, many of them Obama acolytes and Big Government loyalists, appear determined to do that. Thanks to federal civil service laws, firing them — even for poor performance or serious problems — is extremely difficult. And already, the Trump administration is butting heads with them.

What Is the “Senior Executive Service”?

Meet the so-called Senior Executive Service (SES). This little-known group is a crucial component and tool of an apparatus that has come to be known in the public

imagination as the Deep State — the Deep State is a shadowy network beyond the reach of voters, which *THE NEW AMERICAN* explored in more detail in the January 8 Special Issue. Officially, these are just the highest-ranked managers across the federal government, political agnostics who normally implement policy rather than set the direction of it. They are supposed to be the link between political appointees and the bloated federal bureaucracy. They have been compared to civilian “generals.” And in theory, they are supposed to follow constitutional orders that come from the people via the White House and Congress. But that does not always happen.

The SES includes most of the federal government's managerial and policy positions above the General Schedule (GS) grade 15, the highest rank before SES. And while the feds often downplay the importance of it, when it's mentioned at all, it is clearly a powerful group. The Congressional Research Service (CRS), for instance, described it in a 2012 report as a “centralized cadre of senior leaders in the government.” “These leaders operate and oversee nearly every Government activity in approximately 75 Federal agencies,” the U.S. Office of Personnel

Thanks to federal civil service laws, firing them — even for poor performance or serious problems — is extremely difficult.

Management, which oversees it, explains on its website. According to data from OPM's Enterprise Human Resources Integration tool cited by *Government Executive*, almost 70 percent of SES members were appointed to their positions during the Obama administration.

But the key role of the SES in the Deep State was long ago recognized by Deep State bigwigs. In January of 1989, shortly after taking office, President George H.W. Bush, a Deep State insider and a fervent advocate of what he called a "New World Order" run by a "credible United Nations" and its "peacekeeping" forces, spoke to the SES before anyone else. "You're the first group that I am addressing as President outside the White House, and you're one of the most important groups I will ever speak to," Bush told the SES in a speech. "I believe that there is tremendous pent-up energy in the Federal Government, a powerful force for good that needs to be released. And I want to be the President to do that, to release the Federal manager from bureaucratic bondage so that together

we can, as I said on the steps of the Capitol, use power to serve people." He called on the SES to get busy on "education," "protecting the environment," "fighting crime," and much more.

The stated purpose of the statute that created this permanent centralized cadre was to "ensure that the executive management of the Government of the United States is responsive to the needs, policies, and goals of the nation and otherwise is of the highest quality." But more than a few analysts and critics have instead referred to the SES as the "shadow government" or even the "secret government" in Washington, D.C. And in a very real sense, it is. Lawmakers are voted in and out of office every few years. Presidents and their political appointees come and go. But the Senior Executive Service transcends it all. Indeed, as the CRS put it in its 2012 report, the SES is a "centralized corps of senior leaders providing *consistent leadership across administrations*." (Emphasis added.) This elite caste "was designed to be largely insulated from political influence," the CRS report added.

The Deep State has always liked the idea of having consistent governance, regardless of the people's wishes. As Deep State loyalist and Bill Clinton mentor Carroll Quigley put it in his incredibly revealing book *Tragedy & Hope*, "The argument that the two parties should represent opposed ideals and policies, one, perhaps, of the Right and the other of the Left, is a foolish idea, acceptable only to doctrinaire and academic thinkers. Instead, the two parties should be almost identical, so that the American people can 'throw the rascals out' at any election, without leading to any profound or extensive shifts in policy." The SES appears to exist to help ensure that this vision of government is the dominant one in Washington, D.C., and beyond.

The Shadow Government Deep State

Best-selling author Jerome Corsi, a prominent conservative whose most recent book is *Killing the Deep State: The Fight to Save President Trump*, described the SES as a crucial tentacle of the Deep State. The Senior Executive Service, he wrote, is "10,000 Deep State shadow government employees who are sabotaging the American Republic for the globalist agenda." Writing on social media, Corsi blasted the SES network, saying it is dominated by "hard-left Democrats" who are "Obama-Clinton holdovers." Corsi also lambasted the Jimmy Carter-backed federal law that "prevents them from being fired."

Former Navy SEAL Matthew Bracken, who has written five novels on defending freedom from enemies foreign and domestic, was among the earliest in the patriot movement to call out the SES and its role. Indeed, more than 10 years ago, Bracken highlighted it in one of his books. "In the United States, the people that run our government are called the Senior Executive Service, the SES grade, used to be nicknamed super-grades," Bracken explained during a more recent interview on the *Alex Jones Show*, adding that if the United States descended into chaos, SES members would become likely targets. "They're above GS15 level. They're the generals that never go away, they're the civilian clothes-wearing generals of the bureaucracy. They are the Deep State." In recent months, awareness of this SES has exploded, thanks to the efforts of



Assigned to work, not proselytize for AI: SES member and U.S. "Climate Policy Advisor" Joel Clement, seen here with "carbon billionaire" Al Gore, lashed out after being reassigned by the Trump administration to do something more useful.

twitter.com/jclement4maine/media



Photo Credit: Jim Hannant, U.S. Army
Forces Command Public Affairs

Badge of power: Members of the Senior Executive Service wear lapel pins of a keystone, which symbolizes their key role linking political appointees to career bureaucrats who implement policy.

American Intelligence Media, an alternative media site that has focused much of its energy recently on exposing the SES.

But even when the federal government describes the Senior Executive Service, it sounds creepy and bizarre — and un-American. “Members of a ‘corporate SES’ respected and embraced the dynamics of American democracy — an approach to governance that provided a continuing vehicle for change,” reads the description of the SES by the U.S. Energy Department’s Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer. Obviously, America is not a democracy, but a republic. And why taxpayers would want an “approach to governance” that “provides a continuing vehicle for change” was not explained.

These bureaucratic managers represent the pinnacle of the permanent pyramid of bureaucratic power in the United States. In total, there are somewhere between 7,500 and 9,000 SES members running the federal Leviathan at any given time. They are the highest-paid federal employees, often making close to or sometimes more than \$200,000 — not including their bonuses, which can dwarf the annual wages of everyday Americans. And like an elite caste, they even sport special lapel pins identifying their privileged status. Indeed, few Americans even realize that this corps of elite managers holds so much sway over the actions of what is ostensibly We The People’s federal government. It is the very essence of the “Administrative State.”

The overwhelming majority of SES members come up through the ranks of the civil service. But depending on the agency, many are also political appointees who *become* career “civil servants.” Indeed, after Obama lost the election, as

others have done in the past, his administration rushed to pack the SES Administrative State with his own political minions, thereby protecting his political legacy and sabotaging the agenda of his successors. Lawmakers spoke out, with Congressman Michael McCaul (R-Texas), chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, demanding to know in late 2016 how many recent appointments the Obama administration had made to SES. He also complained that the Department of Homeland Security had been converting political appointees to career senior executive service positions, “including, but not limited to, the deputy undersecretary for science and technology and the assistant administrator for response at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.”

Obviously, plenty of SES members are decent, hard-working, patriotic Americans who take their job implementing policy in a nonpartisan way seriously. Others, though, are just as obviously moles put into place by Obama officials and other Deep State-minded bigwigs desperate to keep the federal government perpetually expanding, while liberty and sovereignty perpetually shrink. Among the high-profile SES members who were caught red-handed weaponizing the federal government, for instance, was IRS official Lois Lerner. In her role overseeing the feared tax agency’s tax-exempt organizations division, Lerner became infamous for abusing the tax code to terrorize political opponents of the Obama administration. When she got caught, she pleaded the Fifth Amendment and retired voluntarily with a six-figure pension.

Created through the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, the SES is highly

opaque, particularly for outsiders. But according to *Government Executive*, almost seven in 10 members rose to power during the Obama administration. That is one reason the SES has been referred to by critics as Obama’s “secret army.” Of course, Obama was hardly the only problem, as the Deep State transcends administrations. But while formal data on their political views does not exist, anecdotes suggest the overwhelming majority are left-wing Big Government mongers. Indeed, as *THE NEW AMERICAN* documented in the January 8 special report on the Deep State, some 95 percent of the donations from federal employees in the 2016 election went to Hillary Clinton. Obviously, the staff reflect the leadership, and vice versa.

Will Trump Rein In SES?

Trump has taken an interest in the SES and in reining in bloated government, but the question remains, “What can he do about it?” With firing essentially out of the question owing to civil service laws, one potential tool available to an administration that hopes to change the direction of the federal Leviathan is to reassign SES members to roles where they do less harm. But even this has been fiercely resisted. Indeed, when Trump’s appointees have tried to implement even minor changes, the swamp fought back hard. At the U.S. Department of Interior, for example, the administration attempted to reassign some SES members. The subjects and their Democrat allies in Congress and the Deep State media complained, and the inspector general (IG) for the department got involved to “investigate.”

“Seventeen senior executives selected for reassignment questioned whether these reassignments were political or punitive, based on a prior conflict with DOI leadership, or on the senior executive’s nearness to retirement,” the IG report said. Even more troubling, the report went on to note that “twelve of the senior executives believed their reassignment may have been related to their prior work assignments, including climate change, energy, or conservation.” Among the SES members who were reassigned were some Bureau of Land Management “state directors” who oversaw obscene amounts of “federal land” and routinely terrorized honest Americans such as the Bundy ranch fam-



AP Images

Resisting beneficial change: When U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tried to reassign dozens of Senior Executive Service members into new positions, the SES and the establishment rebelled, sparking an investigation.

ily. Consider that the Obama administration and its top SES leaders allocated an estimated \$100 million to destroy that one family, their attorney said.

