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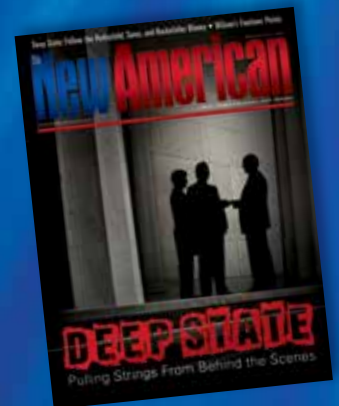
Deep State in Action

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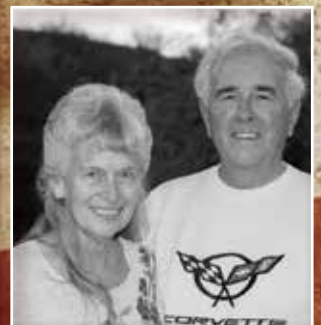
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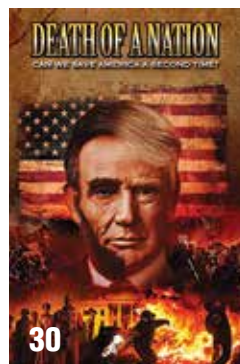
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Riled by Russia Claims

The piece by Tatiana Christy in reference to the influence of the Russian Orthodox Church as Putin's weapon of influence paints a rather one-sided picture of the Russian Orthodox religion ("The Russian Church as Putin's Weapon of Influence," August 6 issue). The focus on Russia as an enemy to our country is also a bit far-fetched.

I grant that Christy's basic facts about the past are not in dispute: During the Soviet era, the KGB actually selected the Russian Orthodox patriarchs, based on the KGB's assessment of the intelligence of the men, as well as its assessment of their loyalty to the government.

But Christy impugns Putin, omitting a rather pertinent fact about Vladimir Putin, which is his strong faith in Christianity and his actual practice of his faith. His mother (after losing two children prior to his birth) had him baptized in the faith and brought him up according to strict Orthodox religious doctrine. Putin's father was a Russian war hero but had no say in the matter.

The slant of the article is that Russia uses the Orthodox churchmen to exert influence in foreign affairs. Yes, indeed, the churchmen were artifacts of a "Soviet Potemkin Village" that was on display to illustrate to the West "religious freedom" under the Soviet regime. But after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it was the influence of Patriarch Aleksey the Second that prevented the remnants of the Soviet leadership from destroying the Yeltsin government. Also, the influence and helpfulness of the Russian Orthodox Church (for years) among the Russian troops and their families cannot be overstated. The troops listened to the patriarch, not to orders from the KGB. The KGB at that time did not understand that this patriarch was a Russian nationalist, as well as a religious leader. Too, after the fall of the Soviet Union, *only* the Russian Orthodox Church admitted being complicit in the oppres-

sion of the Russian people. The Roman Catholic churchmen and leaders of Protestant sects in other Iron Curtain countries have yet to admit their complicity in the oppression of people in their own countries.

The gist of this article continues the drumbeat of Bad Russia — the threat of Russia — versus the innocent Western countries. Any intelligent assessment of Russia today — in comparison to the moral and economic situation in Western nations — would lead to the conclusion that Russia has emerged from more than 70 years of Hell, while the Western nations are just beginning their movement toward Perdition.

The idea that Russia wants or needs anything from Western nations is too silly to even consider. Does Russia want a bankrupt Western financial system? Does Russia want GMO foods? Does Russia want to embrace "surgical cross dressing," meaning transgenders? Does Russia need energy supplies? Minerals? Scientific expertise? Does Russia foster homosexuality? Does Russia need more land? I believe that the only thing Russia needs is a much larger population in order to develop its large land mass.

I trust THE NEW AMERICAN is not joining in the chorus of irresponsible accusations against a nation whose people suffered for many decades because of having communism inflicted upon them. I am surprised that your magazine published this rather slanted and biased article.

FRANCIS M. REPS
Smoot, Wyoming

We appreciate Francis Reps' acknowledgment that author Tatiana Christy's "basic facts about the past are not in dispute," but disagree that the statist influence once exercised through the KGB has ended or that Putin (former KGB) is genuinely committed to Christianity, based on the evidence. Nor do we believe our own assessment is in any way an indictment of the Russian people or their Orthodox religion. — The Editors



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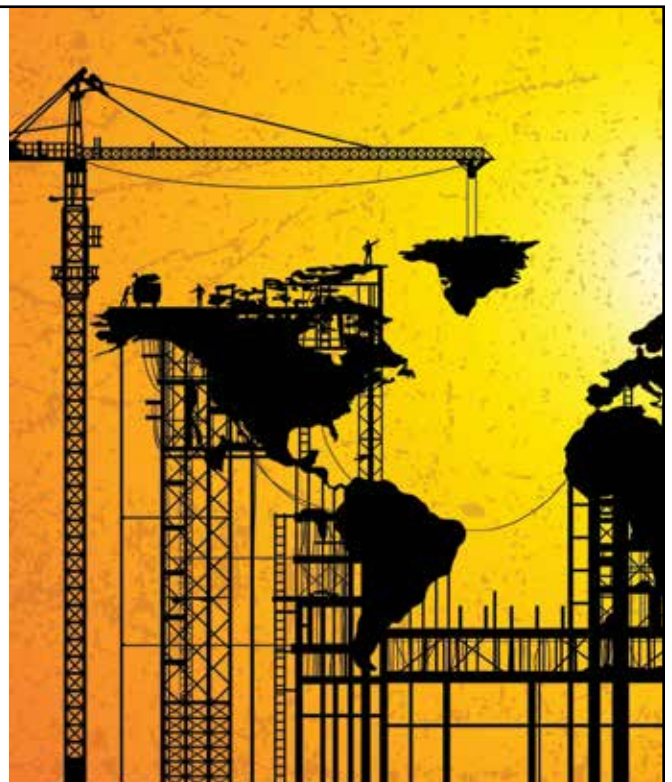
The John Birch Society has been equipping leaders like you to expose the Deep State globalist agenda for 60 years. We have derailed key strategic objectives by working in concert across the country, getting the right information to the right people at the right time.

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Majority of Kids Under 18 Live in Welfare Homes

CNS reported August 22 that, according to the Census Bureau's latest data on poverty and government assistance, "Americans under 18 years of age [are] growing up in a country where the majority of their peers live in households that take 'means-tested assistance' from the government."

In 2016, CNS noted, the population of Americans under 18 was about 73.6 million. Some 38.4 million of them, or 52.1 percent, lived in homes in which someone received welfare: i.e., "benefits from a means-tested program."

Continued CNS, "These included the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), Medicaid, public housing, Supplemental Security Income, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the National School Lunch Program."

And of the total population, 319.9 million Americans, 114.8 million, or about 36 percent, lived in a home in which someone collected welfare.

But even worse is this: If you're under 18, you're probably living in a home that collects some form of taxpayer-financed largesse. "When examined by age bracket, persons under 18 were the most likely to live in a household receiving means-tested government assistance (52.1 percent), while those 75 and older were least likely (18.8 percent)."

Stable families are less likely to live on the dole: "The Census

Bureau data indicate that people living in intact families are less likely to be on government assistance than people living in broken families. Nonetheless, the government-dependency rate is still high for intact families that have children under 18."

A broken home usually meant the family was on welfare, CNS reported. Of the kids under 18 where "a male householder was living without a spouse," almost 65 percent were in households that received welfare. The figure was 78 percent where the mother was in charge. And for kids under age six in that latter situation, almost 82 percent were in a home getting assistance.

Stable families and a strong culture will mean fewer Americans on welfare.



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Trump Tariffs Good Business for U.S. Steel and Century Aluminum

On August 16, U.S. Steel announced that it would be investing a minimum of \$750 million to modernize and enhance its 110-year-old flagship plant in Gary, Indiana.

"There are no committed new jobs at this point, but the project will retain the more than 3,800 jobs in Gary," Abby Gras, a spokesperson for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, told the *Chicago Tribune* August 16.

The 3,800 jobs in the Gary plant will be protected as a result of the new investment that comes in the wake of the Trump administration's tariffs on steel imports.

Back on March 1, President Trump announced a 25-percent tariff on foreign-made steel and aluminum.

U.S. Steel President and CEO David Burritt attributed the

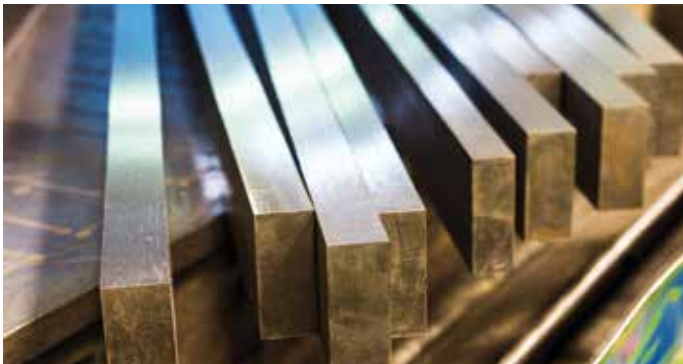
good news to President Trump's trade and tariffs policies, stating, "We are experiencing a renaissance at U.S. Steel." According to Burritt, the \$750 million investment will improve the environmental performance of their Gary plant and bolster the company's competitiveness.

The increased productivity from American steel plants and manufacturers, such as U.S. Steel, will help reduce America's reliance on foreign subsidized steel imports, much to the benefit of both U.S. national security and American workers.

In addition to the steel industry, another winner in Trump's trade and tariff policies is American-made aluminum. On August 22, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin celebrated the expansion of an aluminum mill in Hawesville, Kentucky. "We have all of the ingredients to succeed and all we needed was the fairly-traded market," said Jesse Gary, the executive vice president of Century Aluminum, who owns the Hawesville mill, the largest producer of aluminum in the United States.

He also credited the Trump tariffs for allowing Century Aluminum to revitalize a derelict part of their mill. "That gave us the fairly-traded environment we needed in order to restart those lines and so it's as a direct result of that," Gary said.

U.S. Steel's new \$750 million investment to revitalize its Gary plant and Century Aluminum's expansion to its Hawesville mill offer a positive outlook for America's future.



Nordroden/Stock / Getty Images Plus

New Florida Law: “In God We Trust” Must Be Placed in All Public Schools

WilliamSherman via iStock / Getty Images Plus



Public schools in Florida must now display the state motto “In God We Trust,” per provisions of a state law passed in March and now brought to full effect with the opening of the new academic year.

Title XLVIII, Chapter 1003 of the state law has been amended to read: “Each district school board shall adopt rules to require, in all of the schools of the district and in each building used by the district school board, the display of the [Florida state] motto, ‘In God We Trust’ ... in a conspicuous place.”

Local media reports that the state government has in at least a

few cases e-mailed signs with the motto printed on them for use by the school districts in their schools and other district buildings. Other school districts around the state report having been given signs bearing the legally required motto.

In a statement regarding the recently enacted law, the Freedom From Religion Foundation called the Constitution as a witness for its claims: “These godly postings exclude and alienate the one-in-five students in our public schools who do not believe in god. And they’re meant to,” the foundation’s statement reads. “These laws are not about patriotism, they’re about turning believers into insiders, and nonbelievers into outsiders. There’s nothing patriotic in undermining our nation’s secular Constitution.”

Most of the opposition to posting the motto in public-school buildings has invoked the First Amendment, specifically that amendment’s provision prohibiting the establishment of religion. But the First Amendment most certainly does not prohibit the state of Florida from requiring schools to post a plaque reading “In God We Trust.”

The First Amendment reads, in relevant part, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” This language not only keeps Congress out of the business of establishing a national religion, but it places a wall of separation, if you will, between the states and their establishment of religion and the interference of the federal government.

Teens Spend More Time on Digital Media, Less Time Reading

StudyFinds.org reported August 27 that San Diego State University researchers analyzed four decades of data obtained from an ongoing national lifestyle survey that studies the daily habits of more than a million adolescents.

The data revealed a number of troubling findings, including the fact that one-third of American teenagers have not read a single book in the last year. Furthermore, while one-third of 10th graders read the daily newspaper in the 1990s, according to past findings, just two percent reported doing the same thing in 2016. Likewise, while 60 percent of 12th graders read a book or magazine nearly daily in the late 1970s, only 16 percent reported doing so in 2016.

“The meteoric rise of internet-based activities cannot be understated: between social media, texting, gaming, and surfing the web, the average high school senior spent six hours a day online in 2016 — double the time from a decade earlier. Eighth graders (4 hours a day) and tenth graders (5 hours a day) didn’t lag far behind,” the report finds.

Time on social media, and time online in general, has increased significantly. The average 12th grader in 2016 spent twice as much time online as in 2006. Social media has dominated the attention of American teens, with 82 percent visiting social-media sites nearly daily in 2016, versus approximately 50 percent in 2008.

Jean Twenge, the study’s lead author, suggests that today’s



PeopleImages via iStock / Getty Images Plus

teens are no less curious or intelligent than those of previous generations. Instead, she contends, they simply do not have experience reading and analyzing long-form texts.

She claims that this is problematic, as delving into those texts is vital for developing critical thinking skills. “Think about how difficult it must be to read even five pages of an 800-page college textbook when you’ve been used to spending most of your time switching between one digital activity and another in a matter of seconds,” she notes.

Twenge also contends that the absence of critical thinking among this generation of teens is sure to make a difference when these teens are of voting age. ■

Senator Bluntly Summarizes the Death of Mollie Tibbetts

"Mollie would be alive if our government had taken immigration enforcement seriously years ago."

A staunch supporter of President Trump's immigration policy, Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) referenced the likely killer of Mollie Tibbetts being identified as an illegal immigrant from Mexico.



Tom Cotton

AP Images

Democrats Avoid Open Borders and Amnesty as Election Issues

"On immigration issues, the Democratic Party has been pulled to the far left. And that's the story of our politics this year: deserting the center." *Veteran poll taker Pat Caddell has worked for both Republicans and Democrats in the past. He contends that Democrats do not want to have open borders and amnesty become dominant election issues in 2018.*

Departing Maine Governor Attacks Sacred Cows

"If you want a good education, go to private schools."

Famous for his blunt assessments of virtually anything, Maine's two-term Governor Paul LePage is forced by term limits to step aside as his second term in office ends. He will leave with unemployment greatly reduced, taxes down, government employee numbers reduced, and a surplus in the state's treasury.



Donald Trump

Gage Skidmore

President Trump Displays Anger at His Attorney General

"He took the job and then said he was going to recuse himself. What kind of a man is this?"

Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself from the investigation into possible Russian tampering during the 2016 presidential election. Since that investigation has continued for more than a year and has moved into unrelated areas, President Donald Trump occasionally expresses his disappointment with the recusal of the former Alabama senator.

Should Security Clearances End When Government Service Ends?

"How is it that former officials retain privileged access to state secrets in the first place? Who benefits from this well-established practice?"

Former college professor and now occasional columnist Andrew Bachevich posed his questions in the wake of President Trump's removal of former CIA director John Brennan's security clearance.

Trump's Breaking of Norms Deserves a Loud "So What?"

"Future presidents will be free to ignore Mr. Trump's blunt manner of doing business. This occupant of the White House seems to enjoy breaking norms, and he has been conspicuously more successful at breaking them than at devising new ones for our troubled times. But if he is to make America great again, President Trump will have to cherish his legacy as a norm-builder, too."

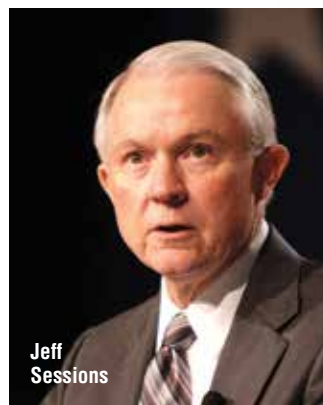
Claremont Institute senior fellow and professor of government at Claremont McKenna College Charles R. Kesler defends the president's right to break norms, recognizing that "all norms are not created equal" and that some are "bad."

Attorney General Responds to President's Criticism

"While I am attorney general, the actions of the Department of Justice will not be improperly influenced by political considerations."

Responding to the president's comments about his recusal from the investigation into possible Russian meddling in U.S. elections, Jeff Sessions made clear his insistence that even the president would not intrude on his work regarding federal law. ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



Jeff Sessions

AP Images



Censoring the Web

WHO'S NEXT?

With popular right-wing commentator Alex Jones being barred by most Internet sites — while left-wing sites freely spew hate — the sites' left-wing bias is clearly evident.

by Alex Newman

It feels like the walls are closing in. But the ongoing war by giant technology companies against voices that disrupt the establishment's narrative is actually good news in a very important sense. Of course, its victims may not see it that way — at least not yet. And those establishment-controlled companies almost certainly did not intend for it to be good news. But in a key sense, the ongoing effort to ban contrarians from the Internet is evidence that truth-tellers are winning, and the establishment is terrified, particularly with the midterms coming up. The bans and censorship show that globalists now realize their lies cannot compete with truth even in a rigged marketplace of ideas replete with “shadow-banning,” promoting establishment voices, and more — much less in a true free market of ideas.

In other good news, Big Tech's war on free speech appears to be backfiring in a major way, too. But obviously, this is only the beginning.

The driving factor behind the escalating censorship occurring across social media appears to be the disruption to the establishment's propaganda efforts and its narratives. For instance, consider that of America's top 100 newspapers, just two endorsed Donald Trump in the 2016 election. Virtually every major media outlet in America spent endless hours demonizing Trump as a racist, a hater, a sexist, a kook, a conspiracy theorist, a white supremacist, an anti-Semite, and all the other nasty terms they could hurl at him. One study found that more than 90 percent of the coverage of Trump on the big-three broadcast nightly newscasts — CBS, ABC, and NBC — was negative. The establishment media seemed sure their strategy would work, too. The *New York Times* gave Hillary Clinton an 85-percent chance of winning. The *Huffington Post* gave her a 98-percent chance of winning the presidency. *Newsweek* even sent out 125,000 copies of its magazine with “Madam President” on the cover.

