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### (Not That) Complicated

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## No Evidence of

### Collusion

Zero. Nothing. Nil. Zilch. That's how much evidence has shown that Trump colluded with the Russians to get elected, even as the investigations come to an end. (March 18, 2019, 48pp) TNA190318



## An Open Letter to

### Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Democrats, led by Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, want to stop the use of fossil fuels and the operation of nuclear power plants — and go all-in on renewable energy. We explain the costs and consequences of making their green dream come true. (March 04, 2019, 48pp) TNA190304



## Rescuing Our Children

American children are progressively doing worse in math, reading, and other subjects, while being indoctrinated with leftist pablum — the cause and the prognosis. (February 4, 2019, 48pp) TNA190204



## Censoring the Web: Who's Next?

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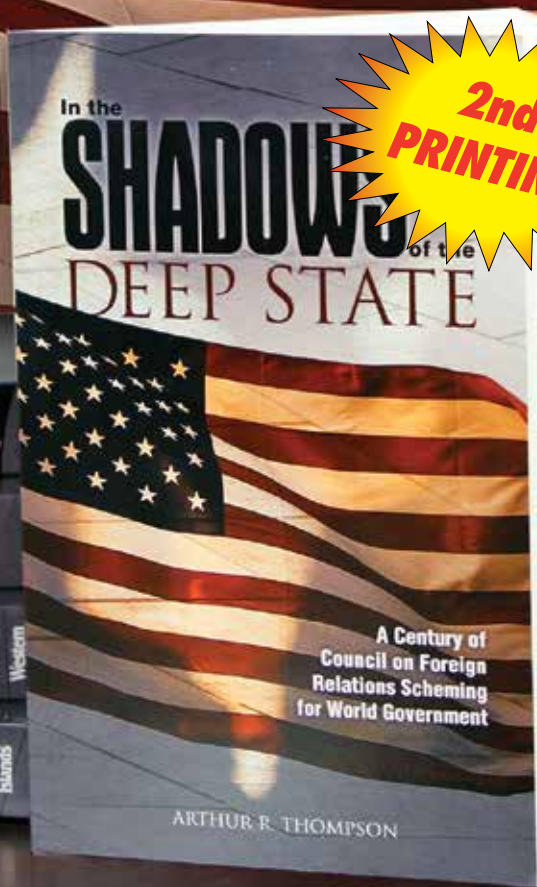
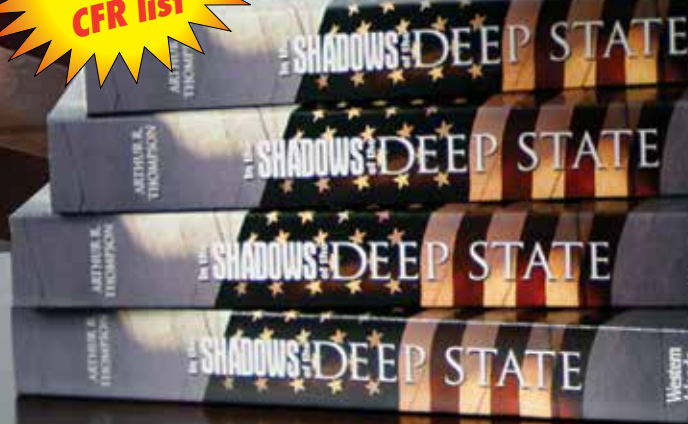
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Alex Newman

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*By Arthur R. Thompson, CEO, The John Birch Society*

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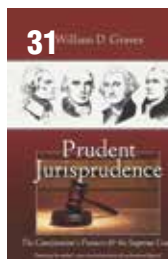
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## Stay Safe, Arm Yourself

A quote in QuickQuotes in the January 21 issue, entitled “Police Do Not Have an Obligation to Protect Shooter’s Victims” — about the fact that, even if law-enforcement personnel know an innocent victim will be harmed if they do not act, police do not have to protect citizens — reminds us we individually are responsible for providing our own armed security, protection, and safety.

Thus the .38-caliber revolver (.38 Special) historically defines economical, affordable, life insurance — a personal and home protection policy — for the private citizen, including women.

To debunk the myth that a person doesn’t need guns and that police protection is good enough, all one needs to do is read the book *Dial 911 and Die: The Shocking Truth About the Police Protection Myth*. It covers such topics as police response times, case law, and samples of police failures.

JAMES A. FARMER  
Merrill, Oregon

## On a Rising Tide

The article “The Rising Tide Against Liberalism” in the December 24 issue of the TNA was read in the hope that the nation will find its balance. For years I have listened to citizens on both sides of the political aisle talk about getting politicians out of government because politicians don’t think or act like people in other segments of society. And they are masters of perception and deception.

In Donald Trump, we got a president who was not a politician, and the nation is achieving goals that were not supposed to be possible.

The list of achievements is mind-boggling, and includes the following: • Over four million jobs have been created since the 2016 election. • More Americans are employed than ever recorded in U.S. history. • Jobless claims have fallen to their lowest level in nearly 50 years. • Nearly 400,000 manufacturing jobs have been created. (Former President Obama stated that manufacturing jobs would not be returning to the United States.) • Unemployment rates are the lowest ever recorded for Americans without a high-school diploma, for African-Americans,

for Asian-Americans, for Hispanic-Americans. • After signing the biggest tax cuts in history, hundreds of billions of dollars have poured back into the United States. • Family farms and small businesses have been saved due to the elimination of the death tax. • Americans’ pensions have grown more than \$1 trillion since the election.

The list goes on and on. So many politicians in the past have talked about what they were going to do, but their prophecies, for one reason or another, did not come to fruition or fell far short of the mark.

When something didn’t go as promised, it didn’t get a great deal of media attention as it was smoothed over by smiling, sweet-talking politicians who would blame their opposition or have some other excuse for the lack of success. Everyone who seeks to accomplish a goal should be measured by what they have achieved, not by how smoothly they present themselves.

What is even more surprising is that Trump’s achievements have been accomplished with marginal support from the legislature, with continual negative commentary including a litany of lies from the mainstream media and misguided demonstrations supported by liberal multi-billionaires. It is bizarre to see what has been accomplished despite these obstacles. Imagine how much more could be achieved if all of the time, energy, and money that has been expended to thwart these achievements were directed toward honest, positive, supportive actions.

BOB LAGASSE  
Sent via e-mail

## Welcome Correction

In the March 4 issue, at the bottom of QuickQuotes, the comment about Dr. Leana Wen, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, reads, “The grisly work she oversees receives more than half a million dollars annually from the federal government.” Every other source I have come across puts that figure at half a *billion* dollars.

BRIAN FARMER  
Appleton, Wisconsin

*Editor — Brian Farmer is obviously correct, and we thank him for pointing out that mistake.*

## Russia Says New World Order Will Replace the West



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said April 12, at his annual meeting with students and professors at the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy, that "the Western, liberal model of society is dying, and a new world order is taking its place."

"The Western liberal model of development, which particularly stipulates a partial loss of national sovereignty — this is what our Western colleagues aimed at when they invented what they called globalization — is losing its attractiveness and is no more viewed as a perfect model for all. Moreover, many people in the very western countries are skeptical about it," Lavrov said.

In contrast, Lavrov hailed "a new geopolitical era marked by 'multipolarity,' stating that 'the emergence of new centers of power to maintain stability in the world requires the search for a balance of interests and compromises.' He said there was a shift in the center of global economic power to East from West," *Newsweek* wrote on April 12, providing further detail.

*Newsweek* continued, "'Unfortunately, our Western partners led by the United States do not want to agree on common approaches to solving problems,' Lavrov continued, accusing Washington and its allies of trying to 'preserve their centuries-old domination in world affairs despite objective trends in forming a polycentric world order.' He argued that these efforts were 'contrary to the fact that now, purely economically and financially, the United States can no longer — single-handedly or with its closest allies — resolve all issues in the global economy and world affairs.'"

Lavrov touted the necessity of "diplomacy," saying that in an effort to preserve their "dominance and recover their indisputable authority," the United States and its allies "use blackmail and pressure.... They don't hesitate to blatantly interfere in the affairs of sovereign states."

Espousing a seemingly utopian vision, Tass reported Lavrov as saying in 2013 that once the polycentric system is formed, "the world will use shared values from all religions: striving for the good, decency, freedom, responsibility, and respect for the elderly." Yes, and we'll all live happily ever after. The end.

## Communist Chinese Moving Into the Caribbean

Only 55 miles east of Palm Beach, Florida, on Grand Bahama Island, a business based in Hong Kong (now controlled by the Chinese Communists) is spending \$3 billion on a deep-water container facility, known as the Freeport Container Port.

The concern is that the port will eventually become a Chinese naval base when the Caribbean island nation is unable to repay a loan for the facility. At that point, the United States will have to contend with warships of a communist superpower in our own region. Lou Dobbs raised the concern on his popular Fox Business Network program on April 4, stating, "China and Russia are engaging us in almost every quarter in this hemisphere. Russia and China in Venezuela, but China throughout the hemisphere and throughout the Caribbean."

The Freeport facility's stated economic purpose is to take advantage of the increased traffic expected after the recent expansion of the Panama Canal. But it is feared that this Chinese loan will lead to a repeat of what happened in Sri Lanka. There, the port of Hambantota was turned over to the Chinese with a 99-year lease when the government defaulted on high-interest loans it had received from China.

Of course, the Chinese already have military forces in the communist nation of Cuba, stationed at three locations once held by the Soviet Union. From there, it is believed they can intercept intelligence signals from the United States. Senator Marco Rubio

(R-Fla.) has referred to the installation at Bejucal, south of Havana, as a "Chinese listening station."

Senator Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Asia-Pacific region, told the *Washington Examiner* April 10, "China's goal is to displace the United States, and they can do that by wreaking havoc in the Western Hemisphere.... You've basically created a Chinese security surveillance state at our front door. Eventually it's a naval base, eventually it's more technology, and eventually colonialism moves from the economic side to the military side, and that is a danger the United States cannot accept."





## Owing to “Flight Shame,” Some Swedes Feel Too Guilty to Fly



VladTeodor/Stock/Getty Images Plus

What a civilization feels guilty about speaks volumes. In Sweden, it's not stealing children and putting them in abusive foster care, proposing a special tax on just one sex, trying to compel boys to tinkle sitting down, or silencing dissent with hate-speech laws. But pangs of conscience over flying on airplanes and increasing your Carbon Footprint™ are a different story. In fact, Swedes even have a name for such shame: *Flygskam*.

As the AFP reported April 10: “Saddled with long dark winters at home, Swedes have for decades been frequent flyers seeking out sunnier climes, but a growing number are changing their ways because of air travel’s impact on the climate. ‘Flygskam,’ or flight shame, has become a buzz word referring to feeling guilt

over the environmental effects of flying, contributing to a trend that has more and more Swedes, mainly young, opting to travel by train to ease their conscience.”

Spearheading the movement for trains-over-planes is Sweden’s own Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old climate school striker who refuses to fly, traveling by rail to the World Economic Forum in Davos and the climate summit in Katowice, Poland.

A growing number of public figures have vowed to #stay-ontheground, including Swedish television skiing commentator Bjorn Ferry, who said last year he would only travel to competitions by train.

And 250 people working in the film industry signed a recent article in the country’s biggest daily, *Dagens Nyheter*, calling for Swedish film producers to limit shoots abroad.

An anonymous Swedish Instagram account created in December has been shaming social-media profiles and influencers for promoting trips to far-flung destinations, racking up more than 60,000 followers.

One beneficiary of Swedes going off the rails mentally and to the rails literally may be national rail operator SJ, which “reported a 21 percent boost in business travel this winter,” the AFP informs.

Another beneficiary may be us. After all, since there isn’t yet a train from Stockholm to New York, at least the leftist Swedes may stay on their side of the pond.

## Retired Pope Benedict XVI Places Blame for Sexual-abuse Scandal

“It could be said that in the 20 years from 1960 to 1980, the previous normative standards regarding sexuality collapsed entirely, and a new normalcy arose that has by now been the subject of laborious attempts at disruption,” wrote Joseph Ratzinger, the retired Pope Benedict XVI, in an essay of 6,000 words, published Thursday in the German monthly *Klerusblatt* and by the Catholic News Agency.

The former pope’s essay was an analysis of the causes of the sexual-abuse scandal that has rocked the Roman Catholic Church in recent years in several countries, including Ireland, Chile, Australia, France, and the United States. The effects of the scandal have been enormous, including a swing away in devotion to the Catholic Church in Ireland, which helped to flip that nation from a pro-life country on the abortion issue to a nation that ignored the teachings of the church to pass laws legalizing the grisly practice.

Benedict listed three main causes of the scandal — the effects of the “sexual revolution” of the 1960s, homosexual cliques in Catholic seminaries, and a general collapse of morality.

“Why did pedophilia reach such proportions?” Benedict asked in his essay. “Ultimately, the reason is the absence of God.”

He also took aim at the formation of “homosexual cliques,” which he charged “acted more or less openly and significantly changed the climate.”

Some took exception to Benedict’s hard-hitting essay. Chris-



Pope Benedict XVI

AP Images

topher Bellitto, for example, a church historian, argued that the abusive priests were from across “the ideological spectrum,” and that the abuse was occurring long before the sexual revolution of the 1960s. Bellitto challenged the charge that pedophilia was mostly a homosexual problem.

Others, however, contend that Benedict’s essay is more accurate in its diagnosis of the problem. While there has no doubt been some sexual abuse in the Catholic Church for centuries, it is probable that a more lenient stance toward sexual sin not only in the Catholic Church, but in Protestant Christianity and the culture in general, has greatly increased the severity of the problem.

## “Moderate” Democrats Terrified of Party’s Hard-left Move



Such is the leftward lurch of the Democratic Party that its “moderates,” such as they are, believe the out-and-out kookery voters are hearing from Democratic presidential candidates will lead, as the *Washington Post* put it on April 11, to “disaster” in 2020.

Thus are the “moderates” desperately trying to inject at least a few sane ideas into the coming debate over who will face President Trump next year.

Problem is, the “moderates” don’t seem to understand how far out the party is, and how much control the radical fringe has, if what the *Post* reported as their concerns is correct.

The *Post* correctly reported that moderates believe “the latest wave of far-left ideas ... could lead to electoral disaster in 2020,” and say the moderates offer ideas not nearly as nutty as those from Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and her mentor, communist apologist Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

“Environmentalists are drafting alternatives to the Green New Deal,” the *Post* reported. “Candidates who have endorsed Medicare-for-all are open to backing more incremental plans. And the economic strategist who helped steer the last two Democratic presidents is warning that liberal tax proposals could backfire.”

“Moderates” such as failed Senate candidate “Beto” O’Rourke, former Vice President Joe Biden, and Senators Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Michael Bennett of Colorado “all have promised campaigns that will appeal to liberals without dramatically expanding the federal role in the economy.”

Thus, “instead of the government health care for all proposed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), they are pushing public options or marginal Medicare expansions. Instead of colossal government spending to solve climate change, they are offering market-based solutions. Instead of heavy taxes on the ultrarich, they are focused on closing loopholes and expanding tax breaks for the middle class.”