One of the SES members at the Department of the Interior who complained about being reassigned was “climate policy adviser” Joel Clement. He whined that he was moved from his post “for speaking out publicly” about the alleged dangers of “climate change.” The *Washington Post*, a key Deep State propaganda outlet, even published a screed the SES member wrote complaining about being reassigned, as if he were entitled to a job feeding at the taxpayer trough and spouting his views on climate. For months, Clement blasted the “political staff” at DOI for allegedly being “blithe, thoughtless, and careless” in reassigning him to do something more productive than fear-mongering about a pseudo-scientific “theory” most Americans and their elected officials reject.

In a constitutional Republic where government is supposed to represent the people and protect their rights, there must be ways to rein in bureaucrats who are harming America. Yet it appears that many SES members are under the impression that they have some sort of divine right to work on “climate” alarmism or pseudo-environmentalism, among other absurdities, and to earn massive amounts of tax money while doing it. They also appear to believe that they are entitled to do so regardless of what the Constitution permits or what the American people vote for — in this case, a president who openly and regularly ridi-

culed the man-made global-warming theory as a “hoax” being used to undermine sovereignty, prosperity, and liberty.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told lawmakers he wanted to downsize his 70,000-strong bureaucracy by about 4,000. Zinke estimated that a third of the bureaucrats he is supposed to manage are not loyal to him or the president, or even the American flag. That may be an understatement. The IG report noted that a lack of documentation in the reassignment cases made it impossible to prove whether the decisions “complied with federal law” governing the SES. That left Trump’s appointees to defend their decisions as lawful in the face of a barrage of media propaganda suggesting improprieties. Similar battles are taking place in other bureaucracies.

Deep State Swamp Creatures are getting jittery about how Trump might handle SES. *Building a 21st Century SES* author Ronald Sanders, vice president of Booz Allen Hamilton, which is called a “government-services company” but is really a behemoth that obtains crony contracts to consult on government management and IT projects, said last year he did not think it was “hyperbole” to “say SES is at risk.” Among other concerns, Sanders fretted that Trump’s declared “historic government reorganization” would convince many SES bigwigs to retire. Almost incredibly, Sanders proposed to *Federal Computer Week*, a government-focused tech publication, that SES members meet with top Trump officials to “provide honest input in private, in exchange for pub-

licly carrying out the administration’s policies.” And here the taxpayers paying SES salaries thought the job of SES bureaucrats was to implement the administration’s (constitutional) policies!

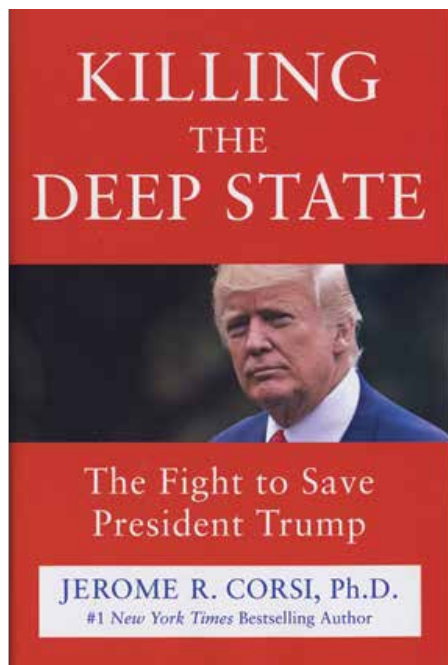
Former NSA and CIA boss Michael Hayden, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Bilderberg attendee, also expressed concerns about reducing SES power. “We’re faced with a circumstance where the signals from our most senior executive leadership talk about the ‘deconstruction of the administrative state,’” complained Hayden. “And when faith-based policies run into fact-based individuals, you are labeled ‘the deep state’ rather than professional expertise.”

Of course, the SES is not the “be-all and end-all” of the Deep State. As this magazine documented in our January 8 special report on the subject, the Deep State is incredibly powerful. From the bureaucracies and the intelligence agencies to the shadowy organizations whose members largely control them, the Deep State is vast. THE NEW AMERICAN’s special report also highlighted the Deep State Behind the Deep State — semi-secret groups such as the Council on Foreign Relations, Bilderberg, and the Trilateral Commission, as well as true secret societies such as the occultist Bohemian Grove and the Order of Skull and Bones. More than a few SES members are also members of organizations that collectively make up the Deep State Behind the Deep State.

Polls show about three out of four Americans believe in the Deep State today. Now is the time for informed patriots to educate those Americans about the real nature of this Deep State — the “Swamp” Trump spoke of during the campaign — and all of its tentacles. The SES and the Deep State Behind the Deep State may feel untouchable. But an educated and activated American public that understands the Constitution and what is happening behind the curtain would be a formidable foe. And despite what its members may believe, the SES is hardly untouchable. Congress could easily pass civil service reform that would restore accountability. Congress should also shut down and defund entire unconstitutional federal agencies, solving the problems quickly and efficiently. For that to happen, though, Americans will have to speak out in massive numbers. ■

UNDERBELLY OF THE DEEP STATE

The Deep State – those organizations and individuals who aim to illegally use government to alter America to their liking (so Americans obey a world government) – is vulnerable.



by Alex Newman

Killing the Deep State: The Fight to Save President Trump, by Dr. Jerome Corsi, West Palm Beach, Florida: Humanix Books, 2018, 216 pages, hardcover.

Killing the Deep State has long been high on the priority list for most readers of *THE NEW AMERICAN* magazine. And in a new book entitled *Killing the Deep State*, celebrated conservative author and investigative journalist Dr. Jerome Corsi outlines some of his ideas on how President Donald Trump could help accomplish that goal. But before that, Corsi provides compelling evidence proving two key points — first, that there is indeed a Deep State within the federal government; and second, that this machine is doing everything possible to bring down and sabotage the elected president of the United States. The stakes could not be higher.

Corsi begins the book by explaining why and how the Deep State came to de-

spise Trump and embrace the so-called #NeverTrump movement, which is a coalition of neoconservatives, liberals, globalists, Islamists, and leftists determined to stop the bombastic businessman. Early on, the book focuses on the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the clique within its upper echelons that literally conspired to stop Trump and eventually bring him down. Text messages between two top FBI officials — “counterintelligence” boss Peter Strzok and FBI lawyer Lisa Page — prove that there was indeed a “conspiracy,” in their words, to undermine the president. The hatred the two lovers displayed toward Trump was shocking.

The web of subversion within the top ranks of the federal law-enforcement machine extended to the highest levels of the Justice Department, as Corsi’s well-sourced book documents. Consider, for example, the infamous “dirty dossier.” Basically, top officials such as then-Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr and his co-conspirators used a phony piece of political research developed by the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee to get warrants to spy on Trump’s team. Many of the Deep Staters involved in those criminal machinations later made their way onto Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s team, which appears to be doing everything possible to bring down Trump.

And while all of that criminality and insanity might sound wild, Corsi reveals that it is only the tip of the iceberg. In fact, he goes on to show that the National Security Agency (NSA) and Deep State bosses such as former CIA boss John Brennan went to great lengths to spy on, and then smear, Trump and his senior officials. Corsi exposes the connections between these Deep State operatives in a way that helps make sense of it, even to a layman. And considering the establishment media’s efforts to obfuscate and conceal the unprecedented scheming aimed at destroying Trump, the book’s logical and comprehensive explo-

ration of these networks is incredibly helpful, even to seasoned swamp observers.

Among the shadiness exposed in the book, Corsi shows how Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, former FBI boss James Comey, and Special Counsel Mueller “all shared a history of working in the Department of Justice that traced back to the Clinton administration, with all three having worked on FBI investigations that ultimately resulted in exonerating the Clintons from any wrongdoing.” One could read the establishment media for years and never figure that out. Corsi also highlights the fact that about half of the attorneys on Mueller’s team “investigating” Trump have contributed to the campaigns of Clinton, Obama, or both. The book explores the infamous Uranium One scandal — the real “Russian collusion,” which involves both the Clintons — as well as the roles of Mueller, Comey, Rosenstein, and others in covering it all up. The ultra-shady Podesta brothers are tied in, too.

In addition to the leaking, smearing, and spying, Corsi shows how the pressure from above was combined with the pressure from below. From below, Corsi highlights the terroristic Antifa movement, among others, which uses violence, brutality, property destruction, rioting, and criminal tactics to terrorize its enemies. Occupy, Indivisible, and Black Lives Matter are exposed, too, along with their funding and links to key Deep State bigwigs who provide the money and the guidance. Another operation, the so-called Women’s March, is a radical coalition funded by billionaire Deep Stater George Soros that includes all types of left-wing groups from Planned Parenthood and NARAL to the ACLU and the Communist Party. Speaking at a rally in D.C. at the inauguration, singer Madonna told the march how she thought about “blowing up the White House.”

One of the highlights of *Killing the Deep State* is Corsi’s willingness to explore taboo but important topics. For instance, the book

Using constitutional executive orders and powers, Trump can make major progress in beating the Deep State.

shines the light on the CIA's well-documented drug trafficking. He also explains clearly that the Deep State is globalist in nature, and that its agenda involves creating a global "New World Order" at the expense of liberty and national sovereignty. Corsi actually spells it out clearly: The Deep State and the hard-Left are allied in their pursuit of a "one world government" that "controls people from a cradle-to-grave reality." Anyone who stands in the way or exposes that agenda — Glenn Beck, Pat Buchanan, and Lou Dobbs are all offered as examples — is relentlessly smeared by the Deep State's propaganda machine and Soros front groups, as *Killing the Deep State* proves.

Perhaps most interesting are Corsi's suggestions for how Trump and the American people can overcome the Deep State and restore constitutional governance. Included in the plan: "The president should seriously entertain proposals to eliminate the Federal Reserve and end the federal income tax," Corsi explains. Noting that bureaucrats are "natural allies" of the Deep State, and that the regulatory regime is crushing America's economy, Corsi suggests that Trump should also continue waging war on the bureaucratic regulatory machine. Prosecuting Deep State criminals such as the Clintons, the Podesta brothers, and others for their wide range of well-documented crimes would help, too.

