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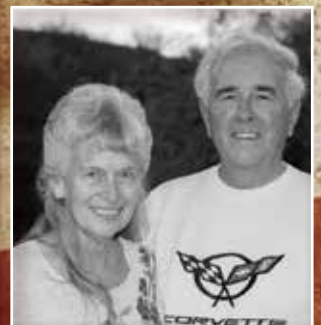
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China's New Aggression on the World Stage

China is using its economic clout and the money it makes in international trade to bribe or coerce businesses and countries to do its bidding. (February 18, 2019, 48pp) TNA190218



Rescuing Our Children

American children are progressively doing worse in math, reading, and other subjects, while being indoctrinated with leftist pabulum — the cause and the prognosis. (February 4, 2019, 48pp)

TNA190204



When Will We Hold Them to Their Oath?

Upon taking office, all congressmen swear an oath stating that they will uphold the U.S. Constitution, but most have every intention of breaking that oath. Their excuses; our reply. (January 21, 2019, 48pp)

TNA190121



Using the Climate to Transform the World

At the United Nations COP24 climate summit in Poland, attendees worked toward transforming the world to bring about global socialism. (January 7, 2019, 48pp)

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The Rising Tide Against Liberalism

Liberalism seems set to dominate the political scene, but its viciousness, illogic, and hypocrisy are beginning to take a toll. (December 24, 2018, 48pp)

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Censoring the Web: Who's Next?

America's Big Tech social-media organs have declared war on conservatives, trying to exile them from the Internet. But several possible routes exist to fight back. (September 17, 2018, 48pp)

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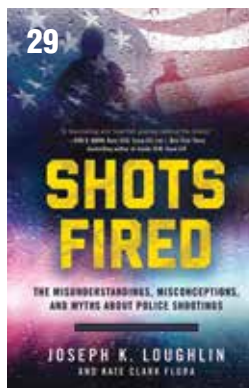
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The New American

Printed in the U.S.A. • ISSN 0885-6540
P.O. Box 8040 • Appleton, WI 54912
920-749-3784 • 920-749-3785 (fax)
www.thenewamerican.com
editorial@thenewamerican.com

Rates are \$49 per year (Canada, add \$9; foreign, add \$27) Copyright ©2019 by American Opinion Publishing, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send any address changes to THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912.

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THE NEW AMERICAN is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

Miffed by Movie Review

To comment on the movie review by Steve Byas about Dinesh D'Souza's movie *Death of a Nation* by THE NEW AMERICAN (September 17, 2018 issue) — in which D'Souza lauds Abraham Lincoln and attacks Democrats — let me first bring up a historical quote: "The workingmen of Europe feel sure that, as the American War of Independence initiated a new era of ascendancy for the middle class, so the American Antislavery war will do for the working classes. They consider it an earnest of the epoch to come that it fell to the lot of Abraham Lincoln, the single-minded son of the working class to lead his country through the matchless struggle for the rescue of an enchained race and the reconstruction of the social world."

This is mighty high praise given President Lincoln after his reelection victory in 1864. If not clear enough, the writer begins his open letter to President Lincoln, "We congratulate the American people upon your reelection by a large majority."

Who is this mystery writer congratulating Lincoln while beating the war drums against slavery and casting the American war in terms of class warfare? It's none other than the "Father of Communism," Karl Marx.

Such praise was not new from Marx. As early as 1861, he proclaimed, "It ought to be remembered that it was not the North, but the South, which undertook this war; the former acting only on the defense."

His statement, of course, was far from accurate. It was the North that twice sent hostile ships into a Southern port to reinforce a fort against the wishes of the host state. It was President Lincoln who warned the South in his inaugural address that "the power confided to me will be used to ... collect the duties and imposts; but, beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion." And it was Lincoln who, without declaration from Congress, called for an army to invade the South and "collect the duties and imposts."

More-honest contemporary foreigners objected to the "fake news" from Marx. "Union means so many millions [of dollars] lost to the South; secession means the loss of the same millions to the North.... The quarrel between North and South is ... solely a fiscal quarrel." So said Charles Dickens. He continued: "The Northern onslaught upon slavery was no more than a piece of specious humbug designed to

conceal its desire for economic control of the Southern states."

The actions of Lincoln were controversial at home, controversial in the South, and controversial abroad. He initiated an unpopular war and relied upon immigrant soldiers to invade and conquer the South. In addition to the support from the "Father of Communism," Lincoln and the Radical Republican Party received support from the failed socialist revolutionaries of 1848 who immigrated to the United States of America and started rifle clubs and the Wide Awake organizations.

Why did Lincoln receive such support from the successors of socialists and the predecessors of the communists? He centralized the United States, destroying the voluntary aspect of the Constitution as a compact. Much like the history of the European Union, or the warnings this magazine issues regarding the United Nations, Lincoln made union involuntary and forced the states to surrender their sovereignty. The South, and every other state in the Union, suffers to this day under the weight of the leviathan created by Lincoln.

D'Souza's most recent movie, *Death of a Nation*, does not chronicle the forceful destruction of the Constitutional Republic created by our ancestors in 1789, but glorifies the Republican Party and the abandonment of the Constitution using an end-justifies-the-means logic. The storyline sold by D'Souza is the same "fake news narrative" pushed by Lincoln and his socialist backers in their quest to subvert the federal government and conquer the states.

There is enough material from current events and recent history to criticize the Democrat party without repeating the socialist "fake news" of the 19th century. I am disappointed that this magazine would promote such shallow thinking, glorifying a significant achievement of the conspiracy and communism.

For the sake of our nation, I pray that D'Souza is wrong and that President Trump is not another Abraham Lincoln.

ROBERT K. MERTING
Greenville, South Carolina

Author responds: The movie was reviewed favorably despite, not because of, D'Souza's strong praise of Lincoln. I thought I indicated that fact in the review — perhaps not strongly enough.

Globalist “Intellectuals” Warn That the EU Is “Coming Apart”

A group of intellectuals is complaining about the patriotism of the masses who oppose their European Union imperial scheme.

Calling them “30 top intellectuals” comprising “writers, historians and Nobel laureates ... from 21 countries,” *The Guardian* reported January 25 that they wrote in a “manifesto published in several newspapers, including *The Guardian*, that Europe as an idea was ‘coming apart before our eyes.’”

As *The Guardian* summarizes it, quoting the intellectuals, “Liberal values in Europe face a challenge ‘not seen since the 1930s’ ... as the UK lurches towards Brexit and nationalists look set to make sweeping gains in EU parliamentary elections.”

What’s really coming apart is the EU, of course — though the intellectuals use the name not once in the manifesto but instead rebrand it as “Europe.”

To wit: “Enough of ‘building Europe’! is the cry. Let’s reconnect instead with our ‘national soul’! Let’s rediscover our ‘lost identity’!” the authors write, explaining, “This is the agenda shared by the populist forces washing over the continent. Never mind that abstractions such as ‘soul’ and ‘identity’ often exist only in the imagination of demagogues.”

Apropos to this, last year French president Emmanuel Macron cited an “Africa expert” who’d said, approvingly, that the number of Africans living in Europe will rise from nine million today to between 150 million and 200 million during the next three decades. Some call this abstraction “Eurafrica.”

Do note that the massive, EU-authored Third World migrations into Europe have led to skyrocketing crime, sexual attacks on women, assaults on non-Muslims, acts of jihad, and the birth of “no-go zones” — and the natives still living in these places don’t enjoy 24/7 police protection.

So a battle rages between intellectuals and common people with more common sense. One side warns of the death of the EU, the other of the death of the West. And it’s now increasingly clear that for one to live, the other must die.



AP Images

Thirty-five Percent of Transgender Youth Have Attempted Suicide



Vladimir Zapletin/Stock/Getty ImagesPlus

A study released January 25 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that just under two percent of high-school students said they were “transgender.”

Thirty-five percent of the transgender students said they had attempted suicide in the previous year, compared with about seven percent of those who did not see themselves as transgender, the CDC study found. This startling figure should indicate that young people who identify as “transgender” have a much higher rate of psychological disturbance leading to severe depression than those who do not.

The CDC report found that “transgender” youth were far more

likely than non-transgender students to use cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and prescription opioids, as well.

Many young people who identify as “transgender” have not had surgery but remain biologically the same as before, while “identifying” as a member of the opposite sex, dressing as such and insisting on having access to public restrooms that match their identity rather than their true gender. Yet, according to the CDC study, even these are prone to severe depression leading to attempted suicide.

The reason for this psychological trauma can be found in remarks made by Dr. Paul R. McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital, who said in a commentary in the *Wall Street Journal* in 2015 that transgenderism is a “mental disorder” that merits treatment, that sex change is “biologically impossible,” and that people who promote sexual reassignment surgery are collaborating with and promoting a mental disorder.

McHugh also reported on a then-current study showing that the suicide rate among transgendered people who had reassignment surgery is 20 times higher than the suicide rate among non-transgender people. The transgendered person’s disorder, said McHugh, is in the person’s “assumption” that they are different than the physical reality of their body, their maleness or femaleness, as assigned by nature. It is a disorder similar to a “dangerously thin” person suffering anorexia who looks in the mirror and thinks they are “overweight,” said McHugh.

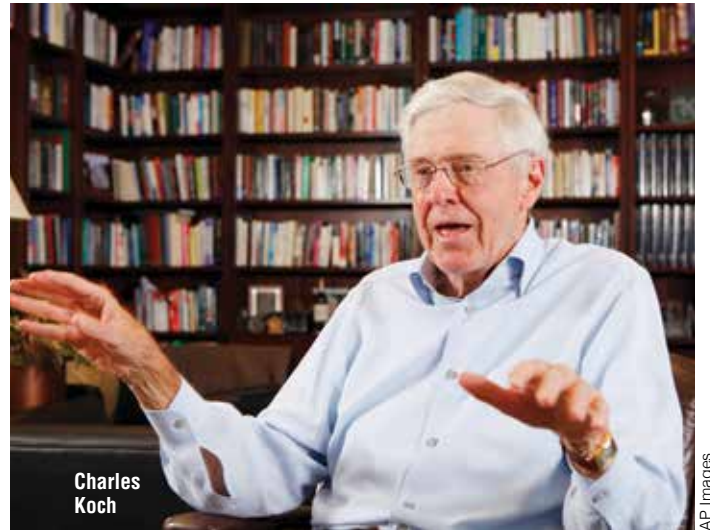
Koch Network Won't Back Trump in 2020

In a move that should surprise precisely no one, the Koch political network has informed donors that it will not support President Donald Trump — or any other candidate — in the 2020 presidential elections. While the network still expects to be active in down-ticket races for the Senate and House of Representatives, it will not weigh in on the presidential race. The organization also chose not to back Trump in 2016.

Koch network spokesman James Davis told the *Washington Post* on January 24 the network is planning to make “significant investment to support policy champions in Senate, House and state races, build broad-based policy coalitions and to launch a major new initiative to fight poverty in America.”

The Republican National Committee probably wasn't expecting much Koch brothers support in the next presidential election anyway. In August, the RNC sent a letter to donors critical of the Koch organization after Charles Koch suggested that the network might begin to support Democrats. “Some groups who claim to support conservatives forgo their commitment when they decide their business interests are more important than those of the country or Party. This is unacceptable,” said the letter. The same letter claimed that the GOP had “been prepared for this for years.”

In a January 2 e-mail to donors, the Koch network laid out its policy priorities for 2019, many of which sound as if they were written by Democrat Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Among those priorities are income inequality, education initiatives, overhauling the criminal-justice system, and searching for



a more permanent answer for illegal immigrants who came here as children, known colloquially as “Dreamers.”

President Trump proved in 2016 that he didn't need the Kochs or the baggage that comes with their support. One of the main reasons that voters chose Trump is that they saw him as a person with his own money, who didn't owe donors such as the Kochs anything. Even though their funds and their support could help in 2020, it's for the best that the president doesn't become beholden to them.

BuzzFeed & Other Media Suffering Financial Woes, Scrambling to Survive

At the same time that many media organizations have hitched their wagons to a rabid anti-Trump narrative, many of them are struggling to survive.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported January 23 that “BuzzFeed is planning to lay off about 15% of its workforce, according to people familiar with the situation.” In fact, BuzzFeed, considered by many to be “Fake News,” has never actually been financially successful. According to the *Journal* piece, the layoffs are part of a bigger plan “to get BuzzFeed on the path to profitability and in proper shape as it scouts out potential merger combinations with

other digital media players,” and “to help the company avoid raising money again.”

The more than half a billion dollars BuzzFeed has raised over two years was apparently not spent improving the journalistic end of the company. In October 2014, a Pew Research Center survey showed that the majority of people in the United States, regardless of their political affiliation, considered BuzzFeed to be an unreliable source of news.

And BuzzFeed is not alone. As the *Journal* piece stated: “There are signs of growing pressure in the industry. The online publisher Mic recently agreed to sell itself to women-focused publisher Bustle Digital Group for about \$5 million. Refinery29, the lifestyle-focused publisher that targets millennial women, laid off 10% of its workforce last fall.”

Other big names in liberal journalism are facing similar hardships. In a separate January 23 article, the *Journal* reported that Condé Nast — which owns the *New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Wired*, *Vogue*, *GQ*, *Bon Appétit*, *Glamour*, and other well-known magazines — will be putting all of its online articles behind paywalls by the end of 2019. There will also be an increase in the price of subscriptions. The *New Yorker*'s regular renewal price for a print and digital bundle is going from \$119 a year to \$149. And Verizon Media Group is laying off seven percent of its workforce — roughly 800 employees.



Another Step Toward Auditing the Federal Reserve

Representative Thomas Massie kicked off the legislative new year on January 3 with H.R. 24, the Federal Reserve Transparency Act. This bill is the latest in a series of bills introduced by the likes of Massie and former Congressman Ron Paul calling for a congressional audit of the Federal Reserve, an event that has never taken place in the Fed's 105-year history. Once politically unthinkable, the drive to audit the Fed has gained considerable momentum in recent years as many Democrats and even some influential far-left progressives, such as Bernie Sanders, have signaled their support. With a president in the White House who has made no secret of his dislike for the Fed, there is a real possibility that Massie's bill — should it ever pass the House and Senate — could become law.

"Now is the time," Massie told Breitbart News, "because I believe the president would sign an Audit the Fed bill. This bill has passed through the House with a veto-proof majority. This last Congress it passed out of committee, but the Speaker [Paul Ryan] did not pick it up. I believe if we can get it on the floor in the House and to the Senate, it would pass with a large majority; we wouldn't even have to worry about a veto-proof majority because I believe this president would sign it." Of course, with the House now controlled by ultra-liberal establishmentarians such as Nancy Pelosi, who are determined to avoid any legislative matters that might resonate with a president they detest, Massie's assessment of the bill's political prospects may be overly optimistic. But the fact that a majority of congressmen in the last Congress supported a similar bill bodes well for the movement's eventual success.

The Fed and its supporters, for their part, remain staunchly opposed to any congressional audit. For more than a century, they have argued that the Fed, in order to function free of political bias or attachment to special interests, must be able to operate completely independent of congressional oversight — which of course would include any type of audit carried out by lawmakers. Were the Fed truly a private corporation, such arguments would have merit. But the Fed was created by an act of Congress, and from its inception has had a long history of aligning its policies with the will of powerful politicians such as Senator Nelson Aldrich, its political sire, and Treasury officials, whose debt issues the Fed buys and sells as a chief means of controlling the money supply. To argue that the Fed, its chairman, and its Board of Governors are beholden to no political interests is to willfully ignore the nature and purpose



AP Images

of the organization. After all, the Fed is charged with managing America's money supply — the very money that is issued by the federal government in the first place.

The real reason for the reticence of Fed officials is to preserve the mystery and obscurity of central banking operations, which few in Congress — let alone the American general public — understand. They rightly fear that, should the public and their congressional representatives come to understand how the Fed truly operates, with its network of privileged primary dealers, its shady currency trading, and its obvious ties to and preference for large banks and financial firms, pressure would be brought to bear to get rid of the Fed altogether.

This, of course, is the desired outcome by those pushing the bill. For more than a century, the Fed's monetary policies have systematically enriched the well-connected few (such as the bankers and traders who work at the Fed's primary dealers) at the expense of the many (the rest of us, whose savings are gradually depleted by the Fed's program of incessant inflation). The Federal Reserve System has fundamentally transformed the American economic and cultural landscape by creating a financial climate in which savers are punished (by inflation) and profligacy is rewarded (by unnaturally low interest rates and easy money that incentivize borrowing and spending). Whereas living within one's means and saving money for old age was once considered prudent conduct, nowadays risky home purchases, online currency trading, and other high-risk activities are regarded as the height of financial sophistication. And all because of generations of Fed-fueled inflation.

It is long past time to end the Fed. Congressman Massie's bill is a much-needed step in the right direction. ■

Mitt Romney Gets a Scolding From His Niece, a Republican Official

"For an incoming freshman senator to attack Donald Trump as his first act feeds into what the Democrats and media want. [It is] disappointing and unproductive."

*No sooner had Mitt Romney been sworn in as a Utah senator than he authored a bitterly critical characterization of President Trump for the Washington Post. **Ronna McDaniel**, the chairwoman of the Republican National Committee and a close relative of the senator, responded with an appropriate scolding.*



Flicker/George Skidmore

New Brazilian President Strongly Opposes "Socialism"

"[Brazil's flag] will never be red again even if it takes our blood to keep it green and yellow."

*Referring to the colors of Brazil's long-standing flag and the intention of the outgoing Workers Party to color it communist red, newly elected president **Jair Bolsonaro** announced that, by electing him, the people of Brazil were being "freed from socialism."*

Retired Admiral Champions United States Staying in NATO

"Even discussing the idea of leaving NATO — let alone actually doing so — would be the gift of the century for Putin."

*Retired Admiral **James Stavridis** formerly served as the supreme commander of NATO. A member of the globalist-minded Council on Foreign Relations, he surprised no one with his outspoken defense of U.S. entanglements such as NATO.*

Leader of "Angel Families" Backs Construction of Border Wall

"Nancy Pelosi talks all the time about what a waste of money the wall is. But she fails to talk about what will happen if we don't build the wall. My son's life was priceless and he didn't have to die the way he did."