The *Post* noted that “moderate voices were sidelined in the first

months of the 2020 campaign by a group of charismatic liberals who have found traction ... with policy ideas far more disruptive than anything ever embraced by former president Barack Obama, the party’s longtime standard-bearer.”

But the *Post* piece focused principally on healthcare, the environment, and the economy, and ignored the party’s radicalism on the social issues.

The party resolutely opposes bills that would stop infanticide. Democrats in the House and Senate have, on 10 occasions, blocked legislation that would criminalize murdering infants who somehow survive an abortion.

The party has also thrown in with the LGBTQ lobby. Democrats in the House want to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include “transgenders” as deserving protection from “discrimination.” The bill would require public schools to give boys who claim they are girls access to locker rooms and girls’ sports teams.

All of the serious Democratic presidential candidates support a bill that would “study” reparations for slavery, a plainly stupid idea that most voters oppose, polls show.

Why the *Post* didn’t mention those matters is anyone’s guess. Yet a good guess might be that the Democrats are so far gone on infanticide, deviant sex, and racial socialism that advocating them doesn’t seem all that radical. Thus the focus on what “moderates” think are the real problems: Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, and ruinous taxes on the wealthy and productive.

In other words, the “moderates” the *Post* describes might be wasting their time. To the degree they support infanticide and racial socialism and deny the reality of biological sex differences, they are part of the problem.

Besides that, calling O’Rourke a moderate rather explains how far gone the party and its media auxiliary are as well. In addition to supporting reparations for slavery, he wants to tear down all barriers between the United States and Mexico.

Old-time Democrats are indeed worried about a repeat of 1972, when President Richard Nixon shellacked George McGovern 49 states to one, 570 electoral votes to 17. Echoing MSNBC’s liberal talker Chris Matthews, Democrat Larry Summers, former secretary of the treasury, says the party, as the *Post* paraphrased his view, “has been down a similar road in the past, with painful results.” Because of their anger at Nixon and disappointment in Hubert Humphrey’s performance in 1968, Summers said, Democrats “gravitated to radical redistribution economic policy, focused on turning out their activists and failed to focus on the middle. The result was the political catastrophe of Richard Nixon’s reelection.”

Maybe 2020 will be another “catastrophe” and end in the reelection of Donald Trump. ■



## Chief of Staff Says President Trump Won't Share Tax Returns

"That's not going to happen and they know it."

*Calling the demand for the president's tax returns "a political stunt," White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney stated in a TV interview that the president shouldn't be required to deliver such information to Democrat Party leaders.*

## Joe Biden's Treatment of Women Draws Scrutiny

"I don't think it's disqualifying. He has to understand in the world we're in now that people's space is important to them, and what's important is how they receive it, not necessarily how you intended it."

*While no one has accused the former president of sexual abuse, more than a few have raised concerns about his history of hugging and touching women, to the extent that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi felt a need to defend him.*



AP Images

## Transgender Equality Expected to Wreak Havoc in Women's Sports

"A man can decide to be a female, take hormones if required by whatever sporting organization is concerned, win everything in sight, perhaps earn a small fortune, and then reverse his decision to be female. I am happy to address a transgender woman in whatever form she prefers, but I would not be happy to compete against her. It would not be fair."

*Veteran women's tennis champion Martina Navratilova, who is an outspoken pro-homosexual advocate, knows that men claiming to be women could win virtually any supposedly women-only sporting event.*



AP Images

## Democrats OK Puerto Rican Disaster Relief, Balk at Aid for Iowa

"To my colleagues across the aisle who have been spending a lot of time in Iowa lately as presidential candidates, how are you going to look Iowans in the eye and justify a vote against moving this [Iowa-related] disaster relief bill ahead?"

*Iowa Senator Charles Grassley pointed to the recent flooding that has impacted much of his state and left many farmers and ranchers with severely damaged property.*

## Celebrity Lawyer Charged With Extortion Scheme

"It went from Avenatti in 2020 to Avenatti 20-25."

*Donald Trump, Jr. turned to humor as he juxtaposed the numbers in Michael Avenatti's brief run for the Democrats' 2020 nomination and his possible 20-25 years in prison if convicted for creating an extortion scheme.*

## Mueller Report Finds No Collusion

"Department of Justice official Brian Rabbitt said that after 2,800 subpoenas, nearly 500 search warrants, and a similar number of witness interviews, Special Counsel Robert Mueller had not established that the Trump campaign or its associates conspired with Russia during the 2016 election."

*Journalist Brian Bennett wrote the story for Time magazine, whose coverage of the Trump presidency has never been favorable.*

## Leading Democrat Expects Trump to Be Hard to Defeat in 2020

"I think most Democrats believed yesterday and they do today that Trump will be on the ballot and that he will be formidable." *Well-known Democratic strategist David Axelrod issued this assessment both before and after the Mueller investigation found no collusion with Russia by the Trump team during the 2016 defeat of Hillary Clinton.* ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



AP Images



# FORCED VACCINATIONS

Claiming vaccines are safe and diseases they prevent are killers, government pushes immunization mandates. Is it time for Big Brother to become your doctor?



by Rebecca Terrell

**A**nti-vaxxer — an ugly word akin to genocidal Nazi or child-sacrificing Aztec. If so labeled, you are guilty as charged, prepared to slaughter children and endanger society for a silly, outdated idea of personal liberty in defiance of established science and basic human rights.

“This isn’t just a public health crisis. It’s a public sanity one,” writes *New York Times* opinion columnist Frank Bruni. “The anti-vaccine crowd ... aren’t trafficking in anything concrete, mundane and quaint as facts. They’re not really engaged in a debate about medicine. They’re immersed in a world of conspiracies, in the dark shadows where no data can be trusted, nothing is what it seems, and those who buy the party line are pitiable sheep.”

Recent measles outbreaks across the United States — 555 cases in 20 states confirmed as of April 11 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — have ignited extreme reactions from government officials. In January, Washington governor Jay Inslee declared a public health emergency citing 31 cases in two counties. In March the top official of Rockland County, New York, banned children unvaccinated against measles from public places for 30 days, warning that parents who ignore the ban could be subject to both fines and jail time.

A judge subsequently lifted that ban, saying the number of cases did not meet the legal requirement for an emergency declaration. That didn’t stop New York’s Mayor Bill de Blasio, who ordered mandatory vaccinations for certain affected areas of the city, targeting the orthodox Jewish community of Williamsburg in Brooklyn, a neighborhood with a high percentage of unvaccinated families. “We cannot allow this dangerous disease to make a comeback here in New York City,” de Blasio lamented at a press conference. “We have to stop it now.” So he’s slapping a misdemeanor charge and a \$1,000 fine on anyone who refuses the measles vaccine, glibly stating: “The faster everyone heeds the order, the faster we can lift it.” In a WCBS news radio interview about a lawsuit against his edict filed by the Hasidic Jewish com-

A fully vaccinated 22-year-old woman sparked the 2011 measles epidemic in New York. A 1985 epidemic struck a fully immunized school in Corpus Christi, Texas. CDC researchers linked the 2014 spate of Disneyland measles to an outbreak in the Philippines that year.

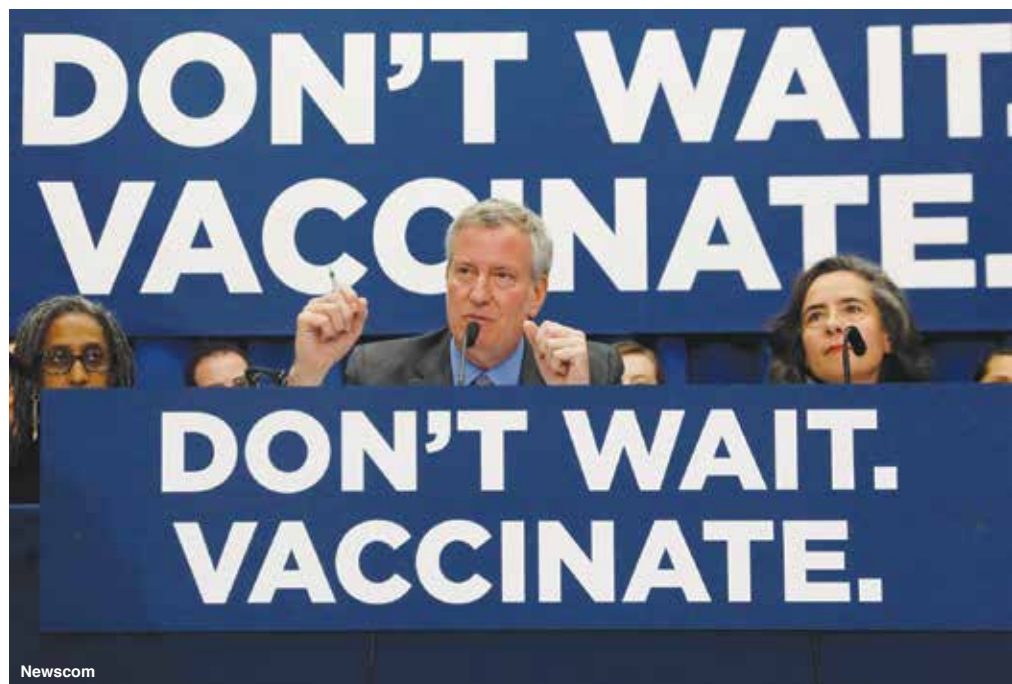
munity days later, de Blasio rebuffed the parents’ concerns and bragged, “We will beat them.”

Implying that victims are dropping like flies and that measles will soon decimate entire cities without extreme, protective countermeasures, news outlets fail to mention that most cases are not severe. On the contrary, media opportunists feed the flames. The *Bloomberg* editorial board hopes that these outbreaks “may finally be scaring sense” into parents who believe the “myths” that vaccines may cause “seizures, autism, mercury poisoning or death.” And in a fit of yellow journalism at its finest, a CBS affiliate in Texas featured an alarming picture of a baby supposedly suffering from measles, when in fact the child was injured by the measles vaccine. CBS “decided to use my kid as the poster child for the measles outbreak,” writes

mom Dawn Neufeld on her Facebook page. “But the irony ... Will doesn’t have measles in this picture; this is the reaction he had to taking the ‘safe’ MMR shot.”

Nevertheless, the witch hunt is on. Writing for *Fatherly Magazine*, Patrick Coleman calls for the arrest of “anti-vaxxers spreading measles,” claiming that “there are laws and precedent to prosecute.” He points out that federal law allows forced quarantines of those with certain communicable diseases, and nine states allow fines and criminal prosecution for spreading infectious disease. Certain European countries already fine parents for refusing to have their children immunized.

Reporters such as these lay blame at the doorstep of parents, but can they rightly assume unvaccinated children always cause outbreaks? A fully vaccinated 22-year-old woman sparked the 2011 measles epidem-



**Vaccinate — OR ELSE!** Targeting a Brooklyn Jewish community hit by measles, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announces fines of up to \$1,000 for refusing vaccines.

Over that same period the federal government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) linked the deaths of more than 100 children to the measles vaccine, which contains a live virus.

ic in New York. A 1985 epidemic struck a fully immunized school in Corpus Christi, Texas. CDC researchers linked the 2014 spate of Disneyland measles to an outbreak in the Philippines that year, likely brought to the United States by an infected traveler. Some people even get measles from the vaccine, as CNN reported in March of one-year-old Elsie Mendoza. After her first dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, she spiked a fever, developed a full body rash, and had three visits to urgent care before doctors finally admitted the vaccine was the likely culprit.

Media also note that the federal government declared measles eliminated from the United States in 2000, giving the impression that anti-vaxxers have ruined our record. In reality, the CDC reported 86 cases nationwide in 2000 and more than 100 the following year. (The agency defines an "outbreak" as three or more infections and "elimination" as "absence of continuous measles transmission for greater than 12 months." The CDC also blames most outbreaks on infected travelers bringing the virus with them from abroad.) Well more than 100 confirmed U.S. cases are recorded most years since 2008, and in 2014 there were 667. Interestingly, from 2003 until 2015 there were no deaths from measles, but over that same period the federal government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) linked the deaths of more than 100 children to the measles vaccine, which contains a live virus.

With that in mind, what are we to think of media insistence that vaccines are effective and harmless? Should we demonize — even fine and jail — parents who opt for natural over artificial immunity for their children?

### Safe and Effective?

All drugs have side effects, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires manufacturers to list them, along

with a host of other disclaimers and clinical trial results, in product packaging literature. Vaccines are no exception.

Let's use the popular Merck & Co. MMR II vaccine as an example. "As for any vaccine, vaccination with M-M-R II may not result in protection in 100% of vaccinees," states the package insert. This disclaimer seems to belie universal insistence of the drug's effectiveness. How do you explain it?

"An 'effective vaccine' as defined by researchers, is one that leads to the development of antibodies after it has been injected into the bloodstream," explains Dr. Sherry Tenpenny of NMA Media Press. "It is important to understand that *effective* and *protective* in vaccine research are not synonyms." In other words, vaccines cause the patient to produce antibodies (effective) but cannot guarantee protection from disease (protective). That explains why kids who get their shots still contract infections.

But what about herd immunity — a

dearth of contagious disease resulting when a significantly large portion of a population is immunized? Haven't measles deaths nose-dived since 1963 when the vaccine was introduced? In reality, that tailspin occurred in the pre-vaccine era. According to U.S. Vital Statistics, until 1920, more than 10 deaths resulted for every 100,000 measles cases, a rate of 0.01 percent. By 1955, the rate had plunged to 0.00003 percent, or 0.03 deaths per 100,000.

What caused the precipitous decline? By the 1920s, doctors had discovered the efficacy of cod liver oil against viruses such as measles, mumps, and chickenpox. Until the 1960s, moms regularly dosed their reluctant children with the foul-tasting liquid. Since then the practice has given way to vaccines, but the *New England Journal of Medicine* confirmed in 1990 that vitamin A — a main ingredient in cod liver oil — is essential in measles treatment, finding that patients supplemented with it have fewer and less severe symptoms, recover more quickly, require less hospital time, and have lower mortality. Physicians for Informed Consent explains that most measles-related morbidity and mortality worldwide involve vitamin A deficiency.

Regarding the safety of vaccines, they are no different from any other FDA-approved medication, all of which carry risks. Again using Merck's MMR II vaccine as an example, adverse reactions ob-



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Wikimedia Commons/Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

**Mild vs. deadly:** Chickenpox (left) and measles (center), usually benign illnesses, leave patients with long-lasting immunity and other possible health benefits. Smallpox (right) often killed or maimed its victims.



# State Vaccination Exemptions



National Vaccine Information Center

[www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org) & [www.NVICAdvocacy.org](http://www.NVICAdvocacy.org)

served in clinical trials include both mild (e.g., fever, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, vomiting) and severe effects (e.g., diabetes mellitus, arthritis, encephalitis, meningitis, pneumonia, and anaphylaxis — an acute, sometimes deadly, allergic reaction).