To win the "propaganda war" being waged against Trump, the book proposes, among other tactics, ignoring the fake polls aimed at convincing the president and his supporters that he is failing — after all, these are the same phony schemes that predicted Clinton would win in a landslide. Corsi then suggests evicting the Deep State's propaganda organs from the White House, a perch they use to constantly demonize and ridicule the administration on national TV. Using constitutional executive orders and powers, Trump can make major progress in beating the Deep State and in disrupting the endless fake news attacks against his administration by changing the focus of the news cycle.

While the book is a must-read, and does a great job outlining the problem, it unfortunately does not spend much time identifying players in what this reviewer has labeled the "Deep State Behind the Deep State." These groups include truly secret organizations such as Skull and Bones and Bohemian Grove, as well as less-secretive but highly influential networks including Bilderberg, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Trilateral Commission. Many of the Deep State operatives exposed in Corsi's book have ties to these groups and networks. But in a short book intended for a general audience, the omission is perhaps understandable. The book also unfairly compares Democrats' absurd accusations to those made by Senator Joseph McCarthy against government workers who aided the Communist Party, though McCarthy was vindicated by M. Stanton Evans' *Blacklisted by History: The Untold Story of Senator Joe McCarthy and His Fight Against America's Enemies* and other works.

Still, Corsi demonstrates a solid understanding of the forces arrayed against America and liberty when he describes the Deep State as "entrenched enemies of God, freedom, and humanity." And to his enormous credit, he points out that "the GOP elite in Washington and New York"

are on the side of the Deep State, very much supporting key planks of its agenda such as open borders.

Corsi concludes the book on an optimistic note, arguing that a global resurgence in patriotism — as seen in Trump's election and Brexit, among other developments — means the globalist agenda of using regional governments to build world government is under great stress, at the very least. While Corsi suggests America may yet plunge into civil war, there are serious reasons for believing the future could be bright, too.

Considering the explosive information contained in *Killing the Deep State*, it is no surprise that, according to news reports, the left-wing propaganda machine known as the *New York Times* — a megaphone for the Deep State — has refused to include the book on its nonfiction hardcover list of best-sellers. After much pressure and after being exposed nationally for dishonestly keeping it off the list, the *Times* finally included it on the less-prestigious combined print and e-book best-sellers list.

Hopefully, the message will keep spreading. This book offers one of the best opportunities yet to expose the Deep State and its agenda to a massive national audience, while exposing the anti-American, anti-liberty forces threatening everything that is good. Patriots should get a copy and spread the word. ■

To order *Killing the Deep State*, see the inside back cover or visit ShopJBS.org.

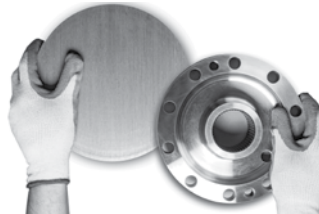
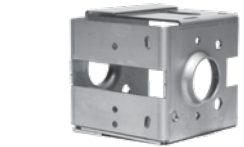




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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Wall of Trucks

When a Detroit man attempted to end his life and stood on an overpass over a busy highway preparing to jump on April 24, truckers arrived just in time to stop him — an extraordinary scene captured with photos.

The Daily Wire reported that 13 tractor-trailers pulled into position directly under the bridge to break the man's fall and remained in place until the situation was resolved. A picture of the scene was captured by MSP Metro Detroit and went viral.

CNN reported that troopers closed off both directions of Interstate 696 and asked for truckers' help. Chris Harrison was one of the truckers in the "trucker wall." He posted on Facebook about the act. Harrison told Facebook users that the police waved through six or seven truckers from the eastbound side of the highway to park under the bridge, and did the same on the westbound side.

According to Lieutenant Mike Shaw of the Michigan State Police, if the man had jumped, he would have fallen only five or six feet before landing on the roof of a truck, not 14 feet more to the pavement.

State troopers reported that 911 calls had alerted the police to the man around 1 a.m.

Lieutenant Shaw told CNN that asking truckers for help in such cases is not unusual, but rarely do so many trucks intervene because "most of the time these events are [resolved] pretty fast, so we only get one semi." In this particular instance, the ordeal took approximately three hours before police were able to talk the man down.

After the man returned to safety, the highway patrolman who flagged down the truckers walked to each truck and shook each driver's hand to thank the drivers for their contribution, WBIR reported.

Sean McNally, spokesman for the American Trucking Association, told the *Detroit News* that he was proud of the drivers for their intervention. "The photo makes us so proud and shows quick thinking," said McNally. "It also shows how our industry works with law enforcement to keep our highways safe and the quality of people we have driving."

Nurse Takedown

A nurse in Wisconsin is being credited with putting her own life at risk to rescue two police officers on April 15.

Breitbart News reported that when two police officers in Portage, Wisconsin, were attempting to make an arrest, the suspect's girlfriend began to attack them. Sergeant Eric Walters was able to secure the woman, but while he was trying to cuff her on the ground, the male suspect, Jacob Hellenbrand, broke free from Officer Brian Loewenhagen and kicked the kneeling Sergeant Walters into unconsciousness.

The Portage Police Department described the scene on its Facebook page:

While the male was being stabilized against the wall of a building in a standing position by Officer Loewenhagen, nearby Sgt. Walters was attempting to ground cuff the female. The male was able to blade his body toward Sgt. Walters and forcefully kick Sgt. Walters on the right side of his face and head. The force of the kick caused Sgt. Walters to lose consciousness.

Divine Savior Hospital employee Vanessa Guerra was witness to the scene and immediately rushed into action. She approached Sergeant Walters first to check on his condition. Meanwhile, Hellenbrand's girlfriend, Olivia Boomsma, broke free and "continued her assault on the officers, yelling she had a knife and intended to use it," Breitbart News reports.

What happened next goes far beyond the actions of a concerned nurse. Guerra then reportedly body-slammed Boomsma and held her until officers were able to once again take control of the situation.

The Portage Police Department said that Guerra was concerned that Boomsma was going to stab the officers and "disregarded her own safety to help protect" the men.

She told WKOW, "I'm in the medical profession. When you get into that mode, you're there for your patients; you're there for the person that you see in need. And that's what you do."

Both Hellenbrand and Boomsma face felony charges for battery to a law-enforcement officer and resisting arrest.

Waffle House Nightmare

James Shaw, Jr., is the brave man who helped defuse a deadly shooting at a Nashville Waffle House in Tennessee by wrestling the gunman, Travis Reinking, to the ground.

Shaw was sitting with his friend at the Waffle House on April 22 when a gunman wearing nothing but a green jacket opened fire outside of the restaurant, CNN reported. Shaw saw a victim lying on the ground, prompting him to jump to the ground and slide along the floor toward the restroom. But, he said, he continued to keep watch for the gunman.

The moment the shooter paused, Shaw sprang into action. He charged the man, and they wrestled for approximately two minutes. When Shaw managed to wrest the gun from the shooter, it was still hot, he recalled. He tossed it behind the counter, and the gunman fled the scene, only to be captured the following day after a 34-hour, door-to-door manhunt throughout Nashville. Reinking was found hiding in the woods about one mile from the restaurant where the shooting occurred, the *Washington Post* reported.

Shaw suffered a burn on his hand and a bullet wound to his elbow, where he was grazed during the encounter. "I figured if I was going to die, he was going to have to work for it," he told reporters.

One witness, Chuck Cordero, who was outside of the Waffle House, saw the entire scene through the restaurant's large windows. He said that Shaw's actions saved a lot of lives that day because if the gunman was able to resume shooting "there [were] plenty more people in that restaurant" he could have targeted.

Though Shaw claimed that his actions were "selfish," as he acted to save himself, he broke down in an interview with WSMV thinking about the people he could not save and apologized to their families. Shaw created a GoFundMe page to assist the victims of the shooting. After mere hours, the \$15,000 goal was reached.

Shaw also visited two of the survivors in the hospital the day after the shooting. This does not sound like a man who acted purely in his own interests on that fateful day. ■

—RAVEN CLABOUGH

Propaganda:

Fight for the Minds of Children

For the better part of a century, the total state in its various permutations has sought to build its legitimacy by both using and targeting children in propaganda campaigns.



AP Images

No anomaly: Though the Nazis were infamous for brainwashing children into their socialistic cult, often through getting them to join the Hitler Youth (ad shown here), Western countries, including the United States, have done nearly the exact same thing.

by Dennis Behreandt

"In the presence of this blood banner, which represents our Führer, I swear to devote all my energies and my strength to the savior of our country, Adolf Hitler. I am willing and ready to give up my life for him, so help me God."

— Oath taken by new members of the *Jungvolk*, the junior division of the Hitler Youth

Through 1939, the Hitler Youth counted among its membership as much as 63 percent of all 10- to 18-year-old children in Germany. After membership became compulsory in 1939, membership reached approximately 90 percent of those that age. Structuring the

daily lives — and taking advantage — of the nation's children through the Hitler Youth organization was no accidental development, but was, in fact, a key strategy of the regime.

The Hitler government understood that capturing and using the youth of the nation was central to its goal of a total state, and ultimately, to a thousand-year Reich. Properly indoctrinated, rather than provided with a classical education, the German youth would be prepared to be obedient subjects, rather than independent citizens, in the future dystopia. Secondarily, a fawning cadre of children, easily manipulated into worshipping the state and its leader, was a potent source of propaganda that could be used to mold and manipulate public opinion at home and abroad. Who

could fear and oppose Hitler as a tyrant if millions of innocent children loved him as a father? Who could oppose the state, when the nation's children had evidently spurned their parents to embrace the party and state as the new family?

"In their desire to establish a total state," wrote Pennsylvania State University historian Jackson Spielvogel in *Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History*, "the Nazis understood the importance of winning over the youth to their ideology. The future was theirs if they succeeded."