*After her police officer son was killed by an illegal alien, **Mary Ann Mendoza** launched "Angel Families" to promote the need for a border wall.*



Flicker/Gage Skidmore

New York State Government Makes College Aid Available to Illegals

"How am I supposed to tell families in my Senate district that adequate state aid to help afford college isn't available for them, but it is available for others who are in this country illegally?"

*Governor Andrew Cuomo, a hard-core Democrat, indicated that he will sign a bill to provide college aid to illegals. Republican State Senator **James Seward** immediately asked a good question, but he received no satisfactory answer from Governor Cuomo or the Democrats who preside over both houses of the state legislature.*

California Billionaire Decides Against Running for President

"Most people come to Iowa around this time to announce a campaign for president. But I am proud to be here to announce that I will do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to remove a president."

*Originally indicating that he would be a candidate for the nation's highest office, **Tom Steyer** now says he will use \$40 million of his personal funds in a campaign to have Donald Trump impeached and removed from office.*




Wikimedia/Gage Skidmore

Trump Supporter Expects Her Candidate Will Be the Last GOP President

"Every day, more and more immigrants turn 18 and start voting and their votes will cancel out all of your votes."

*After accurately predicting Trump's victory in 2016, best-selling author **Ann Coulter** expects changing demographics and the certainty that young immigrants will vote for liberals and progressives to throw up an insurmountable barrier to electing Republicans. ■*

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS

A grid of Chinese flags (red with a yellow star) is shown, with a world map overlaying the flags. The map highlights China and its surrounding regions in yellow, while other landmasses are in red. The grid is composed of many small squares, each containing a flag or a portion of the map.

China's New AGGRESSION on the World Stage

China has long used Western capital to challenge the might of the West. Now it is moving forcefully, making demands of companies and countries, expanding its influence.

by Charles Scaliger

In 2015, the most overlooked communist revolution in history took place. That was the year that communists seized power in the Himalayan nation of Nepal via ballot-box revolution. For a decade, from 1996 to 2006, the Maoist

Communist Party of Nepal, with the not-so-covert backing of the Chinese, waged a bitter civil war against the Nepalese government, seeking to overthrow the monarchy and replace it with a People's Republic. The insurgency included a number of attacks on foreign trekkers in the popular mountaineering and hiking destination.

In 2006, the communists laid down their arms in exchange for a peace treaty granting them the right to participate in Nepalese politics. At the time, it was estimated that the communists controlled 80 percent of rural Nepal. And in 2015, after nine years of electoral agitation, the Nepalese Communists, led by longtime revo-

lutionary leader Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, finally achieved their political goal, sweeping into power in that year's popular election.

The election sent shock waves across the region, where Nepal has long been aligned with pro-Western India and opposed to the Communist Chinese behemoth on its northern border. Given China's longtime support of Nepal's communists, it was expected that Nepal might turn northward in search of new alliances.

Now, the worst fears of India and the West are coming to pass. In 2018, for the first time, the Nepalese government refused to participate in annual South Asian military exercises aimed at combating terrorism in the region, and Nepal's top general declined to attend a gathering of other military leaders from the region at the same time. But Nepal announced it will soon be participating in joint military exercises with China.

Nor have the Chinese failed to shower rewards on their newfound friend and ally. In June of 2018, the Chinese government announced a deal with Nepal that will see the construction of a new railway link extending from Chinese Tibet all the way to the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu. The project is part of China's ambitious new "Belt and Road" project to construct infrastructure all across Eurasia, and even overseas, ostensibly to better link China, with its vast markets, to the rest of the world. The program being pursued in Nepal has become the model for how Communist China is now methodically advancing its interests all over the world. In effect, the Chinese government offers to build (or rebuild) infrastructure in a country, in exchange for greater access to that country's markets — as well as political allegiance, if not outright alliance. A number of countries, such as Turkey and Sri Lanka, are taking advantage of this initiative, and many others, strapped for cash and weary of what they perceive to be onerous and compromising conditions imposed by Western creditors and providers of foreign aid, are seriously considering China's blandishments.

A scan of the socio-political scene involving China reveals that the country aims to dominate the globe — as a communist power. At home, China is not only presently retrenching socially — crack-

In effect, the Chinese government offers to build (or rebuild) infrastructure in a country, in exchange for greater access to that country's markets — as well as political allegiance, if not outright alliance.

ing down on and even disappearing anyone who appears to be a dissident — but outwardly it is using the technology and wealth fed to it by companies clinging to the futile hope that China will open its markets to them to build a sphere of world control. Its methods use the carrot-and-stick approach: When bribes don't work, subversion and savagery are employed.

In the case of Sri Lanka, the government of that debt-ridden country was recently compelled to sign over most of the rights to a major southern port, Hambantota, to the Chinese on a 99-year lease in exchange for a substantial amount of debt forgiveness. Hambantota's location, right on the major east-west shipping lane from the Suez Canal to Singapore and the Far East, via Sri Lanka's south coast, gives China unprecedented access to one of the world's major commercial sea routes — as well as a potential military vantage point over the entire Indian Ocean. After a pop-

ular uproar in Sri Lanka over the move, the Chinese government shelled out \$300 million in grant money for the Sri Lankan government to use any way it pleased — underscoring how important China's hold on Sri Lanka has become for its strategic interests. And China, flush with cash, is proving more willing than Western countries such as the United States to dole out supposedly no-strings-attached financial aid, such as its recent gift to Sri Lanka, causing many countries to set aside reservations over China's true motives and begin questioning their alignment with the West.

The "Belt and Road" project (literally "One Belt, One Road" in Chinese), of which China's Sri Lanka activities are only a small part, was launched by Chinese President and General Secretary of the Communist Party Xi Jinping in 2013. According to the Chinese government, it is nothing less than a modern re-creation of



Communist-socialist resurgence: As in the West, young adults in Nepal celebrate the first steps toward the implementation of strict socialism, raising signs for communist Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli. They believe the Siren calls for better lives despite socialism's many failures.

In the case of Sri Lanka, the government of that debt-ridden country was recently compelled to sign over most of the rights to a major southern port, Hambantota, to the Chinese on a 99-year lease in exchange for a substantial amount of debt forgiveness.

the ancient land and sea trading routes that linked China with the rest of the world, a sort of 21st-century Silk Road.

In point of fact, President Xi's Belt and Road initiative has coincided with a very significant Chinese military buildup and with a dramatic rise in Chinese Communist subversion abroad, in places as far-flung as South Africa, where the ruling African National Congress is now transparently allied with (and receiving training from) the Chinese Communists. All of these indicators point unmistakably to a China that has decided to take the place of the defunct Soviet Union as the world's chief sponsor and military backer of the global communist movement.

For nations caught in the Chinese Communist net, the effects are increasingly worrisome. Nepal's communists have recently passed legislation outlawing Christian missionary activity in Nepal, making charitable activity by any Christian-affiliated NGO illegal, and even curtailing the right of Nepalese to criticize the government. This is socialist incrementalism at its best, backed by the world's most patient and calculating totalitarian regime.

In China, meanwhile, the Communist Party is once again consolidating power at home as it attempts to undo several decades of market reforms that began under premier Deng Xiaoping. Following Deng's lead, the nation once so cowed by communist tyranny that even modes of dress were dictated by the government (a dictatorial excess even Stalin's Soviet Union did not approach) shed the drab party-mandated clothing for Western fashion, developed a taste for Western music and media, and even began traveling more or less freely abroad, including to the United States and other Western nations.

But beginning in 2012, when Xi Jinping came to power, the Communist Party began a slow but steady movement back toward its totalitarian past. Crackdowns, arrests, and imprisonments soared in the

name of a new ongoing "anti-corruption" campaign targeting everything from street vendors to drug users to critics of the government. In July China's most prominent film actress, Fan Bingbing, vanished for several months, leaving her millions of fans worldwide to speculate about her fate. Fan was the world's fifth highest-paid actress in 2016, according to a *Forbes* ranking, and was a regular at film festivals across the world, from Cannes to Busan. The multitasking actress speaks fluent English and has also appeared in a number of Hollywood movies.

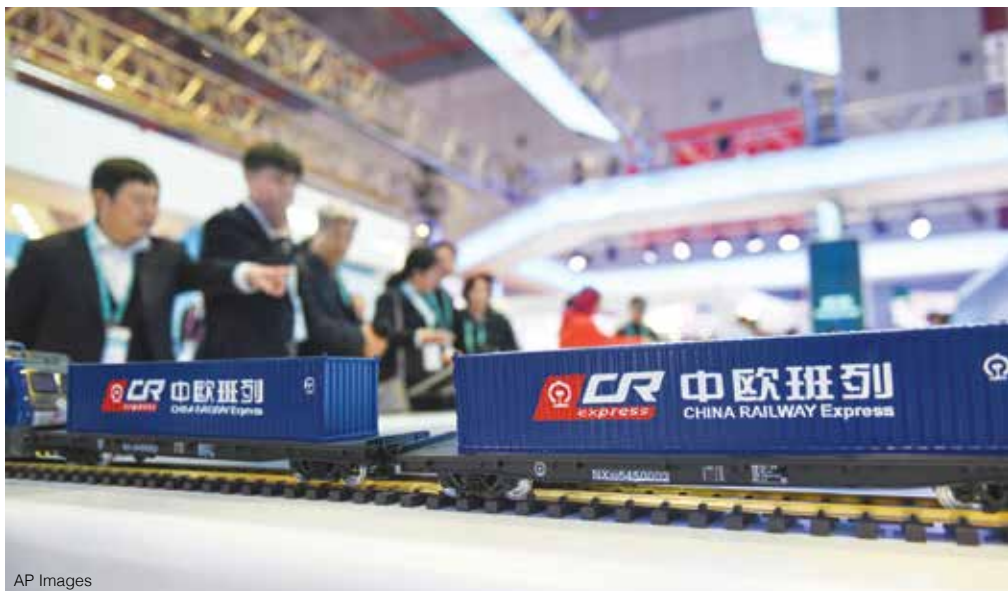
As it turned out, she was detained for several months on charges of tax evasion. Other public figures have similarly fallen from the graces of the Communist Party in recent years. Not only that, the Chinese government has shown a willingness to arbitrarily arrest foreigners for political leverage, as evidenced by the recent jailing of several former Canadian diplomats in obvious retaliation for Canada's detention of the CFO of Huawei, one of China's

most powerful corporations, on charges of giving aid to Iran in violation of international sanctions.

The disappearance of popular figures who have fallen into party disfavor and politically motivated attacks on foreign citizens were once routine in Maoist China, Stalinist Russia, and other totalitarian regimes, and continue to be the norm in the likes of North Korea and Iran. And for years, it appeared as though China had moved beyond such episodes.

But worse may be soon in coming as Xi continues to consolidate power. This year, he removed the two-term limit on the Chinese president and vice-president, making himself in effect leader for life, if he chooses. His anti-corruption campaign has morphed into an ambitious drive to transform China into a panopticon state. A network of new cameras watches Chinese citizens everywhere they walk or drive, while government software compiles data on tens of millions of them, assigning them a number similar to a credit score — except that these scores reflect a citizen's loyalty to the party, obedience to the state, and general sense of civic duty.

Points are taken off for jaywalking, late bill payments, criticizing the government, buying too much alcohol, and many other activities deemed deleterious by the Communist Party. If their score drops too low, hapless Chinese citizens will be denied



AP Images

Making itself necessary: China has been increasing sales to Europe, sending about 6,000 freight trains with goods to Europe in 2018 — nearly double the trips made the previous year. China is using its economic muscle not only to enrich itself, but to expand its influence over the world.



And this is China's light touch: Sri Lankan villagers protest a deal with China giving it control of Hambantota Port and private land to build factories. Sri Lanka's government made the deal because it needs the money China offered.

air and rail travel, refused access to social networks, and kept from finding gainful employ. Still under consideration are additional “social infractions” such as playing too many video games, spending money wastefully, or making too many posts on social media.

Exploiting 21st-century technology, the system combines data culled from 200 million surveillance cameras with financial records, Internet browsing history, and medical records to assemble digital dossiers on tens of millions of Chinese citizens. By 2020, the Chinese government intends to have all of China's 1.4 billion people under 24/7 surveillance. If realized, China in the 2020s will resemble — more than any other government in modern history — the Orwellian nightmare of 1984, where the Party has become not only all-powerful but — thanks to all-encompassing surveillance technologies — omniscient as well. Because Communist China has managed to endure into the 21st century, it is able to exploit technologies for mass surveillance and control that the defunct Soviet Union could only dream of.

Not only that, all of China's major corporations, such as Huawei and Alibaba, are allowed to operate only on condition that they use their resources to enhance the government's surveillance powers at home and abroad. Huawei, a telecom-

munications manufacturer, provides the Chinese government with intelligence gleaned from its popular cellphones and computers, to a degree that puts the recently revealed excesses of Facebook to shame. Jack Ma, the billionaire founder of Alibaba and a sort of Chinese answer to Bill Gates, whose success story every Chinese schoolboy is encouraged to emulate, was recently outed as a member of the Communist Party. The dreary reality in China is that no Chinese entrepreneur or corporation is permitted to succeed unless it also gives the Communist Party whatever support it can.

Nevertheless, many outside China do not view China as the West once regarded the Soviet “Evil Empire,” because 21st-century China differs from the 20th-century Soviet Union in its illusion of prosperity — the bewitching array of modern technologies, including modern highways and railroads, gleaming skyscrapers, and a society wedded to the Internet like no other. The Chinese conduct most of their business online, thanks to the all-encompassing social networking-cum-purchasing app called WeChat (also used by the government to spy on Chinese citizens) and a host of other online services such as Alibaba and Didi. The latter, a taxi-calling app, is absolutely indispensable to get around in China; taxis do not crowd the

city streets as they do in non-communist countries. Instead, a prospective passenger uses Didi to summon a taxi, transforming what might be a curbside wait of a half-hour or more for a random taxi to pass into a two or three-minute interval. In this way, Didi manages to disguise somewhat the shortage of taxis that would otherwise make city travel just another hassle typical of a centrally planned economy. Taobao, China's answer to Amazon and owned by Alibaba, masks the fact that, outside of large Western stores in big cities, the Chinese economy is still not able to produce enough domestically to fill the shelves of big-box stores. Instead, Chinese order most of their stuff besides basic groceries online, and items are typically shipped within a few business days — from wherever in China they happen to be available. Thus someone living in Shanghai might be unable to find a particular item anywhere locally, despite the city's enormous size. But a store in Guangzhou, far to the south, might have the item in stock, allowing the Shanghai resident to purchase it remotely via Taobao.

How has China's communist government managed to lift China out of its impoverished, agrarian past? Simply put, by bringing in foreign capital and giving those corporations a lot of latitude to manufacture and sell, both for export and for domestic consumption. But in return, the Communist Party is demanding ever-increasing involvement in the affairs of foreign corporations in China, especially those partnered with a domestic company. And Chinese law stipulates that foreign companies in most sectors must be partnered with a domestic firm (a “partnership” wherein the Chinese firm must control at least 51 percent) — an imposition that many foreign companies are increasingly coming to view as a cynical ploy whereby Chinese firms avail themselves of Western intellectual property, only to kick Westerners out once their usefulness has been exhausted.

Indeed, there are signs that Western firms are already wearing out their welcome in China, as the Communist Party concludes that further capitalist presence in its country will hamper the return to ideological purity being undertaken by the Xi administration. The Communist Party is ramping up pressure on Western



The price of seeming dissent: Fan Bingbing, who is not only one of China's biggest movie stars but a rising star in Hollywood, simply disappeared in China. Later it was learned that she was abducted by authorities, accused of tax discrepancies and cultural infractions.

firms, cracking down on corporate use of VPNs (software that allows computers to circumvent the censorship of China's Great Firewall), demanding greater deference to Communist Party officials, and even arbitrarily forcing companies to relocate from expensive facilities that they had built with their own money because the government has decided to use the land and facilities for some other purpose. One American businessman working in China told this author that his corporate employer was recently dismayed to find out that the government had decided to relocate them to a much more remote area because it had decided to build residential buildings on the original site. His firm has thus been ousted without compensation from a site that cost hundreds of millions to build.

The *Washington Post* recently reported on an instance of Communist Party interference in corporate Internet usage, a story that is becoming dreadfully typical of the times:

To regain full access to the Internet, one American company was asked to sign a "solemn commitment" — that it would obey the Chinese Communist Party's "seven bottom lines," do nothing to undermine the socialist system, public order or social morality, and wouldn't use the Internet to violate the interests of the state....

The agreement, made in Shanghai last November, is typical of the hoops some foreign companies are having to jump through to maintain access to the Web, and to continue doing business in a country where politics is back on top of the agenda.

That has led many American companies to take a "much more cautious approach" to regulating who within their organization uses VPN software, said Jake Parker, vice president of China operations at the U.S.-China Business Council in Beijing....

A more fundamental anxiety is that the Communist Party will ultimately demand to see everything that flows in and out of the country over the Internet, under China's new Cybersecurity Law, which went into effect in June.

"How safe will [intellectual property] and trade secrets be? Will servers have to be stored here? Will companies have to hand over encryption codes to Chinese authorities?" asked a Beijing-based diplomat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

"Could perhaps entire industry sectors become off limits for foreigners for security reasons? It's not clear whether Chinese authorities are aware of possible collateral damage to businesses."

Despite all of these growing concerns, Western corporations continue to pour capital into China. As another American businessman, who has lived and done business in China for more than a decade, told this writer, businesses are reluctant to haul up stakes and leave because of the immense potential presented by the Chinese market. They believe that, if they abandon China, competitors will simply take their place. For this reason, many of them are willing to perform all sorts of contortions and obeisances to ingratiate themselves with increasingly autocratic Chinese authorities. In January of 2018, for example, the Chinese government shut down Marriott Corporation's Chinese website after a Marriott Survey online implied that Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau are independent from China. In response, Marriott issued repeated apologies clarifying that they did not support "separatism" and they fully respected "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China." Even more recently, hundreds of employees at Google were dismayed to learn that, despite Google's public refusal to accede to China's demands that they self-censor in exchange for being allowed to operate in China, Google has secretly been working on a search engine for China that would, in fact, censor access to the Internet along Communist Party lines.

What's more, China's willingness to let in outside capital is matched by its refusal to allow capital out, in any form. Foreign residents in China quickly discover that it is virtually impossible to transfer money abroad via the usual methods used elsewhere in the modern world. Money wires, drafts, Moneygrams, and other methods of currency transfer are strictly monitored and controlled, and often rejected by government authorities for arbitrary reasons. Access to foreign Internet marketing sites such as Amazon.com and social networks such as Facebook is strictly prohibited, and the VPNs that foreigners (and some Chinese citizens) use to circumvent China's controls are under constant attack by the government.