The CDC assures us that our country “has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in its history” and that severe reactions are rare, “occurring at a rate of one per million doses for many vaccines.” Yet consider this list compiled by Dr. Jane Orient of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), a private organization representing thousands of physicians in all specialties nationwide:

The smallpox vaccine is so dangerous that you can’t get it now, despite the weaponization of smallpox. Rabies vaccine is given only after a suspected exposure or to high-risk persons such as veterinarians. The whole-cell pertussis vaccine was withdrawn from the U.S. market [in the 1990s], a decade later than from the Japanese market, because of reports of severe permanent brain damage.

We could add to this list products such as the Rotashield rotavirus vaccine, with-

drawn only one year after FDA approval because of so many severe reactions in children, including the death of a five-month-old infant. There was also LYMER-ix, a vaccine for Lyme disease, which lasted less than four years before class-action lawsuits linking it to rheumatoid arthritis forced it off the market.

This is not to say that no one should be vaccinated. The point is that, despite media insistence that vaccines are safe, they really are no different from any other prescription drug — all of them present risks. But they *are* different from most other medications because we have no way of knowing how safe or dangerous they are. “There are no rigorous safety studies of sufficient power to rule out” complications, notes Orient. A 2012 review by the medical research organization Cochrane concluded: “The design and reporting of safety outcomes in MMR vaccine studies, both pre- and post-marketing, are largely inadequate.” Regarding vaccines in general, economist Gayle DeLong of Baruch College wrote in the journal *Accountability in Research*: “No study of the safety of the entire U.S. vaccine schedule has ever been undertaken. That is, the safety of the combination of vaccines is unknown.”

**State vaccination exemptions:** California, Mississippi, and West Virginia only allow medical exemptions for vaccines. Others also authorize exemptions for religious and/or philosophical beliefs.

## Manufacturer Immunity

Vaccine manufacturers have no incentive to research further because the federal government protects them from virtually all liability when their products injure or kill patients. In 1986, Congress established the taxpayer-funded National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). NVICP has since paid out nearly \$4.1 billion in claims. Instead of suing the companies that produce and sell these potentially dangerous products in civil court, vaccine-injured victims and their families are forced to petition HHS in a process that disillusioned claimants have discovered to be heavily weighted against them. The non-profit Children’s Health Defense tells the sad tale:

HHS has turned a basic administrative compensation process into a “highly adversarial, lengthy, expensive, traumatic and unfair imitation of a court trial for vaccine victims and their attorneys,” charges Barbara Loe Fisher of the National Vaccine Information Center, who was instrumental in drafting the original law. She is not alone. Even the program’s former Chief Special Master, Gary Golkiewicz, said the government “altered the game so that it’s clearly in their favor. (The government) has a vested interest in vaccines being good. It doesn’t take a mental giant to see the fundamental unfairness in this.”

Unfairness is putting it mildly; draconian is more apt. Petitioners have a mere three years to file post-injury, and HHS recognizes only certain possible adverse outcomes listed on its “Vaccine Injury Table,” which has been updated just twice since 1986 when children generally received seven vaccines. (There are 16 recommended by CDC now in a total of 70 doses.) The first update applied to



**Mother knew best:** By 1955, U.S. measles mortality rates were near zero thanks to cod liver oil, not thanks to the vaccine, which wasn't introduced until 1963.

only one vaccine — hepatitis B — and the second involved removal of some previously listed injuries.

Notably absent from the table is autism, which many physicians link to thimerosal, a mercury preservative used in several vaccines. CDC claims no causal link due in part to the study it commissioned in 2000 to evaluate the issue. Records of the research committee's preliminary discussions relate that the chairman, Dr. Marie McCormick, acknowledged that the CDC “wants us to declare” vaccines safe, and she blatantly admitted, “We are not ever going to come down that [autism] is a true side effect.”

In fact, no CDC-sponsored research finds a link between vaccines and autism, but the agency is plagued with conflict-of-interest charges in relation to those studies. Highlighting the story of CDC researcher-turned-whistleblower Dr. William Thompson, the 2016 documentary *Vaxxed: From Cover-up to Catastrophe* exposes conspiracy within the agency to destroy evidence linking autism to the MMR vaccine. Where is the incentive for the CDC to admit a decades-long error? Interestingly, thimerosal content has recently been reduced or eliminated in some

vaccines. Based on the number of autism claims filed through December 2011 with NVICP, DeLong estimated they would have cost taxpayers an additional \$4.6 billion in payouts.

Children's Health Defense (CHD) says 75 percent of NVICP cases are dismissed. HHS calculates a slightly higher number it has compensated — 31 percent of more than 20,000 petitions filed since 1988. It estimates that “for every 1 million doses of vaccine that were distributed, 1 individual was compensated,” but it fails to relate how heavily the cards are stacked in its favor.

Perhaps a better litmus test is VAERS, the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. VAERS receives approximately 30,000 reports of vaccine-related adverse events annually, but because it is a passive reporting system, experts estimate as much as 10-fold under-reporting. Based on these statistics, “anywhere from 4,500 to perhaps 45,000 serious vaccine injuries occur every year in the United States,” says CHD, “including brain damage, seizure disorders, chronic arthritis, neurodevelopmental disorders,” and death.

Yet state governments require parents to have their children vaccinated. Though

there is not yet a federal mandate, all 50 states require certain vaccinations for school attendance, with limited options for medical, religious, and philosophical exemptions. In the case of other drugs and medical procedures, patients have the right of full disclosure regarding risks and benefits, and the subsequent right to accept or reject them. In regard to vaccines, patient rights are thrown to the wind, destroying the doctor-patient relationship, allowing government to usurp the physician's role and effectively practice medicine without a license.

“Intimately personal medical decisions should not be made by government,” stated Ron Paul, M.D., former U.S. Representative (R-Texas), in a 2011 article entitled *Government Vaccines — Bad Policy, Bad Medicine*. “Freedom over one's physical person is the most basic freedom of all.... When we give government the power to make medical decisions for us, we in essence accept that the state owns our bodies.”

### Vested Interests

What is behind government's seemingly fanatic obsession? Does the state want to “own your body”? Or could it be a classic case of “follow the money”? Golkiewicz cited government's “vested interest in vaccines.” Orient also mentioned “enormous conflicts of interest involving lucrative relationships with vaccine purveyors.”

One example is detailed in a 2000 U.S. House Majority Staff Report, “Conflicts of Interest in Vaccine Policy Making.” It recounts the rise and fall of Rotashield, approved in 1998 against rotavirus and pulled in 1999 after an infant died and many other children suffered severe injury. The chair of the advisory board that approved Rotashield, Dr. Patricia Ferrieri, owned \$20,000 of stock in vaccine manufacturer Merck, and was subsequently awarded a federal grant of \$135,000 for rotavirus research. Another advisory committee member, Dr. Caroline Hall, worked for the University of Rochester, which had a \$9.5 million contract with the federal government for vaccine development. Yet another advisor, Dr. Kathryn Edwards, held numerous government grants and private contracts for vaccine studies, totaling more than \$6.8 million from 1996 through 2003. Dr. Mary Estes, also on the advisory



committee, worked for Baylor College of Medicine and was the principal investigator for a grant from Merck for rotavirus vaccine development. Her employer was also receiving hundreds of thousands of private and federal grant dollars for vaccine research.

This is only a partial list. The House report concluded that more than half the individuals responsible for Rotashield approval had financial ties to pharmaceutical companies that were developing different versions of the vaccine. Moreover, it found that these advisory board members routinely obtained waivers from conflict-of-interest rules; those who were not allowed to vote were still given full voice in committee deliberations.

This is just the case of one vaccine. DeLong found vaccine safety research clouded with conflicts of interest. Though she acknowledged that independent advocacy groups, skeptical of vaccines, are certainly interested in exposing their dangers, “These organizations are not as well-staffed or well-funded as government agencies or vaccine manufacturers.”

What she reported is troubling: Two-thirds of vaccine safety researchers receive industry support and sponsorship; part of FDA funding comes from fees pharmaceutical companies pay to have their drugs evaluated; working for agencies such as the CDC is often a “stepping stone to employment at a vaccine manufacturer”; since 2005 the pharmaceutical industry has employed “at least three lobbyists for every member of Congress,” many of whom are former government employees; and medical journals rely on advertising from pharmaceutical companies, and their “authors’ ties to vaccine manufacturers are pervasive.”

### Good Vaccines

Such conflicts of interest are ruining what truly has been one of the greatest breakthroughs in the history of medical science. We can thank smallpox

Physicians for Informed Consent recounts on its website that studies suggest a link between naturally acquired measles infection and reduced risk of certain diseases such as cancer, some allergies, and cardiovascular disease.

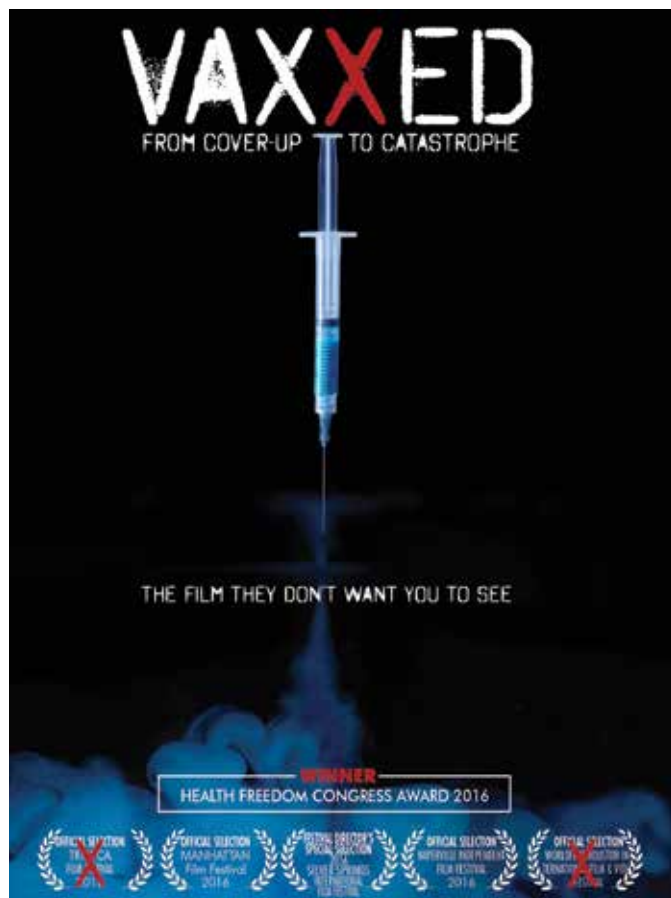
for the advent of vaccination. Prior to the 19th century, smallpox was a major cause of death worldwide and one of the most feared infectious diseases. About one in five victims died; those who survived were often left blind or disfigured. Some tried to combat the disease with variolation — injecting a healthy person with a small amount of pus from an infected patient. People were willing to risk it because the odds of death dropped from 20 to 2 percent. When it worked as hoped, the patient suffered a mild attack but was immune to future infection. In 1796, Eng-

lish doctor Edward Jenner noticed that milkmaids who contracted the benign disease cowpox were resistant to smallpox. He pioneered the revolutionary practice of vaccination, using material from the pustules of infected cows. The practice was hotly contested until smallpox deaths nose-dived wherever vaccination was introduced. Within 50 years it became the accepted norm, and less than 200 years later, in 1979, the World Health Organization announced smallpox effectively eradicated from the globe.

But when it comes to measles, we’re not dealing with a disease that can decimate populations as did smallpox throughout the world since ancient times. Among measles patients, Orient notes, “Almost all make a full recovery, with robust, life-long immunity.” Moreover, Physicians for Informed Consent recounts on its website that studies suggest a link between naturally acquired measles infection and reduced risk of certain diseases such as cancer, some allergies, and cardiovascular disease.

### Chicken Little

Even less to be feared is chickenpox, although you wouldn’t know it by recent headlines. Little more than 20 years ago, government downplayed this common childhood malady on two of its popular PBS Kids series: *Caillou* (the four-year-old’s mother tells him, “They’re just little, itchy spots. Nothing to worry about”) and *Arthur* (the main character recovers from chickenpox in a few days, enjoying extra attention he gets in the meantime). Now, chick-



**Vaxxed:** This 2016 documentary reveals deception and coverup within the CDC in its pivotal 2004 study on the MMR vaccine and its link to autism. (See inside Back Cover to order this DVD.)



**About face:** Before the money-making vaccine for chickenpox was introduced, government downplayed chickenpox on public television as a mild illness that is “nothing to worry about.”

enpox is repackaged as a life-threatening plague. The CDC website strongly warns parents: “Chickenpox can be serious and can lead to severe complications and death, even in healthy children.”

What changed between then and now? The varicella (chickenpox) vaccine entered the scene in 1995. Prior to that, annual mortality rates were 0.003 percent, and most deaths involved immunocompromised adults. If that presented such a grave public health threat, why did it take so long for anyone to develop a vaccine?

Reading the CDC website, you’d think the vaccine was completely safe. Dr. Gary Goldman tells a different story. He served as research analyst for the CDC pilot varicella vaccine program in California from 1995 until 2002, when he resigned over the agency’s routine manipulation of data to conceal negative information. Many of those undesirable outcomes are reported through VAERS, however. As of mid-2018, the varicella vaccine has caused nearly 4,000 serious adverse events, including almost 200 deaths, most of whom were children under six. In the first few years after introduction, the manufacturer had to add 17 adverse events to its product labeling, including transmission of the vaccine virus, spinal cord injury, Guillain-Barre syndrome (an autoimmune disorder), and shingles.

There is also little press about the positive aspects of naturally acquired chickenpox. According to the National Vaccine Information Center, prior to 1995, children usually caught chicken pox by age six, leaving them with long-lasting immunity. (Those who contract it as adults face a higher risk of severe complications, making childhood illness more desirable.) After a young person recovers from natural chickenpox, the virus remains dormant in his body, and every future environmental exposure to the virus boosts his natural immunity by causing him to produce more antibodies, protecting him not only from future outbreaks but also from shingles, which is caused by the same virus. The temporary, artificial immunity of vaccines leaves older children and adults vulnerable to both. And someone who has never had chickenpox before can catch it directly from anyone with shingles, which in adults can be quite serious.

Nevertheless, mainstream media dutifully plug the vaccine and deliver a requisite Chicken Little performance when naturally acquired chickenpox hits. Last year, it blamed religious vaccination exemptions for 36 cases in a small North Carolina school. “Anti-vaccination stronghold in N.C. hit with state’s worst chickenpox outbreak in 2 decades,” shrieked the *Washington Post* last November. What happened to those 36 victims? They got over it.

If media apoplexy were our only worry, we could rest easy and enjoy the show. But does the fact that states are strong-arming parents over this common childhood illness signal the dawn of medical dictatorship? In 2013, New York refused a chickenpox vaccine medical exemption to a kindergartner, despite her doctor’s refusal to immunize her. He said the non-essential live virus vaccine could present a grave danger to the child’s 14-week-old sister, as well as her mother, who has an immunodeficiency disease. The mom told *NBC News*, “I don’t care if it’s a one in 3 million chance. I am not willing to take the chance with my baby.” Nevertheless, the state education department barred the child from attending school, and the parents were left with no option but homeschool.

Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin made waves in March when he announced opposition to his state’s mandatory varicella vaccine on a WKCT radio show. He sent media into a tailspin for purposely exposing his nine children to chickenpox at a neighbor’s house. “They got it ... were miserable for a few days, and they all turned out fine,” Bevin said. “This is America and the federal government should not be forcing this [vaccine] upon people.”

But his state government certainly is forcing. Chickenpox drama has engulfed a small Catholic high school in Walton, Kentucky, Assumption Academy. After one diagnosed case at its affiliated elementary school located across the street, the academy’s unvaccinated students were banned from both schools and all athletic events for three weeks by the Northern Kentucky Health Department (NKHD). Unfortunately, the three-week count starts over again each time a child gets sick, regardless of clinical diagnosis. What began in mid-February has extended into late April at last report and could conceivably continue through the school year if more students develop symptoms. As of early April, 33 of the schools’ 240 students had been infected. Many other healthy, unimmunized students are prevented from returning, as the school reported to NKHD that only 18 percent of its students are up to date on vaccinations.

At least one of them is fighting back. Instead of finishing his basketball season



as starting center in the state championship tournament, 18-year-old senior Jerome Kunkel is now embroiled in a legal battle with the state. “It’s not that I’m against all vaccines — just the ones made from aborted fetal cells,” he explains. “That’s against my religion.” (Live virus vaccines are developed in specialized cell cultures so they “forget” how to replicate correctly in normal body cells. Material from chickens, pigs, monkeys, dogs, cows, and even worms and insects can be used. The varicella vaccine is one of several developed using aborted babies.) Kunkel’s parents, Bill and Karen, have filed a religious exemption on these grounds every school year.

When they met with NKHD to plead Jerome’s case, communicable disease nurse Carolyn Swisshelm minced no words. “We can kick any kid out of that school,” Karen recalls her saying. Swisshelm assumes the right to exclude students with medical or religious exemptions during an outbreak, but Kentucky law doesn’t provide such boundless power to bureaucrats. Jerome’s initial court pleading quotes the state statute on health issues and religious freedom, which prevents government without grave reason from excluding people “motivated by a sincerely held religious belief” from “programs or access to facilities.”

Nevertheless, NKHD official Zach Raney pulled out his iron fist, warning the Kunkels: “I have the power to shut your school down,” and he did for three days until all non-vaccinated students underwent immunity testing. Jerome’s blood test proved he had no infection but no immunity either, so the health department has marked him a pariah, forcing him to start a GoFundMe page to defray court costs defending himself against the NKHD’s draconian overreach.

“This isn’t stopping chickenpox from spreading,” Jerome points out. “All of us [students] are still together. We go to church together, and after Sunday masses we usually get together for a pick-up game of basketball. It’s just not logical.”

Jerome lost his initial hearing in early April to lift the ban preventing him from returning to classes. The student’s lawyer, Chris Wiest, said they plan to appeal, arguing that NKHD’s reaction is overly restrictive. He told *THE NEW AMERICAN*, “I believe this case will be judged by a jury



**Vaccine criminal?** Kentucky high-school senior Jerome Kunkel is riding out his spring semester at home — not because he’s sick — but because he didn’t get his chickenpox vaccine.

and, I believe, they will view the actions of the health department as retaliatory and discriminatory.”

### Where We Are Headed

Jerome’s uncle, Bernard Kunkel, who works for Governor Bevin, warns of what could be on the horizon. “Children don’t belong to their parents anymore. They belong to the state,” he told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. “Before you know it, you’ll have to prove you’ve been vaccinated to get your driver’s license renewed. When does it stop?” He points out that neither Canada nor the U.K. have mandatory immunizations, though both share the same scientific knowledge and access to medicines that we have.

We’re witnessing government overreaction and overreach on a titanic scale. Diseases such as measles and chickenpox do not present catastrophic public health threats, and public welfare certainly

does not require compulsory vaccinations for them. Government is cashing in on manufactured hysteria, stripping patients of their right to informed consent, a central mainstay of modern medicine. Parents should be fully informed about the true risks of both virus *and* vaccine, allowing them to make decisions with their doctors for their children, free from government interference.

But there is an unquestionably positive development in the vaccine debate. All the media hype is leading more parents to investigate and realize the government is deceiving them. As public trust in government erodes further than ever, future efforts toward mandatory vaccines will be met with more — and we hope successful — resistance. ■



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# “EQUALITY ACT”

## Would Unleash Federal Persecution of Christians

As is often the case with the titles of U.S. legislation, the Equality Act would do the opposite of its stated goal. In this case, the act should be called the Anti-Christian Act.

by Alex Newman

Even a generation ago, the story of Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop in Colorado, would have been unthinkable. After serving his community for more than two decades, he suddenly found himself on the wrong side of the law. It wasn't for health violations, stealing, tax evasion, embezzlement, or anything else you might expect, though. Rather, Phillips was guilty of nothing more than being a Christian in the public square who takes his faith seriously. And his life was turned upside down because of it.

In July 2012, two homosexual men came in to his family-owned cake shop in Lakewood demanding that he design a custom wedding cake to celebrate their homosexual “marriage.” Being a Christian, obviously he could not use his God-given artistic talents to celebrate something God describes in the Bible as an “abomination” — much less make a mockery of marriage, which to Christians is an earthly illustration of the relationship between Christ and His Church. So Phillips politely declined to bake the cake, offering to sell the homosexual couple cakes for other occasions or anything else they may want in his store.

The men could have simply taken their business elsewhere. But instead, they filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission alleging “discrimination” based on “sexual orientation.” And incred-



**Pelosi:** Barack Obama ran for president supporting traditional marriage, but today's Democrats led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) want the law to force everyone to bow before LGBT ideology.

ibly, the kangaroo “court” ordered Phillips to either bake cakes celebrating homosexual “marriage,” or quit designing any and all wedding cakes. He was also commanded to “reeducate” his employees so they would understand that he was wrong to be a Christian while operating his business. In other words, Phillips could violate his conscience and his faith — or lose his livelihood and allow his family to starve. This in a nation founded by Christians, for Christians, that offered unprecedented tolerance to those of other faiths and worldviews.

Eventually, after years of allowing authorities to terrorize the poor Phillips family, the U.S. Supreme Court ended up ruling in his favor. But the decision was based on a narrow finding that Colorado’s “civil rights” bureaucrats were biased against religion. The court never ruled on the question of whether or not a business owner could be forced to violate his or her conscience. As if it could not get any more outrageous, Colorado authorities targeted Phillips *again*

for refusing to design a cake celebrating a “gender transition” by a confused man who was planning to have his genitals surgically removed to better impersonate a woman. After Phillips filed a lawsuit against Colorado authorities for waging a “crusade to crush” him for his belief that an individual’s sex is “given by God and cannot be chosen or changed,” the state attorney general finally backed off.

Still, the Phillips saga represented a turning point in American history. Not only have Americans’ once-Christian political institutions been thoroughly de-Christianized, those same institutions are now working to crush any remnants of Christianity still lingering in society. Similar laws to those that almost destroyed the Phillips family have proliferated across America. And now, the very same anti-Christian bigotry and legislation that animated the persecution of Phillips in Colorado is on the verge of being enshrined into federal statute.



**LGBT rights:** Activists for gender confusion and homosexuality, allied with Big Business and the Democratic Party, will use the Equality Act as a battering ram against Christianity and faith.

### The Equality Act: Criminalizing Christianity

This year, Democrats in Congress introduced LGBT “equality” legislation purporting to ban “discrimination.” Critics, though, warned that the measure would criminalize Christianity, Islam, and Judaism by forcing virtually every institution in society — including religious institutions — to hire, serve, and promote homosexuals and individuals confused about their gender. A number of analysts have warned that by enshrining “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” in the statute, which would embed these concepts into the 1964 Civil Rights Act, even pedophilia and pederasty could be protected as a “sexual orientation.”

In the U.S. House of Representatives, Democrats already have more than enough cosponsors to pass the bill easily. And in the Senate, they are getting very close, needing just a few more cosponsors for a solid majority. Whether President Donald Trump would sign the bill if it reached his desk remains unclear. But analysts on both sides have pointed out that the president has been rather friendly to the “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender” agenda.

Among other radical changes to federal law, the so-called Equality Act, also known as H.R. 5 in the House and S. 788 in the Senate, purports to “prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation.” To do

that, it would enshrine actual or perceived “sexual orientation and gender identity” (SOGI) into federal statutes. That would give homosexuality, transgenderism, and other perversions of human sexuality and gender the same protections as race or sex in employment, housing, public accommodations, and more. Similar efforts are being pursued through international agreements such as the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Incredibly, perhaps attempting to counteract any future court rulings on the issue, the “Equality Act” specifically states that religious freedom may *not* be used as a defense under the bill. And the legislation applies to churches, religious schools, religious hospitals, religious employers, gathering places, sports, all government entities, and more. Christian adoption agencies will be shut down, too, if they refuse to place children with homosexuals or individuals confused about whether they are men or women. That has already happened in states with similar legislation.

Outside of some tiny and very narrow exemptions, churches, synagogues, and mosques will no longer be able to uphold marriage between men and women, or any moral standards on sexuality at all. Counselors of faith will be banned from helping people with unwanted same-sex attractions or gender confusion. And Christians, Muslims, and Jews will no longer be allowed to seek out counselors to help them

deal with those issues. Indeed, under the measure, everyone will have to affirm the LGBT agenda, or face persecution and destruction at the hands of the federal government. Churches will lose their tax-exempt status if they do not submit. Schools will lose their accreditation if they do not bow down to Caesar’s LGBT extremism. And this is just the start.

The “gender” madness is breathtaking. Under the legislation, virtually everywhere across the United States, men who claim they “identify” as women will be allowed to use women’s restrooms, showers, changing areas, and even bunk with women on trips, including church trips. Critics say the move would put women and girls nationwide at risk, as any man in the country could simply walk into female facilities under this bill and claim to be a “transgender” who identifies as female. Numerous incidents have already occurred, and this would open up a Pandora’s Box of mischief, critics warned. This is already happening in government schools and some radical businesses such as Target, which continues to face a massive boycott for putting women and girls at risk. But under this bill, the policy would go national — and it would even be forced on churches, domestic-abuse shelters, Christian schools, and much more. The legislation would also make it mandatory that men who claim to identify as women be allowed to compete in women’s sports, all but ensuring that no biological woman or girl will ever win another sporting competition. Those who resist will face the wrath and unlimited funds of the federal government.

Perhaps the most alarming development is that the sexual revolutionaries are already moving to redefine every conceivable perversion as a “sexual orientation.” In California, for example, government schools were caught teaching children about pedophilia and pederasty. When a parent asked why the school was normalizing sodomy and pedophilia to students in the classroom, Assistant Superintendent of Curricula Kerrie Torres in the Brea, California, School District dropped a bombshell. The parent asked: “Answer me why you’re teaching pedophilia in school to 9th graders?” Torres responded: “This is done because we are talking about historical perspectives of how gender relations and different types of sexual orientations

AP Images



have existed in history.” The flabbergasted mother expressed shock: “So sex between a man and a boy is a sexual orientation?” To which Torres replied: “It’s something that occurred in history, and so this is really important for us to include.” Establishment propaganda organs disguised as news organizations, meanwhile, are increasingly trying to redefine pedophilia and pederasty as a “sexual orientation.” LGBT movement hero Harvey Milk was known for raping minor boys, at least one of whom later committed suicide. And projecting the lines, critics worry that the Equality Act’s protections for “sexual orientation” *über alles* could one day force churches to hire pedophiles to run their children’s ministries, among other horrors.

## Opposition

As the LGBT juggernaut advances, trampling on the rights of Christians and people of faith in the process, a massive coalition of critics from across the political spectrum and a broad array of religious traditions is rising up to stop the Equality Act before it is too late. The nonprofit Christian legal group Liberty Counsel called the “wrongly named” Equality Act the “most extreme threat to religious freedom, free speech, privacy, and to wom-

After Phillips filed a lawsuit against Colorado authorities for waging a “crusade to crush” him for his belief that an individual’s sex is “given by God and cannot be chosen or changed,” the state attorney general finally backed off.

en’s rights that has ever been proposed by Congress.” The controversial measure, the group warned, “will be used as a wrecking ball to churches, religious organizations, religious freedom, and free speech.”

Blasting the bill as the “Criminalizing Christianity Act,” former homosexual Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality warned that this was the “most dangerous legislation ever to come out of the revolutionary ‘gay’ activist movement.” He noted, citing other experts and policy analysts, that the measure could impose a nationwide transgender bathroom policy, a nationwide pronoun policy, a nationwide sex-reassignment (sex change) healthcare mandate, and much more. In short, it imposes anti-Christian morality on the entire nation using the awesome force and power of the federal government.

Writing for Focus on the Family, a highly influential Christian ministry, Jeff Johnston

warned that the legislation was “dangerous” and “would have serious harmful consequences for people of faith and families.” Christians, he said, believe what the Bible’s Book of Genesis says clearly: God created two types of humans, male and female. Christians also believe what God taught about marriage, and that children ought to have a mother and a father. “We understand that Christian teaching about marriage has profound spiritual significance, as the husband and wife relationship reflects the relationship between Christ and His Church,” Johnston explained.

But under the Equality Act, the federal government “takes these basic biblical teachings and labels them ‘discriminatory,’” he continued. “It puts the full force and influence of the federal government behind enforcing this law and opposing Christian beliefs. The law is a powerful teacher, and the Equality Act would teach that Christian thinking about male-female differences, marriage, parenting, family and sexuality are rooted in prejudice — rather than in years of wisdom, reason and biblical exegesis.” The consequences of this have already proven disastrous at the state and local level. And if this bill gets passed, Christians across the nation would find themselves in the cross hairs of the massively powerful U.S. government, he warned.

Another organization formed in response to the escalating LGBT onslaught against Christians and people of faith is the Gone 2 Far Movement. The interracial and interfaith body of clergy and laity committed to being true to biblical principles said it is “aghast” at the legislative agenda of Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi — and the LGBT Equality Act in particular. Dr. Randy Lancaster-Short, a black reverend with family connections to heavyweights in the original civil-rights movement who serves as the political chair for the movement, blasted the effort to equate sexual proclivities and gender confusion with the immutable characteristics such as race



**Masterpiece Cakeshop** owner Jack Phillips declined to use his God-given artistic talents to celebrate what the Bible condemns, so he was relentlessly persecuted under Colorado’s LGBT statutes.

AP Images

He and others have been sounding the alarm about the likelihood that protections for “sexual orientation” will eventually be extended even to “minor-attracted persons,” the new politically correct term for pedophiles and pederasts.

that were originally protected in the Civil Rights Act. Indeed, blasting the legislation as the “Pedophile Amnesty Act,” he and others have been sounding the alarm about the likelihood that protections for “sexual orientation” will eventually be extended even to “minor-attracted persons,” the new politically correct term for pedophiles and pederasts.