But Trump won. Actually, he won a landslide victory in the Electoral College. And ironically, one of the many positions that endeared him to Americans was his willingness to ridicule and expose the dishonest press. Polls in 2016 showed that Americans had largely woken up to

The bans and censorship show that globalists now realize their lies cannot compete with truth even in a rigged marketplace of ideas replete with “shadow-banning,” promoting establishment voices, and more — much less in a true free market of ideas.

the fact that the establishment media was not just biased, but blatantly dishonest. According to a Gallup survey released a couple months before the election, just 14 percent of GOP voters expressed trust in the “mainstream” media. Less than a third of Americans more broadly reported having even a “fair” amount of trust in the press, the lowest level since Gallup started its surveys on the question in 1972. In short, the credibility of the media was destroyed, and even all of the establishment's propagandists combined could no longer determine the outcome of a presidential election.

Obviously, the globalist Deep State that dominates the major media was not pleased. Neither were the activists and puppets posing as “journalists.” And so a new narrative was born: Trump won only because dumb, racist Americans were influenced by “fake news” and Russian disinformation, much of it spread on social media. Clearly, a solution to this needed to be found. And so, among other tactics,

the globalist-controlled Internet giants, most of which have been in bed with government from the start, began stepping up their efforts to control the narrative. Those schemes included hiding alternative voices via “shadow-banning,” promoting establishment voices via manipulated algorithms, and eventually, outright banning those who question the establishment's narrative too vigorously or successfully.

Those efforts to silence dissent are now accelerating. As early as March, CNN began openly behaving more like an activist group than a media organization, blatantly pressuring advertisers to stop allowing their ads to appear on Infowars content. Later, they began lobbying social-media companies to take down one of their most significant competitors, something more than a few voices have described as a “conspiracy in restraint of trade.” Behind the scenes, the establishment was panicking, and working overtime to silence its key critics, lest more millions of Americans wake up.



AP Images

Not listening to the people: Establishment propaganda organs and their dupes were so sure of victory that some, including *Newsweek* and this shirt seller at a Democrat election party, prematurely declared Hillary Clinton the winner.

Consider that of America's top 100 newspapers, just two endorsed Donald Trump in the 2016 election. Virtually every major media outlet in America spent endless hours demonizing Trump as a racist, a hater, a sexist, a kook, a conspiracy theorist, etc.

In June of 2018, many of the titans of the Internet and the establishment media — along with heads of government, leaders of the “intelligence” community, royalty, globalist think-tank bosses, top international bureaucrats, agents for the Rothschild banking dynasty, and more — came together behind closed doors and militarized security in Italy at the annual Bilderberg summit to discuss the issue further. The chiefs of Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Amazon, among others, regularly attend these secretive meetings with fellow globalists. This year, one of the key items on the agenda released to the public was something described as the “post-truth” world. Basically, Bilderberg bigwigs were distraught by their collapsing ability to mislead the masses, which could ruin all of their plans as humanity increasingly tunes out their propaganda.

“Post-truth” was selected by Oxford English Dictionary as the “word of the year” for 2016. It was defined as “relating to or denoting circumstances in which

objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.” In essence, Deep State globalists, outraged that Americans no longer believe their propaganda organs, decided to unleash the lie that people no longer value objective facts, as defined by their propaganda organs. In reality, though, Americans and people around the world were still very interested in facts and truth — they simply realized that the establishment media was not going to provide much. And so, on social media, citizens turned to sources that were offering truth — or at least more truth than they were getting from the Deep State's propaganda machine. The 2016 election, in short, was a major wake-up call to the globalists.

The Purge

In response to the death of their credibility, the Big Tech giants launched an ongoing purge of alternative voices from the Internet. That has now culminated in the mass ban of everything Alex Jones from virtu-

ally every platform. In early August, after months of threatening to do it, the purge began. Under the guise of enforcing rules against “hate speech,” in just one day, Apple, YouTube, and Facebook all removed Jones' content — content that included an exclusive interview with Donald Trump that almost certainly played a role in the president's victory. Other firms quickly piled on, with lesser-known companies such as Spotify, Stitcher, LinkedIn, Pinterest, MailChimp, Vimeo, and more joining the frenzy to send Jones and all the content he ever produced down George Orwell's infamous “memory hole.” Even Disqus, which provided the comments section for Infowars, banned the site. Not a single one of the companies explained what specific content had allegedly violated their rules. Most cited vague allegations of “hate speech” or even “encouraging violence,” without providing examples. The establishment media provided cover for the operation by endlessly claiming that Jones had referred to the Sandy Hook shooting as a “hoax,” something Jones has repeatedly apologized for — and is hardly hateful.

Overnight, Jones and his media empire became the *most censored media outlet in the world*. In an instant, with the click of a button, YouTube — a behemoth owned by Google's parent company Alphabet — removed Infowars videos that, combined, had been viewed *billions* of times. Jones also lost access to his nearly 2.5 million subscribers. The numbers tell an incredible story. Despite a relatively tiny budget, Jones was a superstar on the YouTube scene. For perspective, Jones' 2.5 million subscribers was about a million more than Fox News, the leading cable news station, had managed to amass. It was almost 2 million more than legacy networks CBS News or NBC News had attracted so far. The *Washington Post* had fewer than 400,000 subscribers a week after the purge of Jones began, while the *New York Times* had fewer than 1.5 million. Only CNN, which reportedly has been buying huge numbers of fake followers on social media, had more subscribers than Infowars.

During the election, though, the reason for the establishment's panic became clear. On an average day during election month — November of 2016 — Infowars was receiving 2.75 million views just on



AP Images

Awakening: Despite virtually every establishment media outlet endlessly attacking Donald Trump, he ended up winning the election, suggesting that Americans were aware of the “fake news” lies.

its YouTube channel, according to an analysis of the viewership numbers by the Next News Network. That figure does not account for the massive radio and website audience that helps Infowars reach many millions more around the world. Throughout election month in November, Infowars received more than 82 million views on YouTube alone. By contrast, Fox News' YouTube channel received fewer than 2 million views on an average November day, totaling around 60 million for the month — significantly fewer than Infowars. CNN received less than a million per day — or 30 million for the month — on average. MSNBC received fewer than 750,000 average daily views during election month.

In short, with a tiny fraction of the budget available to the establishment's propaganda organs, Alex Jones and his Infowars operation were reaching more people just on YouTube than many of the nation's leading establishment propaganda organs — combined. He also dominated at other social-media services, with millions of followers on Facebook and beyond. Obviously, Jones' competitors at the legacy media were outraged: How could this “fringe radical extremist kook right-wing conspiracy theorist” be leaving them in the dust? As of early August, they no longer had to worry about the competition, with Jones having been “de-platformed” almost everywhere — or so they thought. More on the backlash later.

Perhaps nothing illustrates the establishment media's obsession with Alex Jones better than the social-media pages of CNN senior media reporter Oliver Darcy and his sidekick Paul Murphy. Reading their Twitter feeds, it feels like one has entered an alternative universe. For months, the dynamic CNN duo hounded advertisers and social-media companies about Jones and Infowars. They also gave constant updates



First place in falsifying: Of all the establishment's propaganda organs, perhaps none have been so dishonest and so discredited amid 24/7 anti-Trump hysterics as CNN, which spent months lobbying to silence Infowars.

AP Images

on their progress. On August 14, for instance, after spending weeks lobbying to have Jones and Infowars removed from social media, Darcy had breaking news to report. “Twitter spox confirms to me that the company has limited key functions on Alex Jones' account after determining he violated another one of network's policies,” Darcy reported in one of countless similar moment-by-moment updates in CNN's war on Infowars. “He can still browse Twitter, but can't tweet, retweet, etc. for 7 days. Jones also required to delete offending tweet.” Less than a day later, another breaking update. “Twitter spox confirms to me that Twitter has suspended most functions on the InfoWars account for 7 days for posting [the] same video they took action against on Alex Jones,” Darcy gushed.

In between those two tweets, the CNN reporter expressed frustration that Twitter

CEO Jack Dorsey had suggested that putting Jones in “timeout” might change his behavior. “Uhhh,” wrote the “senior media reporter.” Shortly after that, Darcy was at it again, chastising the company for “only” giving Jones a seven-day suspension despite alleged “multiple rule violations.”

Indeed, of all the major social-media networks, only Twitter resisted the CNN lobbying and the hateful mobs demanding Jones be censored. But then, even Twitter partially caved, giving Jones a “suspension” in mid-August. In an interview with *The Hill*, CEO Dorsey said the “timeout” was meant to “guide people back towards healthier behaviors and healthier public conversation.” In other words, the CEO of Twitter wants to use behavior-modification techniques to change its users and make them “healthy.” If the behavior modification does not work on Jones, he will no longer be welcome on Twitter. To his credit,

Dorsey admitted afterward that Twitter leans left, quite an understatement, but important nonetheless.

Of course, Jones was not the only high-profile media star to be purged from socialmedia. Another heavyweight who was silenced was Gavin McInnes, a pundit with CRTV, along with his group “Proud Boys,” which protects conservative speakers from violent fascists styling themselves “Anti-Fascists” or Antifa. According to Twitter, which took down his accounts, it was to enforce a prohibition on “violent extremist groups.” Also, black conservative Candace Owens with Turning Point USA was censored on Twitter for sending out the exact same tweets as the *New York Times'* newest editorial board member — a racist, sexist hater-monger who said being cruel to elderly white men gives her joy. The difference: Owens

replaced the word “white” with “Jew” or “black” — and she didn’t mean to be offensive; she was simply making a political point about the hypocrisy of the *New York Times*. Other personalities to face social-media censorship include Ron Paul Institute leader Daniel McAdams, Antiwar.com’s Scott Horton, former State Department staffer Peter Van Buren, former Breitbart editor and “conservative” homosexual Milo Yiannopoulos, and countless lesser-known names. Twitter was even exposed “shadow-banning” prominent Republican *congressmen*. And a Twitter engineer was caught on camera admitting to an undercover Project Veritas reporter that the platform’s algorithms supposedly aimed at stopping “bots” are actually used to target Republicans.

Facebook has been just as bad, if not worse, in targeting voices far beyond Infowars. Websites such as CodeIsFreeSpeech.com, which defends the right to distribute computer code that can be used to print 3D firearms, are banned completely. A GOP candidate for Congress had her ad banned because she mentioned the Communist Cambodian genocide, which her family survived. Even the Bible is unwelcome on Facebook. Amid blatant manipulation of its algorithms to clobber traffic levels of conservative and Christian voices, the site has literally been banning people for expressing biblical views. Prominent Brazilian evangelist Julio Severo, for instance, was put in Facebook “jail” for posting a Bible verse (Leviticus 18:22) about homosexuality — and nothing else. It was dubbed “hate speech” by the giant company, until the resulting scandal forced it to back down. In late 2017, Severo was again penalized by Facebook, this time for saying it was a Christian’s duty to love homosexuals and all other sinners. Apparently even implying that homosexuality is a sin — the Bible, the Torah, and the Koran all state



Collusion? In one day, many of the world’s top Internet giants joined forces to take down Alex Jones and his Infowars empire, making it the most censored media outlet in the world.

that explicitly — is enough to have Facebook “discipline” a person like a misbehaving elementary-school child. In other words, the religious beliefs of Christians, Jews, Muslims, and countless others are all considered “hate speech” by Facebook. Severo was previously targeted by PayPal, which continues to deny him service based on his religious beliefs.

Google and YouTube, both owned by Alphabet, have for years been manipulating what people see by designing algorithms that suppress voices they disagree with and promote voices they think should be promoted. It has been getting worse and worse. Prager University, an online creator of mainstream educational videos, is one of countless prominent voices that has been all but crushed by YouTube, which is now restricting its content. “We are opening the eyes and the minds of the next generation, one five-minute video at a time ... and the left doesn’t like it,” PragerU founder Dennis Prager said in a recent e-mail about the lawsuit they filed against the video site. “Silicon Valley gi-

ants like YouTube continue to censor the ideas they don’t agree with. They promote their Leftist ideology and restrict conservative speech.” Over 500,000 people have signed a petition supporting PragerU. On Facebook, changes by the site eliminated 99.9999 percent of PragerU’s reach. Only after the censorship became a national scandal did Facebook back down and apologize.

The censorship is so out of control that even YouTube creators who simply talked about Alex Jones got penalized. Comically, the popular H3 podcast was taken down while it was *defending* YouTube’s decision to censor Jones. Apparently the name Alex Jones in the title triggered some sort of automatic censorship program that caused the broadcast to be taken down and the channel to receive a penalty.

Even when it isn’t actively censoring things, YouTube is now increasingly trying to sway public opinion. For instance, on videos dealing with “climate change,” the social-media giant owned by Google’s parent company now adds disclaimers aimed at building up support for the increasingly discredited man-made global-warming hypothesis.

Establishment leftists funded by billionaire globalist George Soros developed a complex plan to target conservatives online. In a leaked 2017 document called “Democracy Matters: A Strategic Plan for Action,” far-left Democrat operative David Brock of Media Matters outlined

Schemes included hiding alternative voices via “shadow-banning,” promoting establishment voices via manipulated algorithms, and eventually, outright banning of those who question the establishment’s narrative too vigorously or successfully.

the goals and the strategy. “In the next four years, Media Matters will continue its core mission of disarming right-wing misinformation, while leading the fight against the next generation of conservative information: The proliferation of fake news and propaganda now threatening the country’s information ecosystem,” explains the memo, with “fake news” defined as anything that contradicts the establishment’s narrative. Among the goals is ensuring the “defeat [of] Trump either through impeachment or at the ballot box in 2020.” And to do so, the group boasts of working with social-media giants and Google to limit conservative voices while boosting the reach of voices they support.

As an illustration of just how far the tech giants can and will go to purge dissidents from the World Wide Web, an astounding case from fall of 2017 offers a troubling picture. Basically, when an obscure racist made fun of a victim of what was reported to be a racist attack, he was completely disappeared from the Internet, with his hosting company taking down his website entirely. Virtually nobody defended the speech itself, but even the CEO of one of the companies that disappeared the Nazi “Daily Stormer” site in question expressed concerns. “Literally, I woke up in a bad mood and decided someone shouldn’t be allowed on the Internet,” the CEO of Cloudflare was quoted as saying in an e-mail to employees. “No one should have that power.” And just as countless analysts

and pundits predicted, it did not take long for the purge to spread and accelerate.

For those who, despite all the evidence, still wonder whether the purge is political, a brief survey of all the anti-Christian bigotry and the open calls for violence against conservatives plastered all over social media should suffice. Indeed, as if to prove how radically left-wing the Internet companies’ views are, many of them have openly partnered with the far-left Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). Founded by Morris Dees, who was accused in court documents of sexually molesting his stepdaughter, the radical group has become a bad joke even to mainstream left-wing activists. Just in recent years, it has smeared a prominent Muslim as a top “anti-Muslim extremist,” a Cherokee Indian married to one of Sacajawea’s descendants as the “matriarch” of the “anti-Indian movement,” and a prominent black law professor as a supporter of white supremacy. Even the mild-mannered Ben Carson was deemed an “extremist” by the SPLC for supporting marriage.

By contrast, the group had nothing but glowing praise for communist terrorist Bill Ayers, whose murderous terror group, working with Castro’s intelligence services, murdered American police, bombed the Capitol and the State Department, and made plans to re-educate and exterminate millions of Americans with help from foreign communist dictators. Leading U.S. Christian groups such as the American

Family Association have labeled the SPLC an “anti-Christian hate group.” Left-wing activists have denounced it as a money-making scam. And yet, virtually all of the tech giants have jumped in bed with the radical group, alienating millions of Christians and conservatives in the process.

Calls for More Purges

But of course, alienating those who care about honesty and free speech is OK with liberal powerbrokers — both those liberals on the Internet and those in government — because the end game is to so marginalize conservatives that they will be afraid to speak up lest they feel leftist wrath. The totalitarians are desperate to regain control of the narrative and have no intention of allowing Jones and others to continue reaching the masses — much less reaching them with essential information that undermines the establishment’s propaganda talking points and agenda. And some of the most virulent would-be totalitarians in government have already dropped the mask.

Consider Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), who has an atrocious 14-percent cumulative score for voting constitutionally on THE NEW AMERICAN magazine’s Freedom Index. Shortly after Infowars was taken down, Murphy made clear that this is just the beginning. “Infowars is the tip of a giant iceberg of hate and lies that uses sites like Facebook and YouTube to tear our nation apart,” he fumed on social media, perhaps oblivious to the irony of using social media to tear America apart while complaining about the same. “These companies must do more than take down one website. The survival of our democracy depends on it.” Setting aside the fact that Murphy apparently does not even know what form of government America’s Founders created — a republic — the threat was unmistakable: Censor more voices or face the wrath of lawmakers and establishment globalists. He did not cite any examples of “hate” or “lies” spread by Infowars.

Another U.S. senator, Democrat Mark Warner of Virginia (Freedom Index score: 11), went even further, brazenly proposing a government takeover of the Internet. In a leaked proposal widely blasted by critics as a plan for a “fascist takeover” of the Internet, Warner called for new rules for social-media companies that would force



YouTube CEO
Susan Wojcicki

Not virtuous: YouTube, owned by Google’s parent company, has joined forces with the discredited far-left hate group SPLC to silence voices that disrupt the establishment’s narrative.

AP Images

them to take down “fake news” and other content. The scheme, entitled “Potential Policy Proposals for Regulation of Social Media and Technology Firms,” would also provide federal funding to “media literacy programs” that would supposedly help consumers sort through information online and help them determine what is true and what is not. The scheme seeks “more disclosure requirements for online political speech,” too.

Under the guise of stopping “Russia,” the plan would also end online anonymity, demanding that social-media platforms “authenticate and disclose the geographic origin of all user accounts or posts.” Basically, “mandatory identity verification,” a gambit that was earlier pursued by Obama, would force everyone to provide proof of their identity to social-media giants. Of course, the Founding Fathers often published anonymously — see the *Federalist Papers*. And still today, journalists, whistleblowers, and people with unpopular political opinions regularly rely on anonymity to be able to function online. Ironically, all of the scheming is said to be needed to

protect trust in “our institutions, democracy, free press, and markets.”

“The size and reach of these platforms demand that we ensure proper oversight, transparency and effective management of technologies that in large measure undergird our social lives, our economy, and our politics,” the policy paper argues. “The hope is that the ideas enclosed here stir the pot and spark a wider discussion — among policymakers, stakeholders, and civil society groups — on the appropriate trajectory of technology policy in the coming years.” Basically, the plan seems to be to put Bigger Brother government in charge of Big Brother technology companies to finish demolishing Internet freedom. Of course, many of the companies — Google, Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft, and others — are already in bed with government. Some analysts suggested the massive, coordinated assault on Infowars may have been sparked by word of Warner’s proposals.