None of this is truly novel. China has been keeping its doors closed to the outside world, prohibiting exports and capital outflow, for centuries. Early Chinese efforts to ensure that silkworms were never taken out of the country are the stuff of

legend — as is the deception employed by several foreign merchants in finally smuggling several of the insects out of China, inside a hollowed-out cane. Culturally China has always seen itself as unique and apart from the rest of the world, and the advent of modern revolutionary communism in many respects has provided a latter-day framework for continuing to keep China unified and walled off from the rest of the world.

There can be no denying that, under communist leadership, China has morphed into an economic and military superpower no longer prostrate to ambitious foreign powers. This achievement, at least, is regarded by many Chinese as proof positive that the communists will ensure that China never endures another “Century of Humiliation” and will maintain its rightful place among the world’s great powers. Acknowledgement of this has prompted many Chinese to conclude that they prefer the devil they know. Hundreds of millions of Chinese now live in fear of “Xi Dada” (“Papa Xi”), but they are willing to endure the continuing curtailment of their freedoms as long as Xi’s China remains strong. It is certainly a testament to the work ethic and resourcefulness of the Chinese that they have been able to achieve so much in the face of such daunting obstacles.

By every evidence, the old inward-looking Middle Kingdom is gone, replaced by an increasingly assertive, militaristic regime bent on full-spectrum global dominance. From several decades of pragmatic market reforms that led many outsiders to anticipate the death of Maoism, China has done a hard about-face and is being herded back toward a sort of high-tech Cultural Revolution. For now, universities, schools, foreign study, and education in general remain prized assets in China, and the government has shown little inclination — yet — to shutter institutions of learning, as it did in Mao’s time. Unlike 50 years ago, tens of millions of Chinese are now well educated, wealthy, and accomplished. They travel the world on package tours, they learn English and other foreign languages, and they produce leaders in science, technology, and the arts.

But the communist government is proving itself extremely adroit at diverting the vast talents and resources of its citizens to

The Communist Party began a slow but steady movement back toward its totalitarian past. Crackdowns, arrests, and imprisonments soared in the name of a new ongoing “anti-corruption” campaign.

serve its own purposes. Even Chinese students and businessmen overseas have been enlisted in China’s spy networks. And despite the Chinese Communists’ toleration of a modicum of free enterprise and international trade, it is the communist ideology that retains their highest allegiance.

A lingering mystery is how China has managed to attain such levels of prosperity under socialist conditions. There are several contributing factors. First, the modern Chinese Communists operate in many ways more like the Nazis and Fascists of Germany and Italy than the doctrinaire communists of Stalin and Mao. The ChiComs are only too happy to encourage capital formation — as long as it serves state interests. Many of the goals of Maoism — including the destruction of

industrial society in the name of “agrarian reform” — have been discarded, and replaced with a Nazi-esque fixation on state-sponsored industrialization.

Another factor driving China’s remarkable economic growth is China’s avoidance of debt and reliance on savings. The market distortions associated with the business cycle are predicated on the twin practices of deficit spending and inflation, which the Chinese have sought to avoid. Moreover, keeping themselves mostly sealed off from the global banking system has meant far fewer temptations to partake of the poisoned fruit of foreign credit. As a result, China is a creditor and not a debtor regime — which also gives its communist leadership much greater leeway in commissioning building projects with very



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Totalitarianism in the digital age: China is using technology that was largely stolen or co-opted from Western companies to keep an eye on Chinese citizens. Citizens will soon be ranked by the government on their loyalty to the Communist Party.



AP Images

Dead set on purifying their culture: Not only are the Chinese people very conscious and proud of their culture, the communist government is a deadly opponent of degradation and crime. Here drug dealers are sentenced to death after a mass trial at a public rally.

low occupancy or operating technological wonders (such as Shanghai's celebrated Maglev, the world's fastest train) that operate deep in the red year after year. Not being burdened by Western levels of debt means that China has been able to build the world's largest and best high-speed railway system in little over a decade, allowing China's millions to travel easily from one end of that gigantic country to another. This, while debt-strapped California, in combination with an equally beholden federal government, has barely managed to lay a few miles of track for the Golden State's long-sought Los Angeles to San Francisco high-speed train.

A third factor in China's success is undoubtedly the Chinese themselves. Known far and wide as the world's most entrepreneurial people, the Chinese possess a work ethic second to none. In most southeast Asian countries, it is the "overseas Chinese" whose business acumen powers the economy, from the Philippines to Malaysia. In enclaves where the Chinese themselves run the show — Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore — the record speaks for itself. In Commu-

nist China, too, the passion for business surpasses all else, except for the ethnic pride and sense of national destiny that characterize the Han Chinese.

A fourth factor is the impulse that the Chinese of China share with their kin in Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong: a strong will to preserve traditional family values and civic virtues. The Chinese Communist Party has attracted international condemnation for its long-held (though recently relaxed) "one family, one child" policy, but the Chinese rejection of what are widely viewed in China as decadent Western practices such as premarital sex and drug abuse has generally gone unremarked. As in Singapore, Taiwan, and elsewhere, drug trafficking and use is strictly prohibited and punishments severe. Moreover, sexual promiscuity and pregnancy out of wedlock are almost unknown among China's teens. At least in part as a conse-

quence of this, crime rates, even in China's largest cities, are extremely low and Chinese families — in stark contrast to those in the West — are generally well maintained. And this is not mere hearsay on the part of this author, who has worked with Chinese teens and observed among them standards of moral conduct that would not have been out of place in America 50 years ago, but today seem quaint and innocent by comparison with their worldly Western counterparts.

From the perspective of the rest of the world, it is most assuredly not the productive and hard-working Chinese people who pose a threat; it is a communist regime ingeniously reinvented to flourish and subvert in a high-tech 21st-century environment. The communists of Beijing have proven exceptionally adroit at harnessing the considerable virtues of the Chinese people and the naïve, self-serving good will of foreign governments and corporations, in the service of long-sought communist world domination. And the Chinese, with their vast population, have ample incentive to seek, by subversion or conquest, *Lebensraum* abroad. Indeed, to the consternation of Russia, they are already migrating across their northeastern Manchurian frontier in large numbers to settle in sparsely populated eastern Siberia.

Whatever China's inward-looking past may have meant, 21st-century China is now (as imperial Japan once did) morphing into an aggressive, expansionist power with eyes set not merely on local domination but on challenging the might of the West across the globe. With the complicity of allegiance-less foreign corporations willing to be exploited in this design, China bids fair to accomplish its aims unless the United States and other Western countries retrench, recognize the growing threat, and cease giving aid and comfort to the most powerful and dangerous communist regime the world has yet seen. ■



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THE CRIME OF BEING

Christian, White, Male, and Pro-life, and Wearing MAGA Hats

When teens from Covington Catholic High School went to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., they were accosted by leftist radicals, then framed as bigots.



The face that launched a thousand lies: For media, this picture of a perhaps uncomfortable 16-year-old boy grinning was worth a thousand words — few of them true, fewer kind.

by Selwyn Duke

It's certainly not surprising that people who'd kill the young in the womb would kill them in the media — especially when political dissent can be killed in the process. But this is precisely what happened when video emerged of the January 18 schoolboys-and-Indians affair at the Lincoln Memorial.

The students, who'd attended this year's March for Life, never suspected the event would change their whole lives, that agitators on site and in media would viciously portray them as the very face of hate.

But the boys from Covington Catholic High School (CCHS) in Park Hills, Kentucky, had to face the hate. A 60-second, out-of-context video hit the news January 19, showing a grinning, MAGA-hatted, 16-year-old Nick Sandmann face-to-face with drum-beating Omaha tribal "elder" Nathan Phillips while a throng of the stu-

dent's uproarious classmates stood around them. Phillips, billed as a "Vietnam veteran," later said that the boys surrounded him, Sandmann prevented his egress, and he feared for his safety. Phillips also claimed he heard the students saying "build the wall, build that wall!"

So the story was simple: A bunch of "racist," white, Christian, Middle American, MAGA-hatted kids were taunting a hapless elderly Indian, there just to attend an "Indigenous Peoples Rally" (held concurrently with the March for Life). Sandmann was the main bully, essentially holding Phillips hostage and smirking in silent mockery. It was the perfect metaphor for the Trump era.

But Phillips spoke with forked tongue. More extensive video showed that as the boys waited at the Lincoln Memorial for buses to take them home, Phillips waded into their midst beating a drum, followed by an entourage recording what

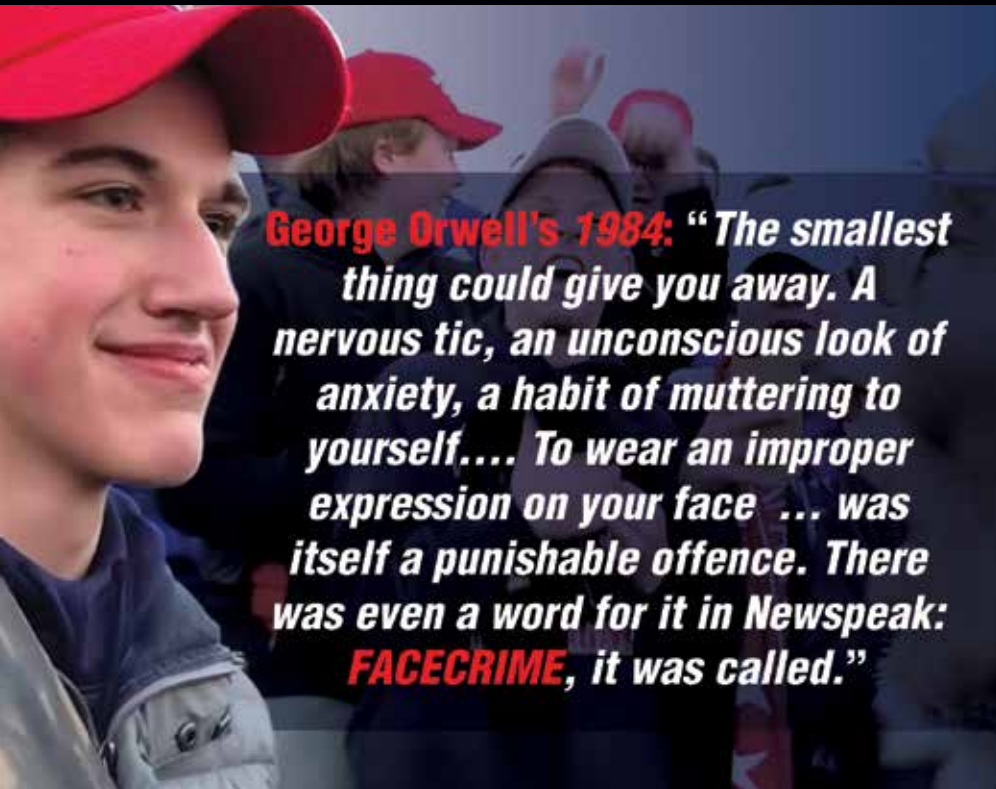
transpired. A few seconds later Phillips made a slight right turn, got directly "in Sandmann's face," and stood there like a south-going Zax (hat tip: Dr. Seuss), beating his instrument inches from the boy's head.

Yet while this is now fairly well known — though likely not as well as the initial, lie-infused narrative — the backstory is not.

To begin, let's just say that as for Phillips' story, his tongue apparently has more tines than a sardine fork. Remember, he initially claimed the boys surrounded him so that he felt (I imagine) like Custer at Little Bighorn. But after the longer, eye-opening videos got around, Phillips changed his story, claiming he was playing peacemaker by getting between the boys and four "old black individuals." "They were in the process of attacking these four black individuals," Phillips told the *Detroit Free Press* January 20. "I was there and I was witnessing all of this.... As this kept on going on and escalating, it just got to a point where you do something or you walk away, you know?" "These young men were beastly and these old black individuals was their prey," he added, "and I stood in between them and so they needed their pounds of flesh and they were looking at me for that," the paper also related.

Oh, the humanity!

CNN had a slightly different take on the "four black individuals," calling them the "African-American young men preaching about the Bible and oppression" whom the Catholic boys had clashed with early in the afternoon. (Emphasis added.) Chalk one (just one) up for CNN here. The men were the Black Hebrew Israelites (BHIs), and, hardly old, they appeared to be in their 20s and 30s. All were vibrant, and the leader, a big, burly man, was not prey but predator. Phillips could have told you this, too, were



George Orwell's 1984: "The smallest thing could give you away. A nervous tic, an unconscious look of anxiety, a habit of muttering to yourself.... To wear an improper expression on your face ... was itself a punishable offence. There was even a word for it in Newspeak: FACECRIME, it was called."

he honest — because the black protesters went to the Lincoln Memorial for the express purpose of *confronting the Indians*.

It's all recorded in a two-hour video the BHIs created themselves. As the left-leaning *Atlantic's* Caitlin Flanagan wrote January 23, beginning with what the BHIs' leader began shouting at the Indians:

"Before you started worshipping *totem poles*, you was worshipping the true and living God. Before you became an *idol worshipper*, you was worshipping the true and living God. This is the reason why this land was taken away from you! Because you worship everything except the most high. You worship every creation except the Creator — and that's what we are here to tell you to do."

... A few more people in Native costume gather, clearly stunned by his tirade. "You're not supposed to worship eagles, buffalos, rams, all types of animals," he calls out to them.

... The preacher [also] tells a woman that "you're not an Indian. *Indian* means 'savage.'"

This prompted more Indians to gather and engage the BHIs, but this proved fruitless. "At this point, most of the Na-

tive Americans who have surrounded — 'mobbed'? — the preacher have realized what the boys will prove too young and too unsophisticated to understand," writes Flanagan, "that the 'four young African American men preaching about the Bible and oppression' are the kind of people you sometimes encounter in big cities," and it's wise to avoid them.

In fact, from forked to acid tongues, the BHIs' leader was harshest with the boys. As Sandmann related in a statement he issued January 22, the four black protesters "said hateful things. They called us 'racists,' 'bigots,' 'white crackers,' 'fa***ts,' and 'incest kids' [one also used the term n****er]. They also taunted an African-American student from my school by telling him that we would 'harvest his organs.'"

Video confirms the above. The BHIs were impugning our country and President Trump, and also called the kids "child-molesting fa***ts" and "future school shooters." Note that even the Southern Poverty Law Center labels the BHIs a "hate group"; this is significant because the SPLC only thus classifies leftists when they're fit for Dante's Eighth Circle of Hell.

Returning to the Black Israelite-Indian War, one Indian woman remained behind debating the BHIs. She deftly stumped them at times, according to Flanagan,

which apparently inspired a strategy shift. As Flanagan writes, "It was heating up to be an intersectional showdown for the ages.... But when the Native woman talks about the importance of peace, the preacher finally locates a unifying theme."

"He tells her there won't be any food stamps coming to reservations or the projects because of the shutdown," Flanagan continues, "and then gesturing to his left, he says, 'It's because of these ... b*****ds over there, wearing 'Make America Great Again' hats.'"

At this point the BHIs direct the camera at their new prey, five Covington boys, one sporting a MAGA cap, listening curiously a respectful distance away. "Why you not angry at *them*?" the Black Hebrew Israelite asks the Native American woman angrily," Flanagan relates. One of his fellow cultists chimes in, "That's right, little corny-a** Billy Bob."

The boys didn't react negatively to this insult, nor did the Indian woman respond to the instigation. She pursued her discussion with the BHIs, and bested them. They then accused her of being "distracting"; "You're out of order," their leader said. "Where's your husband? Let me speak to him." This fuss caused the Covington onlookers to grow to approximately a dozen, some of whom wore MAGA hats. This gave the preacher an even greater opportunity to end his losing battle by targeting a (hopefully) common whipping boy. "'Don't stand to the side and mock,' the speaker orders the boys, who do not appear to be mocking him," Flanagan also relates. "'Bring y'all cracker a** up here and make a statement.' The boys turn away and begin walking back to the larger group."

"You little dirty-a** crackers. Your day coming," the BHI leader then hissed. "'Your day coming ... 'cause your little dusty a****s wouldn't walk down a street in a black neighborhood, and go walk up on nobody playing no games like that,' he calls after them, but they take no notice," Flanagan tells us. "'Yeah, 'cause I will stick my foot in your little a**.'" (Mind you, the Indians hurled verbal abuse as well. In particular, one tough-talking, foul-mouthed activist accompanying Phillips could be seen on video telling the kids to "go back to Europe.")

What happened next was that the students got permission from a chaperone to

begin school spirit chants to counter “the hateful things that were being shouted at our group,” as Sandmann put it. Note, there’s no evidence that at this point or any other the boys yelled “Build that wall!” (though nothing is wrong with that). They can be heard on video chanting “C-C-H” (Covington Catholic High) and humming the stadium-staple opening bars of “Seven Nation Army” while jumping up and down. But it was around this time that the Indians began a ceremony and that the drum-wielding Phillips, perhaps inspired by the BHIs, perhaps not, waded into their group. Many of the boys’ jumping then naturally became synchronized with the drumming. In fact, the *Daily Caller* quoted Marcus Frejo, a Seminole/Pawnee among the drummers, as saying, “That spirit moved through us, that drum, and it slowly started to move through some of those youths.”

For his part, Sandmann wondered why Phillips targeted him. I may know. Videos of the incident show that, contrary to en-media (the mainstream, “enemy” media) framing, only a handful of the scores of boys present sported MAGA hats.

Sandmann happened to be one of them. So he was a perfect publicity-stunt prop. Christian? Check. White boy? Check. MAGA hat? Check. That was the trifecta — all they needed to do was get in his face and evoke a reaction.

They got one, too — from the enemedia and beyond. The boys were pilloried, for

The BHIs were impugning our country and President Trump, and they also called the kids “child-molesting fa***ts” and “future school shooters.”

being ignorant by commentators ignorant of what had actually occurred (because they never bothered investigating); for being privileged by tenured ivory-tower academics drawing high salaries and possessing bully pulpits; and for violating “the dignity of the human person” by their own school and diocese, which didn’t respect their dignity enough to wait and get the facts. The Diocese of Covington’s Bishop Roger Foys did issue an apology January 25, saying they shouldn’t have allowed themselves to be “bullied and pressured into making a statement prematurely” and that there would be an “independent, third-party investigation” of the affair. Unfortunately, another Kentucky bishop, John Stowe of the Diocese of Lexington, then condemned the kids as if the exculpatory video had never surfaced.