In a statement to *THE NEW AMERICAN*, Dr. Short, who is working to make black churches aware of the legislation, noted that the Equality Act “will criminalize the Christian faith and deny religious belief as a justification for not complying with the Gay Equality Act.” By re-introducing the act, Short said, the Democrats “resumed the long march of the Homosexual Political Complex to undermine the sacred traditional values of the American Republic; destroy civil and religious liberties; collectively libel, exploit, defraud and defame protected minorities; poison and glut our legal system with oxymoronic suits; diminish our faith-based charitable and philanthropic institutions; impose frivolous and wasteful regulations on businesses; create havoc in families and schools; and crystallize unscientific sexuality theories that invent sexes other than male and female.”

In follow-up comments, Short warned that, by supporting the Equality Act, the Congressional Black Caucus had “become more dangerous to black Americans than the KKK.” Similarly, by backing the legislation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) now poses “a greater existential threat to the survival of Blacks than the Ku Klux Klan, the Nazis, rogue cops, and assorted racial terrorists past or present,” Reverend Short warned. This bill “will criminalize the Christian faith,” he explained. “It portends as great a peril to the American family, religious liberties, small businesses, women’s rights, children’s rights, and the rights of Black Americans as the iceberg that impaled the *Titanic* in 1912,” he added,

calling the legislation “anti-family, pro-pedophilia, and anti-Christian.”

Even though under the narrowest of exemptions contained in the act, Catholic priests would probably not be required to “marry” homosexuals, the Catholic Church is speaking out against it too. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops warned that it would impose “sweeping regulations to the detriment of society as a whole.” “The act’s definitions alone would remove women and girls from protected legal existence,” the Catholic leaders said, warning that the bill seeks to regulate thought, belief, and speech in an “unprecedented” departure from America’s founding principles. “Furthermore, the act also fails to recognize the difference between the person — who has dignity and is entitled to recognition of it — and the actions of a person, which have ethical and social ramifications. Conflating the two will introduce a plethora of further legal complications.”

The bill is so radical and extreme that even some homosexual activists such as

Gregory Angelo, former leader of the homosexual “Log Cabin Republicans,” are opposed to it. “Don’t be fooled by the name: The Equality Act is legislation that would compromise American civil rights and religious liberty as we know it,” wrote Angelo in a piece for the *Washington Examiner*. “All reasonable Americans, especially gay Americans who support pluralism and tolerance, should oppose it.” Among other concerns, Angelo said, he had promised people that allowing homosexual “marriage” would not affect Christians, but now, LGBT activists behind the Equality Act were going to make him a liar.

Even some pro-LGBT Democrats such as Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) have expressed opposition. Manchin said that while he supports the idea behind the statute, it does not provide “sufficient guidance to the local officials who will be responsible for implementing it, particularly with respect to students transitioning between genders in public schools.”

The LGBT movement is demanding that he support the bill, but so far he has refused.

### What’s Next for Anti-Christian Inequality

While the legislation has been introduced in Congress for years, it never had a real shot at passage before. Now it does. In the House, the legislation has been cosponsored by 240 members — a rock-solid ma-



**LGBT pride parade:** With full support from the establishment and government, the LGBT movement, now out of the closet, is increasingly working to crush all those who oppose it.



jority with more than enough to pass the bill tomorrow. In the Senate, meanwhile, S. 788 already has 46 cosponsors, including one liberal Republican, putting it perilously close to the 51 sponsors needed for a majority. What Trump might do on this remains a mystery. Considering the growing outcry, some analysts have argued that it would be hard for Trump to betray his base among Christian conservatives. But as THE NEW AMERICAN has reported, under the current administration, U.S. embassies have continued celebrating LGBT “Pride” and senior U.S. officials have even announced a push to legalize sodomy and homosexuality around the world. Even if they do not get it in the 116th Congress, the LGBT movement will be back in 2020 for another try.

Big Business is fully on board, too. Over 150 of America’s richest and most powerful mega-corporations have publicly lined up in support of the bill. According to the anti-Christian homosexual activist group known as Human Rights Campaign, which seeks to equate sodomy and homosexual activity with human rights, the corporate behemoths supporting the legislation have “combined operation in all 50 states, headquarters in 26 states, more than \$3.7 trillion in revenue, and more than 8.5 million employees across the United States.” The anti-Christian corporate giants behind the movement include Amazon, Google, Twitter, Facebook, Microsoft, General Electric, and many other top U.S. companies.

At the state level, the LGBT movement has already succeeded across much of America. Almost half of states and hundreds of local governments have adopted laws enshrining “sexual orientation and gender identity” protections. These have produced what the Heritage Foundation called “disastrous” consequences for residents. “These policies are not being used to promote equality,” noted research assistant Monica Burke with the Center for Religion and Civil Society at Heritage. “Instead, they are being used as a blunt-force weapon to ban disagreement on marriage and sexuality by punishing dissenters.” She quoted one of the leading financiers of the LGBT agenda push, Tom Gill of Colorado, who vowed to “punish the wicked,” with “the wicked,” in his view, being those who believe in traditional marriage.



**Dr. Randy Short** is with an interfaith coalition opposing the LGBT juggernaut, warning that the pro-LGBT NAACP and Congressional Black Caucus are more dangerous to blacks than the KKK.

Among the problems that have emerged in states where these laws exist, “Faith-based foster care and adoption agencies in Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, California, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia have been forced to shut down for operating according to their religious beliefs about marriage — further exacerbating our current foster care crisis.” Also, Catholic hospitals are being sued for refusing to surgically mutilate individuals who are confused about their gender. Teachers have been fired for refusing to use incorrect pronouns. Men are competing as women and beating all the actual women in sports. Homeless shelters for women are being sued for refusing to allow men claiming to be women to stay there. And parental rights are under attack, with “adherence to radical gender ideology” seemingly becoming “a new litmus test for parental fitness.”

“It’s worth noting that all of this has happened without a federal sexual orientation and gender identity policy,” explained Burke. “The federal Equality Act would only make this bad situation worse. The bill would pose an existential threat not only to religious organizations from churches to schools to charities, but also to secular institutions as well — not to mention the livelihoods of individuals who do not agree with new sexual norms or gender ideology. That’s why a federal sexual orientation and gender identity law with religious exemptions is still bad policy. That strategy only protects the interests of a few

and imposes a bad law on everyone else. The weaponization of sexual orientation and gender identity laws at the state and local level have made it eminently clear that a federal law would have devastating effects on the American people.”

The train has already left the station in America and across the West. And it is bad. Indeed, in Europe, pastors and evangelists are already being arrested and jailed — literally — for pointing out that the God of the Bible condemns homosexuality as sinful, and that God made people either male and female. In Sweden, authorities investigated the Bible under Swedish “hate speech” laws and determined that the Bible violates that government’s speech codes, even though it is not “practical” to ban the Bible at this point. America may not be there yet, but the Equality Act would be a giant step in that direction.

In the end, the Equality Act is unconstitutional on its face. The federal government has no constitutional authority to force anyone — much less everyone — to bow down to its radical anti-Christian ideology. And in fact, multiple provisions of the Constitution, including the First Amendment and the 10th Amendment, specifically prohibit the sort of lunacy envisioned in this legislation. But that has rarely stopped the feds before. Americans who value liberty and Christian civilization must recognize that everything they cherish is on the line. It is time to speak out, or be crushed by the oncoming freight train. ■

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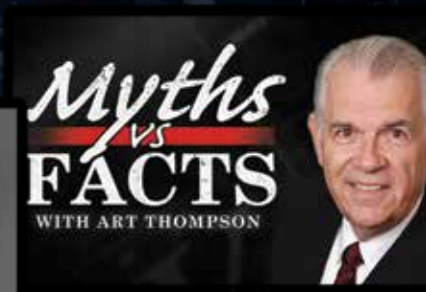


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# CONQUERING the Porn Problem

As pornography has become more available over the Internet, it has been destroying a huge number of individuals' lives through addiction. But now it can be dealt with.

by Dave Bohon

A few years back Nick Stumbo's life looked a lot like that of millions of men across America. Happily married with three beautiful children, Nick had a satisfying career, lived in a nice house, enjoyed some great friendships — and hid a dark, shameful secret: He was hopelessly addicted to pornography.

In Nick's case, the shame and guilt he faced daily because of his bondage to porn was magnified by the fact that he was also the pastor of a thriving evangelical Christian congregation, where scores of individuals and families regularly looked to him for encouragement and spiritual guidance.

"Every Sunday as I stood behind the pulpit to tell people about God's unconditional love and redemption, I was tormented by silent accusations that I was a phony and a failure," Nick recalled. "If my congregation knew about what I was viewing on my computer late at night, and the thoughts and lust I struggled with, my thinking went,

they would get rid of me immediately. I was chased by a sense of worthlessness and self-loathing over this terrible addiction I had carried for nearly fifteen years."

## An Epidemic Problem

Sadly, the bondage Nick battled alone for a decade and a half is far from unusual for men across America. According to a survey by the Barna Group on behalf of Proven Men, an organization that helps men struggling with sexual addiction, 64 percent of men in America are viewing pornography on a monthly basis, with 80 percent of men between 18 and 30, 67 percent of those between 31 and 49, and half of men between the ages of 50 and 68 viewing porn at least monthly.

In fact, according to Barna, nearly one-third of men between the ages of 18 and 30 either are — or think they are — addicted to pornography, and overall, nearly 20 percent of men in America — around 21 million of them — think porn is a problem for them.

And while statistically men struggle the most with porn, the easy access of pornographic materials has made it a growing issue for American women as well. Barna found that over 75 percent of American women between 18 and 30 years old view pornography at least once a month. A similar survey, conducted by Typeform for the magazine *Marie Claire*, found that over 30 percent of women seek out pornography at least once a week. Barna found that teen girls and women under 25 are significantly more likely to actively seek out porn than older women.

Overall, Barna found that one in three Americans — men and women combined — seek out pornography at least once a month.

And as it happens, the shame and guilt Nick faced as a Christian and a pastor struggling with pornography are encountered by millions of others who embrace the Christian faith. The Barna survey found that men who self-identify as Christian seek out pornography at roughly the

same rate as those who claim no faith. And as for clergy, 57 percent of them admitted to a past or present struggle with pornography, and 64 percent of pastors who work directly with youth said they had struggled with porn. Not surprisingly, reported Barna, “the vast majority of faith leaders who struggle with porn say this has significantly affected their ministry in a negative manner.”

As for Nick Stumbo, his own addiction to pornography, and his grief over how it was impacting his family and those to whom he ministered, led him to desperation. “For years I had done everything my faith-filled upbringing had taught me to do,” he recalled. “I prayed, read Scripture, and memorized every Bible verse on lust, temptation, and freedom through faith in Christ. I also confessed my struggle wherever it seemed appropriate — to my pastor at summer youth camp, to my college student dean, to my first senior pastor, to my elder board, and on many occasions to my wife.”

While those confessions to his wife, Michelle, stressed their marriage to the breaking point, they also helped position Nick to receive the help he needed to break free from his porn addiction. At a clergy conference Nick attended in 2010, one of the speakers was Dr. Ted Roberts, a pastor and therapist who has counseled and equipped thousands of men to conquer pornography and sexual addiction through faith in Christ and accountability to others. At Dr. Roberts’ invitation, Nick sought counseling and freedom through a program Dr. Roberts had established for men and their families, called Pure Desire.

Through the Pure Desire program, Nick found hope and healing from the ravages of porn and sexual addiction. “My life was changed as I learned to walk in rigorous honesty, constructed meaningful guardrails around behavior, and discovered the wounds and false core-beliefs that were driving my behavior,” explained Nick. “I was shown how brain science complemented a foundation of biblical truth to create lasting change in my thoughts and actions. I was set free from pornography addiction, and our marriage was placed on new, solid footing.”

Additionally, one Sunday after Nick and his wife were well on their way to newfound freedom, Nick stood before



**Driven by desperation:** Nick Stumbo's bondage to pornography led him to Pure Desire, a program designed to help individuals struggling with sexual addiction. Today Nick helps others find the freedom he discovered through faith in God and accountability to others.

his congregation, confessed his struggle with pornography, and asked forgiveness for his failure as their pastor. And while he had once feared rejection over such a revelation, the church’s response was just the opposite, as his congregants embraced their pastor and his wife, and Nick’s transparency over his sin and weakness actually helped others in the church face their own secret struggles. Explained Nick: “Rather than allowing sexually compulsive behavior to stay hidden, we brought it to the surface and began to deal honestly with its effect on people’s lives and marriages.”

Today, as the executive director of Pure Desire — the very organization that helped guide him out of addiction to pornography — Nick Stumbo is helping other men and families find freedom and wholeness.

### An Honest Appraisal

As with Nick, successfully battling the crisis of pornography addiction — individually, in families, and in society as a whole — necessitates an honest appraisal of the problem, the consequences, and the required solution.

One uncomfortable truth is that although pornography addiction is typically seen as an adult problem, in actuality it permeates every age group, beginning with the very young. A generation or two ago, access to porn by kids often came through a boy stealing dad’s stash from

his hiding place in the basement. Today, however, pornographic images and videos are as easy for eight- and 10-year-old boys and girls to access and view as they are for 20-, 30-, and 50-year-old men and women.

In fact, depending upon whose statistics you’re reading, the average age for an individual to be exposed to porn nowadays is either nine or 11 — which amounts to a distinction without a difference. For children to be exposed to porn at any age is nothing less than child sexual abuse.

As recently as 2016, Barna’s research revealed that for American teens between the ages of 13 and 17, eight percent intentionally seek out porn on a daily basis, 18 percent on a weekly basis, 11 percent twice each month, and 57 percent seek out porn at least once each month.

And with online porn being a nearly \$3 billion annual business, its growth has been exponential, with an estimated 12 percent of websites having some devotion to the distribution and sale of pornography. That means for the average adolescent (or younger), explicit, mind-searing pornography is just one Google search away.

Not surprisingly, such pervasive access to porn has liberalized the mind-set of many young people toward its tolerance. Among Barna’s findings:

- 90 percent of teens and 96 percent of young adults are either encouraging, accepting, or neutral when they talk about porn with their friends.



- Only 43 percent of today's teens believe porn is bad for society, leaving nearly 60 percent with more permissive attitudes.

- Of 13- to 24-year-olds, only 57 percent believe that an image of a fully naked person that is sexually arousing constitutes pornography. That means under half have been conditioned to consider pornographic images as acceptable.

- A majority of teens and young adults aged 13 to 24 believe not recycling (56 percent) is worse than viewing pornography (32 percent).

### What's the Big Deal?

In an increasingly permissive and morally deadened culture, many might wonder what is really wrong with viewing pornography. After all, for most young men in America, porn has been a rite of passage for decades, something almost every adolescent boy is exposed to at some point, in a school locker room, at a friend's house, or even by stumbling upon it in his own home. Most seem to make it through okay and end up more or less unscathed — right?