Even if the government does not overtly take over, though, the jihad against free speech and content that exposes

the establishment’s lies will continue to become more brazen and more sophisticated. Microsoft, for instance, threatened to shut down an entire social network, Twitter alternative Gab.ai, because one user posted anti-Semitic comments. And Mozilla, an organization that once defended online freedom but fell to the left and even chased out its leader for supporting heterosexual marriage, has now teamed up with a George Soros-funded “fact-checking” service to develop the “Mozilla Information Trust Initiative.” Google has also started adding far-left “fact check” results that are notorious sources of disinformation, including the discredited Snopes.com. And Twitter CEO Dorsey proposed creating new rules for Twitter based on the UN “Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” which explicitly states that rights and freedoms may not be used contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN.

The battle to disseminate truth to the masses has been raging for centuries. But with the stakes now higher than ever, Americans must redouble their efforts. ■



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It expects what never was and never will be.”*

— Thomas Jefferson

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Backlash to ONLINE CENSORSHIP

While the bulk of liberals may be celebrating the suppression of free speech on the Internet, some liberals who believe in free speech and most conservatives are angry.



by Alex Newman

While the escalating social-media censorship against conservatives has been shocking, with the organized Big Tech takedown of Infowars sparking alarm worldwide, the backlash has been fierce, too. On both the Left and the Right, among hardcore liberals and conservatives, outrage over the censorship is exploding. Even completely apolitical voices joined the outcry. Perhaps the most influential man in news, Matt Drudge, has helped give Alex Jones a megaphone by putting his material online. And a recent Pew survey revealed that about three-fourths of American adults realize that the major social-media and technology companies are censoring views they do not like — especially conservative views. Ironically, though, the efforts to silence prominent

voices appear to be backfiring in spectacular fashion.

Matt Drudge, the ostensibly somewhat conservative publisher of the enormously influential Drudge Report, boasted on Twitter that Jones “takes a licking and keeps on ticking.” On his website, he has continued to post Infowars content — especially about the censorship — in a prominent location on his site, expanding its reach by many millions. One of many articles Drudge has linked to is headlined “Bans don’t seem to be lessening reach of Alex Jones, InfoWars.” Plus, the media titan has linked to more than a few Infowars articles and videos giving Jones’ side of the story.

Contrary to the establishment narrative, plenty of old-school liberals and liberal organizations have also spoken out against the censorship. Among the early voices to jump in was MIT linguistics professor and internationally known radical leftist Noam

Chomsky. “What I’ve seen of what he does is outrageous, but unlike many civil libertarians here and especially in other countries, I don’t think that the right way to deal with ‘hate speech’ and crazed fabrications is to ban them,” Chomsky said in an e-mail. “The real story about marginalization of opinion and information is, as always, radically different, and undiscussed.”

Chomsky. “What I’ve seen of what he does is outrageous, but unlike many civil libertarians here and especially in other countries, I don’t think that the right way to deal with ‘hate speech’ and crazed fabrications is to ban them,” Chomsky said in an e-mail. “The real story about marginalization of opinion and information is, as always, radically different, and undiscussed.”

Another prominent liberal who defended Jones was far-left HBO host Bill Maher. Claiming that Jones had told “crazy lies” about him, Maher nevertheless said, “If you’re a liberal, you’re supposed to be for free speech.” “That’s free speech for the speech you hate. That’s what free speech means. We’re losing the thread of the concepts that are important to this country,” the notorious anti-Christian activist continued. “If you care about the real American s**t or you don’t. And if you do, it goes for every side. I don’t like Alex Jones, but Alex Jones gets to speak. Everybody gets to speak.”

Even the far-left *New York Times* conceded in a report documenting how Facebook overlord Mark Zuckerberg made the decision to ban Jones that “both fans and critics of Infowars can probably agree that a system in which one executive can decide to shut off a news organization’s access to a large portion of its audience is hardly ideal.”

The ultra-far-left American Civil Liberties Union also sided with Jones. ACLU Speech, Privacy and Technology Project Fellow Vera Eidelman even said this would blow up in liberals’ faces. “While private companies can choose what to take down from their sites, the fact that social media platforms like Facebook have become indispensable platforms for the speech of billions means that they should resist calls to censor offensive speech,” she said in a statement. “The recent decision by Facebook and YouTube to take down Alex Jones’s content may have provided a quick solution to a challenging situation, but encouraging these companies to silence individuals in this way will backfire.”

As expected, most right-wing groups



AP Images

Enemy involvement? Many Big Tech firms, including Apple and Google, are in bed with the Chinese regime, sparking concerns over Beijing's potential role in the ongoing censorship.

are speaking out against the bans. Even some legacy media outlets in competition with Jones for readers have jumped in to defend Infowars and oppose the censorship. The *Washington Times* actually went even further, suggesting that the reason the Big Tech companies were censoring Jones was to cozy up to the murderous regime enslaving China. "Where Alex Jones has been very spot on is the threat that communist China poses to our future and our way of life, and how this threat has corrupted our government, our education system and much of our hi-tech industry," explained L. Todd Wood in an opinion and analysis piece for the *Times*. "Did you know that Google just opened an artificial intelligence center in China, formed to help China jump ahead of the United States in this crucial technology?... Did you know Apple is assisting China in its vast Orwellian censorship of the internet by deleting apps off its platform China doesn't like?"

After documenting the fact that the Communist Chinese dictatorship is pursuing global domination and is increasingly in bed with America's tech giants, Wood suggested Beijing may have had something to do with it. "Now the de-platforming of Alex Jones makes perfect sense. I can see a conversation between Beijing and our tech titans, 'Get rid of Alex Jones or else,'" Wood wrote. The news comes amid growing concerns in Congress and across America about Silicon Valley's increasingly suspicious relationship with the totalitarian mass-murderers in Beijing.

Former congressman and three-time

presidential candidate Ron Paul, perhaps the most influential voice in what is known as the "Liberty Movement," also spoke out. "The banning of Alex Jones is being orchestrated by people who do not like him and want to shut him down," observed Paul in the August 14 episode of his online Ron Paul Liberty Report, urging viewers to keep the pressure on. "It looks on the surface like they're doing this, but I would suspect in the last month or two there are more people that know about Alex Jones. When you look at the people that go to his sites and people that are looking up Alex Jones, I mean, it's massive, it's not tens of thousands, it's literally into the millions. So maybe this all will backfire.... This might give him a boost."

On August 18, the president of the United States joined in the growing outcry. "Social Media is totally discriminating against Republican/Conservative voices," Trump wrote in a series of social-media posts. "Speaking loudly and clearly for the Trump Administration, we won't let that happen. They are closing down the opinions of many people on the RIGHT, while at the same time doing nothing to others. Censorship is a very dangerous thing and absolutely impossible to police. If you are weeding out Fake News, there is nothing so Fake as CNN & MSNBC, and yet I do not ask that their sick behavior be removed. I get used to it and watch with a grain of salt, or don't watch at all. Too many voices are being destroyed, some good & some bad, and that cannot be allowed to happen. Who is making the choices, because I can already tell you

that too many mistakes are being made. Let everybody participate, good and bad, and we will all just have to figure it out!"

Aside from a handful of neoconservatives associated with the neocon journal *Weekly Standard*, conservatives have been nearly unanimous in their criticism of the censorship.

Apolitical voices joined in too. A Swedish video-game star known as PewDiePie, YouTube's most popular content creator, with a shocking 65 million subscribers, blasted YouTube and the other Internet giants for purging Alex Jones and Infowars. "For people who don't know Alex Jones, and the reasoning being so vague, how do you break four different community guidelines on four different websites, at the same time?" he wondered in a YouTube video, condemning "censorship" while praising Twitter for refusing to go along with the mob. "Maybe I'm too naive, but if you don't like someone or something, you speak up against it, you don't shut them out, you don't remove them."

Americans, by and large, seem to agree. Google data shows that searches for Infowars shot up 50-fold in the two days following the ban. For the seven days following the mass bans, searches were up 1,300 percent. Infowars mobile apps also shot up to number one in popularity for both iPhones and Androids in the news category after the ban, leaving competitors such as CNN in the dust. On both systems, the Infowars app was trending. And perhaps even better news for Infowars was that it received the highest traffic it ever received, and the most listeners, according to Jones. The company also reported more than 5.5 million new subscribers to its newsletter in the 48 hours immediately after the ban, more than making up for the lost reach on social-media platforms. "We've never had this much people signing up for our news letter, podcast, video feeds, they're all hitting subscribe, subscribe, subscribe," Jones said.

But this battle is far from over. If censoring conservatives online does not have the desired effect the globalist establishment will find new tactics. And without a determined response to Big Tech's attacks by those who value liberty and truth, the globalists may succeed. The backlash to the purge is a very good start, but the battle must continue for freedom to prevail. ■

The way forward: **BYPASSING BIG TECH CENSORSHIP**

Several means have been put forward to deal with the biased and discriminatory censorship by social-media giants, including new laws, new websites, and new technologies.



AP Images

Unfollowing Facebook: As Facebook works to censor and purge voices it disagrees with, while promoting establishment propaganda, its stock price crashed 20 percent in one day, and new alternatives are gaining momentum.

by Alex Newman

First, the Internet companies lured users in by pretending to be open places for discussions or neutral venues and services. But by 2016, after becoming essentially monopolies with help from the feds and the Deep State establishment, they began to roll out full-blown censorship and surveillance, while manipulating what users see. In short, companies such as Facebook, Twitter, Alphabet (which owns YouTube and Google), and many more deceived their users. And now that they think they are indispensable to humanity and unstoppable, they shut the trap door, with conservatives on the outside looking in.

But the battle is far from finished. And as the reality of Big Government and Big Tech colluding together to manipulate humanity and promote propaganda becomes increasingly obvious, alternatives are emerging quickly. Plus, with the demand for truth growing across America and worldwide, it seems highly likely

that suppliers will continue finding ways to supply it.

For now, Facebook and Alphabet (Google and YouTube) dominate the online advertising market, creating a sort of Internet ad duopoly that controls an estimated 75 percent of the digital advertising market. Already, though, a dizzying array of alternatives to the Big Tech giants has started to emerge. From new search engines to new social-media services, the number of options is multiplying quickly. Many of the options are decentralized and innovative, marking a sharp departure from the centralized top-down control of existing technology giants. More will be coming soon. And while plenty may eventually fade into obscurity, some are already enjoying incredible growth. Plus, every minute that a user spends on an alternative company's website means less advertising dollars for the tech giants — and less data on users to analyze, monetize, and, eventually, weaponize.

Obviously, corporate silencing of dissent is not the only troubling element of

the Big Tech giants. At the top of concerns for users is privacy. And with new scandals about abuses of privacy emerging on a continual basis, a growing number of people are voting with their digital devices and using alternatives. In late July, Facebook lost \$120 billion in value in one day — about 20 percent of the company's market capitalization — setting a new record in stock-market history. And that incredible sell-off was caused, in part at least, by “reduced use,” with users spending less time on the platform and user growth slowing dramatically. In early 2018, Facebook announced its first-ever decline in daily U.S. users. With the company making a deliberate decision to purge conservatives, there may be more downside still to come.

But many fear the wrath of the tech giants. In fact, as the reality of the accelerating purge became impossible to ignore once Alex Jones and Infowars were “de-platformed,” a sort of “panic” set in among some contrarian voices. After all, if they could take down a media empire with many millions of staunchly loyal supporters and links to the White House, they could take down anybody. *THE NEW AMERICAN* magazine, Breitbart, WND, Drudge, or any other conservative site could easily go down too — in fact, all of them have already been massively suppressed by Big Tech. Even Fox News, which often parrots the establishment line but with a supposedly “conservative” spin, has found itself in the cross hairs of those demanding bans and censorship. And so there was an almost universal understanding, even among many liberals, that something would have to be done. But the question was and remains: What, if anything, can be done?

Flurry of Ideas on How to Respond

The ideas for what sort of response is needed were as numerous as they were varied. On one side, more than a few called

for government intervention. Arguing that the Big Tech giants have become monopolies, the call to have government intervene was loud and clear from Congress and the White House to Main Street America. The companies' deep ties to government, too, have been cited to justify government intervention. On the other hand, countless voices urged conservatives, Christians, libertarians, nationalists, patriots, and all other victims of the Big Tech censorship machine to simply ditch the companies that hate them so much, or urged everyone to try out alternatives. And there are plenty. More on that below.

Among those calling for government to step in, there are several strategies being pursued. One of the key avenues involves the so-called Communications Decency Act. Essentially, under that 1996 statute, as long as companies act as politically neutral venues for others to post content, they are generally immune from liability over the content on their sites. For instance, if a Facebook user were to libel somebody or violate copyright, the company itself would not be liable for the speech. However, the same protections do not apply to companies that exercise editorial discretion in the content that appears on their platforms. As such, if a newspaper, for instance, libels a person, or steals another person's intellectual property, the paper would be liable under the law.

A number of high-profile lawmakers have jumped on this. At a Senate hearing in early 2018, Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) began by asking representatives of the Internet giants — Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube — whether they consider themselves to be “neutral” in providing a forum for public discussion. All of them answered yes. But then Cruz highlighted the fact that a Twitter official was caught on hidden camera by Project Veritas investigators bragging about “shadow-banning” conservatives, a tactic that hides the victims' posts from others without the targeted individual even realizing that his content is not being seen by anyone. The senator from Texas also noted that Twitter initially blocked an announcement by Congressman Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) due to the content being pro-life.

There are countless other examples. “The pattern of political censorship we are seeing across the technology compa-



AP Images

Warning: Grilling Big Tech executives on their political bias, Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) reminded them that their immunity under federal statutes does not apply if they censor those they disagree with.

nies is highly concerning,” Senator Cruz said in his closing remarks. “And the opening question I asked of whether you are a neutral public forum — if you are a neutral public forum, that does not allow for political editorializing and censorship. And if you are not a neutral public forum, the entire predicate for liability immunity under the CDA [Communications Decency Act] is claiming to be a neutral public forum, so you cannot have it both ways.” And indeed, as the purge of anti-establishment voices gets more and more extreme, countless prominent pundits and others have called for the Big Tech giants to lose their immunity under CDA. They are clearly biased against conservatives and Republicans — even the Left admits that.

Beyond the CDA, more than a few prominent voices, including plenty on the Left, have called for breaking up the Internet “monopolies” of Facebook, Google, YouTube, and so on by using antitrust statutes. Some heavy hitters have even argued that the Big Tech monopolies are more problematic than the old monopolies of the “robber barons.” James Delingpole at Breitbart, for instance, wrote: “These Silicon Valley tech firms form the kind of oppressive, anti-consumer oligopoly that prompted Teddy Roosevelt’s trust-busting in the early 20th century. The difference between Jeff Bezos and [John D.] Rockefeller is that whereas Rockefeller just controlled oil, Bezos and his ilk control ‘ideas, information, perception of the world.’” And it is even worse than that.

“Whatever threat these organizations pose to individual freedoms, the way they work in cahoots with governments is more dangerous still,” Delingpole continued, calling on President Trump to step in and save Western civilization from the death of free speech being orchestrated by Big Tech and its totalitarian allies in Big Government all over the world.

More than a few people with Trump’s ear are urging him to do that. Longtime Trump advisor and confidant Roger Stone, for instance, urged the administration to get involved. “It is Internet freedom, it is the rise of a robust and vigorous alternative media through the Internet, that allowed Donald Trump to become president,” said Stone, who works closely with Infowars. “And now, his critics want to put the toothpaste back into the tube. They want to return to the days when only ABC, NBC, and CBS controlled the political dialogue. Trump’s election would have been impossible under those circumstances.... We are being punished because we broadcast the truth. We are being shut down because we are a threat to the globalists and the Chinese Communist plan to take over this country.” Warning that Infowars was just the beginning, Stone suggested that the Justice Department should use antitrust laws to end the political censorship by the Big Tech monopolies.

And Trump may be responding. In fact, in a number of posts on Twitter, Trump suggested that his administration was looking into Big Tech’s war on free speech and would be taking action — especially

concerning efforts to tip the election to Democrats. On July 26, Trump criticized Twitter in a tweet after it emerged that the website was making it more difficult for users to see posts of certain conservative lawmakers in Congress. “Twitter ‘SHADOW BANNING’ prominent Republicans. Not good,” Trump said. “We will look into this discriminatory and illegal practice at once. Many complaints.” Since Jones and Infowars were banned, Trump has gone even further in terms of speaking out. And when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development went after Facebook for aiding and abetting discrimination in housing, more than a few of Facebook’s foes celebrated.

Some opinion molders are advocating that the government create an “Internet Bill of Rights” that would protect free speech online. Investigative journalist and best-selling author Jerome Corsi, whose own YouTube channel was taken down before being put back online, told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that the status quo when it comes to social media is unacceptable. “The mainstream media is desperately fighting for its survival,” he said. “And the way to do it is to get the social-media companies to throw out every other viewpoint.” Noting that violent “Antifa” hate is welcome across the social-media platforms, while the Bible and support for the Second Amendment are increasingly being purged, Corsi said the establishment was trying to eliminate the visibility of views that are not aligned with its agenda.

While conservatives are typically reluctant to call for federal action, Corsi argued that it has now become hard to tell where the Internet giants end and the government begins. In particular, Corsi expressed frustration over the fact that the far-left leadership of the Internet companies was completely in bed with government and left-wing politicians such as the Clinton family. “These companies are so penetrated by the intelligence agencies you wonder if they aren’t just new names for the agencies,” he said, noting that the U.S. government’s intelligence apparatus had even funded many of the firms and was harvesting unfathomable amounts of data from them. “When you get to the heart of what’s going on in social media, it’s an intelligence operation. That’s what

I was seeking to expose. This is no longer just a private enterprise.... Social media has become a backdoor for Big Brother.”

Because of this intimate relationship with the government, and because the Big Tech firms could ramp up the purge ahead of the 2018 elections and swing the vote, Corsi said conservatives must recognize the danger and demand action. In particular, he said it was time for the government to step in and protect individual rights online. Along with touting an “Internet Bill of Rights” that would apply to the online world the free speech protections, due process protections, and protection from surveillance and data-gathering without warrants contained in the U.S. Constitution, Corsi also called for antitrust investigations, which he said are more than warranted considering the companies’ anti-competitive behavior. And finally, Corsi called for an official investigation into what these companies have been doing and the precise nature of their links to government. After all, if government built these companies — and it certainly helped, at the very least — then free-speech rights ought to be protected on their platforms, too, he argued.