But social media was downright vicious. Muslim author Reza Aslan tweeted that Sandmann had a “punchable face.” Ex-Democrat Party head Howard Dean called CCHS “a hate factory.” Disney producer Jack Morrissey tweeted “#MAGAkids go screaming, hats first, into the woodchipper,” along with imagery portraying such carnage. Journalist Erik Abriss was fired

for posting on Twitter, “I just want these people to die. Simple as that. Every single one of them. And their parents.” Ex-*Saturday Night Live* writer Sarah Beattie tweeted that she will “b**w whoever manages to punch that maga kid in the face.” Then, *GQ*’s Nathaniel Friedman urged people to “Doxx ’em all,” meaning, make the Covington kids’ personal information public. So it happened, too, which is why we know Sandmann’s name. The result? CCHS students, their families, and people confused with them received death threats and the school was closed January 22 over safety fears.

As for Phillips, it will surprise few to learn that he wasn’t merely some kindly grandpa-type ceremoniously beating his drum as (according to him) a “supplication to God.” Rather, he’s a radical left-wing activist who, just the day after confronting Sandmann, led 20 protesters in an effort to disrupt a Saturday night mass “at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.,” Fox News informed January 23. Security stopped them, but they proceeded to pound on the locked doors.

Moreover, Phillips is “a radical separatist who flew the U.S. Flag upside down at a Dakota Pipeline protest,” reported the *Independent Sentinel* January 20. He has also pulled the victim card before, having claimed harassment after a 2015 incident in which he “confronted Eastern Michigan students who were at a themed party[,] with some dressed as Native-Americans,” the *Sentinel* further informs.

Then there are more lies. Phillips claimed in a year-old video posted at the Native Youth Alliance Facebook that he served in Vietnam; he never did. He also lied about that lie. He told *Vogue* magazine he was a “recon ranger” but wasn’t; he was a refrigerator repairman who never left the states. Worse still, he went AWOL at least three times, and has a long rap sheet that includes a charge of escaping jail, a destruction-of-property charge (that was dropped), charges of driving without



AP Images

Strategy — hate right-wing success: The Covington boys’ “MAGA” hats made them targets, and the slogan the acronym stands for has been targeted with a hate-speech label — because the slogan is effective.

a license and negligent driving, multiple charges of underage alcohol possession, and pleading guilty to assault.

As for Phillips' assault on Truth, when told by NBC News that the Covington kids were just issuing school chants, he replied "School chants should be in school." This makes as much sense as saying that Indian drumming belongs on Indian reservations. It's the kind of nonsense uttered by a dishonest person who has no legitimate rebuttal and won't cede the point.

The boys' behavior appears stellar in comparison. Note that video-recording devices are ubiquitous today, and incidents such as the Lincoln Memorial affair are filmed by multiple people from multiple angles. Were the boys guilty of anything significant it would be on video somewhere. But there's nothing — anywhere.

Yet despite video indicting the BHIs and Phillips and vindicating the boys, the latter are still demonized. Sure, the media backtracked somewhat initially; some commentators apologized for condemning the students, others just quietly deleted tweets, while yet others let their libels stand. But they soon regrouped and went back on the offensive, albeit in a milder form. For example, the *Today* show's Savannah Guthrie interviewed Sandmann January 23 and, echoing others, implied that his MAGA hat was the problem. Representative John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) had already called for a *ban* on teens wearing the hats. *American Thinker* noted the hypocrisy the next day, writing, "According to progressives, on the head of a female, a pink p--- hat is a commendable accessory, while on the head of a male, a red MAGA cap is akin to Hester Prynne donning a scarlet letter or analogous to a white hood of the KKK."

Yet there's another factor here. The demonization of "Build that wall!" and "MAGA" hats and utterances reflect an effort to squelch dissent. Consider here that powerful slogans and symbols are how you market your ideas; analogous to this, this is why businesses use jingles, slogans, and trademarks. Imagine how marketing might be hobbled if McDonald's, Geico, or Vaseline could no longer use, respectively, its golden arch; talking gecko; or, well, its name, Vaseline. What's happening politically is that anything rhetorically effective for conser-



AP Images

Chief Osceola he ain't: While the media happily accepted Nathan Phillips' (untrue) victim story, he is actually a radical left-wing activist with a sizable criminal record, and was the aggressor in the Lincoln Memorial incident with the Covington students.

vatives — anything that has influenced people or threatens to do so — is labeled hateful. It's the neutering of effective opposition via socially enforced hate-speech prohibitions against it.

Then there's the neutering of the Left's main demographic opposition (as voting patterns prove): white men. Note here that Guthrie also told Sandmann, "There's something aggressive about standing there, standing your ground." Staggering. Consider: What if a white man had confronted a black teen, getting in his face, and the media said the black kid should have backed down? What would be the reaction?

Growing up, a well-raised child is usually told that while we shouldn't necessarily get aggressive when confronted, we should stand our ground. When it's said that a member of a certain group has an *obligation* to back down, the message is that he's subordinate and, by implication, that his *group is subordinate*. What's next? Will whites be expected to bow before confrontational non-whites?

In contrast, Guthrie threw nothing but softballs when interviewing Phillips on January 24; not only didn't she ask about his many lies and contradictions — she allowed him to repeat some of them and continue maligning the boys.

Amazingly, all this got started with literally seconds of video, one snapshot, really, showing what Reza Aslan called, again, Sandmann's "punchable face." The boy explained this in his statement, saying he smiled at times because he wanted

Phillips "to know that I was not going to become angry, intimidated or be provoked into a larger confrontation." But even if Sandmann had at times been tickled by an old man drumming in his face and uttering what some have described as not an Indian language but gibberish, so what? The real trespass was judging a mid-teen by one facial expression. In fact, "George Orwell imagined a world like this 70 years ago, in his book *1984*," Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson explained on his show's January 23 episode. "For the disfavored, Orwell wrote, 'The smallest thing could give you away. A nervous tic, an unconscious look of anxiety, a habit of muttering to yourself.... To wear an improper expression on your face ... was itself a punishable offence. There was even a word for it ... : FACECRIME.'" (Elipses added.)

Explaining the fatally slanted Covington-affair reporting, Carlson later stated that the media "haven't watched the [full] video, and they don't plan to. This isn't an argument about facts and evidence and truth. It's an argument about identity. The Kentucky students are being attacked for who they are, not what they did or didn't do." Or as the *Spectator* put it three days prior, "The progressive media doesn't care about what really happened when it has white boys in MAGA caps to hate."

For sure. Why do you think politicians such as Senator Liz "Fauxcahontas" Warren and Irish Bob ("Beto") O'Rourke try their best to feign minority status? They know that today, you're guilty until proven non-white. ■

TRUMP VS. DEEP STATE

Now that Democrats control the House, it is likely that they and segments of the Deep State will pull out all the stops to impeach Trump, predetermine elections, and aid globalists.

by Troy Anderson

In March 2018, *New York Times* best-selling author and investigative journalist Jerome Corsi released his most explosive book yet — *Killing the Deep State: The Fight to Save President Trump*.

In searing detail, the book exposed an alleged conspiracy by the Deep State — the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, and other intelligence and military agencies, along with the mainstream media and globalist elite — to topple the presidency of Donald Trump as part of a goal to create a borderless, one-world government and economic system.

Several months later, Corsi found himself summoned to an unmarked FBI building in southeast Washington, D.C., where he was threatened with indictment by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's prosecutorial team unless he testified "falsely against [former Trump campaign advisor] Roger Stone and/or President Donald Trump," Corsi's attorney, Larry Klayman, wrote in a voluminous complaint alleging Mueller and his team are engaged in a "coup" to "overthrow the duly elected President of the United States."

"They ended up treating me like a criminal from day one," Corsi, 72, told THE NEW AMERICAN. "It was this 40-hours. It was such a grueling experience. I think it is so counter to American justice as I understand it. It's more like a Gestapo interrogation — KGB — and I thought I was going to go off to the gulag next."

In response, Corsi wrote a new book, *Silent No More: How I Became a Political Prisoner of Mueller's "Witch Hunt."*

"I wrote it as [the interrogations took place], so it's first-person," he says. "I think you'll feel my emotions and my horror at this process as it unfolded for what I feel is a politically-motivated investigation that was engaging in criminal prosecutorial misconduct."



Pillorying people: *Killing the Deep State* author Jerome Corsi (left) speaks during a news conference as his lawyer, Larry Klayman, stands behind him outside the federal courthouse in Washington, D.C. The Mueller investigation is charging people with crimes to get them to talk.

In January, Klayman, a former prosecutor at the Department of Justice and founder of Judicial Watch, filed a \$350 million lawsuit on Corsi's behalf against Mueller, the FBI, and intelligence agencies for alleged "illegal surveillance on him, his family, friends and legal counsel, without probable cause in violation of the Fourth Amendment, and related alleged illegalities."

Corsi alleges he's being improperly pressured by Mueller's team to sign a plea deal, which he says he won't sign. Mueller's team wants him to admit that he acted as a liaison between Stone, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, and the Trump campaign regarding the release of hacked e-mails from the Democratic National Committee, according to Corsi's complaint. In November, Corsi rejected a deal offered by Mueller to plead guilty to one count of perjury.

"They wanted me to establish a con-

nection," Corsi says. "They had a predetermined theory of the case. They predetermined that there was a crime of Russian collusion even though nobody can tell you whether that is really a crime or not."

"And then they've got a 'criminal,' namely the president, that they want to impeach. And they are looking for factors that fit their predetermined theory. I don't consider this to be a fair or honest investigation at all. I mean they wanted me to establish that I had contact with Julian Assange so they could connect the dots from Roger Stone to me. Of all people, I became the linchpin of this whole Russian collusion theory."

But Corsi, the former Washington bureau chief of Infowars, who holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, says he had nothing to do with the release of the WikiLeaks e-mails that damaged Hillary Clinton's White House bid.

Tom Steyer, the billionaire Democratic donor, has decided not to run for president in 2020 because he believes that pursuing Trump's impeachment is a better use of his fortune.

"It just didn't happen," Corsi says. "I mean, I don't know Julian Assange. I've never met Julian Assange. I've never communicated with Julian Assange in any way, either directly or indirectly, and I couldn't provide them what they wanted, especially during the last 20 of the 40 hours. They got nasty, they got abusive, they were constantly walking out of the room... When I couldn't provide them the link to Assange, they just blew the whole thing up, threw me out, and said my testimony was worthless."

Corsi's experience with the Deep State, eerily similar to what *New York Times* best-selling author Dinesh D'Souza underwent following the release of his explosive film *2016: Obama's America*, highlights growing concerns that the globalist elite and Deep State — now that Democrats control the U.S. House of Representatives — plan to topple the Trump presidency by any means possible, create some type of planetary government, and usher in what they have long described as the New World Order.

The Trump Investigation Circus

Corsi's ordeal in connection with the FBI and Mueller's Russia collusion investigation comes amid myriad probes into the Trump presidency, including new and ongoing ones by House committees controlled by Democrats. These committees are poised to investigate Trump's potential business conflicts of interest, tax returns, and dealings with Russia, among other matters.

Some members of the House have renewed their calls to impeach Trump amid a cavalcade of negative news about the president. Meanwhile, Tom Steyer, the billionaire Democratic donor, has decided not to run for president in 2020 because he believes that pursuing Trump's impeachment is a better use of his fortune.

Riding the wave, the March issue of the *The Atlantic* magazine features a call for the president's impeachment on its cover.

It reads "IMPEACH" in large, red letters.

Consequently, pundits are predicting Trump's demise, arguing that he'll be forced to resign the presidency before the presidential election in November 2020.

Michael Golden, a senior fellow at the liberal Washington, D.C., think tank Center for American Progress — founded by John Podesta, chairman of the 2016 Hillary Clinton presidential campaign — alleged in a *New York Daily News* article that Trump has been "implicated in at least one felony."

"The same crime that his own lawyer pleaded guilty to and has been sentenced to serve time for in federal prison (along with other offenses)," Golden wrote. "But [Trump's former lawyer] Michael Cohen wasn't alone. The head of American Media, Inc., David Pecker, has now implicated Trump. Pecker has also agreed to cooperate with the special counsel. At the very least, he will attest, under oath, to Trump's directing hush money to keep women's mouths shut about their sexual

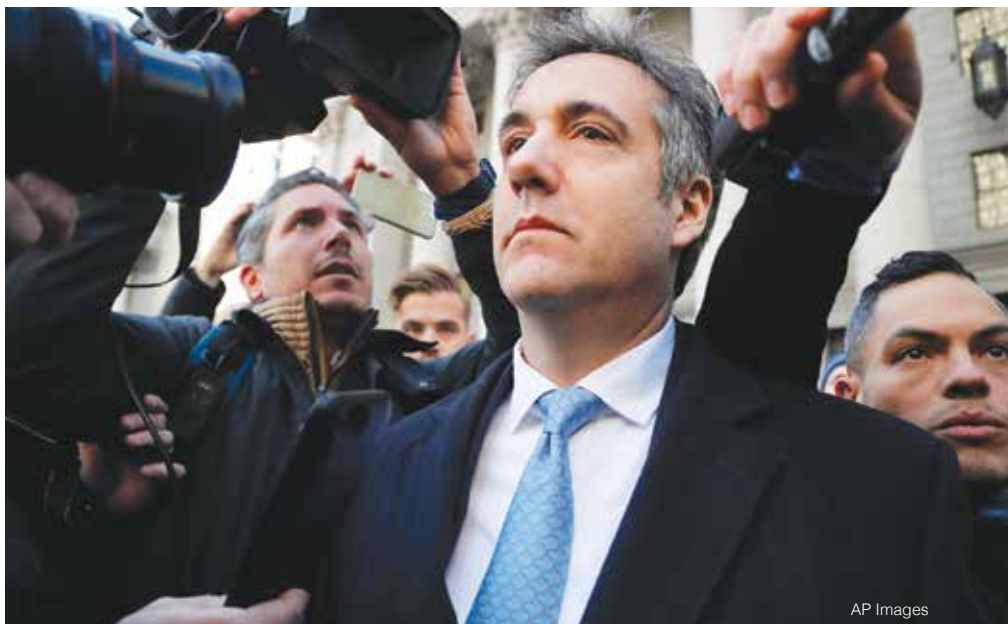
affairs with him — in a clearly stated effort to influence the campaign."

In late November, Cohen pleaded guilty to making false statements to Congress and was sentenced to three years in prison. Cohen has agreed to testify before the House Oversight and Reform Committee in February and give a "full and credible account" of his work with Trump.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said in early January that she wouldn't rule out the indictment or impeachment of Trump, describing it as "an open discussion."

Shortly afterward, U.S. Representative Brad Sherman (D-Calif.) reintroduced articles of impeachment against Trump. He was one of three Democrats, including U.S. Representatives Al Green of Texas and Steve Cohen of Tennessee, who introduced resolutions to impeach Trump in 2017.

In a July 12, 2017 statement, Sherman said that he wanted to hold hearings on obstruction of justice and Russian interference in the election. "Recent disclosures by Donald Trump Jr. indicate that Trump's campaign was eager to receive assistance from Russia," Sherman said. "It now seems likely that the President had something to hide when he tried to curtail the investigation of National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and the wider



Burned while Democrats walk: President Trump's former attorney Michael Cohen pleaded guilty in federal court to making false statements to Congress and was sentenced to prison, though liberals such as Hillary Clinton have lied to Congress with impunity.



He's a reliable anti-Trumper, not an unbiased investigator: Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is the special counsel probing Russian interference in the 2016 election. Journalist Jerome Corsi alleges Mueller is engaged in a “coup” to overthrow the Trump presidency.

Russian probe. I believe his conversations with, and subsequent firing of, FBI Director James Comey constitute Obstruction of Justice.”

The chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, U.S. Representative Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), said in a statement in November that Cohen’s guilty plea demonstrates that Trump’s associates were willing to lie to Congress about the Trump organization’s business interests in Russia.

“Significantly, they also make clear that the president’s own denials during the campaign were false or misleading,” Schiff said. “These false statements regarding the continued pursuit of a Moscow Trump Tower deal during much of the presidential campaign only underscore the importance of a thorough investigation into any financial entanglement between Trump and Russia.”

A Serious Threat to Trump’s Presidency

Political analysts told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that Mueller and the FBI’s investigation, combined with the congressional investigations, pose a serious and growing threat to Trump’s presidency.

And while it’s unlikely that the Republican-controlled Senate would vote to impeach Trump following a successful vote to do so in the House, the investigations along with the constant barrage of

incendiary news about Trump are clearly designed to weaken him politically prior to the 2020 presidential election, decreasing his chance of reelection.

“Is this a real threat to the president’s reelection? I think it’s a very serious threat and if you want to see an example of this all you must do is look at the House of Representatives, which is now headed by Nancy Pelosi. Look at what the very first bill is they introduced,” Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative public-policy think tank in Washington, D.C., told *THE NEW AMERICAN*.

The bill is H.R. 1. The resolution isn’t about substantive policy issues such as immigration or America’s ginormous debt. It’s about the roles governing voter registration, elections, and the financing of federal campaigns for office, says Spakovsky, former commissioner at the Federal Election Commission and former counsel to the assistant attorney general for civil rights in the Department of Justice.

“And that bill basically represents a nationalization, or federal takeover, of the rules governing voter registration, the running of elections, administration of elections, all over the country, in a way that favors Democrats and would allow Democrats to manipulate the rules and make it easy for fraud to be committed so they can win elections,” he says.

At the heart of the chaos enveloping

the Trump presidency is the Democratic Party’s single-minded, no-holds-barred campaign to regain power, win elections, and unseat the president regardless of what rules they must break, political analysts say.

And while the investigations and media firestorm surrounding Trump may seem to connote that Trump is facing imminent criminal indictments, the reality is that Mueller’s investigation hasn’t “produced a single piece of evidence supporting what the original object of the investigation was, which is to see whether there was any collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian government that somehow changed the outcome of the 2016 presidential election,” Spakovsky says.

“In fact, many of the indictments were for criminal matters that had absolutely nothing to do with the campaign or the election, and the only ones that had something to do with the election were the indictments of the Russians who were involved in basically trying to raise social chaos through the use of social media,” he says.