In reality, according to Dr. Roberts of Pure Desire, that “rite of passage” is leading millions of young men into the bondage of sexual addiction from which many may never find freedom. Roberts explained that an addiction to pornogra-

phy goes beyond just a moral issue or a choice of willpower. “Over the last decade a number of studies of brain scans have verified the addictive nature of porn usage,” he noted. “For some individuals, watching porn triggers a reward cycle deep within the brain, not unlike an addiction to cocaine or some other addictive drug. Such individuals begin to lose the ability to stop themselves from acting out. At that point the behavior has changed from simply a moral problem, to a neurological problem.”

Roberts added that “nearly every man who has walked into my office for counseling has promised himself a thousand times he will never watch porn again. But as with any addiction, it's not that easy.”

As for teens, Pure Desire's Nick Stumbo observed that increasingly children are being exposed to pornography before they even know what they are seeing. “The truth is that a young man alone in his bedroom could see more hardcore pornogra-

In Nick's case, the shame and guilt he faced daily because of his bondage to porn was magnified by the fact that he was also the pastor of a thriving evangelical Christian congregation.

phy in one night of secret binge-watching than his father had seen in his entire lifetime,” Stumbo said.

Stumbo noted that the still-developing teenage brain is particularly susceptible to pleasure and to addiction. “So with the easy access to porn, there is a ready pathway that is setting up millions of teens for a potential lifetime of sexual addiction.”

As young men, who have traditionally been the most impacted by sexual and other addictions, mature into adulthood, porn obsession can impact them in ways they never imagined, hampering their leadership in their homes and beyond, their moral integrity, their confidence and convictions, and what they ultimately pass on to their own children.

“Interacting with pornography by nature is an isolating, private behavior,” explained Stumbo, “and for the majority of men caught in its grasp, it becomes an area of life for which they feel tremendous guilt and shame. It's a behavior they fear will cause others to reject them. This can lead to men who are either reserved and passive — who let life happen to them rather than making it happen — or, by contrast, men who feel the need to prove their manliness through their possessions, wealth, or physical appearance.”

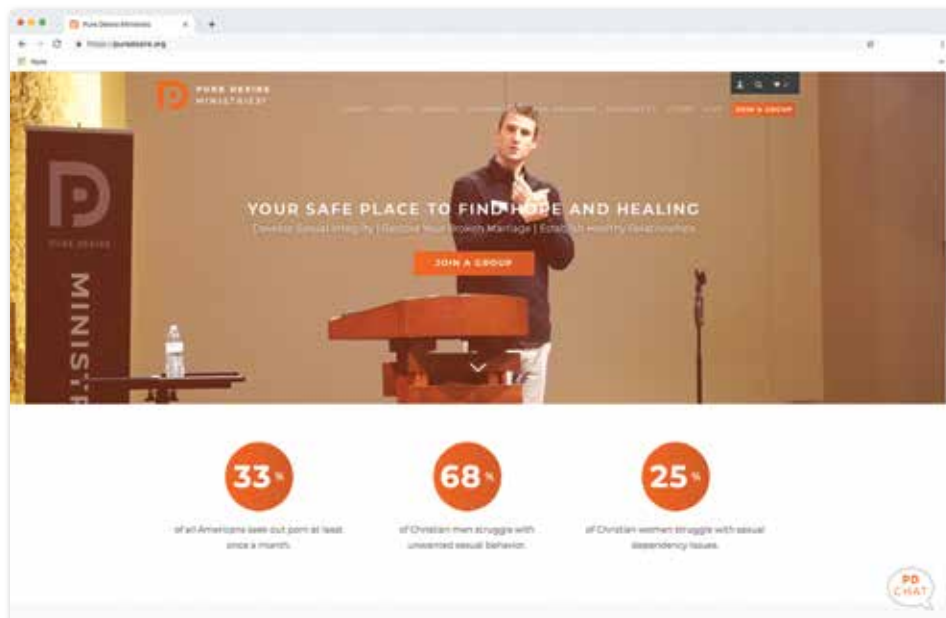
On a broader societal level, because sexuality has become such a commodity in media and advertising, males from an early age have become conditioned to view women primarily in sexual terms, a concept on which porn purveyors have capitalized. Observed Stumbo: “The collective effect is that men are increasingly being stuck in this unreal, objectivized view of women and sexuality, and are paying a steep price for it, as we have seen in things like the #metoo movement, where men with significant influence have found themselves in deep trouble over their sexual behaviors.”

What it all boils down to, he added, is that “we live in a society that baits men



Vimeo/Pure Desire Ministries

**Doctor's “Desire”:** Dr. Ted Roberts started Pure Desire in response to the many individuals he encountered in the church he pastored who were struggling with sexual addiction. Over 30 years later, untold thousands of individuals and families have been restored through the program.



**God-guided:** The explosion in the numbers of individuals addicted to pornography has prompted a broad range of efforts to deal with the problem. By far the most effective are groups that emphasize repentance, redemption, and accountability — in short, faith and trust in a “higher power.”

right up to the edge sexually by the availability of pornography, and then penalizes them for acting out what pornography has conditioned them to believe.”

### The Way to Freedom

While our secularized culture has been particularly adept at creating ever more enticing ways to entangle men, boys, and even women and girls in an inextricable web of shame and guilt through the bondage of pornography, it has been almost entirely inept at offering a way out — try as it might. As with any addiction, secular programs and strategies aimed at guiding individuals mired in porn and sexual bondage to freedom have met with marginal results. And the reason is simple: The shame and guilt that individuals bear in silence over their enslavement to perversion requires a moral solution for freedom.

It is precisely for that reason that most individuals and families devastated by pornography find freedom through programs and structures that emphasize repentance, redemption, and accountability — in short, faith and trust in a “higher power.” The incredible success and freedom generations of men and women have found through Alcoholics Anonymous makes sense when one realizes that the program’s iconic “Twelve Steps” to freedom focus almost entirely on taking responsibility

for one’s actions and circumstances, and in turning to God for redemption and guidance, and to others for accountability.

Similarly, one of the most successful addiction treatment programs in the world over the past 40-plus years has been Teen Challenge, which has recorded an overall success rate of 70 percent for those who have completed its one-year program of Christian, Bible-based mentorship and accountability. A 2011 study by the Minnesota-based Wilder Foundation found that of the Teen Challenge graduates polled, the majority cited the program’s Christian elements as foundational to their success in beating addiction.

So it is little surprise that the greatest success in breaking an addiction to pornography has been found through programs that rely on the precepts of the Christian faith as their foundation. Programs such as Every Man’s Battle, Proven Men, Covenant Eyes, and others offer individuals and families the help they need in a safe environment of understanding and compassion.

One of the most successful of these faith-based efforts is Pure Desire, begun by Dr. Ted Roberts over 30 years ago as he realized the depth of need in a struggling congregation he was called upon to pastor. Roberts was successful in turning the church around, and its numbers swelled

to several thousand members, with most of the new individuals and families from backgrounds where faith in God had not been emphasized. “I found myself overwhelmed by the fact that the vast majority of folks showing up each week were totally unchurched, and were also deeply addicted,” Roberts recalled. “You name it and they were addicted to it. And because they were so unchurched and new in their faith they didn’t hide the fact that sexual addiction lay at the root of many of their deepest struggles. It was literally tearing families and marriages to shreds.”

It was the mid-1980s, and as Roberts searched throughout the Christian community for anyone who was addressing the problem of pornography, he found it a taboo subject among Christians in general. As he began looking through the secular counseling resources for some direction, Roberts discovered the research of Dr. Patrick Carnes, a counseling pioneer in the area of sexual addiction. “I ended up contacting Dr. Carnes, who became my mentor in this new adventure, and who graciously allowed me to take his invaluable research and model, and add a biblical, Christian foundation for the individuals I was working with,” recalled Roberts. “That was the foundation of our Pure Desire program, and after more than 30 years, thousands of men across America and around the world have walked through our ‘Seven Pillars of Freedom,’ with the result that untold marriages, families, and lives have been redeemed and restored.”

Stumbo emphasized that the success of the Pure Desire model comes through its combination of the best of traditional research and counseling models, along with the foundation of biblical truths and faith in God.

“I believe this model is so effective at creating true change in a person’s life because we combine several vital components in the healing process,” he explained. “That includes a commitment to accountability and cooperation in a small group of individuals to whom those in need can be open and vulnerable, and whom they can trust. Until someone is willing to come out of isolation, this battle is almost impossible to beat alone. We have developed group materials for men, women, and teens, all of them aimed at creating safe places where people learn to



share their stories and see the impact their experiences have had on them.”

He added that “we also utilize the very best of brain science and psychological research in our materials. In order for someone to find freedom, he has to understand how this issue has impacted his thinking, and how to change that thinking.”

Most important, Stumbo said, “this process is so successful because we build it all on a deeply Christian, biblical foundation. We believe that all truth is God’s truth, and when we learn to apply his truth to the issue of pornography and sexual addiction, along with community and understanding of the brain, real change can happen.”

### Becoming a Conqueror

A few years ago Roberts was approached by filmmaker Jeremy Wiles to host a video project that addresses the issue of pornog-

Barna found that over 75 percent of American women between 18 and 30 years old view pornography at least once a month. A similar survey, conducted by Typeform for the magazine *Marie Claire*, found that over 30 percent of women seek out pornography at least once a week.

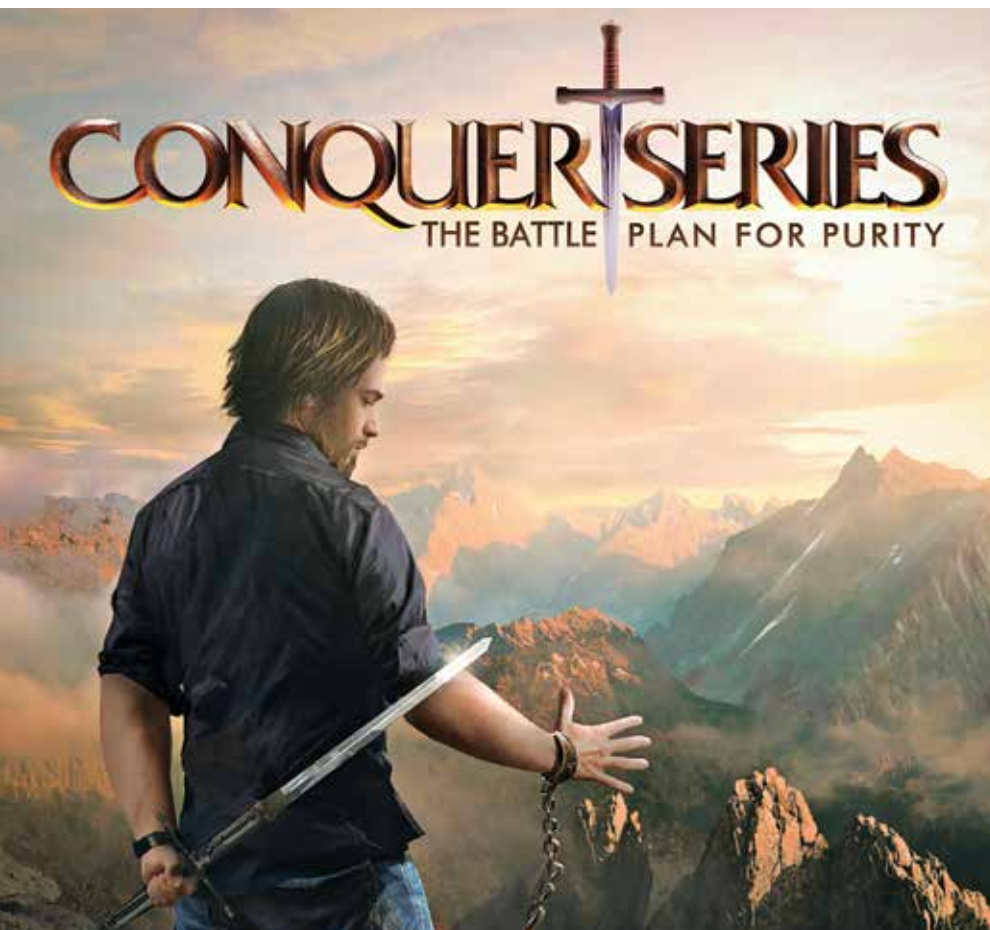
raphy in a no-nonsense manner geared for men, offering solid Christian perspective and hope for men struggling with porn addiction. The result was the *Conquer Series*, a six-disk DVD program and curriculum that uses Dr. Roberts’ history as a U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilot during the Vietnam conflict as a backdrop to teach men how to conquer porn addiction and find freedom through Christian and biblical counsel and guidance.

“We spent two years developing this six-hour series, interviewing top Christian leaders and shooting battle reenactments to illustrate the war that every man faces with sexual temptation,” recounted Wiles. “We wanted to give men proven principles on how to find freedom. We believe that this can be the generation that changes the troubling statistic on pornography.”

The impact of the *Conquer Series* has been nothing short of phenomenal. Since its release in 2014, the series has been viewed by nearly one million men, and has brought help and wholeness to thousands of men and their families.

Roberts said the effectiveness of the series lies in how it communicates the process of dealing with sexual bondage in a manner that is engaging to today’s generation of men. “I believe it is the perfect introduction both for those struggling with pornography or sexual addiction, as well as for individuals, churches, or groups who would like to be a part of the solution to the destructive scourge of pornography.”

While it is easy for those who have not been directly impacted by pornography to dismiss it as someone else’s struggle, Stumbo believes that it is an issue everyone must be willing to talk about. “The truth is that nearly everyone has been impacted in some way by sexual brokenness, either directly or through the experience of a loved one or friend,” he said. “It’s time to make the porn problem front and center and stop keeping it off-limits. If we can cultivate healthy, mature conversations about sexuality in our families and close circles, and address how pornography is destroying the lives of people in those close circles — that is the beginning of real change. While it’s a conversation that may start with men, ultimately it must extend to our wives, to our children, and to the communities we call home.” ■



**DVDs for doing right:** Filmmaker Jeremy Wiles produced the *Conquer Series* to offer solid Christian perspective and hope for men struggling with porn addiction. Since its 2014 release, the DVD series has been viewed by nearly one million men, and has brought help and wholeness to thousands of men and their families.