Non-government Alternatives

Obviously, government involvement in regulating nominally private companies has plenty of critics among conservatives, libertarians, and constitutionalists. For one, a plain reading of the U.S. Con-

stitution does not reveal any delegation of the authority required. Some critics even worry that such a move could be the proverbial camel’s nose under the tent, letting government itself become empowered to control speech online. Plus, demanding that Christian bakers and florists celebrate homosexual “marriages” has left a horrible taste in many people’s mouths — making the idea of forcing companies to host speech they disagree with seem particularly wrong. After all, the leftist mind can simultaneously believe that companies should be free to ban speech they dislike, but that Christians must celebrate what they consider evil or be destroyed. For conservatives, that smacks of liberal hypocrisy.

CEO Art Thompson with The John Birch Society, the constitutionalist grassroots organization that publishes this magazine, argued that entrepreneurs with a dedication to the truth over money must help create alternative spaces for free speech. “The one solution to the problems of the Internet in a free society is competition,” he said in an e-mail. “More sites that sustain freedom of speech for all need to be produced, advertised, and used. People should intentionally seek out sites that — excepting pornography and the advocacy of a violent overthrow of the government — are committed to staying the course on free speech and would not willingly sell out their sites for megabucks.”

“When the First Amendment was



AP Images

Reminder: Trump confidant Roger Stone said Trump’s victory was only possible because of the Internet, and warned that Big Tech was working to ensure nothing similar ever happens again.

For now, Facebook and Alphabet (Google and YouTube) dominate the online advertising market, creating a sort of Internet ad duopoly that controls an estimated 75 percent of the digital advertising market.

drawn up, it only mentioned the two means of communication available at the time: speech and press,” continued Thompson. “Communication methods invented since then have all come under the regulation or control of the government in league with big-money businessmen who wish to use government to squash their competition, violating the original intent of the Bill of Rights. The two most obvious communication alternatives that were brought under government control were radio and television, which by 1970 were not only under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission but were basically consolidated and bought out by tycoons who were members of, or under the influence of, the Council on Foreign Relations, an organization that advocates global socialism (which is the control of everyone by a few handpicked bureaucrats under an organization such as the United Nations).”

Thompson continued: “Since the advent of the Internet, left-wing billionaires have been buying out most every new online site that reaches the masses, and

government has been seeking to control it through so-called net neutrality. This is what I mean by staying the course and not succumbing to the allure of millions or billions of dollars, and serving the greater need for freedom of speech. The more voices open to free speech, the less likely they can all be silenced.”

Already, alternatives are popping up right and left. And people are using them, too. Among the emerging alternatives in the social-media space are companies such as Gab.ai, Minds, OneWay, Local Activist, MeWe, and more. Alternatives to YouTube that have received a major boost in recent weeks include BitChute and Real.Video. And in the search-engine market, a number of alternatives exist and are expanding quickly. These include DuckDuckGo, Searx.me, Good-Gopher, StartPage, and more. Legacy alternatives such as Yahoo and Microsoft’s Bing exist, too, although they suffer from many of the same problems as Google. Steemit and Patreon are providing alternative revenue sources for content creators — something crucial as YouTube

works to bankrupt conservatives and enrich leftist hatemongers. The major e-mail providers are facing competition from privacy-oriented competitors such as ProtonMail in Switzerland, which uses encryption to help users protect privacy, and many others. And even the Drudge Report, which constantly links to establishment propaganda but has traditionally been perceived as more friendly to conservatives and alternative voices, faces new competition from the fast-growing aggregator WhatFinger.com.

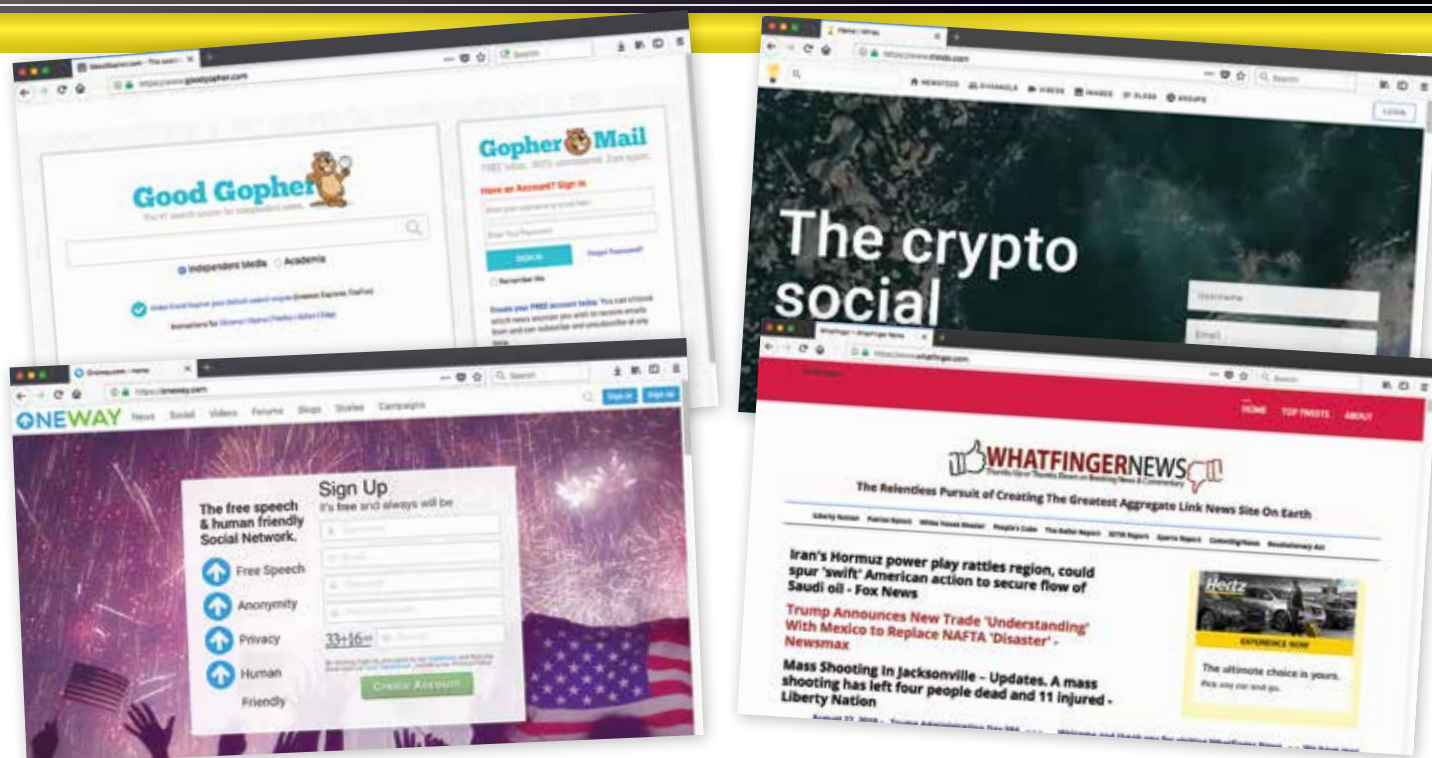
But changing services can be tough. Companies such as Google have become so pervasive that, to many, trying to cut ties with the increasingly “evil” giant seems hopeless. But Asia-focused freelance journalist Nithin Coca did it, and shared his secrets with the world in a popular article about it. “Today, I am Google free, part of the western world’s ultimate digital minority, someone who does not use products from the world’s two most valuable technology companies (yes, I don’t use Facebook either),” he explained. “The truth is, alternatives do exist, many of which have launched in the years since Edward Snowden revealed Google’s participation in Prism.” And throughout the rest of the article, he provides a comprehensive list of all the alternative products and services he used to cut Google out of his life completely. It is well worth the read for anyone who is tired of being abused by the corporate Leviathan.

Some of the emerging alternatives are concerned that efforts to have Big Tech declared a “public utility” and the Internet subjected to more federal regulation would actually boost Big Tech’s power permanently. In a letter to President Trump, OneWay.com President Derek Peterson, BitChute.com President Ray Vahey, and other tech leaders urged Trump not to have government barge in. “We are very concerned that the actions of some of the bad actors in the technology world will result in regulations that could limit free speech and liberty in general,” they wrote. “We believe that the technologies we and others are developing will correct the market in a very short time and are concerned that any kind of regulation concerning speech or making these companies government sponsored ‘public squares’ or ‘utilities’ of some kind will further cement



His appeal: Investigative journalist Jerome Corsi, a longtime critic of the Deep State and its New World Order agenda who was targeted by Big Tech, said there should be an “Internet Bill of Rights.”

AP Images



Saving speech versus serving silence: As the Big Tech giants become more brazen in their efforts to silence those who disrupt establishment propaganda, a huge array of alternatives is emerging to take their place while protecting free speech.

their place in our lives, make them more powerful and only make it more difficult or even impossible for the market to self correct.” They basically asked the Trump administration to let the free market work, cut regulation, and adopt the technology as it is developed.

Author and technology expert Patrick Wood is right in the middle of all of it. As the author of *Technocracy Rising: The Trojan Horse of Global Transformation* and editor of *Technocracy News & Trends*, Wood understands the technocratic scheming of the globalist establishment. As the executive director of Citizens for Free Speech, he is deeply involved in the battle for free speech. But unlike those seeking federal solutions, Wood told THE NEW AMERICAN that the real answer is at the local level, in communities across America. That is why his organization is preparing to launch LocalActivist.org, a social-media service that aims to connect local activists with each other so they can see and post community events, join local groups that have been established for some specific local issue, and much more. The beta testing is already under way.

Commenting on the recent purges, Wood suggested Big Tech may be digging its own grave. “All social-media

companies are public corporations and inherently have the right to do whatever they desire, short of breaking the law,” he explained. “However, they are not immune to lawsuits from people who have been materially harmed by their actions, and I expect such lawsuits to proliferate. Censorship is not illegal, but social-media giants who practice it will now be forced to compete for ideas on the open stage of society. They are naively walking into a trap of their own making, and they will lose. Just like the NFL lost massive numbers of long-term viewers over player protests, social-media giants risk bringing the same kind of punishment upon themselves.... Technocrats that they are, they really don’t realize that their ultimate fate is in the hands of the free market!”

Of course, those companies are doing everything they can to suppress competition, even buying up or trying to cripple potential competitors before they can do too much damage. But even those machinations are running up against opposition. One of the increasingly prominent social-media platforms competing with Facebook is known as Minds.com. Not surprisingly, Google was quick to ban the company from its ad program. But Minds CEO Bill Ottman responded not by whin-

ing — although he was invited to air his concerns on one of TV’s most popular news programs — but by announcing that his company was creating its own ad network to compete against the giants. It will use “block-chain” technology, which is all the rage in tech circles today, making it virtually impossible to manipulate or hack. And unlike the Big Tech companies, Minds’ ad alternatives will be totally transparent, even using open-source code that anyone is welcome to inspect.

Speaking on Fox News’ Tucker Carlson program, Minds CEO Ottman explained how Google was working to censor his company. Worse still, as Carlson noted, through their dominant position in online ads, Google and Facebook are able to have massive leverage over news sources and content creators — leverage that they frequently use, threatening and in some cases destroying alternative voices that refuse to do their bidding. Ottman said it is even worse than people realize, though. “When you go to people’s websites who host Google ads, Google is actually spying on you through those websites,” Ottman explained after Carlson argued that the duopoly practically “owns” news sites by controlling the whole ad market. “So by putting Google ads on your website, you’re actually becoming an agent of

Google. That's why we need transparent, more freedom-based ad platforms to emerge which don't spy on people." And that is what his company, Minds, is working to provide.

Truth Cannot Be Silenced

No matter how vigorously Big Tech and Big Government work to censor the truth, it cannot be totally suppressed. But that does not mean the establishment will not use dirty tricks in its efforts to try. Alex Jones, Roger Stone, and numerous other prominent voices even suggested that there may be an imminent false-flag attack against the media to be blamed on Trump, Infowars, and others. And indeed, with top United Nations officials suggesting that Trump could be prosecuted for "incitement" against the media if and when something bad happens, it is hardly far-fetched to suggest that the globalist establishment *could* be planning something. An incredible series of blatant lies against Jones and Trump pushed by the establishment, coinciding with the unprecedented and escalating purge of dis-

senting voices online, certainly suggests something fishy is going on.

But even without a false-flag attack, the threat of full-blown Internet censorship at the national and even the global level is very real. With Obama having surrendered control over Internet infrastructure to globalist "stakeholders" unbound by the First Amendment, and with the UN and many of its more oppressive member regimes actively campaigning for censorship worldwide, Internet freedom has never been in more grave danger. Key components of the Internet's architecture were transferred to "international stakeholders," making it potentially feasible to literally wipe somebody off the Internet completely — not just off social media. And the UN installed an actual Chinese Communist (who claims censorship is in the eye of the beholder) at the top of the UN International Telecommunications Union, the agency currently being groomed by the establishment for the role of world Internet regulator and censor. If the Orwellian trends are not halted, it could be just a matter of time

before the World Wide Web faces full-blown censorship by a rogue alliance of governments, dictators, international institutions, and their Big Business cronies.

But ultimately, even if the Internet is completely undermined as an effective means of educating and activating resistance to the establishment and its agenda, the fight for truth and against tyranny must go on. The John Birch Society has been leading the effort to save diminishing freedoms since the late 1950s — generations before the Internet was even born. Tools for accomplishing that included and still include printed publications, videos and DVDs, grassroots educational campaigns, public speeches to educate local communities and opinion molders, and much more. And despite the emergence of the Internet, these tools are still far from obsolete. If, somehow, the establishment manages to shut down the World Wide Web as a useful tool to disseminate the truth, The John Birch Society will continue to get the information out. And you can help. Get involved, or get more involved, today! ■

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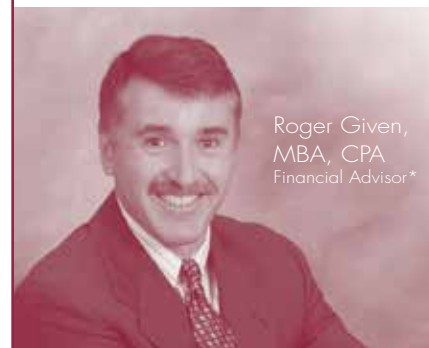
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Dinesh D'Souza

HIS FILM EXPOSES Democrats' "Big Lie"

New York Times best-selling author Dinesh D'Souza explains the truth that Democrats hide and lie about: It is their party that has been anti-black.

by Troy Anderson

In an explosive new film that Rotten Tomatoes' critics gave a "zero percent" rating, but audiences gave a "90 percent" score, conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza exposes the Democratic Party's "big lie" that President Donald Trump, Republicans, and conservatives are racists and fascists.

In the film *Death of a Nation: Can We Save America a Second Time?* the *New York Times* best-selling author argues that Democrats and progressives are the in-

tellectual heirs of the slavery of African-Americans and genocide of Native Americans, and that their policies helped inspire the Nazis and the Holocaust.

The film, which is igniting a national debate about the largely unknown and long-hidden history of the Democratic Party, compares the political environment Trump faces today with the one that America's first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln, experienced during the Civil War.

"I think the response [to the film] has been fantastic," D'Souza says:

The audiences love the movie, and it's very revealing, if you go on Rotten Tomatoes — which is sort of the official movie review site — the professional critics, who are almost entirely on the left, like the movie zero percent.

The audience ranked it at (90 percent on August 11). I've never seen such a wide discrepancy between the critics' assessment and the audience's assessment. Normally, there is about a 10-20 percent gap because the critics are a subset of the larger audience, and not a representative one. What the zero percent really tells me is these are people who despise the movie, and the reason they despise the movie is because the movie is a 90 percent refutation of everything they believe. Now, they are not smart enough to refute it, so the best that they can do is let out a primal yell, and their primal yell, is a zero percent rating.

In an exclusive interview with *THE NEW AMERICAN*, D'Souza discussed the film, what his research and interviews with prominent experts revealed, and the impact the movie is having on America.

THE NEW AMERICAN: *In your controversial new film that's igniting a political firestorm — Death of a Nation: Can We Save America a Second Time? — you note that not since 1860 have the Democrats so adamantly refused to accept the results of a presidential election. In those days, their target was Abraham Lincoln. In the film, you make the case that there is an eerie similarity between the situations faced by Trump now and President Lincoln then.*

Interviewer Troy Anderson is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist, bestselling FaithWords/Hachette author of The Babylon Code and Trumpocalypse, former executive editor of Charisma magazine and Charisma Media, and Los Angeles Daily News reporter.



Both men were hated as president: In his film *Death of a Nation*, conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza makes a comparison between President Donald Trump and President Abraham Lincoln, arguing that they faced similar political environments.

Why did you make this comparison and what do you see as the similarities?

Dinesh D'Souza: Well, here are the main similarities. In 1860, an outsider was a favorite and was elected. That outside candidate happened to be a Republican, in fact, the first Republican president.

Lincoln won in a very narrow race that he wasn't expected to win. The only reason he won is that the Democrats fielded two candidates and split the Democratic vote. The moment Lincoln was elected all hell broke loose. There were calls by the northern Democrats and some southern Democrats for Lincoln to be assassinated, which actually happened later.

The southern Democrats were so unwilling to abide by the results of the election that they were willing to break up the country.

Now, look at how similar that is to what we've been facing in this country for two years. When Trump was first elected I thought that much of the craziness was reflected in the immediate disappointment that inevitably follows a very close election, but that the disappointment, and even rage, would soon subside as people accepted, however reluctantly, the results of the democratic process.

But, no, we have seen for two years now uninterrupted efforts to either establish the illegitimacy of Trump's presidency — he's a racist, he's a fascist — and use this as a pretext for ejecting him from office. So in an 1860 moment in America, the similarities in politics are not deniable. There is

nothing going on now that resembles the Reagan era. You have to go all the way back to Lincoln to make sense of our current situation.