Corsi agrees, noting that Mueller’s office did manage to secure indictments of some Russians, but these individuals are unlikely to come to the United States to stand trial. In July, a federal grand jury returned an indictment against 12 Russian nationals for their alleged roles in computer hacking conspiracies aimed at interfering in the 2016 U.S. elections.

“These are show indictments,” Corsi says. “They want the American public to believe that the indictments are guilty pleas, but they’re not. They know that these trials are never going to be held, so it’s completely pathetic.”

“They have other process crimes — people who did give them information they knew to be false and were trying to mislead them. They have tax issues — like Michael Cohen. But they haven’t prosecuted anybody for Russian collusion because there isn’t any. [However], the Russian collusion between Hillary Clinton and John Podesta is massive because they were making millions of dollars — that’s the Clinton Foundation — selling Russia U.S. military technology, including classified technology, and the Uranium One deal. So, all of this is a coverup and Mueller is basically acting as a coverup artist to



Waiting for something that looks like evidence: House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California says she won't rule out the indictment or impeachment of President Trump, calling it "an open discussion."

prevent the real Russian collusion by the Democrats from being examined."

Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, a conservative, non-partisan educational foundation based out of Washington, D.C., said in a recent statement that the Clinton campaign created the "Trump/Russia collusion narrative." Judicial Watch is pursuing numerous Freedom of Information Act lawsuits related to alleged "surveillance, unmasking, and illegal leaking targeting" Trump and his associates during the FBI's investigation of potential Russian involvement in the 2016 presidential election.

"The real collusion scandal is the hand-in-hand effort by the Clinton campaign and the Obama DOJ/FBI to spy upon and destroy Donald J. Trump," Fitton said in a statement in December. "The FBI, pulled by the troika of Comey/ [ex-FBI Deputy Director Andrew] McCabe/ [former FBI agent Peter] Strzok, became an arm of the Clinton campaign. And our new lawsuit aims to get to the bottom of the massive scandal."

Russia's Covert Influence Campaign to Undermine the Country

As Judicial Watch and others pursue the "real collusion scandal," this doesn't mean that Russia hasn't attempted to influence elections in America or elsewhere.

In March 2018, the Republican-controlled House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence released its report on

Russia's covert influence campaign. The report found that the Russian government sought to "sow discord in American society and undermine our faith in the democratic process."

The authors noted this was nothing novel for the Kremlin, which has long engaged in similar campaigns in Europe and former Soviet republics.

"To do this, Russia effectively combines decades of experience in propaganda and psychological warfare techniques with its vast media apparatus, a stratum of well-educated and proficient technicians, and a robust intelligence and security corps," the authors wrote. "Russia's active measures campaign achieved its primary goal of inciting division and discord among Americans. For more than a year, U.S. politics have been consumed by bitter recriminations, charges, and countercharges about the attacks. The reliability of the democratic vote — the bedrock of the U.S. republic — was widely and repeatedly questioned."

Nevertheless, the committee did not find that any U.S. voting systems in the 2016 presidential election were impacted, nor was there any evidence that the Trump campaign "colluded, coordinated, or conspired with the Russian government," although the committee did find "poor judgment and ill-considered actions by the Trump and Clinton campaigns."

"For example, the June 2016 meeting

at Trump Tower between members of the Trump campaign and a Russian lawyer who falsely purported to have damaging information on the Clinton campaign demonstrated poor judgment," the authors wrote. "The committee also found the Trump campaign's periodic praise for and communications with WikiLeaks — a hostile foreign organization — to be highly objectionable and inconsistent with U.S. national security interests. The committee also found that the Clinton campaign and the DNC, using a series of cutouts and intermediaries to obscure their roles, paid for opposition research on Trump obtained from Russian sources, including a litany of claims by high-ranking current and former Russian government officials. Some of this opposition research was used to produce sixteen memos, which comprise what has become known as the Steele dossier."

On January 12, responding to a story in the *New York Times* noting that after he fired Comey as FBI director in 2017 the FBI initiated an investigation exploring whether he had acted on behalf of Russia, Trump unleashed a series of tweets, describing the entire investigation as a "Witch Hunt."

"[Comey] is being totally protected by his best friend, Bob Mueller, & the 13 Angry Democrats — leaking machines who have NO interest in going after the Real Collusion (and much more) by Crooked Hillary Clinton, her Campaign, and the Democratic National Committee," Trump tweeted. "Just Watch!"

Criminalizing Politics

At a time when many GOP leaders and politicians are questioning whether Trump will serve out his entire term, Corsi says it's important to understand that the Democrats are now run by a "hard-left faction that is more like a socialist-communist wing of the party."

"They're not interested in the First Amendment, they're not interested in the Second Amendment, they're not interested in the Fourth Amendment, and they're not interested in debate," Corsi says. "They want to weaponize the Department of Justice to criminalize politics."

This faction of the party — largely progressives and democratic socialists — doesn't view its political enemies as

having different points of view, but rather “as evil, they need to be crushed, put in thought reform,” Corsi says.

But he believes this “very oppressive” behavior witnessed in recent times — the screaming, false allegations, intimidation, and bullying — is going to backfire on Democrats.

“I don’t think the American people are interested in that kind of politics,” Corsi says.

What many Americans don’t understand, Spakovsky says, is that there really is a “bureaucratic swamp” in Washington, D.C., that is actively fighting against Trump.

“The vast majority of career employees are liberal Democrats,” Spakovsky says. “Many of them do everything they can inside their very safe career slots to oppose everything the president is doing, to slow down and try to stop his political appointees from carrying out the president’s policies.”

In his new book, *Robert Mueller: Errand Boy for The New World Order*, Louisiana State Senator John Milkovich (D-Shreveport) highlights one of the central characters of the political “swamp.”

Milkovich told THE NEW AMERICAN that the public has an image of Mueller as an “on-time, pressed-shirt, by-the-book, straight-arrow Eagle Scout,” but the reality is quite different.

“Mueller was brought in to prosecute Trump precisely because he is a known quantity, an inveterate political schemer and operative and Deep State minion who could be reliably counted on to cover for globalist insiders,” Milkovich says. “In particular, Mueller was specifically brought on board because the Deep State establishment knew he could be counted on to attempt to take out the presidency of Donald Trump without restraint of morality, with no concern for the truth, and with disregard for the rule of law.”

Milkovich agrees with Corsi that the Mueller investigation was designed from the outset to destroy Trump’s presidency by any means possible.

“It’s going to take a concerted effort of the American public to demand that Congress hold Mueller accountable,” Milkovich says. “It’s going to take a very focused demand on the part of Congress to require that Mueller and his investigative

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said in early January that she wouldn’t rule out the indictment or impeachment of Trump, describing it as “an open discussion.”

methods themselves be the subject of an independent investigation.”

“[The Russian collusion investigation] is a diversion and distraction,” Milkovich charges, “The real collusion was the Clintons transferring a significant portion of America’s uranium reserves to Russia and the Clintons ending up with millions of dollars in the Clinton Foundation, which some people would deem a slush fund, which has been reported in detail in Dr. Corsi’s book *Killing the Deep State*.”

1984 on Steroids

While Corsi is optimistic that Trump will weather the political storm and win reelection in 2020, he says most people don’t understand just what is at stake in terms of the future of America.

“They hate my book *The Obama Nation*,” Corsi says. “They hate my current book — *Killing the Deep State*. So, as my attorney said, ‘Look in your review mirror and you’ll see all the corpses of Democrats — and they’re out to get you. They

hate you. They want to demonize you. They want to silence you.’ And if this can happen to me this is going to happen to all those who disagree with this hard-left Democratic agenda.”

“Hillary Clinton’s ‘deplorables’ will not only be ‘deplorables,’ they are going to be criminals. ‘You don’t want open borders, you don’t want the LGBT agenda, you don’t agree with all the various attitudes, if you don’t believe in ‘white privilege’ — if you don’t see that this is a dangerous step of division, kind of divide and conquer that the communists used to take over countries, you are not only going to be a ‘deplorable,’ you are going to be a criminal.”

Corsi says America is now on the “edge” of the globalist elite and Deep State’s plan of merging America into some type of global government.

“They will probably get rid of the Constitution or rewrite it, and we’d be headed toward totalitarianism on a fast-track,” Corsi says. “This is [George Orwell’s]



Government control of everything: Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) has proposed the Green New Deal, a measure that would raise the tax rate as high as 70 percent. Critics call it a “Trojan Horse for socialism.”



AP Images

Democrat battle tactic: Liberal Democrats in government and the media hope to smear Trump before the 2020 election to cause those not as committed as Eva Sara Landau, who is shown with her “Trump 2020” cape at a President Trump rally, to not vote.

1984 on steroids. We have become what our Founding Fathers warned us against.”

“We have an overpowering, overriding, overreaching government, massively huger than ever in human history, with surveillance powers that were unimaginable 20 years ago, on the verge of having face recognition technology on devices that can monitor you in your home. We are going to be able to record every instant of a person’s life. It will be like *The Truman Show*, and they can play it back to you if they decide you’re a ‘thought criminal.’”

In the Orwellian world envisioned by the Deep State and globalist elite, Corsi says, Americans will likely be assigned “social acceptability scores” like the “social credit score” being rolled out in China.

“If you’re [*sic*] social acceptability score isn’t high enough for the state, you won’t be able to buy a house, to [drive] a car, you won’t be able to take an airplane, you won’t be able to leave the country and have a passport, and you won’t be able to have a good job,” Corsi says. “You’ll be constantly under surveillance because you disagree or have not fully internalized the hard-left values that they are going to demand you be in compliance with.”

Likewise, Spakovsky says he too fears for the future of America.

“All you have to do is look at the kinds of things that [Democrats] are pushing,” he says. “They want open borders. They want the country flooded with illegal

aliens. They think that will help them politically. They are already pushing for the terrible single-payer government health care system that the United Kingdom has and other places around the world that will hurt healthcare across the country. If they are successful it will take us another big step down the path toward the kind of socialism that has ruined countries like Venezuela.”

Green New Deal or Trojan Horse for Socialism?

Recently, newly elected U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), a rising star in the Democratic Party and a democratic socialist, proposed the Green New Deal — a measure that would move the American economy toward renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. It’s caught the public’s attention because the measure proposes to raise the tax rate as high as 70 percent on the wealthiest Americans.

Surprisingly, a Hill-HarrisX poll found 59 percent of Americans agree with her idea and would support raising the tax rate to 70 percent. The poll found 71 percent of Democrats, 60 percent of independents, and 45 percent of Republicans support it.

However, critics describe it as a “Trojan Horse for socialism” that will create a massive government program to combat climate change. During an interview on *60 Minutes*, Ocasio-Cortez laughed at the

notion that her platform of free college, a universal basic income, free health-care, and the Green New Deal would turn America into a failed socialist state such as Cuba or Venezuela. She said what she has in mind more closely resembles “what we see in the U.K., in Norway, in Finland, in Sweden.”

But Ocasio-Cortez’s Green New Deal, which the *New Yorker* says “has come to define the progressive cause,” poses a serious threat to freedom and liberty that unfortunately too many people today take for granted, Spakovsky says.

“The Millennials who favor that are obviously so ignorant of history that they could take us down a path that I think could destroy the country,” he says.

Americans Need to Speak Up

At a time when such terrible ideas are permeating not just the national dialogue, but also the conversation at the state, city, and school district levels, Spakovsky says, “what people need to do, frankly, is speak up.”

“People have to stand up and not be afraid to speak up against the political correctness that is enveloping us,” he says. “And it’s that kind of grassroots activism and revolt that could help save the country.”

Despite the growing calls for Trump’s impeachment, Corsi doesn’t believe it will happen. “Maybe the Democrats are crazy enough to do that,” Corsi says. “If they are it will backfire on them just like when Republicans in the House impeached Bill Clinton. Donald Trump would certainly survive a trial in the Senate. He’s not going to be removed from office. He won’t be found guilty.”

Corsi is optimistic that the American people will see through the politically motivated charade playing out daily in the news. “When the American people realize the extent to which the hard-left Democrats are really wanting to engage in a cultural revolution — a Maoist cultural revolution — I don’t think they are going to succeed, not right now.”

“They might succeed in another 20 years, but they are not going to succeed today. I don’t think President Trump is going to be impeached. I think President Trump has an excellent chance of being reelected.” ■

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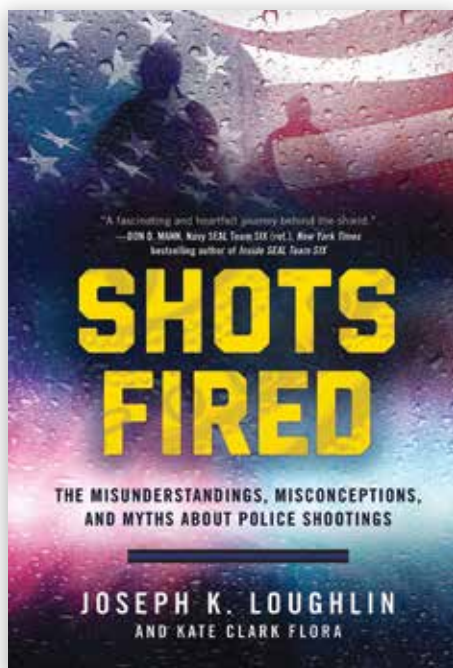
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DISSECTING OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS

With hate against police officers growing with every officer-involved shooting that gains traction on TV, one cop looks at numerous shootings to explain what happened — and why.



Shots Fired: The Misunderstandings, Misconceptions, and Myths, About Police Shootings, by Joseph K. Loughlin and Kate Clark Flora, New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2017, 344 pages, hardcover.

by Robin Kinderman

Many of us are not strangers to the misconceptions of police perpetuated by social media and the news, such as the false “hands up, don’t shoot” narrative. And many have undoubtedly debated with friends and colleagues about what an officer “coulda, woulda, shoulda” done in a situation involving lethal force. But even for those of us who know that we should make sure of our facts before critiquing police officers’ deadly encounters, the book *Shots Fired* is an eye-opening look into the real world of law enforcement.

Shots Fired is written by Joseph Loughlin, a police veteran of 30 years who held every sworn rank in the Portland, Maryland, Police Department. In the introduction, he writes that he was inspired to write the book after the events in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

“I wanted to foster a better understanding of the human beings behind the badge, and of real-world policing in the worst of police experiences: deadly force events. This book is the result.”

Loughlin goes on to explain that the blame for the current stigma associated with police officers isn’t on just the media or Black Lives Matter. He cites our current situation as a “culmination of a sense of injustice and loss of dignity... not just at the hands of police but by a social system that has let many people down.” He explains that cops don’t just write traffic tickets and respond to robberies; they deal with “society’s ills,” as he calls them: poverty, domestic abuse, child abuse, mental illness, drugs and alcohol, violence, people who are inherently evil, and death. They see what we don’t see, what we don’t want to see — what we expect them to keep us shielded from. The purpose of his book is to get us to understand why officers do what they do — what happened in certain scenarios to cause them to use their guns.

He does this in the best way possible: first-hand accounts. Loughlin starts with officers he worked with and expands from there. He focuses on the East Coast to keep the examples few enough to be manageable. The book is 16 chapters long and includes two to three cases per chapter.

Loughlin breaks the book up into four sections: “Myths and Misconceptions,” “Training and De-escalation,” “Stopping the Threat,” and “Loss and Redemption.” The chapters within each section address the questions and doubts that even sup-

porters of police have about the incidents covered, such as, why did the officer fire so many times? Why didn’t he shoot to wound? Why did he shoot an unarmed person? Why didn’t he use his Taser first? And, in general, why did the officer react the way he did?

All of these questions and more are addressed by officers recounting events in which they had to shoot a suspect. Loughlin interviews the officers involved in each incident, to let the reader see what happened from their perspective.

The book moves along quickly, and it is attention-grabbing. It was very interesting to follow the different types of situations officers were put in, and how they dealt with them. At times, especially in Loughlin’s recap of each chapter, the book did occasionally smack of repetitiveness, but it seems this was simply because Loughlin wanted to drive home the fact that officers are humans asked to perform inhuman tasks.

Besides the specifics of each encounter, Loughlin also addresses other factors that play into deadly-force situations, such as officer training and mental health. Thanks to Hollywood, many people (even those of us with good intentions) are of the opinion that all officers receive adequate training and that they spend lots of time at the shooting range (and they’re all excellent shots because of this). Not true. Loughlin points out that because of mandatory training on issues such as domestic disturbances, mental health, and — thanks to our PC culture today — gender issues, little time and money is left for training on use of force. Yes, all officers receive basic training at the academy, but beyond that, it’s up to each individual department as to how often and how much training their officers receive. This is all dependent on budgets, equipment, and manpower.

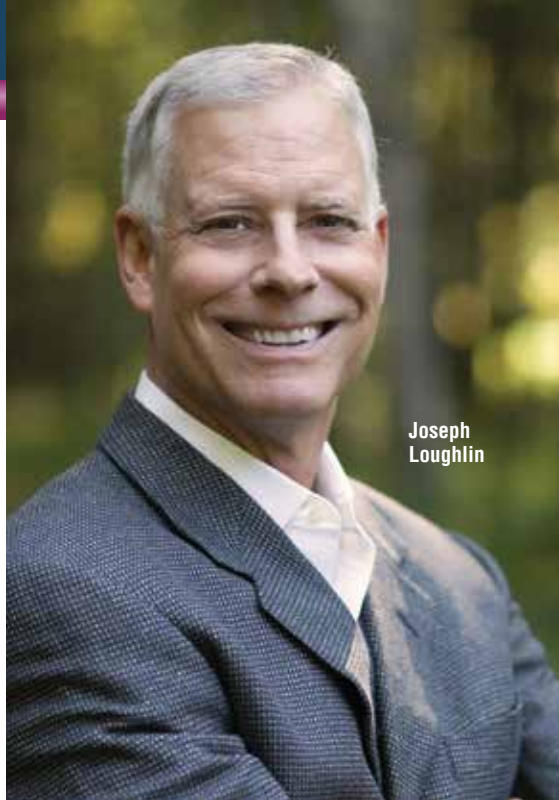
Another factor to take into consideration is the disadvantages of non-lethal equipment, such as batons, pepper spray, Tasers, bean bag guns, etc. Loughlin explains that batons can easily get taken away, pepper spray can fail, and seasoned criminals know how to disengage Taser barbs.