In a great many areas, the Nazis, i.e., National Socialists, were pioneers in the systematization and industrialization of evil, elevating to a demonic "art" the total state's engines of destruction. The scholar Anthony Rhodes, a veteran of the British Expeditionary Force who was at Dunkirk for the evacuation and went on after the war to a career as a teacher, novelist, and foreign correspondent for the British press, began his 1987 study of wartime propaganda by noting the pioneering role of the Nazi state.

"When on February 28, 1933, the Reichstag building in Berlin was set on fire, Chancellor Adolf Hitler obtained an emergency decree from President Paul von Hindenburg placing restrictions on personal liberty, including freedom of the press," Rhodes noted in *Propaganda, The Art of Persuasion: World War II*. "Thirteen days later, on March 13, the Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda was founded under the direction of Dr. Josef Goebbels, to control the press as well as all other means of expression — radio, film, art, and literature. It is most appropriate that propaganda in Nazi Germany should have been considered worthy of an entire government department. No

‘Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda’ had ever existed before, in Germany or in any other country.”

To many, Rhodes included, it seems reasonable to view the Nazis as innovators in the use of new forms of propaganda. This, however, is not entirely true. The Nazis did, in fact, employ propaganda on an “industrial scale” not previously seen elsewhere, something that foreshadowed our own present age of “post-truth” and “fake news.” But in this, they merely refined and extended propaganda tactics that had been developed years earlier, including both the use of children in propaganda and the targeting of children with propaganda. And much of this was developed in the Western liberal “democracies,” including the United States, years before the Nazi takeover of Germany.

Nazi “Strength” and “Protection”

The growth of the Nazi state was built on the notion, firmly believed by Hitler, that the “masses” desired strength and protection. The demon meditated upon this in the pages of *Mein Kampf* and later expanded upon the theme in comments to Herman Rauschnigg, according to Rhodes. “Haven’t you ever seen a crowd collecting to watch a street brawl?” Rhodes quotes Hitler as having told Rauschnigg. “Brutality and physical strength is what they respect. The man in the street respects nothing more than strength and ruthlessness — women too, for that matter.”

Early Nazi propaganda posters played off this theme of the German people — women and children in particular — needing a strong leader to save them from the threats surrounding them. One such poster shows a German mother, fist clutched to her lips in distress, her eyes downcast with fear, while a frightened child — a



Young, gullible, and enthusiastic: The Hitler Youth organization was used to indoctrinate children with biases, self-importance, and socialism before they were old enough or knowledgeable enough to refute the messages.

girl — clutches at her breast, gazing at her in a desperate plea for help. Meanwhile, a boy, younger, holds tight to her leg, head turned away and down, fearful to look up. “Deutscher Frauen,” proclaims the poster in bold Teutonic text, “Denkt an Eure Kinder; wählt HITLER” (“German women, think of your children, vote Hitler”).

The idea that Hitler was the great champion who would save the people was carefully cultivated by Goebbels in his propaganda efforts. “The simplest people,” Goebbels wrote of Hitler in his newspaper, *Der Angriff*, “approach him with confidence, because they feel he is their friend and protector.”

This theme was carried through most

Nazi propaganda, whether it employed children as a motif or not. Another Nazi poster supporting the 1932 election depicted a mass of workmen, sketched in ink to gritty effect, their eyes hooded and brows wrinkled. The overall impression of the workmen in the piece is despondency and despair. “Unsere letzte Hoffnung: Hitler” the text of the poster proclaims. “Our last hope, Hitler.” Only the National Socialist strongman could save the women, the children, and the workers, at least according to party propaganda.

It is easy to scoff at this propaganda from the perspective of the present. The manipulation is so transparently ridiculous that it is difficult to imagine anyone giving it credence. Yet it was incredibly successful. “When every contemporary book people read, every newspaper, every film they see, every broadcast they hear for years on end is permeated with the same spirit, the same propaganda, they are no longer able to relate what they see and hear to alternative reports,” Rhodes noted in describing the effectiveness of Nazi propaganda.

In fact, the impact of the Nazi propaganda effort was underscored by even William Shirer, the American foreign correspondent who covered Germany in the 1930s for the Hearst newspapers and for CBS. In his *Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, Shirer recounted how the incessant propaganda even disturbed his own thinking.

“I myself was to experience how easily one is taken in by a lying and censored press,” Shirer recalled. “Though unlike most Germans I had daily access to foreign newspapers, especially those of London, Paris and Zurich ... and though I listened regularly to the BBC and other foreign broadcasts, my job necessitated the spending of many hours a day in combing the German press, checking the German radio, conferring with Nazi officials and going to party meetings. It was surprising and sometimes consternating to find that notwithstanding the opportunities I had to learn the facts and despite one’s inherent distrust of what one learned from Nazi sources, a steady diet over the years of

The Hitler government understood that capturing and using the youth of the nation was central to its goal of a total state, and ultimately, to a thousand-year Reich.

falsifications and distortions made a certain impression on one's mind and often mislead it. No one who has not lived for years in a totalitarian land can possibly conceive how difficult it is to escape the dread consequences of a regime's calculated and incessant propaganda."

Propaganda in the Free World

An American reading about propaganda in Nazi Germany will be predisposed to a certain intellectual reaction, or intellectual orientation, to such information. Such a generalized American, or even a citizen of other Westernized nations with "liberal" styles of government, will consider Nazi Germany an "alien" state — marked by an inherent "otherness" — that separates it substantively from the civilized nations of the "free world." Propaganda, however, is, and has been, no less pervasive in America and other Western nations than in the great collectivist tyrannies of recent memory.

Jacques Ellul, the mid-20th-century French philosopher, sociologist, lay theologian, and scholar of propaganda, noted as much in his important 1965 treatise on the subject. "Nowadays," Ellul wrote in his *Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes*, "propaganda pervades all aspects of public life. We know that the psychological factor, which includes encirclement, integration into a group, and participation in action, in addition to personal conviction, is decisive. To draw up plans for an organization, a system of work, political methods, and institutions is not enough; the individual must participate in all this from the bottom of his heart, with pleasure and deep satisfaction."

The pioneering American propagandist Edward Bernays, having served with the U.S. Committee on Public Information (CPI), the American propaganda agency that, unbeknownst to Anthony Rhodes, predated the

Nazi propaganda ministry by more than a dozen years, called for more thorough and "modern" political propaganda of the type later described by Ellul as early as 1928. "It is not necessary for the politician to be the slave of the public's group prejudices, if he can learn how to mold the mind of the voters in conformity with his own ideas of public welfare and public service," Bernays wrote in his book *Propaganda*. "The important thing for the statesmen of our age is not so much to know how to please the public, but to know how to sway the public."

As Bernays intimated, the public needed to be swayed away from its native individualism and "nudged" toward valuing service to the state. The people must no longer be independent, but must be controlled. "Ours must be a leadership democracy administered by the intelligent minor-

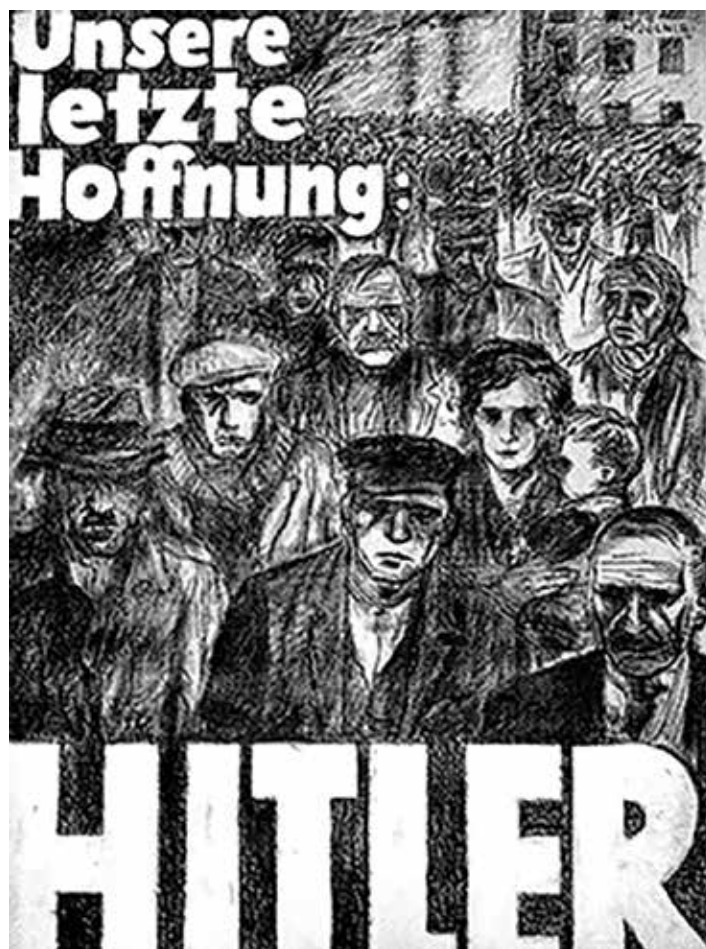
ity who know how to regiment and guide the masses," Bernays declared.

For the state to form up such a class of willing subjects, impulses toward individualism must be overcome and substituted with impulses toward service, starting at a very young age. Propaganda aimed at this end began to appear in earnest with the coming of American intervention in the First World War.

In an article for the peer-reviewed journal *Journalism History* in 2012, Ross Collins of North Dakota State University examined propaganda aimed at children in the pages of three popular youth magazines during the period of American involvement in the First World War. Collectively, the three magazines had circulation approaching the half-million mark, and so reached a large percentage of American youth of the period.

These magazines, *American Boy*, *St. Nicholas Illustrated Magazine for Boys and Girls*, and *The Rally* (later renamed *American Girl*), were nominally privately published affairs. Their editors, however, like the editors of every publication at the time, were almost certainly heavily influenced by the government propaganda department, the Committee on Public Information.