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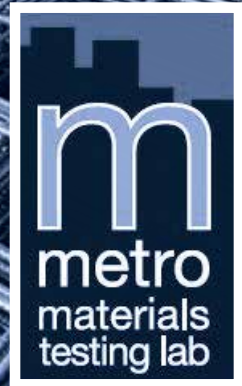
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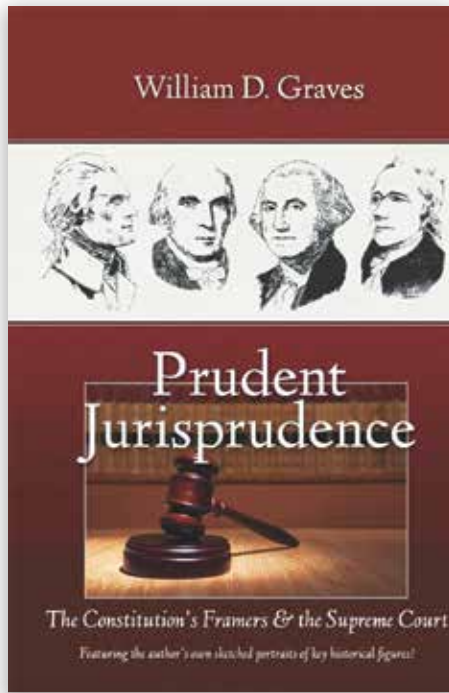
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# THE CONSTITUTION MEANS WHAT IT MEANS

Former judge and legislator William Graves' collected articles explain how the Constitution is being illegally undermined, and delineate principles of American jurisprudence.



by Steve Byas

***Prudent Jurisprudence: The Constitution's Framers & the Supreme Court***, by William D. Graves, Coulterville, California: Center for Cultural Leadership, 2019, 406 pages, paperback.

Bill Graves served 24 years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, where he had the highest-ranking score on the Oklahoma Conservative Index, published periodically by the *Oklahoma Constitution* newspaper, more often than any other legislator. But Graves was more than just a vote in the Legislature; he was, at all times, a principled leader in fighting for the concepts

of constitutionalism, limited government, ordered liberty, and the values of America's Founding Fathers. He carried these values over into the courtroom, where he served 12 more years as a district judge.

Now, Graves shares his insights in book form, in a collection of articles he penned over the years in law journals, scholarly journals, and the popular press. Constitutional law Professor John Eidsmoe said in the Foreword, "As a trench warrior, he can be trusted to faithfully defend Christian liberty and limited government as guaranteed by the Constitution. *Prudent Jurisprudence* stands out, first, because of Bill's tireless research. With a jeweler's precision, he carefully documents his assertions with meticulous footnotes from reliable sources."

The vast collection of quotations and sources Graves cites are, by themselves, worth obtaining this book as a valuable resource for every informed American who loves constitutional principles. The articles form the 23 chapters in the book, but some of the material sometimes overlaps. In his chapter "The Constitution & Judicial Supremacy *Obergefell et al vs. The Original Understanding*," he quotes James Madison that the proper way to interpret the Constitution is to maintain consistency with the original meaning of the words used when the Constitution was written, since it was in that sense that "the Constitution was accepted and ratified by the nation. In that sense alone it is the legitimate Constitution."

Alas, not only do members of Congress and presidents ignore the clear wording of the Constitution they are sworn to protect, judges rarely cite the document in their decisions, choosing to quote other judges' decisions about it. Graves charges that this is itself a rather selective process, blaming

much of such judicial tyranny on the concept known as "substantive due process."

According to Graves, substantive due process has no constitutional basis, but is rather "a court-created distortion of procedural due process (which governs court proceedings) by which Justices declare a law unconstitutional based on their personal, moral, economic, or political beliefs or unreasonableness."

This theme — that judges routinely substitute their own view on what the law should be, rather than what it actually is — runs through the book in all the various articles, and Graves compiles a mountain of evidence to prove his contention. He cites Madison: "There can be no liberty if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers." Baron Montesquieu is quoted, as well: "When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person or body, there can be no liberty... Were the power of judging joined with the legislative, the life and liberty of the subject would be exposed to arbitrary control, for *the judge* would then be *the legislator*. Were it joined to the executive power, *the judge* might behave with all the violence of *an oppressor*." (Emphasis in original.) How prophetic.

Graves also attacks the idea that judicial decisions are somehow the "supreme law" (rather than the Constitution itself), citing Alexander Hamilton, who said any federal actions — including decisions of judges — not in pursuance of constitutional powers are but invasions of the states' powers and "merely acts of usurpation, and will deserve to be treated as such." Graves contends that courts are not to make the law "of the land," but rather the "law of the case." He adds, "It [the Supreme Court] has no power to legislate laws or be a sitting constitu-

Jefferson said, “To consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions [is] a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one in which would place us under the *despotism of an oligarchy*.”

tional convention. To try and do so is to usurp what is not the Court’s. It has no express constitutional authority to claim its opinions are laws and the sole and exclusive meaning of the Constitution.” He then cites Abraham Lincoln, who argued that while Supreme Court decisions are “binding” on the parties in a case, their ruling “may be erroneous.” Lincoln noted this “evil effect” of an erroneous ruling is limited “to that particular case.”

Thomas Jefferson was the president who most understood the danger of a federal judiciary that fails to follow the written Constitution. Jefferson said, “To consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions [is] a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one in which would place us under the *despotism of an oligarchy*.” (Emphasis in original.) Graves comments: “If Jefferson thought the federal judiciary in his day was out of hand, he would be spinning in his grave at what it has done and is doing in modern times.”

How did this idea that judges can simply substitute their own views for that of the legislature, or even of the Constitution itself, ever take root? Graves argues that much of this is due to the widespread acceptance in law schools of the Darwinian theory of evolution. “Evolution,” Graves explained, “in the name of progress, promotes constant, inevitable change divorced from any conception of God.” But, such a concept in the field of law “has resulted not in progress,” Graves notes, “but rather the destruction of the principled foundations of our laws.”

Darwin’s book *On the Origin of Species* was published in 1859. In the 1870s, Christopher Langdell, dean of Harvard Law School, began to apply Darwinian thought to legal education, Graves explains, through the “case method” of teaching law rather than using the traditional method as established by William Blackstone. (Blackstone taught that a

judge’s opinion in an appellate case was not a *source* of law, but rather an *evidence* of law, which preceded the case.)

Not surprisingly, Woodrow Wilson, who was extremely critical of the Constitution as it was established by the Founders, is cited by Graves in summarizing the view of legal evolutionists: The antiquated Constitution was blocking “progress.” Wilson asserted that the Constitution’s provisions that restricted the use of government power be ignored in favor of an “elastic” constitution that could mean literally anything. While some contend that Wilson was a Christian — a Presbyterian — Graves views him as an enemy of the faith. Wilson eliminated Bible classes at Princeton while serving as that school’s president, and told students that “ethical situations are complicated.”

A principal device used by federal courts to subvert the meaning of the Constitution and impose their views on the states, as well as in strictly federal cases, is through what is called the “Incorporation Doctrine,” though it took many years for such a principle to be applied.

Chief Justice John Marshall had held in *Barron v. Baltimore* in 1833 that the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to protect individual American citizens and the state governments from the federal government, and therefore, were not intended to apply to the states in any way.

Even after the passage of the 14th Amendment, cited by proponents of the incorporation doctrine to show that the Bill of Rights now does apply to the states, the Supreme Court rejected the argument that the Bill of Rights applied to states for 57 years after its enactment. But then, without explanation, Graves writes, the Supreme Court held in *Gitlow v. New York*, a 1925 case, that the Bill of Rights did apply to the states — at least in some instances.

Graves, however, then cites and gives examples from Professor Charles Fair-

man, who assembled a “mountain of evidence” against the incorporation doctrine.

But through this doctrine, the federal courts have been able to impose their will on the states, using the argument that they are merely applying the Bill of Rights to the states, as well as on the federal government. Today, this doctrine — that federal courts, particularly the Supreme Court of the United States, has the Constitution-granted authority to strike down state laws and local ordinances as “unconstitutional,” is accepted even by conservatives. This doctrine is why prayer and Bible reading were taken out of schools and why the federal courts regularly interfere with the legal proceedings within states, and this is what led to the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision that summarily declared that the statutes of several states restricted abortion and somehow violated the Constitution.

No short review can do this book justice. In it, Graves tackles a multitude of questions, including the question of “evolving standards” and the death penalty, the use of nullification by the states to defend themselves from federal usurpation, and the court’s misinterpretation of the general welfare clause, the necessary and proper clause, and the commerce clause to expand federal powers at the expense of the states.

Graves also examines the usurpations of the court in the field of immigration and citizenship (and all the negative consequences we are now experiencing), the question of whether the 14th Amendment was even properly ratified, and the role of the common law in a proper interpretation of the Constitution.

Knowing the correct definitions of terms under the common law is instructive in proper interpretation of the Constitution, as Graves so ably demonstrates.

Additional articles defend the Electoral College, address the dangers of a modern-day constitutional convention, and even provide a tribute to George Washington, delivered on the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives when Graves was the unquestioned conservative leader of that body.

The reader who purchases this book will find it an indispensable reference work on the Constitution and the proper role of government. ■





## THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

### Cable Service

When Jessica Nash Donnahoo found herself overwhelmed during a service visit from her cable technician on March 16, she was surprised to learn that her technician provided services beyond fixing her cable problem.

Donnahoo, of Greenville, South Carolina, is a mother to two toddlers, a two-year-old daughter and a three-year old son named Sailor, who suffers from blindness and two rare brain defects. Sailor struggles with communication and often cries out of frustration from his inability to communicate his needs.

On March 16, Donnahoo was home trying to finish her household chores and attend to her two children. Sailor had spent most of the morning crying, and Donnahoo did her best to provide him comfort while also simultaneously caring for her daughter and attending to the laundry and household duties. When Rob Kinney, her local cable technician, arrived at her house for a service call, she was nearly at her wits' end.

"He has been crying all morning," Donnahoo explained in a Facebook post. "I've been trying to soothe him while also meeting the needs of my two year old daughter, cleaning, washing dishes, and doing laundry while my husband works. It's just been a tough day."

She was surprised that when Sailor heard Kinney speak, the little boy approached him and raised his arms to indicate he wanted Kinney to hold him. Even more surprising to Donnahoo, Kinney scooped the young boy into his arms and held him throughout the entire service visit.

Kinney "held my son off and on for the whole 45 minutes he was in our home," Donnahoo wrote. "He snuggled him close while I folded laundry."

By the time Kinney left, approximately 45 minutes later, Sailor was calm and nearly asleep. In the meantime, Donnahoo was able to get her chores accomplished while Kinney held and comforted her son.

Donnahoo was so touched by Kinney's kindness that she snapped a photo and posted it on Facebook. "It was a huge relief to this tired momma," Donnahoo explained. "Robert could have walked in, rushed, and left but instead he saw a

need greater than [the] internet and met it. That's beyond customer service — it's humanity at its best."

Donnahoo's post was liked more than 500,000 times and shared nearly 200,000 times.

### Heroic Intervention

Illinois State Police Trooper Gerald Ellis died a hero on March 30 in this incredible and tragic story out of Libertyville.

Ellis was driving home on Interstate 94 westbound in Libertyville when he noticed a driver traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes.

Ellis reportedly acted immediately, sacrificing himself and his own vehicle to collide with the driver head-on to prevent others from being hurt. Ellis was transported to Advocate Condell Medical Center and was pronounced dead at the hospital. The other driver also died.

"Trooper Ellis laid down his life while protecting the citizens of this state. We are asking the public to respectfully give consideration to the family of Trooper Ellis and the ISP while we continue to process and work through this tragedy," Illinois State Police Acting Director Brendan Kelly added.

Carrie Kay asserts that Ellis saved her daughter's life.

According to Kay, her daughter was traveling home from Washington, D.C., with a family for whom she babysits. Trooper Ellis was ahead of them but two lanes over, and he quickly maneuvered his vehicle into their lane to block the wrong-way driver from hitting the car in which Kay's daughter rode.

"Trooper Gerald Ellis you are my HERO. This officer paid the ultimate sacrifice early this morning and saved my daughter's life," Kay said in a Facebook post.

Ellis is a veteran of the U.S. military. He leaves behind a wife and two children.

### Missing Bear

For 12-year-old Ryan Paul, who has autism, losing his teddy bear was an emergency. Fortunately for him, the police officer he called to report the missing stuffed animal agreed.

Officer Khari Manzini was patrolling when he heard about the phone call from the young boy.

"The teddy bear fell down again. Don't worry, I'll rescue you. Goodbye again, see you again," Paul told the dispatcher.

Manzini arrived at the child's home shortly after the call.

"Ryan was happy to see me," Manzini told News 12 New Jersey.

Officer Manzini turned out to be the perfect person for the job. He was specially trained in autism services about how to deal with special-needs citizens and was able to work with Paul to understand the purpose of his phone call.

When Manzini came to the door, he could not have been more understanding and helped Ryan find the missing Teddy Bear in the bedroom.

Paul's parents were touched by Officer Manzini's kindness, though they did state that they will have to teach Paul the difference between a perceived emergency and an actual emergency.

### The Real Deal

When an officer of the Bridgeville Police Department in Pennsylvania noticed a group of neighborhood kids playing basketball with a makeshift hoop, he wanted to do something about it, WTAE-TV reported.

Police officer Roger Itzel was on patrol on March 28 and spotted a group of kids playing basketball with a hoop they made out of a recycling bin. He posted about it on Facebook in the hopes that the neighborhood would come together and, within 15 minutes, an anonymous donor reached out and offered to provide a proper basketball hoop to be enjoyed by the neighborhood children.

The Bridgeville Fire Department delivered the full-sized basketball hoop. A video of the delivery was captured and posted to the Bridgeville Police Department's Facebook page.

What's more, after the basketball hoop was set up, Officer Itzel and Police Chief Chad King even played a game of basketball with the kids, Star Pittsburgh Radio reported. ■

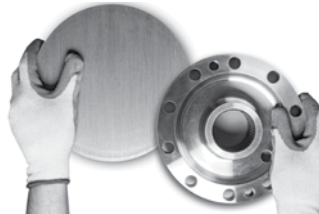
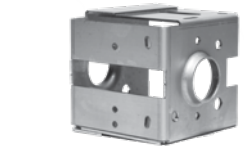
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# Russell Kirk and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn — The Centennial of Two Conservative Giants

It's now been more than 100 years since the births of two great conservative writers, men who laid bare the flaws of socialism — in its theory and practice.