In one of the incidents presented in the book, a female cop approached a man who was urinating in public. When she asked him to stop, he charged at her. She hit him with her baton, which he then stole and proceeded to beat her with. Her only choice was to shoot him.

Every incident covered is different: There are routine traffic stops, drug dealers, hit-and-runs, shoplifters, bomb threats, kidnappings, criminals on the run, shoot-outs, and more. Sometimes it's one or two cops dealing with a perpetrator; sometimes it's several. Sometimes the officers go into a situation knowing they will probably have to use their guns; other times they have no idea. Sometimes the officers get shot once, sometimes more than once. And officers die.

One story was about a traffic stop gone wrong. Officer Nicholas Goodman of Portland, Maine, pulled over a truck that looked to be in very rough shape, and the driver wasn't wearing a seat belt. After obtaining the man's ID and running it through dispatch, he found out that the ID and truck belonged to the driver's brother, and that the driver had three felonies and was not allowed to drive. He called for backup. When another officer, Officer James Davison, arrived, they approached the truck — Goodman on the driver's side and Davison on the passenger side. When Goodman asked the driver to get out of the vehicle, the driver tried to start the truck; Davison jumped in the vehicle to stop him, and Goodman tried to grab the driver's hand away from the ignition. They all began to fight, yet the truck took off, taking Goodman and Davison with it. Goodman ordered the man to stop, but he wouldn't, so Goodman shot him.

The book also shared the local paper's subsequent coverage of the event, which was misleading through its choice of facts presented. The paper did state that



Joseph Loughlin

the driver had a substance-abuse problem and a "checkered" driving record, but also added that he was "a devout Christian who went out of his way to spread the Gospel, and a mechanic who would stop in the pouring rain to help a motorist in trouble." What it didn't say, as Loughlin points out, is that the driver was a convicted felon who wasn't allowed to drive, that he was driving a vehicle with dangerously faulty equipment, that he gave the officers a fake name and ID, that he didn't obey orders to get out of the vehicle, and that he assaulted both officers. Officer Davison admitted that jumping in the truck was not the smartest action, but Loughlin counteracts that with "What if?" What if they had let him go? Maybe he would have hurt or killed someone. Loughlin states that officers "have a legal obligation to take felons into custody and are responsible if they do not."

One commonality in the use-of-force incidents is the distorting effects of the physical reactions to stress that the officers experience, resulting in such things as tunnel vision, loss of hearing, incorrect depth perception, distortion of time, and the seeming moving or viewing of actions in slow motion. The impact of stress was very interesting and shed some light on why officers act the way they do in these lethal-force encounters, i.e., why they fire their guns multiple times. Loughlin provides studies and footnotes showing that these experiences are the body's physical

response to experiencing extreme stress and fear.

Loughlin also asks every officer about the aftermath of the event — what they went through legally and emotionally — and it becomes evident that an officer-involved shooting can take a heavy toll. The legal proceedings can take months, even years, owing to crime reconstruction, ballistics, forensics, interviews, and court hearings. While the proceedings are going on, the media reports what they perceive to be true, based on eyewitness accounts, which are often lies. In one incident, an officer needed to shoot a man who was resisting arrest. The officer shot him only after tackling him to the ground, asking him to comply several times, feeling the

assailant's gun against his stomach, and telling him if he didn't stop, he was going to get shot. The assailant's girlfriend quickly spread the rumor that the officer had called her boyfriend the N-word and shot him in the back while he was in handcuffs. Even after the facts were released, the girlfriend's lies remained the truth for many people. Cases such as these affect not only the officer, but also relationships with family members, what their kids deal with at school, and how community members interact with them. And not every department offers therapy afterward; while some departments have extensive support groups, others have nothing, leaving the officers to deal with the traumatic aftermath on their own. Loughlin writes that many officers get divorced, start drinking, leave the force, or even commit suicide.

While this book is sometimes repetitive, it drives home an important thing: There are many factors involved in shooting incidents that non-officers don't fully comprehend, such as how fear physically affects the mind and body, and that citizens should allow a little leeway for the unknown when hearing an account about an officer-involved shooting.

This book is for anyone who wants a glimpse of the dirty, unpredictable, dangerous world our officers operate in. Next time you are informed about a police shooting incident that looks questionable, find out all the facts. ■



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Blue Line Bears

Florida teen Megan O'Grady, 16, has started a nonprofit organization that is sure to put smiles on the faces of the families of fallen police officers: Blue Line Bears.

Blue Line Bears makes stuffed bears out of the uniform shirts of fallen officers. O'Grady herself sews and stuffs the bears and creates miniature versions of the uniforms, including the officers' names, badge numbers, and departments, ABC News reported. It takes O'Grady up to two days to complete each bear.

What's more, O'Grady actually delivers the bears to the families in person! At the start of the new year, O'Grady and her parents traveled to Denver to deliver the bears that she made for the family of Adams County Sheriff's Deputy Heath Gumm, 32, who was killed in January 2018 while on duty. She then posts photos of her with the families to whom she delivers bears on Blue Line Bears' Facebook page.

As the child of a police officer, O'Grady was inspired to make the bears two years ago after learning of the attack in Dallas that killed five police officers and wounded 12 others.

"I want them to be able to kind of hold a piece of their loved one again," she said, "because the shirts are obviously the most personal part of the job other than the badge itself."

O'Grady told CBS Denver that she decided to make bears because children love them and they are "ageless." She elaborated, "People still love them when they're like 80-something, so I wanted to do [what] people of all ages could love and hold."

Following the death of a police officer, O'Grady collects the officer's shirt from his or her department and begins working on a bear. O'Grady has made 454 bears and delivered them to 36 states.

"It has been an amazing year for not only me personally but for the development of Blue Line Bears," she said in a Facebook post on New Year's Eve. "I've been able to help so many families this year and just really push Blue Line Bears to be the best that it can be. I really look forward to this upcoming year and

just further developing Blue Line Bears."

"Part of the reason that I started this was because there's such a negativity towards police.... It has really lifted my spirits knowing that there are so many people out there who really care about police."

The U.K. *Daily Mail* reported that while O'Grady relies on donations and other contributions, she never asks for money from the families she has supported with her bears.

O'Grady says that the "thin blue line community is stronger than any community out there." She is hopeful that her contribution is a reminder that there are a lot of people who care for and support law enforcement.

A Birthday to Remember

When WWII veteran Duane Sherman was preparing to turn 96 on December 30, 2018, he was saddened by the fact that he had so few friends with whom to celebrate. But all that changed when his daughter, Sue Morse, took to social media asking strangers to brighten her father's special day.

Newsweek reported that Sherman looks forward to the mail every day, so when December rolled around, he began asking his daughter what came in the mail, hoping he had received some birthday cards.

"Every day he said, 'Oh have you checked the mail?'" said his daughter in a report by KCAL9 in Los Angeles. "To get something in the mail ... that, for him ... that's special."

But sadly, many of Sherman's friends have passed away over the years, and so day after day, he was disappointed to find nothing in the mail.

"All my friends are gone," Sherman said.

Morse decided to post something on social media in the hopes that it would bring in some birthday cards. She mentioned her father's military service and that he was a Purple Heart recipient.

"We should all be very proud of their service and honor them in any way that we can," she wrote.

Apparently, readers agreed. Morse's post was shared, and before long, Sherman had received more than 50,000

cards and letters from strangers in all 50 states and across 10 countries.

Sherman and his daughter were overwhelmed by the response. "Well, I'll have a hell of a time reading them," Sherman joked in a video featured on KCBSTV.

Heroes Saving Heroes

When Starbucks barista Nicole McNeil of DuPont, Washington, learned that one of her regular customers, an Army veteran, had an incurable genetic condition that required him to have a kidney transplant, she and her husband stepped up to be the heroes the man needed.

Vince Villano had not been himself during his regular visits to the local Starbucks, and in January 2017, McNeil finally asked him what had him down.

"She's a genuine, caring, inquisitive person," Villano told *Inside Edition*. "She just said, 'Hey, what's going on? You look like [you're] having a bad day.'"

He told her that he had life-threatening polycystic kidney disease and needed a transplant or he would require a lifetime of dialysis.

McNeil, a mother of three children, was saddened by Villano's story and could not stop thinking about it the rest of her day. She went home and recounted the story to her husband, Justin, whose response was likely a shock. "I've got a kidney, you know, we could do this. I think I'm willing to do that," Justin told his wife.

Justin immediately volunteered to be tested and was found to be a good match for Villano. The men began spending a lot of time together and learned they had a lot in common besides being donor matches — they were both Army veterans and enjoyed the outdoors.

In December of 2018, the men underwent surgery and the transplant was a success.

Villano remains stunned by the couple's generosity and is thrilled with the budding friendship that he shares with them. "In general, having them as friends, family, I wouldn't want it to not be this way," Villano told KIRO. "I can't imagine not having them in my life." ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH



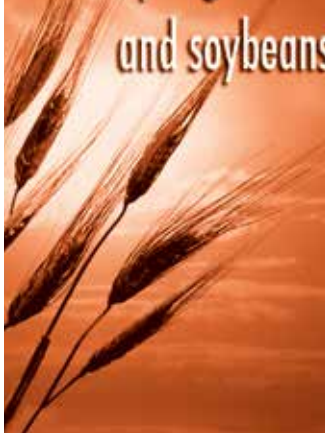
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Trump and the Federal Reserve

With President Trump being the first U.S. president in decades to be even nominally against the Federal Reserve and the problems it causes, it's time for a Fed refresher.



An expensive gift: This cartoon, showing Uncle Sam looking the gift horse of a central bank in the mouth to find out what's wrong with it, shows that at the time the Federal Reserve was created some people suspected that it was to benefit big bankers. And they have been proven right.

by Charles Scaliger

In December 1965, Federal Reserve Chairman William McChesney Martin was summoned to the ranch of President Lyndon Johnson for a dressing-down. President Johnson, a believer in the fiscal stimulus programs enacted by his predecessor, John F. Kennedy, wanted to cut taxes further, and expected the Fed to do its part by keeping interest rates low. Martin, however, was of the opinion that interest rates should be raised, arousing the ire of the volatile president.

Ushered into what he expected would be a calm meeting with the president, Martin was shocked to find himself being physically shoved around the living room and against the wall by a furious Lyndon Johnson, who kept screaming at him, "Boys are dying in Vietnam, and Bill Martin doesn't care!" President Johnson had apparently never gotten the memo on the supposed independence of the Federal Reserve from political influences. Cowed by the president's belligerence, the Fed chairman maintained interest rates very low that year and the next, putting the

lie to the Fed's alleged detachment from tawdry politics.

In our time, we again have, in Donald Trump, a president openly hostile to the Fed and its policies. Trump, be it noted, has shown no inclination to physically assault Fed chairmen. But his withering anti-Fed rhetoric on Twitter has shocked the sensibilities of the East Coast establishment because, in the years since Johnson's outburst, criticism of the Fed simply hasn't been acceptable to the Powers That Be. Throughout its history, the Federal Reserve has maintained a public posture of independent decision making and immunity to criticism. But the reality behind the scenes is a central bank beholden to special interests both public and private, determined to maintain the traditional veil of secrecy and special privileges that have always concealed its true nature from the general public.

Of, by, and for the Rich

In the beginning, the Federal Reserve was created to serve the interests of financial and political elites, both inside and outside the U.S. government, and both in the United States and abroad. It is purely a creation of the internationalist financial and political establishment, and has no accountability whatsoever to the American public. The fact that one of its original sponsors, Rhode Island Senator Nelson Aldrich, was a prominent politician, does nothing to diminish this fact. Aldrich, related by marriage to the Rockefeller dynasty, was wholly beholden to the secretive cabal of international bankers who planned the Federal Reserve at the infamous top-secret meeting at the Rockefeller's Jekyll Island estate in 1910. Aldrich loaned his personal train car to enable the bankers to ride in secret down to Jekyll Island, on the southern Georgia coast, without being detected by the press or the general public. To this secret meeting Al-

It was not until 20 years after the meeting that some of those in attendance, including Senator Aldrich, finally admitted that they had conspired to draw up plans for the Federal Reserve at the top-secret Jekyll Island meeting.

drich went in person, along with at least five other notables: Paul Warburg, A. Piatt Andrew, Henry Davison, Arthur Shelton, and Frank Vanderlip.

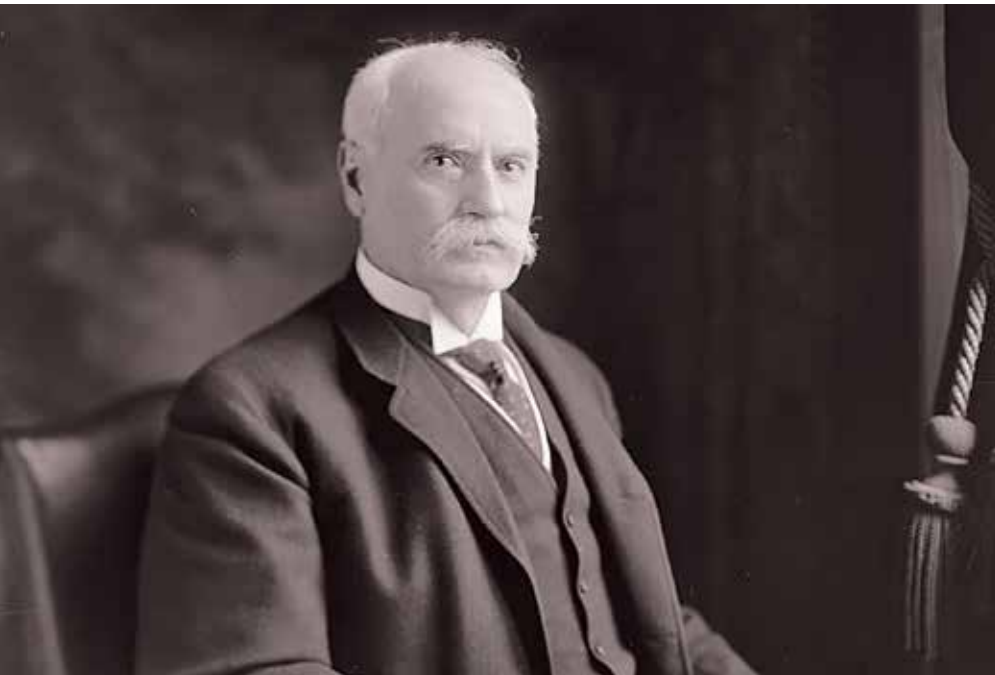
The backgrounds of these men were telling. Paul Warburg, a partner at Kuhn, Loeb, and Company and a European banking agent connected with various London and Paris banking interests for whom he had worked, was the leader of the group, by all accounts. A native of Hamburg, Warburg in 1910 was not yet a U.S. citizen, although he would become one the following year. He would go on to be a director of the Council on Foreign Relations, a key organization within the American political and financial establishment, from 1921 until his death in 1932. Warburg was determined to foist on America a central bank modeled after the great European central banks such as the Bank of England, which had been

around since the end of the 17th century. Abraham Piatt Andrew, a financial wunderkind who was the son of a banker and an Ivy Leaguer, was director of the U.S. Mint and assistant secretary to the Treasury Department during the Taft administration. Henry Davison had been a founder of the Bankers Trust Company and was a partner at J. P. Morgan. Arthur Shelton was secretary to Nelson Aldrich and to his National Monetary Commission, an organization created by Congress at the behest of Aldrich in the wake of the Panic of 1907, whose ostensible purpose was to study the American financial system and propose remedies that would prevent such panics from happening again. Frank Vanderlip was president of National City Bank (the lineal ancestor of Citibank), and had long been an open advocate for an American central bank. An additional possible seventh member

of the Jekyll Island group, Benjamin Strong, was the energetic vice president of Bankers Trust and would later become the founding chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the true architect of American central banking. Frank Vanderlip recalled Strong being present at Jekyll Island in his autobiography, but other researchers have doubted that he was there. Given his later influence, it would be surprising if Strong — the first governor of the Federal Reserve's New York branch — was not involved.

The small group assembled at Jekyll Island represented all of the major American banking and financial concerns, elite American political interests, and (via Warburg in particular) wealthy European banking houses. Because many of the attendees were public figures, Aldrich concocted the cover story of a duck hunting trip and insisted that the men address one another only by their first names during the train trip — lest any of the train workers recognize them and report their activities to the media. Aldrich also pledged all of those in attendance to secrecy. The fact of the meeting having occurred was brought to light in 1916 in an article by B. C. Forbes in a publication called *Leslie's Weekly*, but all of those in attendance claimed the article was pure fiction. It was not until 20 years after the meeting that some of those in attendance, including Senator Aldrich, finally admitted that they had conspired to draw up plans for the Federal Reserve at the top-secret Jekyll Island meeting. Public admissions of complicity by the likes of Aldrich and Vanderlip notwithstanding, the most important figure at Jekyll Island, Paul Warburg, always refused to talk about the event, believing himself “pledged ... to secrecy.”

Banking per se has been around for thousands of years, but the modern money-manufacturing machines known as central banks — hybrid public-private institutions designed to manipulate the money supply to the advantage of wealthy elites under the protection of the state — date from the Bank of Sweden and the Bank of England, both of which were set up in the late 17th century. By the turn of the 20th century, most modern countries had central banks, and the entire European economy was based on the ability of these institutions to



Library of Congress

Under bankers' influence: U.S. Senator Nelson Aldrich, said to be one of the nation's most corrupt politicians, who as chairman of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee sold tariff favors to patrons, was related to the Rockefeller dynasty through marriage and brought the U.S. Federal Reserve into being.

manipulate the money supply by issuing debt not necessarily backed by any real assets. Although the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries had periodically experimented with central banking, the last such institution, the Second Bank of the United States, had been terminated by President Andrew Jackson, reflecting Jackson's (and many of the Founders') view that central banks were dangerous to liberty and independence. Now, Aldrich, Warburg, and their co-conspirators were determined to bring the European system of central banking to the United States, to better serve the interests of America's moneyed classes and their colleagues overseas.