This department exercised vast influence over the American media during the war. Historians James R. Mock and Cedric Larson investigated the CPI for their 1939 book, *Words That Won the War*. "The committee was so widespread in its ramifications," they wrote describing the vast collection of CPI archives that they had examined, "that the collection touches nearly all phases of American and world affairs for the years 1917 to 1919." Moreover, they continued, "The committee ... touched the private life of virtually every man, woman and child; it reflected the thoughts of the American people under



Capitalizing on despair: Hitler used posters such as the one above, which says, "Our last hope, Hitler," to generate the belief that the National Socialist strongman was the Germans' last hope in the face of economic malaise, high unemployment, and poverty.



Propaganda American-style: In WWI and WWII, the government convinced the editors of magazines for youth and comic books to commit to a total war effort, even going so far as to admonish kids to give their pets to the military and donate money for weapons.

the leadership of Woodrow Wilson; and it popularized what was for us a new idea of the individual's relation to the state."

Collins noted that the CPI's influence, in keeping with its extensive mandate and reach, extended to the children's publications. "To be sure, the editors of children's publications were among the recipients of CPI material," Collins noted, "and their approach toward children often matched the CPI's ideals." Those ideals included service to, and sacrifice for, the state, and emphasized obedience and physical and mental preparedness.

American Boy, Collins noted, urged children to keep fit so they would be physically prepared when called upon. "One thing each of you must do," *American Boy* told children in 1918, "is to keep physically fit.... Make ready for the day when your country may need you on the firing line."

St. Nicholas, in 1917, told children that they would not be at liberty to choose their own future, but to be ready when the government would tell them their future place in society. "There lies a duty upon

every group of citizens, be they young or old, to organize themselves for service, in order that, when the government has need of them, they may be quickly and conveniently allotted their proper places," said an editorial in the magazine.

American Boy thought that children shouldn't just prepare to be called up by government in the future, but should serve immediately, by calling for a program of national service for youth. "The problem of boy mobilization," Collins noted of the magazine's position on the matter, could be resolved by forming "a quasi-military reserve for the under-aged."

"The United States Department of Labor has formed the 'Boy's Working Reserve, United States of America,' and is now enrolling the names of lads who are willing and able to serve their country along the lines worked out for them by the Department," *American Boy* reported.

As if indoctrinating children to prepare them for a life of regimentation and servitude was not enough, the propaganda aimed at them could be perversely joyless and mean-spirited as well, with *St.*

Nicholas telling its youthful readers to prepare to give up their pets. "Suddenly he remembered what Father had said that stay-at-home folk could do for their country," *St. Nicholas* imagined a fictional boy thinking during the war. "He looked at the flag — and then at his dog. 'Yes,' he said, with a brave little smile, 'Boko may go.'" Apparently, the unfortunate "Boko" would be used as a mascot during troop training. At least that's what *St. Nicholas* wanted its young subscribers to believe, according to Collins.

This was the education that the "greatest generation" received in its youth. These, "the children of World War I, nourished by the propaganda about war, became the adults who were to become leaders in the next world war," Collins pointed out.

American propaganda aimed at children during the Second World War would find new and powerful modes of visual communication with children via the growth of popular comic books and heroes. Historian Cord Scott, an expert on the portrayal of war in comics, noted the importance of the genre in furthering the war effort during World War II. "Comic books were used to enlist everyone into the total war effort," Scott noted. "One suggested that children could assist by buying war bonds and stamps (the latter were available in denominations as little as a dime). It provided a list of what the bond might pay for: \$150 buys a sub-machine gun for the marines, \$1.00 buys an entrenching shovel, and \$65 buys a .45 pistol, with five rounds for ten cents!"

As with the earlier world war, Second World War comics propaganda sought to romanticize wartime service for children, and to foster the idea that they should and could do their part to fight the enemy. Many comic superheroes who remain household names today in the age of Marvel's Avenger blockbusters had significant appearances in World War II-era comics fighting the Nazis and the "Japs." But one title, in particular, put boys as child soldiers into the fight.

This was *Boy Commandos*, produced by legendary comics artists Joe Simon and Jack Kirby. As a team, they had a knack for coming up with compelling characters, with one of them, Captain America, remaining among the most popular superheroes still today. Though

Early Nazi propaganda posters played off this theme of the German people — women and children in particular — needing a strong leader to save them from the threats surrounding them.

much less remembered now, the pair's *Boy Commandos* series was a commercial hit in 1942, selling in the millions. It featured an international group of boys, led by the hero Captain Rip Carter, fighting Nazis and "Japs." An early issue, originally appearing in *Detective Comics* #66 in August 1942, has Rip Carter and his team of boys fighting the Nazis in Egypt. The boys heroically wreck a radio station after which they face "shots, rifle-fire, and chattering machine guns," only to attack an enemy tank unit where "overcoming the tank crews, the commandos take over the iron monsters! Heading through a storm of flying steel, the commando-controlled tanks crash their way to the open desert." The *Boy Commandos*, of course, win the day.

What red-blooded American boy wouldn't want to head to the front after reading about such stirring heroics? It goes without saying that the reality of the war, with its dismemberment, disembowelings, and assorted mass death and destruction, was far different from the brightly colored romanticized notions of the comics.

Using Children Against Adults

Children are not only important to state propagandists as targets to be "formed" by propaganda efforts, but as tools in propaganda campaigns aimed at modifying adult behavior.

Biologically, adults are naturally predisposed to certain responses to facial features, especially those of children. The response to depictions of faces appears to be a constant of human behavior, with representations of facial features, and especially eyes, being regular features of prehistoric rock and cave art. Archaeologist Ben Watson, an expert in paleoart, noted this in the journal *Antiquity* in 2011, concluding that "faces with prominent eyes are forms of

imagery that have the ability to evoke strong neurophysiological responses. This includes the activation of distinct neural structures, and inherent responses in emotional centers and reward networks in the brain."

The pioneering researcher in this field was, interestingly, a one-time Nazi scientist, the Austrian ethologist Konrad Lorenz. In an article on the development of depictions of Mickey Mouse that increasingly emphasized wider eyes for the iconic character for the journal *Natural History*, well-known biologist Stephen J. Gould summarized Lorenz's work on the subject. "In one of his most famous articles," Gould noted, Lorenz "argues that humans use characteristic differences in form between babies and adults as important behavioral cues. He believes that features of juvenility trigger 'innate releasing mecha-

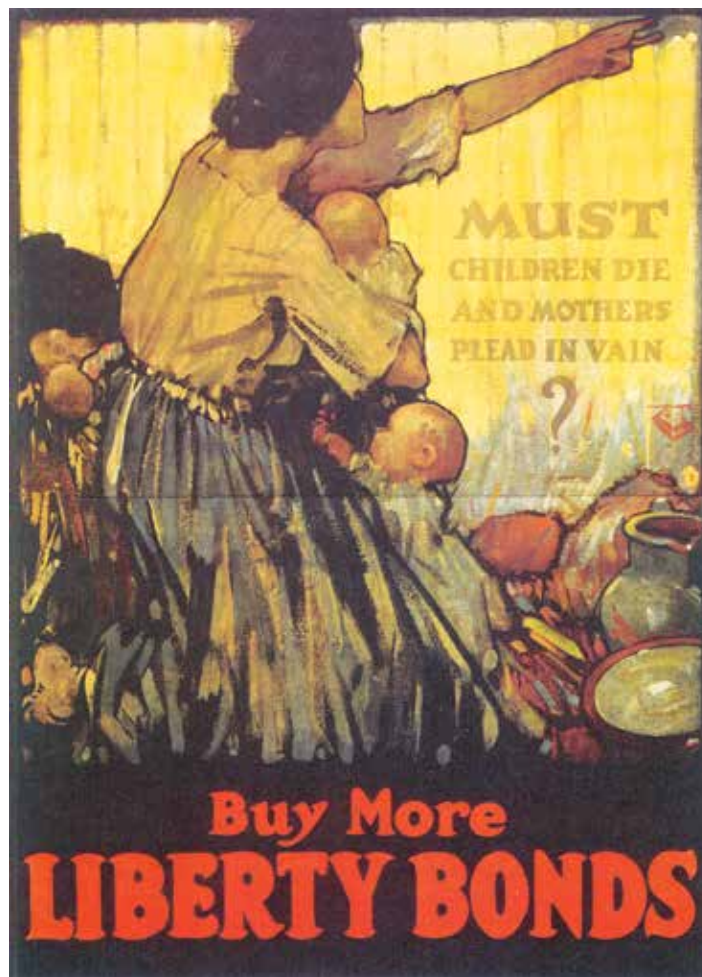
nisms' for affection and nurturing in adult humans. When we see a living creature with babyish features, we feel an automatic surge of disarming tenderness."

Whether this hypothesized effect is real or not was tested by Melanie Blocker of the Department of Behavioral Biology and the University of Muenster and her co-investigators, with results reported in the journal *Ethology* in 2009. The researchers investigated if Lorenz's *Kindchenschema* (baby schema) really did elicit "caretaking behavior" by adults. According to Blocker, that baby schema includes "infantile physical features such as the large head, high and protruding forehead, large eyes, chubby cheeks." The findings of her study confirmed the impact of such visual cues on adults. "Our results provide the first experimental proof that baby schema in infant faces is perceived as cute and induces motivation for caretaking in adults," Blocker and her co-authors concluded.

It is no surprise, then, that propagandists would seek to use this stimuli-response mechanism to influence adult beliefs and behaviors in order to build the power and authority of the state and generate support for its actions. American propaganda posters during World War I often used images of children to drum up support for various aspects of the war.

One such poster, exhorting Americans to finance the war effort by investing in Liberty Bonds, depicts a desperate mother holding an infant, while another grasps up at her skirt. The text of the post asks viewers to consider: "Must children die and mothers plead in vain?"