TNA: *This comparison between President Lincoln and President Trump is generating an outcry on the left. President Lincoln is often named in polls as among America's best presidents, and yet about half the country seems to loathe President Trump. What many people may be unaware of is that Lincoln was the first Republican elected president. What kind of reaction are you getting to this?*

D'Souza: Well, remember that Lincoln, like Trump, was extremely controversial in his own time. The secular sainthood that is conferred on Lincoln only came after his assassination. He wasn't perceived that way in his time. Number one, he was considered an extremist, and number two, he was considered a tyrant. Notice the close similarities between what people said about Lincoln then and what people say about Trump now.

TNA: *One of the most surprising things revealed in the film is that the Democratic Party was behind slavery, was historically linked to the Ku Klux Klan, and has a long history of racism, yet Democrats and progressives today have accused Republicans of racism. What is going on here?*

D'Souza: Most of the horrific crimes that we associate with racism from slave plantations through segregation/Jim Crow, racial

terrorism, the Ku Klux Klan — all of this was done by Democrats, largely with the encouragement of the Democratic Party.

Now the Democratic Party has never acknowledged its role in any of this. Democrats and progressives today try to foist the blame onto the American Founders, and onto the South, and onto their own country itself, but never onto the one place where it truly belongs, namely themselves.

And so what we are seeing today is a big lie, an intellectual and political scam, which is blaming the very Republicans who fought against the Democrats all the way. Republicans are, in fact, the party of emancipation, opposing and shutting down the Ku Klux Klan, opposing segregation, and providing more support for the civil rights movement of the 1960s than Democrats did.

TNA: *It seems from watching the movie that the cause of the Civil War was limited to slavery. Was there no more involved in the Civil War than the North and South lining up to settle the issue of slavery?*

D'Souza: The Civil War was mainly, though not exclusively, about the issue of whether slavery should be permitted to spread into the new federal territories. Other issues like tariffs also played a role, but they were subordinate to the slavery issue. Secession when it came was over slavery, as Alexander Stephens, a Democrat and vice president of the Confederacy, admitted in his Cornerstone Speech.

TNA: *While the film explores the Democratic Party's historical support of slavery, the Left has made the argument in recent decades that Republicans and Democrats essentially switched positions over the years, especially during the battle for civil rights in the 1960s. You addressed this in the film. What is your response to this claim?*

D'Souza: There is no basis for it. The truth of it is that when you list the Dixiecrats — a group that numbered between 100 and 200 — we are talking about senators, congressmen, and in some case governors, these are either people who joined the racist Dixiecrat party or voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. You can ask how many of these Democrats voted for the

Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act, and the answer is there are two.

In the Senate, one guy: Strom Thurmond. In the House, one guy: Albert Watson. All the other racist Dixiecrats remained in the Democratic Party. They died as Democrats. They were lionized at their deaths. There are buildings named after them in Washington, D.C.

In the case of one of them, Robert Byrd, Hillary [Clinton] called him her mentor and [President Barack] Obama eulogized him at his funeral. So the actual Dixiecrats all stayed in the Democratic Party, and the notion that they came over to the Republican camp is simply a fiction, but a fiction that is widely taught, and therefore, widely believed.

TNA: *Beyond these revelations about the Democrats, the film also explores the impact that the party's policies — including those that resulted in the decimation of Native Americans in the 1800s — had on Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party's rampage, which led to the Holocaust and the deaths of millions of Jews and others during World War II. Some of the film's critics have called this argument into question,*

“No reasonable person who saw my movie would conclude that I think Hitler was a liberal. Here is what I do say, that Hitler and the Nazis got some of their most hideous and even murderous schemes from American progressives and from the American Democratic Party.” — Dinesh D’Souza

saying it goes too far. What would you say in response to them?

D’Souza: Well, I just read an article in the *Washington Post*, an attack on the movie. The headline said, “Dinesh D’Souza claims Hitler was a liberal.” Now, this calls for a qualification of what I said.

No reasonable person who saw my movie would conclude that I think Hitler was a liberal. Here is what I do say, that Hitler and the Nazis got some of their most hideous and even murderous schemes from American progressives and from the American Democratic Party. Now this is an indisputable fact.

Not only do I dramatize it in the movie, I extensively discuss it in my book with citations, chapter and verse. A case in point,

there is a scene in the movie where the Nazis were drafting the Nuremberg laws, the laws that made Jews into second-class citizens. They were sitting around a table and they had in their hands the Democratic laws of the Jim Crow South.

Now someone watching the movie might say, ‘Dinesh, where are you getting this?’ And the answer is I’m getting it from Yale [Law School] legal scholar James Whitman and his book *Hitler’s American Model*.

Now, interestingly Whitman puts the blame on America, not the Democrats, even though all the segregation laws of the Democratic South were passed by Democratic legislatures and signed by Democratic governors.

This isn’t something America did. This is something the Democrats did. Well, the Nazis knew about it, and so they have these laws in their hands and essentially what they are doing is making the laws, the Democratic laws, the model for the Nuremberg laws. They are crossing out the word “black” and writing the word “Jew.”

The Germans are getting this from their Democratic counterparts. This is unquestionable in the historical record. No one can challenge it. If the *Washington Post* accused me of that [falsely claiming that Germans based anti-Jewish laws on Democrat laws] they would have no reputation. They would have to admit I was right, so they don’t do that. They pretend like I’m saying Hitler is a liberal, so prima facie they make it seem like I’m a kook, but that’s not what I’m saying and in fact my arguments are very well documented. They have no answer, and that’s why they have to lie about it.

TNA: *A key theme running through the film is what Hitler described as the “big lie.” What is the “big lie,” and how have*



Not very colorful history: African-Americans, such as this man at a bus station in Durham, North Carolina, in 1940, experienced segregation under Jim Crow laws in the South — laws put in place by Democrats.

Democrats and progressives employed this political strategy to their advantage in the battle for hearts and minds, and votes, in America?

D'Souza: Well, when Hitler talked about the "big lie," he was not saying that he, Hitler, was telling big lies. He was blaming the "big lie" on Jews, but nevertheless, he had something insightful to say about lies in general.

Hitler says that if you have a small lie it's easy to check out. For example, if someone were to say something to you like, "Your wife is cheating on you." Well, you would say, "How do you know? Who told you that? Did you take any photographs? Show me." In other words, you're able to verify whether this lie is true, whether you are being lied to. You can check it out.

But Hitler's point is if someone makes a big lie it's difficult to get your head around it and, therefore, difficult to refute it. Let's take something like: Fascism is right-wing. It's a right-wing phenomenon. If you tell that to the ordinary guy, or even the educated guy, he wouldn't know how to go about making sense of that or refuting it.

In fact, how do people get to know such things? I'll run into educated people and they go, "Everybody knows that fascism is right-wing." And I'm like, how do you know? And they will say something like this: "Well, you know, I was at Barnes & Noble and I saw a book about it. I turned on NPR, and I heard something about it. I was watching this thing on the *History Channel*, and there it was: Fascism is right-wing. So, I've been hearing it from here and hearing it from there, so it's got to be true."

Now, the important thing to realize is that all these sources have been shaped by progressive historiography. In other words, a professor somewhere wrote a book about how fascism is right-wing, and his colleagues, who are also on the left, said, "Great book." And then *The New*



Hate guide: In *Death of a Nation*, Dinesh D'Souza argues that the Democratic laws of the Jim Crow South helped inspire Nazi Germany's Nuremberg laws that led to the Holocaust.

and realized that: "You know what, even though there was close collaboration between the left and fascists prior to World War II, not a whole lot of people know that, and if we don't put it in the textbooks, if we don't talk about it in our classrooms, and we don't make any movies about it, and we don't write any Broadway plays about it, no one is going to find out. In fact, no one is even going to think that this occurred because we have essentially not left any footprints for people to know this," and so that's how I think these big lies become consolidated. It's easy to sell big lies when you are dominant in academia, the media, and the entertainment industry — all three.

TNA: *The midterm elections are coming up, and then in 2020, Trump will run for re-election. In your films, you've explored the danger America faces if progressives and Democrats retake the White House and Congress. In this latest film, you're essentially warning that Democrats and progressives helped inspire the Nazis and all kinds of terrible things in history. What are your concerns about these upcoming elections and the dangers that Democrats pose to America?*

D'Souza: I think the greatest danger has been averted, and that is, had Hillary won the presidential election, a lot of this disruption, a lot of this mobilization of the Left and the state against opponents, all of this would have been swept under the rug. We wouldn't even know about it.

So with Trump's election alone, a change is under way. Now Trump, of course, has been startlingly effective in achieving his agenda. Some people thought at the beginning that he was just a blowhard who might write pungent tweets, but not know how to get things done. Trump is getting a lot of things done.

Now, the Democrats want to stop him and, certainly, if they take either branch

York Review of Books reviewed it and said it's an "Excellent book." And then NPR came and interviewed the guy and featured him on their program *All Things Considered*. And then the *History Channel* interviewed him for their account of World War II.

So, here is my point, the person who thinks he is getting seven independent sources of knowledge is not actually getting seven independent sources of knowledge. It's the same bullet ricocheting from one wall to another, and since it's coming at you from all these different directions, you think, "Oh, wow, it's being confirmed from one source to the other and therefore it must be true."

So coming back to Hitler, what Hitler is basically saying is it's easier to sell a big lie than it is a small lie, and I think that the progressives recognizing this had sort of taken a page from that handbook

German Federal Archives

of Congress, they will be able to slow him down. If they don't get the Senate, which I don't think they will, they won't be able to stop him from tilting the balance of the Supreme Court and certainly he remains completely in charge of foreign policy, so they will not be able to stop him on that either.

So the Democrats are a long way from taking the country, possibly for a decade or more. And they would have to be considered the underdogs in being able to defeat Trump the second time around so that I'm not, when I use the title *Death of a Nation*, by no means am I suggesting that America is finished; it's time to give up. Nonsense.

It's the opposite. Look, by us being aware and knowing what is going on and deconstructing these false narratives and big lies, we become really powerful and dangerous Americans — dangerous in the good sense of being dangerous to tyrannical forces that want to sort of control and run our lives. And so, I'm trying to motivate people, educate them, inspire them, fire them up, and get them to be

more active and more involved in restoring America rather than seeing America go down.

TNA: *Ultimately, the film asks whether President Trump and this nation's citizens can come together and save America for a second time. Considering the reaction that you've gotten so far to the film, what do you think?*

D'Souza: I think the jury is out on that one. I think that Trump continues to be a massively divisive figure, as Lincoln was. The country was only unified in 1865 when one side was defeated.

There was not a meeting in the middle, but a complete annihilation of one side by the other, leading to unification of the country on Northern Republican principles, rather than Southern Democratic principles.

I think that Trump's approach is not to ask (for compromise), but to strike back when he's attacked. I think this is actually the correct approach. There are Republicans who are squeamish about it. They want to live in the Reagan era of

gentlemanly politics. I want to live in that era also.

But that is not the America we have now. If we let groups like Antifa keep acting out, they are going to do what they keep doing. And if we allow the Democrats to use the weapons of the state — the IRS, the DOJ, the FBI — against their political opponents with impunity, they will keep doing it.

That's why I support a more aggressive approach to stopping them because the only way to prevent them from doing it to us is to show a willingness to do it to them, to show a willingness to fight back and uphold the rule of law, and to hold people accountable.

I think the way we get to a more unified, stable, law abiding, and civil environment in this country is, paradoxically, for Republicans not to hide under their desks or run for the exit, but rather to resist the Democrats by patiently but firmly recognizing that ultimately only a taste of their own medicine will bring them to their senses. ■

Our review of Death of a Nation appears on page 30.

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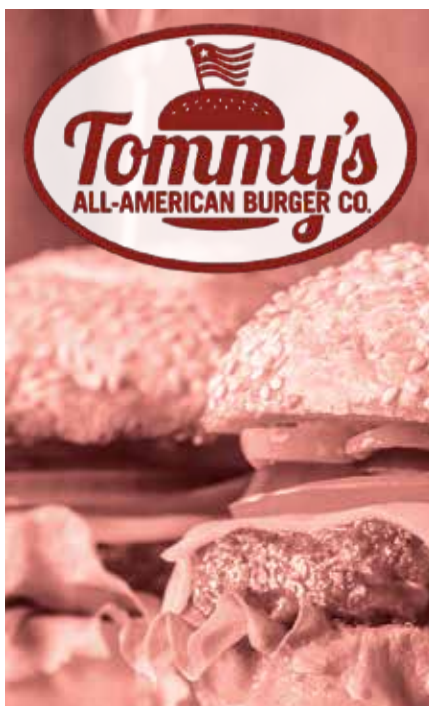
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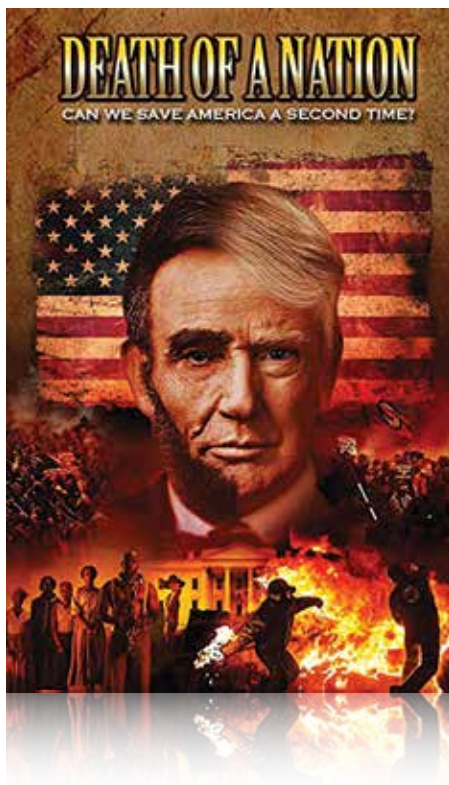
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UNDOING the DEMOCRATIC NARRATIVE

Though liberal reviews of the movie *Death of a Nation* harshly pan it, it is a generally accurate movie, explaining some of the devastation wrought by Democrats and their policies.



by Steve Byas

Death of a Nation is the fourth movie that Dinesh D'Souza has made, continuing his theme that the American Left — which he traces through the history of the Democratic Party — has much in common with movements such as fascism and national socialism.

Don't expect the liberal media to give you an accurate review of this movie. The *Washington Post's* scathing review offered little in the way of telling readers what the movie was actually about, dismissing it as riddled with historical inaccuracies, without offering much in the way of examples. While D'Souza certainly pushes the historical envelope at

times, his motion picture is much closer to the truth than the "review" offered by the *Post*.

"It aims to link Democrats to slave owners and segregationists, ignoring the fact that the two parties swapped places on race in the mid-20th century, most decisively with the Democrats' support of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act," argues the *Post*. I would agree that it is somewhat unfair to tar modern Democrats with slavery, but the *Post* answers here with its own myth it dishonestly calls a "fact," that myth being that the parties "swapped places on race." Their assertion that the Democrats supported the 1964 Civil Rights Act, for example, simply ignores the fact — an undeniable historical fact — that a larger percentage of Republicans voted for the law than did Democrats.

Perhaps most devastating for the Democrat myth that all the segregationists became Republicans, the film notes that only two out of dozens of office-holding segregationists in Congress switched to Republican — Albert Watson of the House and Strom Thurmond of the Senate. On the contrary, as documented in the movie, Bill and Hillary Clinton actually praised arch-segregationist and former Klan recruiter Robert C. Byrd upon his death.

The *Post* review also mentioned that D'Souza interviews Richard Spencer, the notorious white nationalist, in the film, without giving any indication that D'Souza strongly denounced Spencer's views. Spencer admitted that he is deeply collectivist, arguing that collectivism equates with conservatism, and that he is not opposed to socialism "if done right." In the movie, D'Souza said that Spencer is "not on the right," but rather is a "tool" of the liberal media.

But if one only reads the *Post's* "review," the conclusion would be that

D'Souza had done a favorable interview with Spencer.

Legitimate criticism of the movie can be made — he has a Confederate battle flag hanging from the front of a Southern mansion *before the Civil War*, which is ahistorical. He continues his "thing" about demonizing practically every Democrat politician from Andrew Jackson to the present day, while lionizing almost every Republican. One would almost think that Abraham Lincoln was Christ-like from watching this movie.

Perhaps the biggest problem I have with the movie — from a historical point of view — is D'Souza's position that the Civil War was fought to end slavery, as though the "slave" states and the "free" states simply lined up to settle the issue of slavery on the battlefield. In his interview with *THE NEW AMERICAN* (see page 25), D'Souza said: "The Civil War was mainly, though not exclusively, about the issue of whether slavery should be permitted to spread into the new federal territories. Other issues like tariffs also played a role, but they were subordinate to the slavery issue. Secession when it came was over slavery, as Alexander Stephens, a Democrat and vice president of the Confederacy, admitted in his Cornerstone Speech."

With all due respect to D'Souza, who has produced a high-quality movie, he needs to review his Civil War history. First of all, Stephens was *not* a Democrat, but rather a Whig (just as Abraham Lincoln was in the years before the creation of the Republican Party). Second, as many do, D'Souza confuses the causes for the secession with the causes for the Civil War. Certainly, South Carolina and some other "slave" states cited the issue of slavery as the cause for secession, but when Lincoln took office in March 1861, more slave states were still in the Union than out.

Other states — Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Carolina — rejected secession until Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to invade the seven seceded states and force them back into the Union. One can agree or disagree with Lincoln's decision to invade the South, but the facts are clear: Had Lincoln not sent troops into the seceded states, there would have been no war.

Then there were the slave states that never left the Union — Delaware, Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland. If the Civil War was simply fought to end slavery, then Lincoln's call should have been for troops to invade those states, as well. When Lincoln finally did issue the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, as a war measure, he specifically did not propose to touch slavery in those Union states.

And while the tariff issue should not be overplayed, it should not be discounted, either. A dispute over the tariff — and nothing else — almost caused a civil war in the 1830s. Considering that the greatest amount of federal revenue was derived from the collection of the tariff in *Southern* ports, it would be difficult to argue that it did not play a role — a significant role — in Lincoln's decision to use force to bring those states back into the Union.

All in all, however, I was pleased with

Perhaps most devastating for the Democrat myth that all the segregationists became Republicans, the film notes that only two out of dozens of office-holding segregationists in Congress switched to Republican.

this movie, which fairly makes the case that the American Left shares much in common with the collectivist ideologies of the Italian Fascists and the German Nazis. He documents that Benito Mussolini was a Marxist as a young man, and even edited a socialist newspaper, before concluding that he needed to appeal to Italian nationalism to win power in Italy.