Banking Becoming Like Europe

According to standard accounts, the American and European financial systems at the time were in stark contrast. The American system, goes the official version, was plagued by instability because American banks typically loaned out their reserves to stock speculators in large cities during boom times, making those reserves difficult to access during times of crisis. Moreover, American banks did not operate overseas and also had great difficulty clearing checks and other forms of money transfer between cities or regions. Finally, the American monetary system was strictly tied to gold, making it difficult to meet market demand for looser credit (i.e., more money) during certain times of the year, like harvest time. All of these alleged deficiencies of the American system had been solved by the Europeans, whose banks tended to loan money directly to merchants and manufacturers, thereby guaranteeing ready access to collateral in the case of default or crisis. With greater power to create money not backed by assets, European powers fancied themselves more flexible in responding to financial crises. That Paul Warburg believed all of this is borne out by an article he published in the *New York Times* in 1907, in which he averred that the United States' financial system at the time was "at about the same point that had been reached by Europe at the time of the Medicis, and by Asia, in all likelihood, at the time of Hammurabi."

Warburg's snide appraisal seemed to be vindicated in the great Panic of 1907 that erupted scant months after its publication.



Ebyabe/Wikimedia Commons



Lawrence G. Miller/Wikipedia

For the wealthy from the beginning: Representatives of the world's most powerful banking institutions met at the Jekyll Island Clubhouse, with the Rockefeller Cottage nearby, to plan how to get the United States to implement a central bank that would be controlled by them.

The drama of those few tumultuous weeks saw a number of powerful American financial institutions ruined and the city of New York itself teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. The situation was saved when J. P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller, along with a number of America's wealthiest citizens, came together and used parts of their vast fortunes to shore up America's teetering finances. As is nearly always the case in a free market economy, they were acting primarily out of self-interest; they knew that the financial hurricane that had brought down the likes of Knickerbocker Trust might eventually engulf their own concerns if they failed to act. But after so doing, they resolved never to do so again; in the future, they expected some government entity, funded ultimately by American taxpayers, to be the guarantor of financial stability.

The result was the creation of the Federal Reserve in 1913, America's first modern central bank, which has lasted up to the present day.

When the Federal Reserve was first set up, its structure was slightly different from what it is today. For one thing, the dominant figure in the early Federal Reserve was not its chairman but the governor of the New York branch of the Federal Reserve. The organization was structured at its inception to create the illusion of decentralized power; unlike European central banks, the Fed had a number of branches

— 12 in all — in major cities across the country, which represented 12 districts, each of which theoretically wielded the same amount of power as any of the others. Also, the Fed was presided over by a board of governors, which supposedly made decisions deliberatively and independent of all political or private financial interests that might be brought to bear.

In reality, the early Federal Reserve was completely dominated by the New York branch and by its energetic governor, Benjamin Strong, who enjoyed many ties to the New York financial and banking community and generally acted in their interest — not the interest of bankers in San Francisco, Chicago, or other parts of the United States. Strong, as we have seen, was tied to Bankers Trust, one of the largest players in New York finance. It was he who in effect dictated Fed policy, which the board of governors was expected to rubber-stamp. Strong enjoyed ascendancy over the other Federal Reserve branches because, in addition to his and the New York Fed's close ties to the New York banking and financial establishment (and their colleagues in Europe), the New York Fed became the chosen repository for a lion's share of the Fed's gold reserves, a state of affairs that persists to this day. It was also chosen, as we shall see, as the center of the Fed's open market operations. Thus from its inception, the Fed was wholly a creation of New York financial insiders, their

American involvement in the war was ardently desired by American bankers and industrialists who stood to make a fortune manufacturing weapons and financing the combatants.

political myrmidons, and their European colleagues. While the passage of generations has diluted to some extent the near-monopoly that the New York financial sector once enjoyed over the finances of the entire United States, the existence of the New York Fed, with the unique role created for it by Benjamin Strong, has done much to ensure that most of America's finances are still concentrated in the Big Apple. Consider, for example, that even though cities such as Charlotte and San Francisco have developed into significant international banking centers, most of the major stock and financial markets are still located in New York City.

A major reason for this is the methods developed by Benjamin Strong to enable the Fed to manipulate the money supply efficiently. Strong is credited with the invention of so-called open market operations, the most important tool used by the Fed to expand or contract the money supply, and now a standard practice with central bankers all over the world. Open market operations are the purchase or sale of government securities ("Treasury bills") at regular auctions. Strong and some of his colleagues appear to have discovered by trial and error how open market operations affected interest rates and the money supply, and in 1923, the Fed's Open Market Committee was created, with Strong as its leader, to plan the purchase and sale of government securities. Ordinarily, such securities, issued as debt instruments by the U.S. Treasury, are bills and bonds that have already been purchased from the government by some private party; the Fed does not normally purchase newly issued securities directly from the Treasury Department, as such a practice would be too egregiously inflationary. But by buying and selling securities on the secondary market, the Fed can influence market demand for the issuance of more new Treasury debt and thereby incentivize expansion or contraction of the money supply indirectly. In other words, the Fed is not so indelicate as to print new money out-

right, or even (except under extreme circumstances) work directly with Treasury officials to issue new money in direct exchange for new debt. But the subtle minds that operate the machinery of America's central bank understand well the power of financial incentive; they know that by buying Treasuries from third parties with newly created money, they also incentivize further issuance of debt by the Treasury Department — debt that will ultimately be paid for in yet more new money.

In similar fashion, Fed officials understand that by lowering interest rates — specifically, the interest rate at which the Fed loans money to member banks, the "discount window" — it incentivizes member banks to lower interest rates in turn, which drives up the demand for credit and, again, leads to an expansion in the money supply.

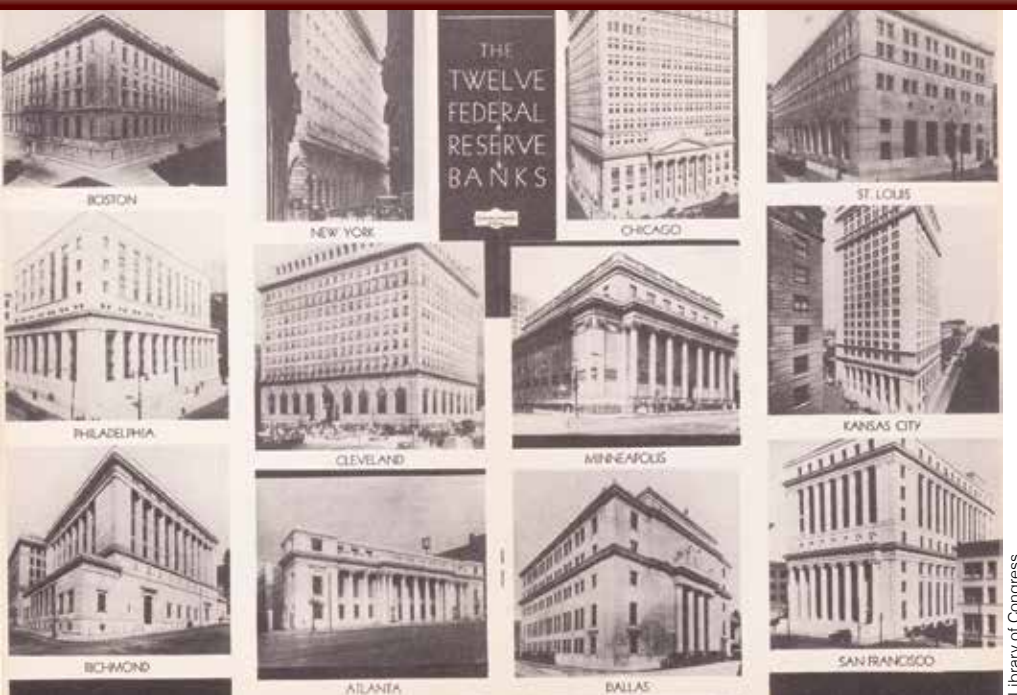
Over the years, the Fed has developed additional techniques for manipulating the money supply, including raising or lowering reserve requirements for mem-

ber banks, buying and selling foreign currency, and other, more arcane methods invented by Fed Chairman Benjamin Bernanke in response to the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

Open market operations are significant not only because they constitute the Fed's most often-used tool for manipulating the money supply (a practice otherwise known as inflation), but also because they are carried out only between the Fed and certain authorized banks and financial concerns (so-called primary dealers). These 23 ostensibly private institutions are nearly all headquartered in New York City, Canada, Europe, or Japan, and all enjoy a special privilege that no other bank or financial institution enjoys: first dibs on new money being pumped into America's financial bloodstream. Open market operations are carried out by the New York Fed, which is how the Fed has helped New York City preserve its ascendancy in American and international finance. These gigantic financial institutions authorized to participate in open market operations thus enjoy a privileged position over American and global finance: They are the first to benefit from the Fed's inflationary largess, and use their access to new money to drive up stock prices and carry out many other advantageous activities, both in the United



The moneymen made money: Moneyed men, including these members of the Federal Reserve board, made lots of money from the Federal Reserve, which used inflation to finance warring countries and provide war materiel. Of course, inflation hurt the poor by weakening the dollar.



The secret of the 12: The 12 regional banks that make up the Federal Reserve System foster the illusion of a decentralized, federal arrangement, but the Fed's power is very much concentrated in the Board of Governors and in the New York branch of the Fed.

States and abroad. This state of affairs alone puts the lie to the Fed's claims of empyrean impartiality; the very existence of open market operations guarantees a financial oligarchy whose interests will always be served first and foremost by Fed decision making.

When the Federal Reserve was set up, America remained on the gold standard, and many early proponents of the Federal Reserve, including Benjamin Strong, believed in the need for an international gold standard to maintain financial stability. As a result, the Fed's early inflationary activities, including both open market operations and the use of the "discount window" to manipulate interest rates, were carried out in the context of a currency standard that required currency to be redeemable in gold. In reality, of course, the Fed, thanks to its new "flexible" credit powers, was able to pyramid fiat monetary assets on top of a fraction of its reserves kept in gold.

Financing Wars

The Fed has consistently used those credit powers to serve the interests of the power elite. One of the most important powers of a modern central bank, with its essentially unlimited inflationary potential, is to finance wars desired by political and financial elites, but which are unpopu-

lar with the taxpaying public. One of the Fed's first big roles was the financing of America's involvement in World War I, a deeply unpopular and (as events turned out) feckless enterprise that accomplished little more than set the stage for an even bigger war later in the century. Nevertheless, American involvement in the war was ardently desired by American bankers and industrialists who stood to make a fortune manufacturing weapons and financing the combatants — and to lose a fortune if, as appeared likely would happen, the losing side (most notably the French) ended up having to default on huge debts owed to the likes of J. P. Morgan. The problem with war is the immense cost. The Revolutionary War bankrupted the fledgling United States, and every war since has left a trail of debt for succeeding generations to pay. Wars financed by up-front taxation are seldom politically viable. But wars financed by inflationary means, using the legerdemain of modern central banking, are a boon to politicians and money men alike. Inflation is a form of taxation, too; eventually, the piper has to be paid for the debasement of currency occasioned by printing money. But the process is so subtle that few people understand what is happening, or who is to blame.

The Benjamin Strong-led Fed jumped

enthusiastically into the World War I effort, acting as an agent of sale for war bonds and offering preferential interest rates for member banks that wanted to purchase Treasury debt. The New York Fed, not surprisingly, was named the Treasury Department's agent for selling Treasury bonds, and the Fed, in concert with the demands of politicians, kept interest rates artificially low to incentivize more public purchases of government debt. Ironically, all of this was taking place as America was flush in, of all things, new gold. Since the outbreak of the war, European gold had been pouring into America to finance the war. Yet in the view of many financiers and scholars then and now, this created inflationary instability and required robust action on the part of the Fed to counteract.

World War I, the first great test of the new Federal Reserve, showed beyond any doubt that the Fed had no intention of being independent of political and other special interests. As Allan Meltzer noted in his monumental history of the Federal Reserve, "Independence was sacrificed to maintain interest rates that lowered the Treasury's cost of debt finance" during the war years.

Much of the European gold that flowed into the United States during the war ended up in the Fed's vaults, giving it vast new assets to use in its activities. During the 1920s, as open market operations came into their own, the Fed used some of its gold to amass government securities that it then learned to use to micromanage the money supply. The Fed also opened the money spigots substantially by keeping interest rates low, especially later in the decade. Those low interest rates prompted banks and investors to borrow money to purchase stocks in the infamous speculative frenzy that led up to the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression that followed.

In a 2002 speech honoring the 90th birthday of economist Milton Friedman, then-Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke admitted, in a rare moment of candor, that the Federal Reserve had been largely responsible for the Great Depression. "Regarding the Great Depression ... we [at the Fed] did it. We're very sorry.... We won't do it again," Bernanke confessed. What Bernanke was referring to were al-

leged errors in judgment, whereby the Fed raised interest rates drastically in the months before the crash of '29, and continued on the same course until well into the 1930s — at a time when, according to the dubious wisdom of Keynesian economists, the Fed should have been keeping interest rates low to continue expanding the supply of money and credit.

The Fed has also been criticized for failing to live up to its promise to act as a lender of last resort and prevent a systemic banking collapse — precisely what occurred in 1930 through 1933. But these criticisms miss the mark. To be sure, the Fed was largely responsible for the Great Depression, but its responsibility has less to do with errors in judgment than with the fact that the entire premise of modern central banking — that prosperity can be produced by expanding the money supply — is completely false. In the midst of the turmoil of the global Great Depression, the United States and many other Western countries went off the gold standard completely, yet the alleged flexibility that this act should have conferred on central bankers to rectify the crisis only made things worse.

From that time to the present day, the saga of the Federal Reserve and of central banking in general has been one of banks amassing more and more power, operating more and more in concert with political interests, in order to solve increasingly daunting problems that they have created themselves. The early 1930s saw a flurry of new bills that effectively transformed the banking system into an arm of the federal government — the Banking Act of 1932, the Banking Act of 1933, the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, the Gold Reserve Act of 1934, and the Banking Act of 1935. And numerous other pieces of legislation in the decades since have further consolidated the Fed monolith and its ties to political interests. But none of that prevented the great inflationary crisis of the 1970s, and numerous recessions large and small, especially the Great Recession of 2007-2009 and its worldwide aftermath, a crisis that Ben Bernanke, glib promises to the contrary, was powerless to prevent or palliate.

Throughout its checkered history, the Fed has been mostly immune to criticism in the halls of power in Washington.



The cause of the Great Depression: Even former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke admitted that the monetary shenanigans of the Federal Reserve caused the Great Depression, ironic since its main job was supposedly to prevent recessions and depressions.

Library of Congress

Aside from Lyndon Johnson's thuggish tactics, few presidents have ventured to criticize the central bank, and even in Congress, criticism of the Fed has been rare and usually muted (a notable exception being the career of former congressman Ron Paul, who was Bernanke's most vocal and unflinching adversary before, during, and after the Great Recession). For this reason, it is refreshing that, in President Trump, we have for the first time in generations a president unafraid to criticize the Fed, and in Congress, a statesman in Thomas Massie who, in introducing a bill to audit the Fed, has effectively taken up Ron Paul's mantle (see Extended Inside Track). But it is unclear whether President Trump's criticisms of the Fed are grounded in principled opposition to the moral outrage that is modern central banking, with its money spigots and special interest allegiances, or whether, like many economists who support central banking in principle while deploring this or that Fed policy decision in hindsight, Trump is more interested in reforming the organization.

Since it is probably the latter, it bears clarification that, commendable as any criticisms of the Fed may be (and to the extent that they raise public awareness of the organization's deficiencies, they certainly are), no amount of reform will

rectify the Fed's fundamental flaws. No matter how ingenious central bankers become, they will remain powerless to stop recessions and depressions, and in fact will generally be the cause of them. The financial sector — like the rest of the economy — is simply too complex to be planned. What's more, the perverse incentives associated with central banking and fiat money production will always ensure that central bankers will amass more and more power and wealth, along with their political and financial cronies, while impoverishing the rest of us. The inflation that has eroded the value of the dollar — and people's savings and asset valuations into the bargain — over several generations is wholly the fault of the Federal Reserve System.

The only possible solution is the abolition of the Fed and the entire modern fiat money system along with it. Such an act will of course be a shock to the moneyed interests, but will bring great relief for those lower on the economic ladder who have been unable to save money for decades — in other words, most of the rest of the American public, for whom lifelong debt has become a dreary reality. The Fed never has and never will be the benign, impartial arbiter of financial well-being it is portrayed as being, and it is long past time to dispose of it. ■

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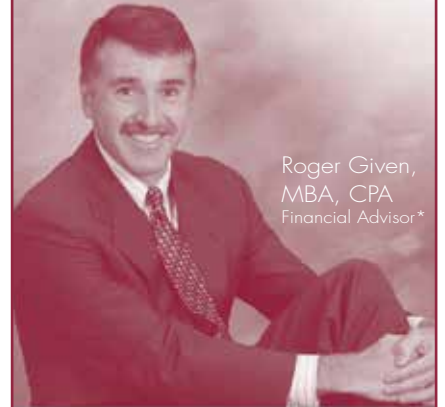
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EXERCISING THE RIGHT

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

Murder at the IHOP

In a tragic story out of Hunstville, Alabama, an irate customer opened fire at an International House of Pancakes (IHOP) chain restaurant and killed a much-cherished manager. The Associated Press reported on January 17 about the senseless crime in which the customer, who was described by friends as an "aspiring rapper," lost his temper owing to an issue he had with a carry-out order and began arguing with a restaurant employee. The customer, later identified as 25-year-old Roderick Turner, yelled at the IHOP staff and then got into a physical scuffle with one of the employees. Turner then went to his car and retrieved a gun.

When Turner returned to the store, the manager, who has worked in restaurant management for most of his adult life, intervened in an effort to de-escalate the situation. Fifty-six-year-old Roy Brown tried to calm Turner down but his efforts failed, and Turner pulled out his gun and began shooting. Brown was fatally wounded and his son, Jay Brown, who was working with his father at the IHOP, was shot in the arm. Fortunately the son had his carry permit and was carrying a concealed handgun. The son pulled out his own gun and returned fire at Turner, fatally wounding him. Police soon arrived, but both the suspect and the elder Brown were pronounced dead at the scene. The son was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment for the injury to his arm and was released after a few days.

Brown's death was mourned by the local community, who viewed him as a dedicated family man who loved making his customers happy. One Huntsville police officer even began a GoFundMe page to assist with funeral costs, since he was touched by Brown's hospitality. Huntsville Police Officer James Andrew told the local ABC affiliate that he and his fellow officers ate at that IHOP multiple times and genuinely liked Brown, who they said always went out of his way to be kind. "We're in IHOP at least four or five nights a week. He always took real good care of us, so we just thought we'd try to do something to help the family.... The family is definitely overwhelmed by all the support from the community.... All three sons worked for

IHOP, so it's really hurt the family all the way around, so anything that they can do to help is greatly appreciated."