Another image capitalized on the sinking of the *Lusitania*. Produced by artist Fred Spear, it depicted a mother, a passenger from the stricken ship, submerged in water, her long hair flowing in waves above as she sinks to the dark depths. Cradled in her arms is an infant. There is only one



Compelling emotions: Propagandists learned early on that the sight of infants in danger provokes a protective response from most adults, so they used this fact to manipulate viewers.

Propaganda, however, is, and has been, no less pervasive in America and other Western nations than in the great collectivist tyrannies of recent memory.

word written on the poster: “ENLIST.” This poster has long been noted for its emotional power, being called “perhaps the most powerful of all war posters” by author Maurice Rickards in his study of World War I propaganda posters.

World War II saw American propaganda posters continue to use the same approach. This was particularly the case when it came to war bonds. According to the National Archives and Records Administration, the U.S. government was well aware of the power of images of women and children in propaganda campaigns. “A study of commercial posters undertaken by the U.S. government found that images of women and children in danger were effective emotional devices,” NARA reports in an online exhibit of World War II propaganda posters. The government study included a Canadian poster by G.K. Odell that urged the purchase of victory bonds by depicting, once again, a mother and infant in danger from the black, grasping paws of Axis powers Japan and Germany. A U.S. poster urging Americans to buy war bonds was similar, showing three innocent American children playing outside on an otherwise idyllic summer day, while looming near them is the shadow of a giant, black swastika. The message: “Don’t let that shadow touch them.”

Dictators, Fake News, and Post-truth

The early and mid-20th century paved the way for future propaganda efforts capitalizing on images of children and mothers and families. Such images became beloved of dictators hoping to convince their captive audiences that they weren’t really as brutal as they seemed. Sure, they could kill millions, but they loved children the entire time.

Mussolini, mild by comparison to contemporary and later dictators, was depicted holding a happy child who was saluting him. The image was accompanied with this message: “Benito Mussolini loves children very much. The children of Italy love the

Duce very much. Long live the Duce....”

And so it went with the Soviet butcher, Stalin. The illustration of Mussolini with a child almost seems to be the prototype for the roughly contemporaneous photo of Stalin with the young girl Gelia Markizova in photographer V. Matvievskii’s *Young Girl and the Leader*. The photo shows a smiling Gelia presenting the dictator with a bouquet of flowers, and the image went on to appear on the front page of *Pravda* and was later turned into a sculpture by the artist Georgi Lavrov. One year later, Gelia’s father was arrested and accused of being a Trotskyite. He was executed, confirming that Stalin was, indeed, no friend of children and families. No matter, in Soviet propaganda, children were happy, not because of their parents and family life, but because of the father of the nation, Stalin. This was the point of artist Victor Govorkov’s propaganda poster *Thank You Beloved Stalin for Our Happy Childhood*,

which depicts a group of smiling youths gazing up in adulation at the proud visage of father Stalin.

Following in the footsteps of all “great” communist dictators, present-day communist despot Kim Jong-un occasionally plays at being like Stalin in pictures with children. The North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) distributed a photo of a grinning Kim visiting an orphanage in 2015, surrounded by ecstatic youngsters. An article by KCNA describing Kim’s visit noted that the “beloved children offered new year greetings to him, presenting bouquets to him.” For his part, Kim expressed the desire that the children should grow up with “good moral traits, creativity and independence so that service personnel of the People’s Army, doctors and heroes may be produced from among them.”

That statement still reads like something that could have been produced by the CPI 100 years ago in World War I.

Another dictator fond of using children for propaganda purposes was former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. Most famously, after his forces invaded Kuwait, they took as hostages a number of men and families that had been working in the Kuwaiti oil fields. Among those taken was Stuart



Image versus reality: Communist leader Joseph Stalin used propaganda to project a protective father-figure image of himself, even while he commanded the arrest, imprisonment, and execution of anyone even suspected of being disloyal to him.



The story stays the same: Propaganda, such as repeated one-sided reporting from mass media, and virtual brainwashing, done by leftist school teachers who teach what to think rather than how to think, continues to be used to manipulate kids to support leftist causes such as gun control.

Lockwood, then five years of age, and his mother and father. The unfortunate captives were to be used as human shields and for propaganda stunts. Infamously, Saddam appeared on TV with his hostages, young Stuart among them, who later recalled the event for *The Guardian*: “I was scared,” Stuart said of the experience. “Then he tried to sit me on his lap. I crossed my arms and shied away.” A screen capture of the TV image from the episode shows a stoic Mr. Lockwood standing stiffly, while the dictator smiles and puts his arm around the little boy. It’s a mortifying scene, made worse by knowing that, out of the picture, Stuart Lockwood’s captive parents had to watch, powerless to protect their son.

Such scenes aren’t just for rogue states and dictators. As statism continues its pervasive march through the heart of the Western nations, such propaganda displays grow ever more common. Especially on issues related to gun control, American propaganda aimed at overturning the Second Amendment has increasingly focused on using children. Following Adam Lanza’s murderous attack in Newtown, Connecticut, President Barack Obama attempted to capitalize on the tragedy by posing with the families of the victims and calling for tighter gun controls. Writing for ABC OTUS News in 2013, Mary Bruce

reported on Obama’s calls for gun control in the wake of the shootings. “Speaking before families of the victims of the Sandy Hook massacre,” Bruce noted at the time, “President Obama made an impassioned and urgent plea for stricter gun laws, as he accused Republicans of threatening to use ‘political stunts,’ to block reforms.” In response to that type of propaganda stunt, Senator Rand Paul, not long after, remarked: “In some cases, I think the president has used them [the victims and their families] as props.”

And so it continues to go today. We live in an era even more suffused with propaganda than that experienced by William Shirer in Nazi Germany. It has been said that we are in the “post-truth” era, a time period of “fake news” where facts are easily ignored as long as the preferred narrative is advanced. The best example of that has come in the wake of yet another tragic school shooting, this time in Parkland, Florida. Here, in the wake of another horrific school massacre, kids themselves became not just the symbolic content of the propaganda, but simultaneously were offered up as their very own propagandists, in a sort of “propaganda selfie.”

The central symbol of this propaganda effort, and also the person positioned as its author, is young David Hogg. And as part of any analysis of this current round

of propaganda, one must admit its genius. As a child, Hogg benefits from Konrad Lorenz’s concept of *Kindchenschema*, and along with the other kids, victims and propagandists alike, successfully engenders in adults strong feelings of sympathy, remorse, and, simultaneously, protectiveness. Moreover, because Hogg is his own propagandist, he is simultaneously protected by his *Kindchenschema* — he cannot be contradicted easily or effectively by adults as that would be tantamount to an attack, something that is anathema to the adult protective instinct. Anyone critical of youthful gun controllers such as Hogg engages in that criticism at their own peril, as Laura Ingraham found out when she noted that Hogg whined about not being accepted to four colleges.

Power and Propaganda

At its base, propaganda is aimed solely at manipulation — efforts to make individuals act, even willingly, against their own best interests. Succeeding in this, for the propagandist and his statist employers, is an exercise in the expression of power. Put another way, the more pervasive propaganda becomes, the more freedom is diminished.

When fully realized, the total state and total propaganda are one and the same, inseparable. Where you see the implementation of total propaganda, then you may reliably infer from that the existence of a totalitarian state, even though the reality of that state is obscured by the propagandists’ fog. Such propaganda may be recognized by its tactics, especially the degree to which it both targets and uses children, and by its relative success in obscuring or replacing the truth.

With regard to the latter, says Jacques Ellul, “Nowadays facts do not assume reality in the people’s eyes unless they are established by propaganda. Propaganda, in fact, creates truth in the sense that it creates in men subject to propaganda all the signs and indications of true believers.”

The most insidious tool and tactic of propaganda in service to the total state is the targeting and use of children. Recognizing this and countering it, preventing children from becoming pawns of the state in both body and mind, difficult though it may be, is the essential first step in thwarting the total state. ■



Suspicious Man Has Inauspicious Ending

MassLive reported out of Worcester, Massachusetts, about a retired police officer whose old law-enforcement skills recently came in handy. Fifty-six-year-old Charles Jackson was at home on April 29 when he looked out his window and observed something out of the ordinary. Jackson saw what he described as a "suspicious man" looking into parked cars in his neighborhood. Jackson told MassLive in an exclusive interview that it was the stranger's backpack and odd movements that alerted Jackson that criminal activity might be afoot. Jackson is also an Army veteran and is not one to shy away from confronting a criminal.

After calling 911 to report what was happening, Jackson retrieved his pistol and his old police badge and went outside his house to investigate further. Jackson approached the suspect, who would later be identified as 29-year-old Zachary Bailey. Some neighbors who lived nearby witnessed the entire event, and their statements corroborated Jackson's story. Jackson asked Bailey what he was doing there, and Jackson said Bailey told him that he was just walking through the yard on his way to a different destination. Jackson still thought something was up, so he asked Bailey to leave and told him he would escort him off the property. Jackson then grabbed Bailey by his backpack and began trying to walk the stranger to the end of his yard. At that moment, Bailey began striking Jackson, and a full-fledged fight broke out. Jackson reached for his holstered pistol, and witnesses say Bailey made a threatening comment. The prosecutor in the case told MassLive that Bailey said to Jackson, "I have one of those too, don't think I won't shoot you." Bailey proceeded to pull out his own gun and fire it at the homeowner.

Jackson returned fire and emptied the rounds in his gun, hitting Bailey in both the abdomen and the arm. The wounded suspect ran from the scene but didn't go far before calling 911 to report his injuries. The injured Bailey was picked up and transported to a nearby medical facility.

Investigators soon learned that Bailey had an outstanding warrant for breaking and entering in a different case, as well as a lengthy criminal record, which will only get longer with new charges pending.