D'Souza performs a valuable service by demonstrating that Franklin D. Roosevelt admired Mussolini, a feeling that was reciprocated (Mussolini, the film chronicles, said that FDR was "one of us"). Roosevelt's director of the fascist National Recovery Act, Hugh Johnson, openly admired Mussolini. The historical truth is that the New Dealers and the Italian Fascists had something of a mutual-admiration society in the early years of the Roosevelt administration.

Hitler effected a similar merger of nationalism and socialism in Germany. Nazi is simply short for National Socialism (it would be like calling commu-

nists "commies"). Hitler had no problem with socialism, but considered German communists to be traitors to Germany because they had allegiance to Moscow over their own nation. He employed typical leftist politics, railing against the wealth of the Jews.

D'Souza also slays the myth that Hitler was somehow a "Christian," noting that Hitler's long-range plan was to exterminate the Christian religion in Germany.

From early 20th-century American progressives, Hitler and the Nazis got the idea for eugenics, and Hitler praised Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood. After his escape to South America, Hitler's "angel of death," the notorious Joseph Mengele, built a new career as an abortionist.

Another service performed by D'Souza in this film is his analysis of Charlottesville "Unite the Right" organizer Jason Kessler. Portrayed now by the media as some sort of "conservative," Kessler was actually a supporter of both Barack Obama and the leftist Occupy movement.

Near the end of the movie, D'Souza dramatizes the inspiring story of a young German Christian, Sophie Scholl, who was executed by the Nazis. D'Souza used the example of her courageous underground efforts against Hitler as inspiration for Americans today to stand up against the American Left.

Honestly, after his previous movie, *Hillary's America*, I expected a dry repeat of thinly disguised Republican Party propaganda. Yes, D'Souza still found nothing negative to say about the Republican Party's role in moving our nation away from the principles of limited government found in our Constitution. But he expertly used cinema to expose many of the ideological and historical connections between modern American liberals and the progressives, socialists, national socialists, and fascists.

This is a movie worth seeing. ■



Scene from
Death of a Nation

deathofanationmovie.com



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Here, Take My Kidney

Two teachers in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, set off an organ-donor chain last year after volunteering to donate their kidneys to someone in need. The two are now using their stories to advocate for living kidney donation, *Today.com* reported.

Neil Emmott was diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease in 2001, and in 2016, his kidney function dropped below 20 percent, making a kidney transplant a necessity. Unfortunately, Neil's wife, Lisa, and his brother-in-law had both been rejected from donating their own kidneys because of minor health reasons, and the family began to feel a sense of urgency.

Though the Emmott family had kept Neil's health problems relatively quiet, the revelation compelled his wife to begin to confide in a few people at her daughter's school, Bethany Christian School, including her daughter's teacher, Allison Malouf. Just eight years earlier, Malouf's husband had donated a kidney, so Malouf was familiar with the process. But Lisa could not have predicted Malouf's response to her family's plight. "I had complete peace and a strong desire to donate," Malouf told *Today.com*. "Being their daughter's teacher, I desperately wanted to help this wonderful family."

"When you are a teacher, you feel like a part of these children's lives," she explained. "Their daughter was like a child of my own. I didn't want to see her without a dad.... God gives you two kidneys, but you only need one."

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to the Emmott family, one of Lisa's best friends, nursery-school teacher Britani Atkinson, had been quietly researching the evaluation process to learn whether she was an acceptable candidate to donate her kidney to Neil.

"I knew how desperate I would be if I found myself in their situation, and the solution seemed so easy," said Atkinson. "I had two kidneys and I only needed one. If I could give one to Neil to keep their family whole, why would I not?"

Unfortunately, neither Malouf nor Atkinson proved to be acceptable donors for Neil owing to their blood types and kidney sizes, but even after learning that they could not serve as donors for the Emmott

family, they knew that they wanted to donate their kidneys to anyone in need.

Both women were placed on the National Kidney Registry in 2017 on Neil's behalf and were matched with strangers in cities across the country who were awaiting kidneys. And as a result of their generosity, Neil was also able to be matched with a compatible stranger in California. The Johns Hopkins Medicine website explains how this is possible: "If a person is healthy but not a match for an intended recipient, a paired kidney exchange, also known as a kidney swap, matches an incompatible donor/recipient pair with another incompatible donor/recipient pair."

According to *Today.com*, Atkinson's and Malouf's donations resulted in a total of eight people receiving new kidneys as a result of the paired kidney exchange.

The Emmotts were touched that their friends proceeded with kidney donations despite being unable to donate to Neil, especially as it resulted in finding a kidney for Neil, but the women state it has been as much of a blessing to them as it was for the strangers who received their kidneys. "It is a gift that gives as much to you as the person to whom you donate," said Atkinson. "There are very few opportunities in life to truly give something that is infinitely priceless to someone that costs you nothing."

"This has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done," said Malouf.

It has been nearly a year since Neil received his new kidney, and his wife, Lisa, has made it her personal mission to use her family's story to advocate both for living organ donation and for reaching out to others for help. Were it not for that, Neil may still be awaiting a kidney today.

"One very private man needed a kidney and didn't want to ask a single soul, but because Neil opened up to going public, eight people have now received new kidneys thanks to the paired exchange program," she said. "If you also consider those waiting for a kidney on the deceased donor list, there are also now eight people who will 'move up' on the list and receive a new kidney sooner."

Neil and his wife believe their story needs to be told, if nothing else, to show others that the world is full of good people.

"At a time when we are so disenchanted with the way people behave, to have such gestures and true altruism is phenomenal," Neil told *Local ABC 10 News*.

Generous Tip Inspires Generous Donation

When single mother Anna Hofsetter of Brown County, Indiana, received a very generous \$1,000 tip from one of her customers, she could have put that money to personal use in a number of ways: bills, college funds, savings, etc. Instead, she decided to finance a gift to the children in her community.

Hofsetter works three jobs to support her two children, reported *Fox 13 News*. While tending bar one night at the Hotel Nashville in Nashville, Indiana, she met an older couple who was there celebrating their wedding anniversary. The couple was impressed by Hofsetter and her hard-working efforts to provide for her family, and they wanted to do something for her. When it came time to pay their \$32 check, they gave Hofsetter the surprise of her life when they left her a \$1,000 tip with a note that read, "Give something for kids."

Hofsetter decided that the \$1,000 should benefit not only her kids, but also all of the local children in her community. After meeting with Clara Stanley, president of the area's Enrichment for Teens Association, she decided that she would use her \$1,000 to finance a local skate park.

"Brown County has been lacking a healthy, wonderful place [where] little children or youth — especially youth — can go and express themselves, hang out," Stanley told *WXIN*.

Stanley and the local children had been working to collect donations to pay for a community teen and skate park in Brown County through a group they created called Kids on Wheels, and were delighted to learn of Hofsetter's kind donation.

Hofsetter contends that using the money to help finance the skate park will allow it to have a more lasting impact.

As of August 17, Kids on Wheels had raised approximately \$25,000 for the skate park. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

Giving China to the Communists

Chinese Nationalist Chiang Kai-shek was a loyal ally to America during WWII, but a handful of U.S. leaders poisoned American policy toward him, while building up the communists.



AP Images

Maligned: Perhaps no head of state in the 20th century has been more unfairly criticized by liberal historians than Chiang Kai-shek. Had he been supported by the United States, rather than undermined repeatedly, China would almost certainly not have been lost to the communists.

by Steve Byas

“He who controls China controls the world.” So said Vladimir Lenin, the first communist dictator of the Soviet Union. American communist leader William Z. Foster similarly remarked, “The civil war in China [between the forces of Nationalist Chiang Kai-shek and the communists, led by Mao Tse-tung] is the key to all problems on the international front.”

And it was not just communists who understood the strategic importance of China. General Claire Chennault, the commander of the famed Flying Tigers, writing in his book *The Way of a Fighter*, put it bluntly: “China is the key to the Pacific.” And not only the Pacific. Chennault added, “If China remains friendly to the United States, the Russians will not dare move deeper into Europe, leaving vitals exposed on their Asiatic flank.”

Had mainland China not fallen to the communists in 1949, the United States would have had a powerful ally, checking all Soviet ambitions in eastern Asia. There would have been no Korean War and no Vietnam War, which together cost America about 100,000 lives. The communist oligarchs who ruled China during the dark days of Mao Tse-tung were responsible for the deaths of between 34 and 64 million people by the time the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security published its study *The Human Cost of Communism* in 1971.

Imagine China today as a strong American ally instead of the communist nemesis she still is.

But that is not the case. Make no mistake, the communists who rule the world’s most populous nation view the United States as their principal obstacle to world domination. Had the U.S. government acted differently during World War II and its immediate aftermath toward the government of

Chiang Kai-shek, instead of China being our enemy today, she would be our friend.

Many, however, argue that it was not American policies that caused China to fall to communism, but rather it was the fault of the Chinese themselves, particularly their Nationalist leader, Chiang Kai-shek. Even a normally conservative historian such as Paul Johnson wrote in his *A History of the American People*, “[President Harry] Truman was bitterly accused by the Republicans and the China Lobby of having ‘lost China,’ but the truth is China lost itself.”

This was also Truman’s explanation — he placed the blame squarely on Chiang. In his *Memoirs of Harry S. Truman*, he wrote, “There is no doubt in my mind that if Chiang Kai-shek had been only a little more conciliatory an understanding could have been reached.”

To better challenge the assertion of Johnson and Truman that it was mostly Chiang’s fault and not the fault of American policy that caused China to fall to communism in 1949, we need to briefly review Chinese history, and Chiang’s place in it. For centuries, the indigenous Chinese had been ruled by a dynasty of Mongols, eventually known as the Manchu Dynasty. (Most Americans are familiar with Genghis Khan and his grandson Kublai Khan, both Mongol rulers of China.) At one time, Mongol-ruled China was probably the world’s most powerful country, but imperial European powers such as Britain and Russia had taken advantage of the nation’s decline to pick at its rotting carcass.

Finally, in 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-sen led a successful rebellion against the Manchu Dynasty, intending to establish a Western-style republic. After meeting Sun in China, Chiang became his right-hand man. Having studied military science in Japan, Chiang became invaluable to Sun’s revolution, and led the troops that captured the Manchu stronghold of Hangchow. After Russia fell to a communist revolution in 1917, Lenin, understanding the

Had mainland China not fallen to the communists in 1949, the United States would have had a powerful ally, checking all Soviet ambitions in eastern Asia.

strategic importance of China, attempted to coopt Sun. But Chiang, after Sun sent him to Moscow, quickly realized he did not want what had happened in Russia to happen in China and became a moderating force.

Chiang Kai-shek Rejects Communism for China

“I became more convinced than ever that Soviet political institutions were instruments of tyranny and terror,” Chiang said. After Sun’s death in 1925, Chiang succeeded him, and found that the political party Sun had founded, the Kuomintang, was filled with communist intrigue. When Chiang went into northern China to unify the country under his new government, Mikhail Borodin, a Soviet agent, staged a coup in Canton, then the capital. Chiang returned and overthrew the communists, expelled Borodin, and kicked Mao Tse-tung and his scheming communist comrades out of the Kuomintang.

In 1927, Chiang married Mayling Soong, a devout Christian. After undertaking his own reading of the Bible, he also became a Christian. By 1930, Chiang had unified China under what was certainly the most enlightened government

in its history. China was moving toward Chiang’s ultimate goal of a constitution, creating a republic, with free elections.

But then Japan invaded Manchuria (perhaps China’s wealthiest province) in 1931, and the communists established their own base in remote northwest China. For the next several years, Chiang was forced to fight a two-front war inside his own country — against the Japanese and against the communists determined to overthrow the Kuomintang and establish a communist dictatorship.

In 1937, the Japanese took Shanghai and Nanking, forcing Chiang’s government inland to Chungking. With Chiang preoccupied fighting the foreign invaders, the communists took the opportunity to expand their own territorial holdings. For the next several years, Chiang stood alone against the Japanese aggressors.

After Pearl Harbor, Chiang announced to President Franklin Roosevelt, “To our new common battle, we offer all we are and all we have, to stand with you.” While it is still fashionable among liberal historians to bash China’s contribution to the war effort, the fact is that China kept 1.5 million Japanese soldiers tied down on the Chinese mainland — battle-hardened

troops that otherwise could have been used against American soldiers.

Complicating Chiang’s defense of China was the presence of an armed force of communists in northern China, led by Mao Tse-tung. All during the war against Japan, the Nationalist government of China had to keep a watchful eye on these rebels. Chiang knew what communism meant, having seen its heavy hand of tyranny firsthand inside the Soviet Union, and he was convinced that Mao took orders directly from Moscow.

Publicly the Soviets denied any such connection with the Red Chinese, even though Stalin was favorable to them. Unfortunately for Chiang and China, and for America, Mao and the communists in China had American sympathizers, as well.

General Joseph Stilwell’s Role in Helping the Communists

A very important enemy of Chiang Kai-shek and friend of Mao Tse-tung was General Joseph Stilwell, sent by President Franklin Roosevelt and Army Chief of Staff George Marshall to lead the military effort in China against Japan. In the end, the role that Stilwell played in bringing communism to power in the world’s most populated nation was so significant that the *Daily Worker*, an official Communist Party newspaper in the United States, printed a letter in 1946 that Stilwell had written. “It makes me itch to throw down my shovel and get over there and shoulder a rifle with Chu Teh [com-



Multifront war: While Chiang Kai-shek had to defend against Japan’s all-out effort to take over China, he also fought Chinese communists, who did little to fight Japan, and interference of the delivery of his military supplies from the United States by pro-communist Americans.



mander in chief of the Chinese Communist army].”

Patrick Hurley, Roosevelt’s ambassador to China, bluntly assessed Stilwell’s critical role in the eventual communist takeover: “The record of General Stilwell in China is irrevocably coupled in history with the conspiracy to overthrow the Nationalist Government of China, and to set up in its place a communist regime.” In *The Way of a Fighter*, General Chennault said that Stilwell’s staff made “no secret” of their “admiration for the communists, who, they said, were really only ‘agrarian reformers’ and more like New Dealers than communists.”

Chiang himself declared that Stilwell “was in conspiracy with the communists to overthrow the government.”

Writing in *THE NEW AMERICAN* May 24, 1999, Steve Bonta offered his own harsh assessment of Stilwell: “An early prototype of the self-serving, careerist politician-cum-military officer that now dominates the upper echelons of the American military, Stilwell made every effort to undermine Chiang Kai-shek’s authority. He diverted supplies from China to Burma, and pressured Chiang to concede to communist demands.”

Stilwell’s selection to serve as Chiang’s chief of staff was made by President Roosevelt upon the recommendation of Stilwell’s close friend, Army Chief of Staff George Marshall. As Don Lohbeck wrote in *Patrick J. Hurley*, “From the beginning, the wartime alliance in the CBI [China, Burma, India] Theater did not run smoothly. The interests of the allied nations were too conflicting.”

General Stilwell arrived in Asia in February 1942, and soon moved into Burma to take command of those Chinese troops who were opposing the Japanese invasion there. Chiang had agreed shortly after Pearl Harbor to divert some of his own army to Burma, if there was a comprehensive plan for their use. But Stilwell was quickly routed by the Japanese, and he abandoned the Chinese soldiers to their fate. Stilwell



Communist ally: General Joseph Stilwell, placed in military command in China, continually undercut the Nationalist government in its quest to defeat the communists, and instead offered gushing praise of the communists, led by Mao Tse-tung.

blamed Chiang for the debacle, describing him as “an arrogant, arbitrary, stubborn man.” But Chiang really had no role whatsoever in the disaster in Burma.

The re-taking of Burma became an obsession to Stilwell, but Chiang opposed any new campaign there, arguing that his troops were more needed to defend his country from the Japanese. General Chennault agreed with Chiang, contending that Stilwell’s obsession with the comparatively minor operation in Burma was damaging the more important defense of China itself. The British also opposed Stilwell, wishing to maintain their empire, and they believed this would be better accomplished by the use of British troops in Burma, rather than either American or Chinese forces.

Despite all of this, and despite President Truman’s later remarks that Chiang needed to be more “conciliatory,” Chiang agreed to a second Burma campaign, if the British would provide naval support. But the British vetoed that suggestion. Later in the war, the British were tak-

ing a beating in Burma, and they eventually joined with Stilwell in demanding that Chiang come to their rescue.

Relations deteriorated between Stilwell and Chiang. Stilwell made amazingly harsh remarks about the head of state of an American ally, repeatedly saying he would like to “get rid of the Peanut.” Another time, he called Chiang a “crazy little b*****d.”

As tasteless as such remarks were, Stilwell’s actions were even more serious. According to Frank Dorn, in *Walkout With Stilwell*, he even ordered officers of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the precursor to the CIA, to make contingency plans for Chiang’s assassination.

His obsession with Burma was rivaled by his desire to provide arms to the Chinese communists. Understandably, Chiang was concerned that an armed communist force in China would present a mortal threat. He knew that once the United States had entered the war, Japan’s eventual defeat was sure. His principal concern now was saving his country from communist dictatorship.

Stilwell wouldn’t aid this endeavor, however, even refusing the request of Chiang and Chennault for gasoline. In the spring of 1944, Chennault told Stilwell that the security of American air bases in China was threatened. Stilwell dismissed such pleas as “chiseling gasoline for the 14th Air Force.” As the Japanese drove toward Chungking, Stilwell still demanded more troops for his Burma obsession. Chennault recalled, “The bulk of the United States wartime assistance to China was expended on a border operation in Burma, while the situation in China deteriorated to near disaster. Ninety per cent of the resources of the China-Burma-India theater were devoted to it.”

The Role of the Press and the Foreign Service

Under increasing pressure by Stilwell and others in the U.S. government to allow the arming of the communists, Chiang acted against his better judgment and approved

an American Military Observers Mission, which was led by the military attache at the U.S. Embassy, Colonel David Dean Barrett. He was accompanied to the Chinese center of operations at Yen-en by John Stewart Service, an employee of the State Department.