Brown was also remembered by former employees, who had nothing but kind things to say about him. Former IHOP employee Megan Ingram told the local ABC affiliate that Brown "was one of those managers that you would want to get up out of bed and work for every day." Ingram also told ABC that Brown was a very special man whom people truly loved. "He is missed and he is loved, and I know he is at peace. I know that God got an angel in heaven last night."

Another former employee, Josh Strange, told the ABC affiliate that Brown "was the guy that everyone knew when they came in. He would be the one behind the counter, smiling and behind the grill, smiling no matter how busy it was," Strange said.

The CBS affiliate reported on January 24 that the Huntsville Police Department completed its investigation into the shooting, and based on what they found, they believe that the shooting of Turner was justified. "We have used all investigative material possible to reach our conclusion that this was an act of self-defense.... The overwhelming majority of witnesses in this case, including the surviving victim, all of their statements including the physical [evidence] at the scene, mirror one another," Lieutenant Michael Johnson, spokesman for the Huntsville Police Department, told the CBS affiliate.

ABC also reported on the claims of a friend of the deceased suspect who tried to cast doubt on the accusation that Turner killed Brown in cold blood. Turner's friend Kingsley Onyebinachi gave an interview to an ABC affiliate where he questioned what occurred and outright claimed that Turner wouldn't have done what police are saying he did. In a rambling and at times nonsensical rant, Onyebinachi claimed the deceased suspect was a peaceful and loving man who wouldn't hurt a fly. "We eat IHOP numerously. So for this to happen this time when we ate here 20 times in the last few months ... that sounds outrageous.... Knowing my friend for numerous of years, he has never had a problem with a carryout order. If anything, he would have bought a whole other order," Onyebinachi said.

Onyebinachi even showed up in the comment section for the ABC article repeating the claim that Turner wouldn't have committed a violent crime, but another commenter chastised Onyebinachi for misrepresenting what happened. James Chaney of Huntsville responded directly to Onyebinachi and wrote, "your comment makes no sense ... facts are facts.... He went to his car and got a gun. A building full of people saw this.... He is guilty and paid with his life."

Onyebinachi's claims about Turner's nonviolent nature also came into question when it was later revealed that the deceased suspect had a long record of violence. WHNT News 19 reported that Turner was involved in multiple violent assaults, using a firearm against three different victims and even being accused of shooting at people on more than one occasion! Madison County prosecutors explained that those cases never resulted in any convictions because the victims and witnesses refused to testify. This is common in high-crime communities that have a culture that looks down on "snitching," which is a slang and derogatory term for cooperating with criminal investigations.

The IHOP was reopened a few days later, with customers returning in large numbers. Employees and managers of the IHOP decorated the doors of the restaurant with blue balloons to welcome customers back, and IHOP's corporate offices also let people know counseling services were available for people who either witnessed the violent crime or were mourning Brown's death. Customer Mary Warren told the ABC affiliate that she was glad to see so many customers there, but she was most impressed by the IHOP employees. "They're really brave.... They're heroes too for coming back." It was an emotional experience as customers returned to the restaurant and interacted with IHOP employees who had just lost a beloved co-worker. In no time at all, the restaurant was packed with customers and employees were hard at work, so it seemed like everything was back to business as usual, which is what many believe Roy Brown would have wanted. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Pols Eye Risky Prescription: Price Controls for Drugs

ITEM: “Congressional liberals,” reported the Associated Press for January 10, 2019, have offered legislation to lower prescription drug prices. One major effort, noted the wire service, was being pushed by “Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., and others. Cummings leads the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is expected to take a major role on drug pricing.”

Their “newest idea would essentially apply to any U.S. patent-protected brand-name drug, whether or not government programs are bearing the cost.”

Drugs, the AP continued, that were “found to be ‘excessively priced’ by the government could face generic competition. A medication’s cost would be deemed ‘excessive’ if its price in the U.S. was higher than the median, or midpoint, price in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Japan. If the manufacturer was unwilling to cut its U.S. price, then the government could allow generic companies to make a more affordable version of the medication.”

ITEM: Massachusetts Democrat Senator Elizabeth Warren, reported the Intercept on December 18, wants to establish a “publicly run office to manufacture prescription drugs — to control the means of production, so to speak.”

The bill “would create an Office of Drug Manufacturing within the Department of Health and Human Services. That office would have the authority to manufacture generic versions of any drug for which the U.S. government has licensed a patent, whenever there is little or no competition, critical shortages, or exorbitant prices that restrict patient access.”

ITEM: The Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing (CSRxP) — a project of the National Coalition on Health Care — decries on its website that “dozens of pharmaceutical companies rang in the new year by increasing hundreds of drug prices by up to 15 times the rate of inflation — despite the



Economic illiteracy? Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Elijah Cummings want a law that would take a patent from any drug with prices higher than in several other countries, though that would likely mean that pharmaceutical companies would cut funds to finding new drugs.

fact that their profits continue to far exceed spending on research and development.”

The group cites various increases of certain drugs ranging from 6.2 to 10 percent, pronouncing that “at a time when one in four Americans can’t afford their medications, these price hikes are staggering.”

Adds CSRxP: “It’s time for Congress to hold these companies accountable.”

CORRECTION: We would be better off if there was less government in business and more business in government, preferably smaller, constitutional government.

This is not to say, of course, that certain companies are without fault. There are indeed problems with pharmaceuticals. Still, we might also grumble, for example, that running shoes are “excessively priced” (thus hurting the well-being of hard-pressed exercisers), but that does not mean that the solution is establishing the U.S. Office of Sneaker Manufacturing.

As it is, we are not dealing with anything approaching a free market with pharmaceutical drugs when one considers how deeply Washington is already involved, including countless levels of regulations.

Regulations cost in terms of both production and delivery time for patients. This has been a challenge for some time, as addressed last June in an analysis by Charles Silver and David Hyman. Silver is

an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute and a law professor at the University of Texas at Austin; Hyman is an adjunct scholar at Cato and a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. They rightfully pointed a finger at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for “a backlog of pending applications from generic drug manufacturers that want to enter the market.” The writers urged Congress give the agency the resources needed “to process these applications more quickly” and to give “priority to applications for generics that have experienced price hikes.”

When it comes to generic drugs, it is government policies that “allow big drug companies to obtain long-term monopoly protection by keeping their generic competitors out of the marketplace,” as was noted by Dr. Ron Paul last year in a piece for the Foundation for Economic Education. Too many drug companies, the former congressman wrote, do exploit

the complexity of the post-patent rules to make it very time-consuming and costly for competitors to enter the marketplace. They can even withhold supplies of their drugs from companies that — under Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rules — must obtain them to make sure they’re



Correction, Please!

copying them correctly. The result is the big drug companies are able to extend their de facto monopolies well beyond the intent of Congress, thus keeping the supply of the drugs artificially low and prices artificially high.

In late October, the Council of Economic Advisers outlined how HHS and FDA policies had already helped decrease the prices of prescription drugs for American patients. Its report shows that “relative annual price growth for prescription drugs has slowed since January 2017, and estimate that lower prices from new generic drug products saved consumers \$26 billion through July 2018.”

Under FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb — as described in a November piece in E21, the economics portal of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research — “the FDA has slashed regulatory barriers to new and generic drug development, allowing the FDA to approve a record number of new drugs in FY18, beating the record they set the previous year.” This is a positive step.

But it is part of the progressive creed to disdain business “greed” even while seeking to concentrate power with the central government. Let’s concede that even well-intentioned capitalists are not generally altruistic saints. That said — and this is assuredly not because the American pharmaceutical industry is unselfish — this country accounts for more than half of new “wonder drugs” developed in recent decades, according to the Milken Institute.

The industry is not a charity. It has major expenses and is sustained by profits. As explained by Chris Pope of the Manhattan Institute: “The average cost of developing a new drug, demonstrating its safety and efficacy, and bringing it to market has been estimated to be as high as \$2.9 billion. Patents allow drug firms to recoup their investment by temporarily restricting competition.”

At the same time, Big Pharma, as it has been widely labeled, is an attractive target for populist attacks — in part because it is easy to blast someone for raising prices now rather than giving them credit for providing cures down the road. As John Tierney



PeopleImages/GettyImagesPlus

The price of regulations: Generic drugs have been greatly reducing the costs of drugs for Americans, but the government is sitting on many applications to create new generic drugs and hasn’t passed the CREATES Act, which would ease the ability of generic companies to formulate new drugs.

put it in a balanced, perceptive piece in the *City Journal* last year, “Developing a new drug often takes more than a decade — an eternity to a politician. Lowering prices for today’s voters is far more appealing than saving the lives of voters in 2030.”

The U.S. pharmaceutical industry is, as Tierney observed, “the most innovative in the world and saves more lives than any other institution.” And it is denounced by many in both political parties as a major villain for profiteering.

Tierney noted that even Donald Trump, in a press conference as president,

accused drug companies of “getting away with murder,” and Bernie Sanders has called the industry’s greed a “public-health hazard to the American people.” A central plank in the “Better Deal” that Democrats are promising ... is for the federal government to “negotiate” drug prices, and some progressives don’t even make that semantical pretense. They call for outright price controls, if not the “de-privatization” of the industry, on the grounds that Big Pharma is too powerful to be constrained by market forces.

Both parties say the industry needs reforming because companies can game

the system. And what government has deformed, it could reform — either for the better or the worse. The *Wall Street Journal* has looked, very dubiously, at some of the solutions that fall in the latter category. Democrats in the House, the paper’s editors wrote on January 8,

are pushing a bill to let Medicare “negotiate” drug prices, an idea President Trump tossed around as a candidate. The reality is that Medicare’s prescription benefit known as Part D is run by commercial payers that already negotiate steep discounts. The real Democratic goal isn’t “better deals” but political control over what government pays for medicine. In other words they want price controls, which sap the incentive to innovate.

There has also been an alignment, of sorts, between socialist Bernie Sanders and Trump administration proposals. One Sanders bill “would peg what the U.S. pays for drugs to what other industrial countries pay — Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan and so on. Earlier this year the Health and Human Services Department proposed trying a similar model for drugs in Medicare Part B.” Under the Sanders legislation, as the *Journal’s* editors wrote,



AP Images

Government manufacturing: Presidential hopeful Senator Elizabeth Warren wants government to actually manufacture drugs. Government would make drugs when it deems costs are high or there are shortages or no competition. Of course, many such problems are caused by government.

the HHS secretary “could break the patent of any drug that is ‘excessively priced,’ which judging by the political pique would include all of them.”

Warren, Sanders, and Trump administration officials, among others, have complained about (or looked jealously at) what occurs in foreign countries, many with single-payer health systems. Some of those countries are apparently freeloading, as critics complain, from American drug companies, and those companies have been accepting the prices set there (and making up by charging more in this country). Economic columnist Stephen Moore, who served as a senior economic advisor to the Trump campaign, says that HHS Secretary Alex Azar has assured him the administration’s plan “is designed to limit the price controls in foreign countries and bring American drug prices down so they are in line with other nations.”

One might hope so. Yet, as Moore cautions, if price controls are the problem, “effectively importing them to these shores can’t also be the solution.”

There could also be unforeseen consequences. If, under political pressure, the prices in foreign nations for a certain drug are forced up, that does not necessarily mean that Americans are going to pay less. Companies might just pocket the foreign increase

and wind up with more money at the expense of patients on both sides of the Atlantic.

The history of those relying on government price controls is a sad one (and not just in Venezuela, though the shortages caused there should be instructive). Dr. Joel Zinberg, a surgeon who is now on the White House’s Council of Economic Advisers, previously summarized the effects of price controls imposed by European countries in the 1980s. The doctor noted that in the middle of that decade, “European drug R&D was 24% higher than in the U.S. After price controls, European pharmaceutical R&D grew at half the U.S. rate” and substantially trailed American R&D by 2016.

Yes, Americans do gripe about their drug costs, but there are plenty of complaints in Europe too. We should not fall victim to the “grass is always greener on the other side” syndrome. Yes, there are numerous individual horror stories about the cost of prescription drugs in this country, often related to innovative treatment. Let’s assume each is true. How should we respond? After all, there are reasons for the maxim that hard cases make bad law.

On the one hand, we have politicians pushing industry nationalization. On the other hand, here are some actual statistics: The latest data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reveal

that spending on prescription drugs in this country increased 0.4 percent in 2017. Does this reflect a devastating crisis? The Association for Accessible Medicines, the generic-drug lobby, points out that generics provide Americans “with nine out of 10 of their prescriptions at only 23 percent of total spending on drugs.” Moreover, as the *Wall Street Journal* has pointed out, countries in Europe make

trade-offs that are severe but often not transparent. Britain’s National Health Service routinely puts conditions on which patients can receive oncology drugs, for instance. Some drugs are denied approval on grounds that they don’t produce results worth the cost, a judgment most American patients might prefer to make themselves. The Food and Drug Administration doesn’t consider cost, at least not explicitly.

As for Elizabeth Warren’s essential nationalization push of generic drugs, even the left-wing *Washington Post* sent up smoke signals in warning — pointing out that it is almost impossible to find a state-owned enterprise that can really pursue innovation and social welfare rather than profit. The *Post*’s Megan McArdle called Warren’s idea

particularly silly given that so many of the problems that make it harder for generic drug-makers to enter the market are created by government regulations in the first place. Unless the government enterprise bypasses the regulatory hurdles constraining supply, it will face much the same difficulties that private firms do. And if the government is going to relax regulatory requirements, wouldn’t it make more sense to just retool the way the market works for everyone?

Sure, but there’s an election coming. If you want to lead the Democrats into battle, you need more than the DNA of a 1/1,024th statist, you must display the headdress of a full-fledged socialist chief. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

BY WILLIAM F. JASPER

Cowardice **Before the Ravening Mob**

In *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution*, Ji-Li Jiang provides a window into a terrifying epoch. As a young schoolgirl in the 1960s, she was an eyewitness to, and participant in, the mob violence of Mao Tse-tung's Red Guards, as they swept away the evil Four Olds (Old Customs, Old Culture, Old Habits, Old Ideas) to make way for China's new communist customs, culture, habits, and ideas. She recounts a number of harrowing incidents in which the newly indoctrinated communist zealots singled out an innocent shop owner, teacher, or fellow student for pitiless assault.

Their crimes? There weren't any crimes; the victims were simply accused by one or more members of the mob of deviating from Communist Party thought, adhering to the Four Olds, or having family ties to the bourgeoisie class. The mob action typically involved surrounding the "criminal's" shop or home, destroying and/or confiscating his property, and subjecting him to public humiliation, beatings, and torture. Everyone was required to join in the denunciation. A public confession of one's crimes and sins might save one from further torture, prison, "re-education," or execution. Or it might seal one's doom.

Government use of organized mob denunciations and mob violence is not unique to Communist China, however. In fact, it has been a standard feature of Communist regimes everywhere: Russia, Cuba, Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, etc.

The frightening similarity between those communist mob actions and what we have seen rapidly developing here in America will not be missed by anyone familiar with Communist history. Tragically, too few Americans remember, or have even *heard of*, the Cultural Revolution. Well, we just got a taste of the Maoist Red Guard methods with the recent vicious smearing of Nick Sandmann and Covington Catholic High School. In Washington, D.C., to participate in the annual March for Life, Nick and his fellow students from Kentucky had no way of knowing that they would be subjected to an incredible Orwellian "Two Minutes Hate" session. Only in this case, the intense hatefest would go on for days, not a mere two minutes. And it would immediately go viral, spread nationally and globally by both the major media and social-media platforms. In an instant, 16-year-old Nick Sandmann found that he was the new Emmanuel Goldstein, the fictional character in Orwell's *1984* who was held up



as the object of hate by the propagandists of Big Brother.

Sandmann and the Covington students were denounced as racists and examples of "white privilege." They were subjected to vile epithets and denunciations from not only anonymous Internet trolls, but from writers and commentators in the national media, Hollywood celebrities, politicians, and — most disheartening of all — their own diocese and school. Death threats and bombing threats forced Covington Catholic High School to close temporarily.

What horrific crime did Sandmann commit? As you know by now, he and his classmates were accused of blocking, threatening, and disrespecting Nathan Phillips, whom the media presented as a "Native American elder" and a "Vietnam veteran." Critics also indicted Sandmann for the Orwellian offense of "facecrime," since he had stood smiling while Phillips banged a drum in his face. His accusers insisted on interpreting his smile as a wicked "smirk," which was more evidence of his "white privilege." Additional video soon surfaced to prove that it was Phillips who was the aggressor and that the boys had done nothing wrong. Moreover, it also came out that Phillips is a professional agitator with a long, sordid history — and was never a Vietnam vet.

The real "crimes" for which Sandmann and the Covington boys were being persecuted comes down to this: 1) They are pro-life; 2) they are Christian; 3) they are males; 4) some of them were wearing the verboten Trump MAGA cap; and 5) most of them are white.

Some in the media and in Tinsel Town, realizing they had been fully exposed by the facts, offered half-hearted apologies and excuses for their inexcusable defamation of the boys. (Others, such as NBC, doubled down, further exalting Phillips, while trying to get Sandmann to confess to being in the wrong.) The Most Reverend Roger Foys, the Catholic bishop of Covington, also apologized to Nick Sandmann and his family, as well as to all Covington Catholic families "who have felt abandoned during this ordeal." "We should not have allowed ourselves to be bullied and pressured into making a statement prematurely, and we take full responsibility for it," said Bishop Foys.

Among the lessons that must be learned from this disgraceful episode are: 1) Never trust the Fake News lynch mob; 2) never allow yourself (or those representing you) to be bullied into cowering before the mob; and 3) never join in their deceitful and cowardly denunciations. ■

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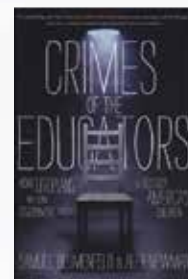


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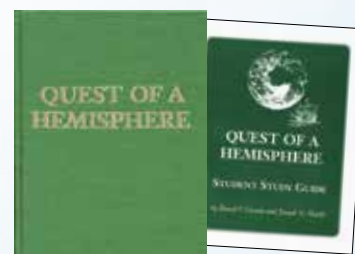
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