Reflecting on what had transpired, Jackson recognized that it was Bailey who made things turn violent. Jackson credits his 25 years in the Army, as well as his years on the police force, for his actions that night. He told MassLive, "The last thing I wanted to do was use my firearm.... He escalated.... He brought it up to the next level." Jackson suffered some minor injuries in the scuffle, including a dislocated shoulder and an injured wrist, but is expected to make a full recovery.

The reporter covering the story noted a comical sign that Jackson's wife had posted outside their house last summer, which read, "Never mind the dog. Beware of owner!" She had hoped the sign would be a deterrent to any potential criminals.

Philly Grandma Shoots Burglar

FoxNews reported on May 6 about a 70-year-old grandmother who proved that firearms can be the great equalizer when dealing with criminals who prey on the elderly. Maxine Thompson told the local Fox affiliate that she was awakened early in the morning by the sounds of someone pounding on her front door. She went to the front of her house and yelled for whoever it was to stop. "First I thought I was dreaming, and then I looked out the window, outside. I was still hearing the banging, banging, banging, so I yelled to whoever, 'Who's that on my door? Get off my door, get off my door,'" Thompson told Fox 29. The stranger did not stop and kept pounding on the house, eventually smashing a dining-room window. The man outside climbed into the house through the shattered window.

Thompson realized she only had one option. She quickly grabbed a handgun nearby and fired multiple shots at the suspect. She later explained to FoxNews that her response was based purely on a survival instinct. "Kill him before he kills me.

That's what was going through my mind," Thompson told Fox 29. The wounded burglar ran from the scene and called police from a carwash to report that he had been shot. Fox 29 reported that the burglar was arrested and taken to a hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound to his upper arm. Thompson was grateful to be armed because she said she realized she would have been at the mercy of that violent criminal if she didn't have a handgun. "After everything was over, then I did get a little shaky. He could've killed me," she said. Thompson was also angry at the fact that there are criminals in this society who act like this, and said she hoped they would learn a lesson based on her actions: "Stay the hell out of people's houses."

Pawn Shop Shootout

Fox 13 reported on May 6 out of Bountiful, Utah, about an attempted robbery at a pawn shop. The store, Bountiful Pawn, was just opening when an armed suspect marched in and demanded that the storeowner get down on the floor. The storeowner complied, and then a second suspect armed with a hammer began walking around the display cases with the obvious intention of smashing them and stealing the property within.

The owner had a firearm concealed on his body, which he pulled on the armed suspect. When the armed burglar pointed his gun at the owner, the owner fired at the suspect, who died at the scene. The hammer-wielding accomplice immediately fled at the sound of gunfire.

The owner called 911, and police soon arrived to find the body of the deceased suspect at the scene. Police said they do not believe the storeowner will be charged, as he was lawfully licensed to carry concealed and was "obviously defending himself." The owner did not want to speak on camera with Fox 13 but did tell the news station, "Thank God for the Second Amendment!" Authorities are still searching for the second suspect, but the entire crime was caught on camera, and they are optimistic that the man will eventually be apprehended. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Greens, Leftists See Red Over EPA Transparency

ITEM: The New York Times for March 26 reported that the Environmental Protection Agency was then “considering a major change to the way it assesses scientific work, a move that would severely restrict the research available to it when writing environmental regulations.”

Under the proposed policy, the EPA “would no longer consider scientific research unless the underlying raw data can be made public for other scientists and industry groups to examine. As a result, regulators crafting future rules would quite likely find themselves restricted from using some of the most consequential environmental research of recent decades, such as studies linking air pollution to premature deaths or work that measures human exposure to pesticides and other chemicals.”

The reason behind this, said the newspaper, is that “these fields of research often require personal health information for thousands of individuals, who typically agree to participate only if the details of their lives are kept confidential.”

“The proposed new policy ... is championed by the E.P.A. administrator, Scott Pruitt, who has argued that releasing the raw data would let others test the scientific findings more thoroughly.”

According to the Times, critics say that “Mr. Pruitt’s goal is not academic rigor, but to undermine much of the science that underpins modern environmental regulations governing clean water and clean air.”

ITEM: An op-ed was published in the New York Times on March 26, entitled “Scott Pruitt’s Attack on Science Would Paralyze the E.P.A.” It was written by Gina McCarthy, the EPA administrator from 2013 to 2017, and Janet McCabe, who was acting assistant administrator of the EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation from 2013 to 2017. Pruitt, they wrote, “has announced that he alone will decide what is and isn’t acceptable science for the agency to use when developing policies that affect your health and the environment. It is his latest effort to cripple the agency.”



AP Images

Reason for the death threats: EPA administrator Scott Pruitt is receiving death threats from leftists for requiring that the data behind scientific studies used by the EPA be available to the public so that the findings can be validated. Verifiability is the hallmark of true science.

These progressive activists and former Obama officials went on to say: “Opponents of the agency and of mainstream climate science call these studies ‘secret science.’ But that’s simply not true.”

They also asserted that “Mr. Pruitt’s goal is simple: No studies, no data, no rules. No climate science, for instance, means no climate policy.”

ITEM: The London-based Economist, dated April 28-May 4, stated that this “new [EPA] policy is a costly solution in search of a problem. It is outlandish to think that scientists are engaged in a vast conspiracy to exaggerate the health consequences of water and air pollution using fabricated data.”

CORRECTION: Remember when liberals boasted that they were champions of government transparency? It seems like only yesterday. Barack Obama, for example, repeatedly pledged that he would run the most transparent administration in the history of the United States. (His actions belied his rosy words, but that is another matter.)

However, here is what now produced apoplexy among leftists: In April, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a proposed rule to strengthen the science used in regulations issued by the agency. The rule, according to the EPA, will ensure that the regulatory science underlying the agency’s

actions is fully transparent. It is also intended to guarantee that the scientific information is publicly available in a manner sufficient for independent validation.

Pruitt put it directly: “The era of secret science at EPA is coming to an end.”

His liberal opponents are beside themselves — exhibiting once again a propensity for “doublethink.” This is the act, as portrayed in George Orwell’s 1984, of holding, simultaneously, two opposite, individually exclusive ideas or opinions and believing in both absolutely. (Examples are the “Ing-soc” slogans “War is Peace,” “Freedom is Slavery,” and “Ignorance is Strength.”)

To party-line leftists, “transparency” is whatever they want it to be — even official obscurity. For them, the open access of information is a fine principle, but it is not appropriate for their political or ideological adversaries. Former Obama EPA officials Gina McCarthy and Janet McCabe warned against being “fooled by this talk of transparency,” saying Pruitt is “setting up a nonexistent problem in order to prevent the EPA from using the best available science.”

This year’s move became a page-one story in the alarmed *Washington Post* for April 24. The left-wing paper said: A “chorus of scientists and public health groups warn that the rule would effectively block



Correction, Please!

the EPA from relying on long-standing, landmark studies on the harmful effects of air pollution and pesticide exposure.”

A typical bit of the *Post*'s skewed coverage follows. “Conservatives,” maintains the paper, “such as Trump EPA transition team member Steve Milloy, have long tried to discredit independent research the agency used to justify limiting air pollution from burning coal and other fossil fuels.”

Milloy runs a website (JunkScience.com); he is a lawyer and author. He has a B.A. in Natural Sciences from Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Health Sciences in Biostatistics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, a Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore, and a Master of Laws from the Georgetown University Law Center. He has, as you might imagine, a different take than the *Post*. He took umbrage on his website — saying that his readers know, and “well-informed WaPo reporters should know,” that “the research in question is anything but ‘independent.’” Milloy elucidated:

The utterly fraudulent Harvard Six Cities and the Arden Pope/American Cancer Society-II lines of research not only were funded by the EPA, but they were then rubber-stamped into a basis for regulation by the corrupt, pal-re-

view process known as the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.

Harvard's Doug Dockery, lead author of the Six Cities study, has shared in \$50,290,729 worth of grants from EPA.

Clive Arden Pope, III, lead author of the ACS-II line of studies, has shared in \$50,145,870 worth of grants from the EPA.

Both Dockery and Pope have been part of the processes for reviewing their work as members of the EPA Science Advisory Board, EPA Clean Air Act Science Advisory Committee and the EPA-funded Health Effects Institute.

This might be “independence” in Winston Smith's world, but not ours. Or are we already in 1984?

Keep in mind that the HONEST Act of 2017 (Republican-sponsored legislation on which Administrator Pruitt's proposal is modeled) insisted: “Personally identifiable information, trade secrets, or commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential, shall be redacted prior to public availability.”

“Secret science” has been practiced for some time. Activists within and without the EPA in the 1990s sought to regulate

fine particulate matter by citing dubious research; the EPA refused to reveal the underlying data.

Those same secret studies were used in EPA moves in 2011; this helped to thwart a move by Republicans in Congress who took exception to the anti-coal rules ginned up by Barack Obama's EPA. Writing in the *Wall Street Journal* (March 26, 2018), Milloy noted that, once again, “the EPA was defiant. Administrator Gina McCarthy refused requests for the data sets and defied a congressional subpoena.” As also noted in the *Journal*:

Bills to resolve the problem died in the Senate. Democrats argued that requiring data for study replication is a threat to intellectual property and an invasion of medical privacy. In fact, the legislation would protect property by requiring a confidentiality agreement, and no personal medical data or information would have been released.

Scientists are human; they are not disinterested parties. Should we then be astonished that some, perhaps many, can figure out where the butter comes for their bread? The well-known academic maxim “publish or perish” reflects the fact that unless you keep publishing, your job is at risk. And to say “liberal academia” is to be redundant. Can you guess what tends to get published? This tendency is why the National Association of Scholars (NAS) — whose members tend to be traditional and conservative — noted in a recent report that there is a “reproducibility crisis” that afflicts a “wide range of scientific and social-scientific disciplines.”