As Chiang feared, the mission was a disaster. The arrival of the Americans bestowed great prestige upon the communists. The American press chose to praise the communists as devoted to “democracy and the unity of China.” As Lohbeck wrote, “The result was a flood of pro-communist, anti-Kuomintang propaganda in the American press. Under the guise of honest reporting, the National Government of China was denounced as corrupt, venal, evil and reactionary; the Chinese communists were praised as honest, progressive reformers who were not really Communists but more on the order of the colonists of American Revolutionary days.” While Chiang was denounced as a “ruthless dictator,” Mao was described as a democratic man of the people. Chiang, they claimed, was selling out to the Japanese, while the communists were “heroically carrying on alone.”

Whether the press came to these conclusions on their own, or whether they were fed this line by pro-communist Foreign Service officers is uncertain, but it is beyond doubt that Service and others in the Foreign Service preferred Mao over Chiang. Political attaché John Paton Davies had arrived in China about the same time as Stilwell. It was Davies who requested that Stilwell ask the War Department to assign three additional State Department employees to his command, including John Stewart Service.

Davies and Service reported back



Death blow: Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall actually boasted of his role in undermining the non-communist Chiang government, saying, “As Chief of Staff, I armed 39 anti-Communist divisions; now with a stroke of the pen I disarm them.”

to Washington that Chiang had “narrowly conservative views,” adding that his “growing megalomania” had cost him the “respect of many intellectuals.” Their recommendations were to supply the Chinese communists with American military equipment and force Chiang to accept them into a coalition government. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (which included Marshall, Stilwell’s close friend; while not the official chairman, Marshall usually had Roosevelt’s ear more so than Admiral William Leahy, the actual chairman) demanded that Chiang accept Stilwell as commander-in-chief of all Chinese forces, which would include the communists.

Chiang refused, and countered with

three demands of his own. Before he would accept Stilwell’s taking over command of the Chinese armies, he wanted a clear definition of Stilwell’s authority. Furthermore, the command would not include the communists, and control of lend-lease material would be in Chiang’s hands, not Stilwell’s.

President Roosevelt opted to send Patrick Hurley to China as his personal representative, in an effort to effect a reconciliation between Stilwell and Chiang. Hurley had insisted that he not be responsible to the State Department, which he despised. Roosevelt agreed with Hurley that it would be futile to arm a force intent upon the destruction of the Chinese government, and that no lend-lease material should be made available to the communists “unless and until they acknowledged the National Government of the Republic of China, and the leadership of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.”

When he heard of this, Stilwell was fuming, declaring, “The cure for China’s troubles is the elimination of Chiang Kai-shek.” He was particularly troubled that the Reds would get no aid under the proposal. Service similarly denounced Chiang, arguing in a report to the State Department that the United States needed to “force the Kuomintang toward democracy.” In a second report, Service urged that military supplies be turned over to the communists, which he proposed as an “ally” to replace the Kuomintang. Stilwell told T. V. Soong, Chiang’s foreign minister, that either Chiang turn over to him command of all forces in China, or he would recommend that the United States remove all its China operations to the U.S.S.R. Stilwell’s friend, Chief of Staff Marshall, prevailed upon President Roosevelt to send a blunt message to Chiang, demanding Stilwell be given unrestricted command in China. To add to the insult, Stilwell would deliver the note to Chiang, *in person*.

Stilwell’s Recall — Too Late?

Hurley thought, “No chief of state could tolerate such an insult,” and pleaded with

By 1930, Chiang had unified China under what was certainly the most enlightened government in its history. China was moving toward Chiang’s ultimate goal of a constitution, creating a republic, with free elections.

Stilwell not to do so. He told Stilwell in a prior meeting that Chiang had already agreed to the conditions for Stilwell's appointment as Field Commander of the Armed Forces of China under Chiang's leadership, and that Chiang had agreed to all the other demands found in the letter.

"Joe," Hurley told Stilwell, "you have won this ball game, and if you want command of all the forces in China all you have to do is accept what the Generalissimo has already agreed to."

Stilwell, however, told Hurley that he wanted to "embarrass and publicly humiliate" Chiang, whom he referred to as "The Peanut."

Chiang read the translated ultimatum from Roosevelt, and set it aside, softly saying, "I understand."

Stilwell gloated later to Hurley, "The harpoon hit the little bugger right in the solar plexus."

But that night, as Hurley and Chiang ate dinner together, Chiang told Hurley the time had come to break with Stilwell. Over Hurley's protests (hoping still there could be a reconciliation), Chiang said there would be no further discussions "while Stilwell remains in China." If the United States insisted on Stilwell's appointment, China would go it alone against Japan. Even at this, Marshall insisted that Stilwell not be recalled. Hurley, however, advised FDR to relieve Stilwell because otherwise the United States would lose China. Hurley

added that Chiang had led an ill-fed, poorly equipped, practically unorganized army against an overwhelming military foe for seven years. He also dismissed as "absurd" the charge made by the press and the Foreign Service that the Chinese Nationalists were selling their lend-lease supplies.

Admiral William Leahy, the official chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recalled later that even after Chiang demanded Stilwell's recall, "[George] Marshall made repeated efforts to induce the President to retain 'Vinegar Joe' regardless of Chiang's objection." Leahy noted that Roosevelt finally had to give "direct and positive orders" to Marshall before Stilwell was finally relieved.

At this point, one might think this ended the favoritism of the communists over Chiang — Lt. General Albert Wedemeyer had replaced Stilwell, and Patrick Hurley, a man liked and trusted by Chiang, was U.S. ambassador to China.

But the pro-communist Foreign Service officers, such as Davies and Service, remained. Davies continued to insist that the communists had "widespread popular support," and Chiang ran a "politically bankrupt regime." Hurley they considered an obstacle to their goal of getting Chiang replaced by the communists. Lohbeck contended that they were "sure of support from their agencies in Washington," and were not going to be reined in by Hurley. While this group continued to

argue that the communists were doing more to fight the Japanese than Chiang, Hurley noted that there really had been no fighting to speak of between the communists and the Japanese — and Japanese armies had been within 100 miles of Yenan, where the communists were located for seven years.

The Davies-Service clique undermined Hurley's conversations with the communists designed to effect a reconciliation between them and Chiang, telling them that Hurley really did not represent American policy, and that they should just hold out until they received support of the U.S. government over Chiang. No doubt influenced by this group, Secretary of State Edward Stettinius told President Roosevelt, "Chiang could, it is felt, rise above party selfishness and anti-communist prejudice, to head a coalition government."

Yalta Sells out Eastern Europe — and China

By early 1945, General Douglas MacArthur's successes were relieving the pressure on China, and it appeared that China's political and military situation was stabilizing. But as the war neared its conclusion in Europe, the leaders of the Allied Powers there — FDR, Churchill, and Stalin — met in the Crimea at Yalta to discuss the issues surrounding the war's conclusion. While the February 1945 Yalta conference is known for its decisions concerning the fate of Eastern Europe, what transpired there would also play a critical role in the fall of China to communism.

In his book *How We Won the War and Lost the Peace*, William Bullitt wrote, "Roosevelt was more than just tired [at Yalta]: he was ill. Little was left of the physical and mental vigor that had been his when he had entered the White House in 1933. Frequently he had difficulty in formulating his thoughts."

In this weakened state, Roosevelt made decisions that would haunt America for decades to come. He relied on advice from the Joint Chiefs of Staff (which essentially meant George Marshall), who told FDR that the war against Japan would go on for a year and a half after the surrender of Germany. He was told that it was therefore essential that the United States obtain the aid of the Soviet army in the final assault upon Japan. Actually, there were two War



Overwhelmed: Patrick Hurley, FDR's ambassador to China (third from right), made a valiant effort to keep China out of the hands of the communists, but these efforts were thwarted by a cabal that included some in the top echelons of the U.S. military, the American media, and the U.S. diplomatic corps.

Department estimates, and one that explicitly advised against Soviet participation on the grounds that it was “not required by our military necessities.”

Stalin demanded a high price for entry into the war against Japan. He told Roosevelt that if he was not given use of the warm-water port at the end of the South Manchurian railroad, it would be difficult for him to explain to the Soviet people why Russia had to enter the war (as though Stalin had to explain anything to the Russian people in his totalitarian dictatorship). In addition, he would have to be given joint operation of the Chinese-Eastern railroad and the South Manchurian railroad. Despite this, Stalin said, the Chinese would retain “sovereignty” over Manchuria.

MacArthur, the supreme commander in the Pacific Theater; Patrick Hurley, the U.S. ambassador to China; and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek were not told of this secret Yalta agreement for some time, four months in the case of Chiang. Of course, Alger Hiss, an American State Department official and a Soviet spy who was present at Yalta, not only saw it, he helped craft it.

About two months after the Yalta Con-

ference, President Roosevelt died. The new president, Harry Truman, was as uninformed as Chiang on the terms of the Yalta deal as it pertained to China, but its supporters would soon begin his education. Truman chose to honor the Yalta sell-out that would bring the Soviet Army into Manchuria — even after being informed of the atomic bomb. Hurley called the Yalta agreement a “blueprint for the communist conquest of China.”

Once informed of its provisions, Chiang Kai-shek also knew what the Yalta agreement meant for China, but he still tried to reach a peaceful settlement with his communist enemies, in order to please the Americans. As such, Chiang announced the following steps: 1) All Kuomintang Party headquarters in the army and the schools would be abolished within three months; 2) Within six months local representation councils will be established in all provinces and districts in free China on the basis of popular elections; 3) A law to give legal status to political parties will be promulgated and the government hopes that the Communist Party will qualify thereunder; 4) Measures have been decid-

ed upon with a view to improving the position of peasant farmers; reduction of rents; questions of land tenure and land taxation; and 5) A decision to hold a national assembly was confirmed [at the Kuomintang conference recently held] and it is scheduled to convene on November 12, 1945.

The communists accepted none of the proposals, but instead demanded that the meeting of the National Assembly be called off. Yet, President Truman said the problem was that Chiang should have been more conciliatory.

Soviet Army Turns Over Japanese Arms to the Reds

With the conclusion of the war in Europe, it was anticipated that Stalin’s Red Army would be rolling into China, ostensibly to attack the Japanese, thus helping America defeat Japan. The reality is, however, without American lend-lease, the Soviet Army would have been unable to move into the Far East. The reality is that most of the lend-lease sent to Stalin was not used against Hitler, but against Chiang. After China went communist, some of these lend-lease weapons provided by the American taxpayer were used against American soldiers in the Korean War, according to General Douglas MacArthur in his memoirs.

By the time of the Potsdam Conference, held in July 1945, it was becoming increasingly unlikely that Japan’s defeat would take several more months. The Japanese had wanted to surrender, with one condition, that the emperor be allowed to keep his throne, and they asked the Soviets (who were neutral with Japan at the time) to transmit that to the Americans. Stalin refused. Sadly, many in the American government already knew of Japan’s desire to surrender before the dropping of the atomic bombs.

Truman knew, as he sat down with Stalin, that America was in possession of an atomic bomb, and that after its testing in the deserts of New Mexico, that it would be almost certainly decisive. According to the United States Bombing Survey (Summary Report, Pacific War, page 26), “certainly prior to December 31, 1945, and in all probability prior to November 1, 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bomb had not been dropped, even if Russia had not entered the war, and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated.”

Despite this, the United States bul-



AP Images

Betrayal: While the February 1945 Yalta conference among the “Big Three” — Churchill (left), Roosevelt, and Stalin — is known for its decisions concerning the fate of Eastern Europe, it also played a critical role in the fall of China to communism. Chiang was not informed of its provisions allowing the Soviet invasion of China’s Manchuria province for four months!



AP Images

Said even then: Senator Joseph McCarthy blamed policymakers within the U.S. government for the loss of China to the communist dictatorship. In his book *America's Retreat From Victory*, McCarthy compiled evidence that American political leaders, especially George Marshall, had delivered China into the hands of the Reds.

lied Chiang into signing the Sino-Soviet Treaty, which gave a veneer of legality to what had been decided for China at Yalta. When Chiang asked Truman to intervene with the Russians, who were going beyond even what was in the Yalta agreement, Truman responded bluntly, "If you and Generalissimo Stalin differ as to the correct interpretation of the Yalta Agreement, I hope you will arrange for Soong to return to Moscow and continue your efforts to reach complete understanding." In other words, it is your problem — deal with it. America betrayed its loyal Chinese ally, and the British, who had done nothing to resist the Japanese taking of Hong Kong, historically part of China but at the time part of the British Empire, now insisted on accepting the Japanese surrender there, completely cutting out the Chinese.

Ambassador Hurley recommended that the terms of surrender for Japan include a provision that all Japanese arms in China be surrendered to the Chinese government. But this was not to be. The Soviet Army entered the war against Japan almost immediately after the first atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima. In his book *Wedemeyer Reports!*, General Wedemeyer wrote, "The Red Army naturally met practically no enemy resistance and was soon in complete control of Manchuria." They then proceeded to receive the surrender of Japanese arms and equipment, which they turned over to their Chinese Communist comrades.

The Final Betrayal of Chiang Kai-shek

Despite this, the Nationalist forces were able to make significant military progress against the rebel communist forces, over the objections of George Marshall, who had been sent to China by Truman after the resignation of Hurley. Marshall kept insisting that Chiang cease his efforts to destroy the communist armies, and instead enter into a "coalition" government with them. When Chiang failed to heed these orders, the United States slapped a 10-month arms embargo on the sale or shipment of arms to Chiang. Marshall seemed pleased when he said, "As Chief of Staff I armed 39 anti-Communist divisions; now with a stroke of the pen I disarm them."

As the military advantage shifted to the communists, Congress finally passed a measure to provide some aid to China's forces, but the delivery was sabotaged. The Truman administration, Wedemeyer complained, "succeeded in thwarting the intent of the [1948] China Aid Act by delaying the shipment of munitions to China until the end of that critical year."

In his book *America's Retreat From Victory*, Senator Joseph McCarthy wrote, "Over the hump in India, the United States military authorities were detonating large stores of ammunition and dumping 120,000 tons of war supplies in the Bay of Bengal — much of it undelivered to China but charged to her wartime lend-lease account."

In short, McCarthy blamed policymakers in the U.S. government for the loss of China. But lest someone think that this was just partisanship on the part of the Republican McCarthy, consider the words of a young Democrat member of Congress from Massachusetts, John Kennedy, who told the House of Representatives on January 25, 1949, "The responsibility for our failure of our foreign policy in the Far East rests squarely with the White House and the Department of State. The continued insistence that aid would not be forthcoming, unless a coalition government with the communists were formed, was a crippling blow to the national government." He added later, "What our young men had saved, our diplomats and our President have frittered away."

Yet Truman lamely placed the blame on Chiang for not being "conciliatory." In his *Memoirs*, Truman insisted that neither he nor Marshall was taken in by the talk that the Chinese communists were only "agrarian reformers." But this makes Truman's culpability even worse — he knew that they were hard-core communists, and still insisted that Chiang form a coalition government with Mao anyway. He did nothing to keep the Soviets out of Manchuria, even though he had to have known this would lead to the transfer of Japanese military equipment to the Red Chinese — in fact, Truman pleaded with them to come into Manchuria.

Then again, in the two volumes of his *Memoirs*, with over 1,000 pages of text, Truman never mentioned Soviet spy Alger Hiss, a Roosevelt advisor at Yalta, or the Rosenbergs, who delivered atomic secrets to the Soviet Union — so perhaps Truman just missed a lot during his time in the White House.

Unfortunately, the lessons that should have been learned by the China disaster have been repeated more than once since. In Cuba, Nicaragua, Vietnam, and Iran, a non-communist government ruler was cast as a corrupt dictator, while his opposition is pictured as just fighting for reform. In the case of Cuba, Fidel Castro was even called the Robin Hood of the Caribbean.

If a student repeats the same mistake repeatedly, a teacher is forced to conclude the student is just stupid. But with American foreign policymakers, one would think that if they were just stupid, they would make an occasional mistake in our favor. ■



EXERCISING THE RIGHT

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

Standing Up to Anti-gun Big Banks

The enemies of the Second Amendment are starting to realize that their anti-gun actions have major consequences. The *American Banker* reported on August 17 about how Republican politicians in Louisiana creatively decided to take a stand for the Second Amendment. The Louisiana state bond commission voted on August 16 to ban both Bank of America Corp. and Citigroup Inc. from being involved in the state's upcoming debt sale. The politicians who voted to exclude the banks cited their reasoning being that both banks' "restrictive gun policies" are a violation of Americans' Second Amendment rights. As this column previously reported, the two financial giants took the side of anti-gunners in the wake of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting and undemocratically enacted anti-gun policies that had previously stalled through the political process. Louisiana State Treasurer John Schroder released a statement condemning the banks and explained why he supported prohibiting them from the bidding process: "I personally believe the policies of these banks are an infringement on the rights of Louisiana citizens. As a veteran and former member of law enforcement, I take the Second Amendment very seriously.... We have a very capable group of underwriters, including some of the biggest banks in America who want to participate in this deal.... No one can convince me that keeping these two banks in this competitive process is worth giving up our rights."

Of course Democrats in the state cried foul over the Republicans trying to politicize the debt-bidding process, yet these same politicians didn't make any such complaints when the banks unnecessarily stuck their noses into the gun-control debate. Citigroup spokesman Scott Helfman similarly complained, "It is disappointing that the taxpayers of Louisiana will be deprived from competitive bidding for necessary public works because the process has been politicized." Isn't it funny how when those on the Left take action to further their agenda, it is something to be applauded, but if anyone on the Right tries to fight back, it is denounced as "politicization?"

The Louisiana state bond commission is bidding out the underwriting of \$600 million in the sale of bonds but has multiple applicants already involved. Data compiled by Bloomberg showed that both Bank of America and Citigroup underwrote about \$110 billion of municipal bonds in 2017, so Louisiana's bonds would only be a small percentage of their business. But maybe this is just the beginning of a growing political backlash where states and municipalities that are run by pro-Second Amendment politicians may now take similar actions.

Still, this all could have been avoided for the banks had they just stayed out of the contentious gun debate. Blake Miguez, a Republican member of Louisiana's House of Representatives, chastised Citigroup's head of Corporate Citizenship, Brandee McHale, over the bank's move to insert itself into the gun debate and asked her, "Do you realize how important the Second Amendment is to the people of Louisiana?"