All too often government policymakers cite research — possibly flawed research — as part of justification for their rules. Yet, without access to the underlying data those studies might not be replicable. The phenomenon was mentioned in a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* (“How Bad Is the Government's Science?”). It was written by Peter Wood, president of the National Association of Scholars, and David Randall, a co-author of the NAS's new report “The Irreproducibility Crisis



YakobchukOlena / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Flaws: The National Association of Scholars noted that there is a “reproducibility crisis” in many scientific disciplines. If studies can't be reproduced, their findings are likely faulty.



AP Images

Finding suitable science: The Obama administration implemented many environmental rules that cost multiple billions of dollars, based on scientific studies that were not subject to review by the public. As the government says, “If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear by exposure.”

of Modern Science.” They are not alleging a “conspiracy” (the strawman argument proffered in the *Economist*, above).

Their case does, however, reveal some of the results of the lack of intellectual diversity in academe. Among their points:

The chief cause of irreproducibility may be that scientists, whether wittingly or not, are fishing fake statistical significance out of noisy data. If a researcher looks long enough, he can turn any fluke correlation into a seemingly positive result. But other factors compound the problem: Scientists can make arbitrary decisions about research techniques, even changing procedures partway through an experiment. They are susceptible to groupthink and aren’t as skeptical of results that fit their biases. Negative results typically go into the file drawer. Exciting new findings are a route to tenure and fame, and there’s little reward for replication studies.

The enemies of Pruitt’s proposal have declared that the EPA head is against peer review. Not so. That has been explained by John Tierney — who is a contributing editor of the Manhattan Institute’s *City Journal* and, astonishingly, also a contributing science columnist for the *New*

York Times. (He has described himself as a “contrarian.”) As Tierney has noted, the EPA administrator has actually “done the opposite.” Pruitt “has called for the use of more independent experts to review the EPA’s research and has just announced that the agency would rely only on studies for which data are available to be shared. Yet Democratic officials and liberal journalists have denounced these moves as an ‘attack on science.’”

In a *City Journal* piece in April (“Scott Pruitt, Warrior for Science”), Tierney asks rhetorically:

How could “the party of science,” as Democrats like to call themselves, be opposed to transparency and peer review? Because better scientific oversight would make it tougher for the EPA to justify its costly regulations. To environmentalists, rigorous scientific protocols are fine in theory, but not in practice if they interfere with the green political agenda. As usual, the real war on science is the one waged from the left.

Pruitt’s enemies, says the columnist, maintain that “some worthwhile research will be ignored because it is based on confidential records that are impractical to share.”

Such critics also are, all of a sudden, very

concerned about government spending. They say, as Tierney writes, “that it would cost the EPA several hundred million dollars to redact personal medical information in the air-pollution studies used to justify the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan.” However, he goes on, “even if that estimate is correct — it seems awfully high — it’s a pittance compared with the costs of the EPA’s regulations. The Obama EPA estimated the annual cost of its Clean Power Plan alone at \$8 billion; others estimated it at more than \$30 billion.”

The matter of costs was also addressed in April by Angela Logomasini in *The Hill* newspaper (Washington, D.C.). Logomasini is a Ph.D. whose specialties include environmental risk and regulation. As she put it, leftist detractors of the proposal have made the case that these “transparency requirements are anti-science.” She cites one who warns that compliance costs are too high,

pointing to a Congressional Budget Office report that said implementing the HONEST Act would cost \$250 million a year, as the EPA would have to devote staff to removing confidential information from data. Even if true, this is a modest amount, given that EPA regulations cost around \$394 billion a year, according to estimates developed by Clyde Wayne Crews in [his Competitive Enterprise Institute report “10,000 Commandments”].

In thinking about this controversy, keep in mind those who are in favor of unjustified secrecy when it comes to establishing government policies. These are the aims of political leftists, even as they aver that they are the true defenders of science.

As Texas Congressman Lamar Smith has put it: “For too long, the EPA has issued rules and regulations based on data that has been withheld from the American people.” In contrast, the current EPA objective is to halt having decisions made behind closed doors, where the necessary information is accessible only to those who write the regulations. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

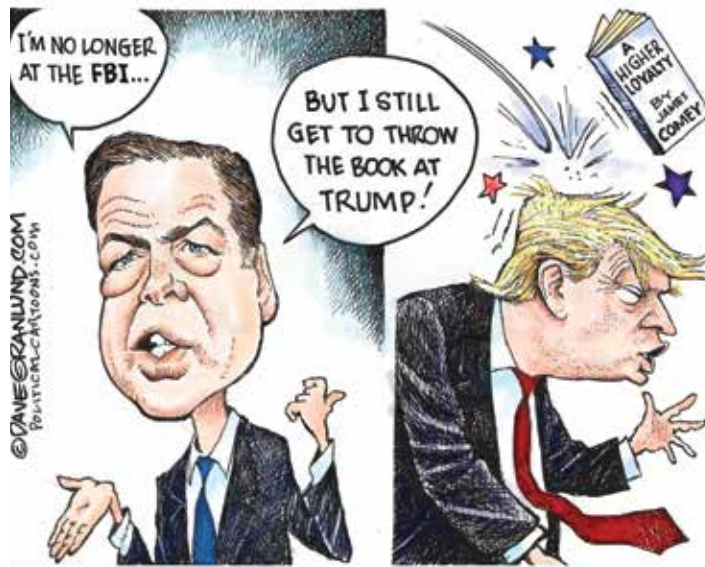
BY WILLIAM F. JASPER

The Deep State **Liars Club**

April and May were busy months for former FBI chief James Comey, as he crisscrossed the country with his Trump-bashing book, *A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership*. The low points of his royal powder-puff treatment by the gatekeepers of the Fourth Estate included sycophantic “interviews” with George Stephanopoulos (ABC), Rachel Maddow (MSNBC), David Remnick (*The New Yorker*), Stephen Colbert on *Late Night* (CBS), and more. Comey, who was fired by President Trump, has been the out-front point man in the “Destroy Trump” tag team with his longtime DOJ-FBI comrade Robert Mueller.

Comey is not the only Deep State operative now out on the book-tour circuit. Former top spook Michael V. Hayden (who headed both the CIA and NSA) also has a similar tell-all tome to hawk and a similar message to sell. Hayden’s book, *The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies*, has provided the anti-Trump media choir with another opportunity to attack and delegitimize our elected president. In an April 30 *All Things Considered* interview with NPR, Hayden charged that the Trump administration has ushered in “a post-truth world.” He also justified leaking and other (unidentified) forms of “pushing back” against the president because, “What we have here is a president who does not seem to be controlled by the traditional norms of the office. We have never seen a president speak like this, act like this, disparage people like this. And of course, that generates a response from people who have been career professionals, because we think what the president’s doing is very harmful.”

Note that what Hayden is saying here is that he and other political appointees in the elite echelons of the Security State apparatuses justify acting as de facto members of the anti-Trump “Resistance” because they don’t like President Trump’s *style* — the way he talks and acts. For the record, this writer also takes umbrage with many of the inartful, un-presidential (and, yes, sometimes downright crude and cringe-worthy) expressions and tweets emanating from the president; but the “pushback” from Comey, Mueller, Hayden, and their Deep State co-conspirators is unprecedented and beyond the pale. Their pushback involves a long train of actions that are unethical, illegal, and treasonous. They have been doing everything in their power to sabotage the government of the United States, to undo the elections of 2016, and to prevent the Trump administration from governing as it was elected to do. They have been illegally leaking clas-



sified documents and information in a steady campaign calculated to undermine the president, while, at the same time, stonewalling legitimate requests and demands from Congress to produce documents bearing on national security, corruption, and abuse.

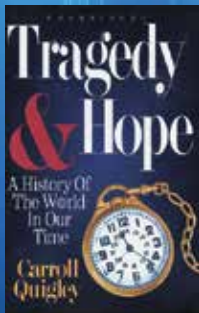
This treasonous Deep State cabal has only been able to prosper because of the close connections of its principals to the “mainstream” media and the constant protection and promotion that the Fake News propagandists provide. The full scope of this Intelligence Community-Big Media

marriage is astounding. Since President Trump’s inauguration, we’ve witnessed an absolute tsunami of CIA-NSA-FBI super-spooks into the ranks of the establishment commentariat. Former CIA Director John Brennan, of course, is now a “senior national security and intelligence analyst” at NBC News, but also can be seen and heard blasting Trump on NPR, PBS, CNN, Twitter, and other media and social-media platforms. The “journalists” at these “news” organizations never bother to press Brennan about his straight-faced lies denying that the CIA illegally spied on Americans or the U.S. Congress. They are not concerned by his own admissions that he was sufficiently accomplished as a liar and deceiver at the beginning of his CIA career that he was able to beat the lie detector and conceal that he had been a supporter of the Communist Party and had actually voted for Communist Party leader Gus Hall to be president of the United States.

CNN has gone clear over the top in recruiting Deep State commentators to populate its 24/7 anti-Trump programming. Besides employing former CIA Director/NSA Director Michael Hayden, the ultra-left network has also brought on board former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. Yes, the same James Clapper who infamously perjured himself in nationally televised hearings, lying under oath when he denied that the NSA was monitoring and recording communications and data on millions of Americans. Also at CNN are retired CIA agents Philip Mudd and Steven L. Hall (who also writes for the virulently anti-Trump *Washington Post*) and former Comey aide at the FBI Josh Campbell. Then there are also former FBI agent Asha Rangappa, now “a legal and national security analyst for CNN,” and retired FBI supervisory Special Agent James Gagliano, currently a “CNN law enforcement analyst.”

The list goes on and on. This liars club does indeed know a thing or two about lying, but they should be prosecuted for it, not rewarded or looked to for leadership. ■

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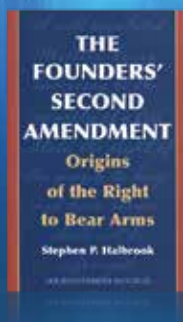
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