Pervert Picks Wrong House

ABC13 reported out of Houston on August 7 about a pistol-packing grannie who taught a much-needed lesson to a degenerate, repeat sex offender. The event unfolded as the 68-year-old woman, identified by *ABC13 Eyewitness News* simply as "Granny Jean," was home alone late in the afternoon. The sexagenarian woman told ABC13 that the suspect rode a bike up to her house and apparently began touching himself inappropriately while standing in her front yard. The man allegedly walked up to her door while engaged in the act that got her attention. Granny Jean was horrified by what she was witnessing, and she yelled at the pervert to leave her property immediately. Granny Jean was not going to tolerate the display and warned the man that she would shoot him if he did not leave. The suspect ignored her warnings and tried opening the locked door. That was when Granny Jean grabbed her loaded pistol and fired one shot through the locked door. The suspect was hit and fell to the ground, where he was found by officers called to the scene by Granny Jean. Granny Jean was adamant that her

actions were justified considering the obviously demented actions of the suspect, who posed a clear danger, as well as her vulnerability being a senior citizen in the house all alone.

Granny Jean told ABC13 about the event, explaining that "some guy pulled off his pants and pulled his pants open, playing with his thing, and he ran up and I told him to get away from my door, or I will shoot him.... And he kept coming and reached for my door after it was locked, so I shot through the door." Granny Jean also said that she wished it didn't happen, but the suspect brought the outcome on himself. "I don't bother nobody, I don't get in nobody's business," Jean said. "It's just me and him, and like I keep saying, I warned him!"

Back-to-school Event

WFTV 9 ABC reported out of Orlando, Florida, on August 11 about a shooting that showed that the often-touted "good guy with a gun" can be a lifesaver! The incident occurred at an event organized by a family at Isaac Campbell Park to help kids prepare to return to school.

The organizers had obtained needed school supplies and thought getting students together to prepare would be a positive thing for the local community. Unfortunately a hot-headed and violent individual was at the park and became embroiled in a fist fight with another person. The angry man, who is believed to be in his 20s, left the park and soon returned with a gun. One of the organizers was live-streaming the event online when the shooting began. Fortunately for everyone there, a citizen who was licensed to carry pulled out his own gun and shot the suspect, who was later transported to a nearby medical facility with life-threatening injuries. Authorities say the shooter was cooperative with investigators, and they do not anticipate that he will face any charges for the shooting. As a matter of fact, Deputy Chief Todd Hutchinson told WFTV that he was "extremely grateful that nobody else was injured in this incident," and that the shooting "could have been so much worse." ■

— PATRICK KREY



Proposed Easing of Obama Fuel-economy Mandates Drives Left Mad

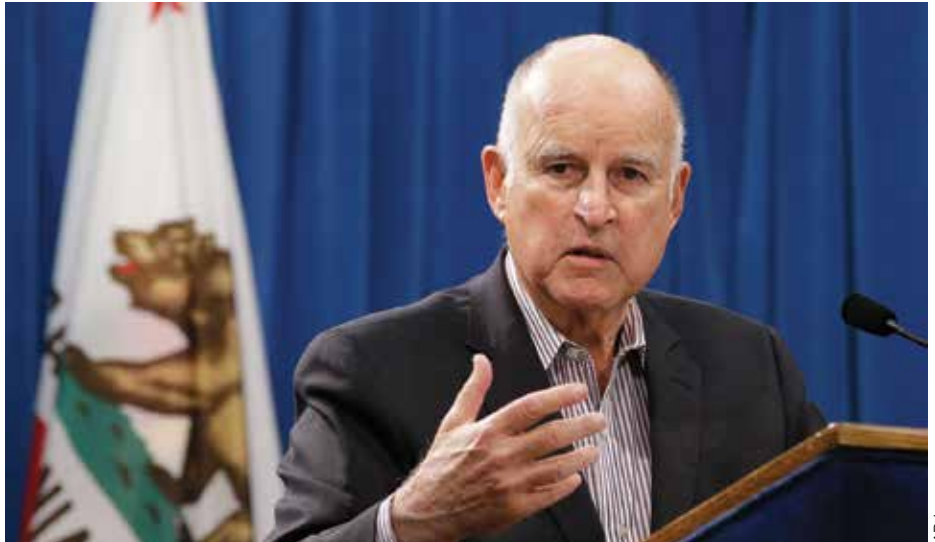
ITEM: The editors of the New York Times on August 2 commented that the Trump administration's "decision to try to weaken President Barack Obama's landmark 2012 agreement to increase fuel efficiency and decrease global warming emissions from automobiles is dismaying on so many levels that it is hard to know where to begin."

They went on, regardless, saying that the proposal from the Trump administration "would freeze the average fuel economy after 2021 at about 37 miles per gallon; the Obama-era rule would have required automakers to hit an average of about 54 miles per gallon by 2025. The Trump plan would also revoke a waiver that the federal government granted to California, which allows the state to set stricter standards because of its particular air pollution problems."

The editors also tossed in this: "Cars and trucks are currently the largest source of planet-warming emissions in the United States." The policy-change proposal, they said, "ignores, as have President Trump's other actions, the rock-solid scientific consensus that without swift action to limit fossil fuel emissions, like those from cars, the consequences of climate change — rising seas, devastating droughts, wildfires and floods, and widespread species extinction — will get steadily worse."

ITEM: California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. on August 2 issued a statement on the proposal, saying in part: "For Trump to now destroy a law first enacted at the request of Ronald Reagan five decades ago is a betrayal and an assault on the health of Americans everywhere. Under his reckless scheme, motorists will pay more at the pump, get worse gas mileage and breathe dirtier air. California will fight this stupidity in every conceivable way possible."

ITEM: In a piece in The Hill (Washington, D.C.) for August 14, Representative Doris Matsui (D-Calif.) sought to link wildfires in the Golden State and elsewhere in the western U.S. to global warming, connect-



AP Images

Dirty dealings: California Governor Jerry Brown has said that California will fight President Trump's move to halt large-scale increases in the mandatory mileage limits, partially to protect children from asthma, although the new standards would have almost no effect on air pollution.

ing that to her allegation that the proposed fuel-efficiency standard freeze was "rolling back one of the most important tools we have in mitigating the effects of our changing climate."

ITEM: Public Citizen, the radical advocacy group founded by Ralph Nader, protested, as well. Among the group's announced moves (on August 2) was setting up near the headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency "25 life-sized cardboard cutouts of children wearing surgical masks to highlight that 25 million Americans — including 6 million children — have asthma." The group said: "With weaker clean car standards, more asthma-causing pollution will be dumped into the atmosphere."

CORRECTION: Actually, rather than protecting polluters, the proposal aims to put American consumers first: The regulatory relaxation makes it cheaper to drive, as well as safer. Nor will this recommendation, if it takes effect as proposed, affect the planet's climate or kids' health in any discernible fashion.

But who needs facts? The leftist prophecies of doom are still furious.

Keep in mind that Obama's idealized fuel-economy standards were not going to be met even if Obamacrats (or Clintoncrats) were in power. Obama's EPA recognized as much.

As Randal O'Toole of the Cato Institute recalled, the Environmental Protection Agency in 2016 "concluded that standards would have to be changed no matter who was in the White House. Changing them now gives Democrats one more tool to use to bash Trump, but another president would have had to make some changes anyway."

This is how Holman W. Jenkins, Jr. put it about Obama's fuel-economy target of 54.5 miles a gallon in his "Business World" column in the *Wall Street Journal* (August 4-5):

Obama's ... flunkies, as documented in a House investigation, simply were looking for an impressive-sounding number to serve the administration's political interests at the time.

The out-year targets were designed to be junked once Mr. Obama was safely in retirement. In the meantime, the rules were deliberately jiggered to help U.S. auto makers sell pickups and SUVs so Mr. Obama could claim a successful auto bailout.

To meet the Obama administration's fuel-economy and greenhouse-gas standards, according to current Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and acting EPA Admin-



Correction, Please!

istrator Andrew Wheeler, “manufacturers would have to produce vehicle lineups that are 30 percent electric or more over the next seven years — far more vehicles than buyers are likely to want.” Electric vehicles, promoted and subsidized by Obamacrats, total only 1.5 percent of new cars bought.

As Chao and Wheeler explained in an August 1 op-ed, the effect

of the last administration’s standards was to subsidize these expensive electric vehicles at the expense of affordable traditional cars and trucks. Our goal is to ensure that consumers have a variety of safe, fuel-efficient choices so they can decide for themselves which options suit them best. This includes electric vehicles, for those who want them.

Already, the Obama standards have helped drive up the cost of new automobiles to an average of \$35,000 — out of reach for many American families. Compared with the preferred alternative outlined in the proposal, keeping in place the standards finalized in 2012 would add \$2,340 to the cost of owning a new car and impose more than \$500

billion in societal costs on the U.S. economy over the next 50 years.

While a large number, that is a mere fraction of what Americans will spend on driving over that period. But that additional cost is not distributed equally. As Randal O’Toole said, “To meet the Obama standard, automakers would have to build electric vehicles, sell them at a loss, and then sell their other vehicles for higher prices to make up the difference.”

This amounts to a regressive tax on those buying less-expensive autos. A waitress in Louisiana, for example, who needs to buy a car to get to work is stuck picking up part of the tab for a Tesla for a well-heeled Californian who has a yen for a second car that runs on electricity. (Many seem to buy the notion that plug-in cars are true “zero-emissions vehicles.” Spoiler alert: They are not run by windmills. They’re run by power plants, with emissions aplenty.)

Moreover, because auto costs are increasing, as Chao and Wheeler wrote, “Americans are holding on to their older, less-safe vehicles longer and buying older-model vehicles. The average vehicle on the road today is 12 years old, and data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows passengers are

likelier to be killed in older vehicles than newer ones.” Americans would also be expected to die because to achieve Obama’s fuel-efficiency standards, manufacturers have to make the cars lighter. The Trump standards are expected to save about 1,000 people per year.

Moreover, the global-warmist forecasts about the proposed Trump standards simply don’t hold water. The prognostications of Public Citizen are laughable. One claims that the Obama-directed actions — with standards based in large part on widespread use of technology that is not currently available — would “reduce the amount of climate pollution” by the “equivalent of a year’s worth of pollution from 150 power plants.”

The environmental and political extremists act as if there will be a planetary meltdown simply because the United States maintains the existing fuel-economy standard, which increases to 37 mpg by 2020, and is then kept at that level. Would that really cause the Earth to burst into flames? Not so you would notice it.

And, by the way, carbon dioxide represents about 94 percent of all motor vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. And CO₂ — which is essential for human and plant life — is not “pollution.”

Specifically refuting leftists’ claims are more-recent official estimates of the EPA — based on models of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The vaunted standards pushed by Obama would have avoided perhaps about 0.0008 C degrees of warming by 2100. That is not detectable by current measurements. Or, expressed in another way by Marlo Lewis of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, under the revised standards of the Trump-era Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), “atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration would reach 789.76 parts per million in the year 2100 instead of 789.11 ppm — an 8/100th of a percent increase.”

Green leftists still try to pull the wool over our eyes, but many more are recognizing the yarn. Real facts help: Officials at Department of Transportation and EPA have determined that there also will be “no



AP Images

Paying for “progressivism”: If Obama-mandated mileage standards were retained by the U.S. government, a large percentage of U.S. cars sold would need to be electric, though most Americans aren’t buying them willingly, and car prices would have to rise, hurting the poor.

noticeable impact to net emissions of smog-forming or other ‘criteria’ or toxic air pollutants” from the new standard.

Meanwhile, what makes California special when it comes to rules intended for the whole country? The answer involves some history.

As has been pointed out by Marlo Lewis, “Congress never authorized California to regulate fuel economy.” And when Congress created CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) “it expressly prohibited states from adopting or enforcing laws or regulations ‘related to’ fuel economy.”

Thereafter, CAFE was repurposed to deal with issues for which it was not designed to deal — in particular, global warming, later dubbed “climate change.” Activist judges got involved, as was pointed out by Cato’s Peter Van Doren: “Since the 2007 Supreme Court decision in *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency* that the EPA has authority to regulate tailpipe greenhouse gas emissions, CAFE has become a tool for CO₂ emissions reduction.”

The Department of Transportation and the EPA insist that the Clean Air Act waiver that was previously granted to California does not affect preemption of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (EPCA), which allows the government to set mileage standards. Indeed the EPCA requires the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to set *national* fuel-economy standards for new motor vehicles and also includes an express preemption provision:

When an average fuel economy standard prescribed under this chapter is in effect, a State or a political subdivision of a State may not adopt or enforce a law or regulation *related to* fuel economy standards or average fuel economy standards for auto-



AP Images

Clearing up the haze: The federal government has for many years allowed California to require strict limits on car emissions to clean up smog, but now California wants to be able to set mileage requirements.

mobiles covered by an average fuel economy standard under this chapter. [Emphasis added.]

The Trump administration aims to revoke the Obama-era waiver permitting California to set its own vehicle emissions standards, as well as allowing other states to follow the lead of California. Administration officials currently seem to be opening the door to negotiations with California about this, though officials in California boast that they will win a court battle. Yet, if this comes to a judicial tussle, the Trump administration believes the stronger legal arguments are in its favor.

At this point, as Van Doren wrote on August 7,

California standards are set to continue on the Obama 2012 path. So, if the Trump administration freezes national standards but California’s separate

standards are permitted, then automakers would be forced either to sell different cars in California and the states that follow its lead or comply with California standards in all states.

The origin of the California waiver, like CAFE in general, is divorced from its original intent. The waiver’s purpose was to allow California to impose its own regulations on conventional emissions because of unique weather and geographic conditions around Los Angeles that make it especially susceptible to smog.

Smog-forming pollutants and greenhouse gases are very different emissions.

Because of that, the Trump administration insists that fuel-economy rules should not be employed to attempt “to solve climate change, even in part,” as quoted by the *Los Angeles Times*. This assertion is based on the fact that such a goal is “fundamentally different” from the Clean Air Act’s “original purpose of addressing smog-related air quality problems.”

Whom to believe? Well, we recall the previous progressive panacean assurances, for instance, about the savings that would ensue by government taking over the nation’s healthcare system. Remember when we were assured that, under ObamaCare, premiums of the typical family would be slashed by \$2,500 yearly? In the face of contrary reality, we were also told repeatedly that, “If you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it.”

We don’t want to be stuck aboard another phony Obama-mandated ride, this one driven by unrealistic fuel standards. At least the current administration’s projected path offers actual and greater choices for those Americans who build and buy motor vehicles. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

Conspiracy Theories and Conspiracy Facts — The Q “Conspiracies”

In the 1997 movie *Conspiracy Theory*, starring Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts, the Mel Gibson character (Jerry) is an ardent believer in conspiracies. As it turns out, Jerry stumbles onto a real conspiracy — and the real conspirators did not like it one bit.

There have been so many conspiracy “theories” used to explain the “real story” behind real-world events, such as the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations (e.g., everyone *but* Lee Harvey Oswald was taking shots at Kennedy in Dealey Plaza, according to the multiplicity of conspiracy theories of that event), that the very term “conspiracy theory” has come to mean — to many people — something that is believed in by either a small group or even by a large group, but is not true, and is somehow “silly.”

The recent Qanon Theory, known for the name of the anonymous poster “Q,” seems almost designed to promote the view that all conspiracy theories are totally fabricated.

It was in November 2017 on the 4chan website (a message board known for its daring statements) that the Q Conspiracy Theory made its debut. The overall theory, promoted on various Internet message boards, is that President Donald Trump is conducting a secret war against criminals directed by Hillary Clinton and Hollywood allies.

Exactly who originated Q is shrouded in mystery. It is known that Tracy Diaz, who once hosted her own talk show on Liberty Movement Radio (found on YouTube), began to promote Q.

Her video on the Q thesis, complete with her analysis, has been viewed over a quarter-million times. Critics note that she asks for donations through links to accounts such as PayPal, insinuating that she is simply making money off allegedly half-baked conspiracy theories.

The Q Theory soon moved to the popular Reddit message board site, apparently at Diaz’s suggestion. As NBC News put it in a recent article, “Subscribers soon gathered to talk all things Q.” This enabled the Q Theory to reach a larger audience of conspiracy theorists. Finally, the Q Theory made the jump to Facebook, where it found an even larger audience.

Some of the predictions made in Q posts have failed to develop, however, such as the one that Hillary Clinton was facing imminent arrest. Among the more famous Q posts was the February 2018 post that accused former Democratic National Committee chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz of paying MS-13, the infamous El Salvadoran gang, to murder DNC



Didi Lavachiev / iStock Editorial / Getty Images Plus

staffer Seth Rich. The supposed motive behind this alleged act was that Rich was the person who turned over DNC e-mails to WikiLeaks.

The problem with many conspiracy theories is that it is clear that some are true or substantially correct, while others are devoid of hard evidence, or in some cases, totally fabricated. Which ones are correct?

Perhaps the most serious difficulty in sorting out the wheat from the chaff when it comes to conspiracy theories is that it has been demonstrated that high-ranking govern-

ment officials are quite willing to lie about certain events. For example, the U.S. Congress adopted the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, authorizing President Lyndon Johnson to use military force in Vietnam, based upon a purely fictional second attack in the Gulf of Tonkin by the North Vietnamese.

It has been more than 50 years since the Kennedy assassination, and there are still some documents kept from the American public, breeding suspicion about the “official” story that Oswald, acting alone, murdered Kennedy.

The proliferation of conspiracy theories about events such as Pearl Harbor, aliens in New Mexico, the Oklahoma City bombing, 9/11, and dozens more similar “alternative” scenarios causes one to conclude that either all conspiracy theories are just made up, or they are all correct.

But the truth is that some are true, and some are not. What the careful researcher must do is search for actual evidence, and keep an open mind. Follow the evidence to its logical conclusion, rather than simply fitting new evidence into an existing belief. As Gary Allen said in his 1971 multimillion-book best-seller, *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, a person must avoid conspiracy theories that are the result of racial or religious bigotry. “These people do not help to expose the [true] conspiracy, but, sadly play into the hands of those who want the public to believe that all conspiratorialists are screwballs.”

All conspiracy theories cannot be true, but they cannot all be false. As President Franklin Roosevelt said, “In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way.”

Gary Allen put it quite well. When government leaders make the same “mistake” over and over, we cannot just chalk it up to stupidity. If they were just stupid, then they would occasionally make a mistake in our favor. ■

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