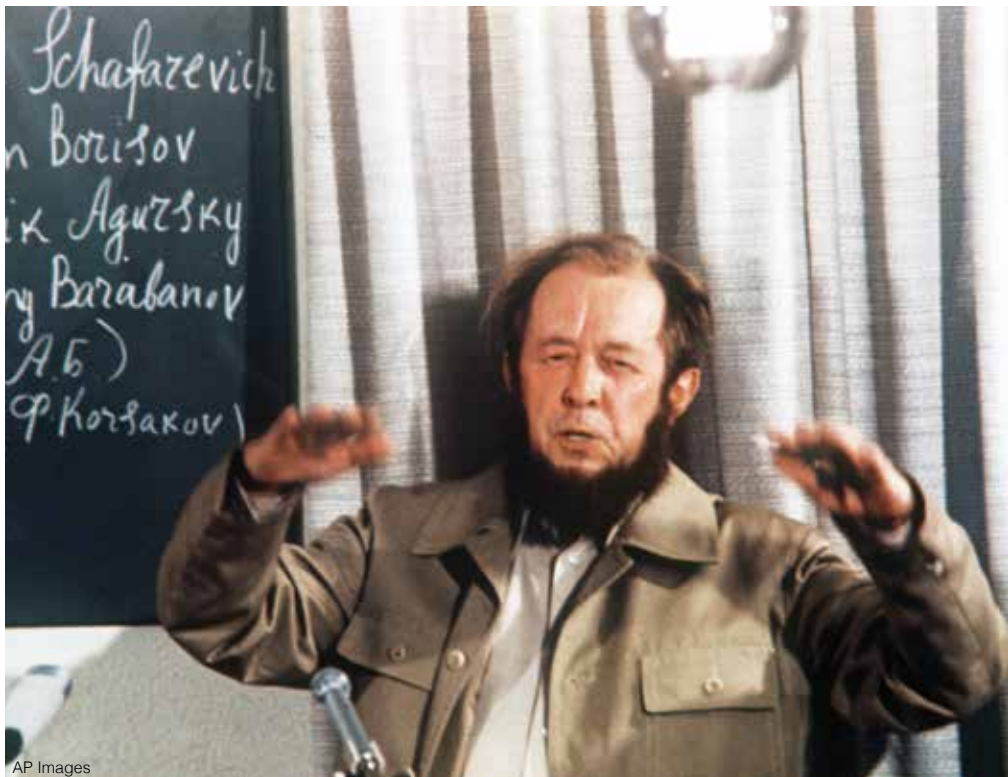
by Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser

A century has passed since the Bolshevik Revolution announced that an age of new ideology was falling over the world.

Before the guns could fall silent on the battlefields of the First World War, the harbingers of a century of collectivization, concentration camps and gulags, planned economies, one-party states, and “death by government” announced the coming of this age of ideology. But even then, the origins of the burgeoning ideologies that would afflict the world lay generations in the past: the French Revolution in 1789 and the Year of Revolution throughout many European nations in 1848 were but a warning of what would soon come to pass.

The success of the dangerous ideas was documented. Richard Weaver, one of the fathers of post-World War II American conservatism, wrote *Ideas Have Consequences*. Weaver astutely demonstrated that even seemingly abstract philosophical doctrines can have a profound influence on the course of civilizations. And the seemingly abstract speculations of the philosophers all too often become the justification for the creation of ideological systems. The *Communist Manifesto* of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin's *What Is To Be Done?*, and Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* — to name but a few titles — have claimed millions of victims in the causes of totalitarian ideologies. It has been a century of warfare across innumerable battlefields, with different ideological parties waging war on one another, and against all of the traditional nations and cultures of this world.

The warfare has also been waged in the



**Celebrity exile:** Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn addresses the press after his 1974 exile to the West, the same year *Time* magazine declared him “the world’s most celebrated writer.” From 1962 until his death in 2008, Solzhenitsyn’s writings warned the world of the dangers of communism.

realm of ideas, and in this battle the past year marked the centennial of the birth of two great writers in the conflict for the minds of men. The writings of Russell Amos Kirk (1918-1994) and Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008) are invaluable treasures at the heart of a rich inheritance of 20th-century conservative thought.

Both men were shaped by immersion in their respective cultures, and it is precisely that foundation that helped establish their clear enunciation of the “Permanent Things” in their writings. As Russell Kirk observed in a letter from 1963:

The great line of demarcation in modern politics does *not* lie between the liberals on the one hand, the totalitarians on the other, but rather between the immanest [sic] sectarians on the one hand, and all those who believe in a transcendent order on the other...

Surely we have a hard row to hoe. And we may fail. But we are put into this world to do battle. “Things are in the saddle, and ride mankind,” more than ever before. I suspect, indeed, that the modern age will come to smash; and then we will have to

Before the guns could fall silent on the battlefields of the First World War, the harbingers of a century of collectivization, concentration camps and gulags, planned economies, one-party states, and “death by government” announced the coming of this age of ideology.

build afresh upon old principles. Meanwhile, we guard what Mr. T. S. Eliot calls, “the enduring things.”

Or, as Solzhenitsyn stated more formally in his 1972 “Nobel Lecture on Literature”:

And who, if not the writers, are to express condemnation not only of their own bankrupt rulers ... but also of their own society, whether it be a matter of its craven humiliation or its complacent weakness, or the feather-brained escapades of youth, or young pirates brandishing knives?

People will ask what literature can do in the face of the pitiless assault of open violence? Well, let us not forget that violence does not have its own separate existence and is, in fact, incapable of having it: it is invariably interwoven with THE LIE. They have the closest of kinship, the most profound natural tie: violence has nothing with which to cover it-

self except the lie, and the lie has nothing to stand on other than violence.... Writers and artists have a greater opportunity: TO CONQUER THE LIE!

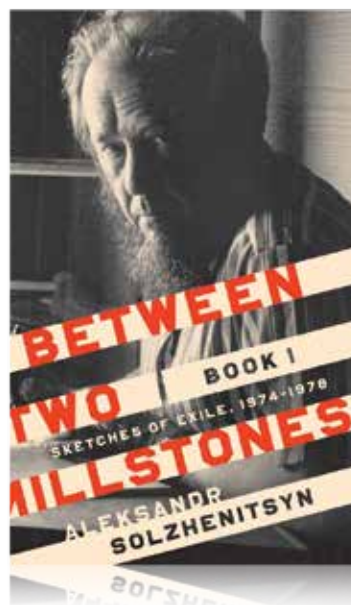
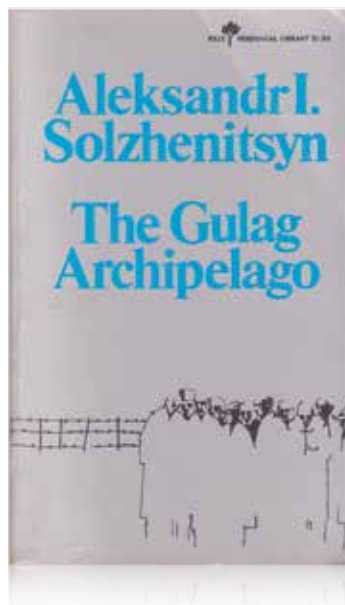
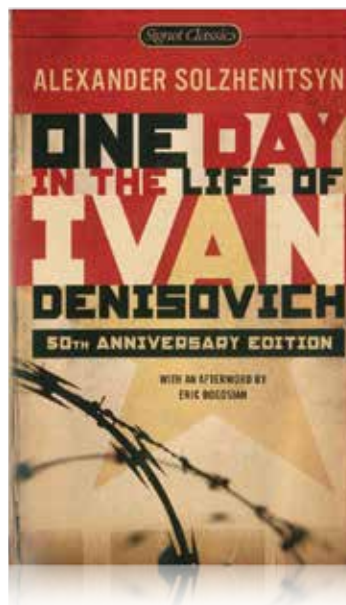
Writing in defense of The Truth — “the enduring things” — both men illuminated the lies that must be opposed. Thus, Solzhenitsyn’s writings swept around the globe and were soon translated into many languages, and continue to be translated for, and read by, a generation born after the “dissolution” of the Soviet Union in December 1991. Dr. Russell Kirk’s writings also continue to find a global audience, as recent Portuguese, Czech, and Italian translations of his works offer sufficient witness.

Both men were born in the year that the guns of the First World War fell silent, but their lives were marked by the aftermath of the war. Solzhenitsyn was born after the Bolshevik Revolution, and his entire life was shaped by life under

communism, and, in time, the war waged against communism. Solzhenitsyn never knew his father: He was killed in a hunting accident months before Aleksandr’s birth. Although he studied mathematics at Rostov State University, Solzhenitsyn’s desire to write the history of the Bolshevik Revolution was already firmly in his mind by 1936. He fought in the Second World War, and earned the Order of the Red Star as an artillery officer — only to have that honor stripped away after Military Intelligence arrested him for criticizing Joseph Stalin in letters to a friend. He served eight years in the Soviet Gulag. After being released, he survived cancer and became a teacher, writing in secret. His early work, *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, was published during the published during the post-Stalinist “thaw” under Khrushchev, but his continued writings — though popular in the underground and in the West, where translated editions began to appear — brought down the wrath of the Soviet regime. He dared not leave the USSR to receive his Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970, for fear he would be forbidden to return home. After the KGB discovered the manuscript of *The Gulag Archipelago*, he was threatened with a further sentence in the Soviet Gulag before being exiled to the West, where he eventually settled in Vermont. In exile, he continued

to write and speak about the evils of communism, while the KGB continued to harass him in his exile. His Soviet citizenship was restored in 1990, and he returned to Russia in 1994, where he died in 2008.

Like Solzhenitsyn, Russell Kirk was also a university graduate before the onset of the Second World War, receiving his bachelor’s degree at Michigan State University and a master’s from Duke University before serving in the Army in Utah from 1942 to 1946 in the Chemical Warfare Service at the Dugway Proving Ground. Following his military service, Kirk began doctoral studies at the Universi-



**Available in America:** Many of Solzhenitsyn’s writings are available in English editions. Most recently, the first portion of his memoir, *Between Two Millstones*, was published for the centennial of his birth.



ty of St. Andrews in Scotland, earning the Doctor of Letters in 1953. His published doctoral thesis became one of the founding works of postwar conservatism: *The Conservative Mind*. From his home in Mecosta, Michigan, Kirk wrote a syndicated column for many years, founded and edited two journals (*Modern Age* and *The University Bookman*), lectured throughout the United States, and wrote dozens of books. He and his wife, Annette, hosted innumerable lectures and conferences at their home, which helped to shape several generations of conservative students. Kirk died at his home in 1994.

Solzhenitsyn and Kirk both desired to become writers from a very early stage of their lives. For Solzhenitsyn, the desire was to write a definitive history of the Russian revolution, and his understanding of the significance of that revolution changed with time from a naive adherence to Bolshevism to an adult repudiation of communism, which bore fruit in some of the most insightful critiques of the totalitarian doctrine produced in the 20th century.

Solzhenitsyn's desire to become a writer was, in a sense, long delayed by the years that he spent in Soviet prison camps; however, it was in the camps that Solzhenitsyn began to gather the material for his novels, including his *Gulag Archipelago*, and it was there that he developed the mental discipline of memorization. Because possession of even brief snippets of his planned novels could result in further prison time, he would write out a brief portion, memorize the text, and then destroy the print copy. When Solzhenitsyn survived a bout of cancer after being freed from the Gulag, he dedicated the remainder of his life to his work of writing and pursued that art with unrelenting zeal.

Solzhenitsyn's *Between Two Millstones* — Volume I begins to tell the story of his time of exile in the West. In *The Oak and the Calf*, Solzhenitsyn told the story of his life leading up to his exile from the USSR.

In a crucial passage in *Between Two Millstones*, Solzhenitsyn defines the “two millstones” to which he refers in the title of his memoirs: “It was July 1977. I was feeling smothered, bewildered: how were we to live in the West? The millstone of the KGB had never tired of crushing me, I was used to that, but



**Homespun:** Russell Kirk is shown at his home, “Piety Hill,” in Mecosta, Michigan. Kirk was proud of his roots in the American heartland, and spent most of his career as an independent scholar writing from his rural home.

now a second millstone, the millstone of the West, was descending upon me to grind me all over again (and not for the first time).” The widespread indifference to the communist threat, the venality of many among the Western political and intellectual elite, and the litigious character of Western European and American society appalled a man who had hoped the West was earnest in an effort to check the Soviet advance throughout the world.

For Russell Kirk, the defense of the “permanent things” was a life-long concern. As he wrote to publisher Henry Regency in 1987:

What I have been undertaking, ever since I first was published nationally when I was sixteen years old, is the defence of what T. S. Eliot called “the permanent things.” ... My historical books, my polemical writings, my literary criticism, and even my fiction have been meant to resist the ideological passions that have been consuming civilization ever

since 1914 — what Arnold Toynbee calls our “time of troubles.” Rather than singing hallelujah to the river god, I have rowed against the current of public opinion. As I approach my seventieth birthday, I am somewhat surprised that I have not been swept out to the great deep; indeed, that I have made some headway against the tide of ideology and the fierce appetites of our age.

After completing his military service in World War II, Kirk was free to pursue his academic studies. His doctoral thesis, *The Conservative Mind*, proved to be a vital philosophical foundation for the creation of a modern understanding of conservative thought in postwar America.

In the initial chapter of *The Conservative Mind*, Dr. Kirk set forth six canons of conservative thought:

(1) Belief in a transcendent order, or body of natural law, which rules society as well as conscience. Politi-

**Solzhenitsyn knew that not only the Soviet KGB, but also Western liberals, were vociferously opposed to his writings, and he found that Western opponents often repeated lies that had their origin in Moscow.**

cal problems, at bottom, are religious and moral problems....

(2) Affection for the proliferating variety and mystery of human existence, as opposed to the narrowing uniformity, egalitarianism, and utilitarian aims of most radical systems; conservatives resist what Robert Graves calls “Logicalism” in society....

(3) Conviction that civilized society requires orders and classes, as against the notion of a “classless society.” With reason, conservatives often have been called “the party of order.” If natural distinctions are effaced among men, oligarchs fill the vacuum....

(4) Persuasion that freedom and property are closely linked: separate property from private possession, and Leviathan becomes master of all. Economic levelling, they maintain, is not economic progress.

(5) Faith in prescription and distrust of “sophisters, calculators, and economists” who would reconstruct society upon abstract designs. Custom, convention, and old prescription are checks both upon man’s anarchic impulse and upon the innovator’s lust for power.

(6) Recognition that change may not be salutary reform: hasty innovation may be devouring conflagration, rather than a torch of progress. Society must alter, for prudent change is the means of social preservation; but a statesman must take Providence into his calculations, and the statesman’s chief virtue, according to Plato and Burke, is prudence.

These canons have held up well against the test of time, and readily present a response to those movements, such as neo-conservatism, which have attempted to turn conservatism into an ideology.

Kirk’s assessment of the state of Western civilization was not far removed from that held by Solzhenitsyn, save for the fact that hope continued to break through. As Dr. Kirk wrote in a letter from April, 1963:

One often grows discouraged, of course, at the confusion of American politics, practical and theoretical. But all this is part of the nature of things. In any time, the great mass of men are moved only by self-interest and prejudice. Of that small minority who think seriously about the problems of their society, most are badly schooled; and there is a lag of a generation between the slogans of the politicians and the new concepts of men of intellect. Besides, the

non-ideological character of American and British politics — in part a considerable blessing — tends to slow and confuse the development of theory in a time of crisis.

In Kirk’s estimation, a significant part of the problem was that the role of colleges had been badly distorted. As he wrote in 1968: “The typical mass campus is far too big, and has attracted a great many students who have no real interest in the real intellectual concerns of the academy. The rootless are always violent, and the lonely and bored find riot a welcome diversion” — an apropos description of the rank and file members of Antifa today. In the same letter, Kirk noted: “Aye, the tendency of the time in this country is to break down the remaining institutions and bodies of principle which distinguish between the things of Caesar and the things of God... Church-connected colleges increasingly would be pushed to the wall, if this tendency were to continue; and the whole social order would be increasingly bored and violent, and the realm of the transcendent should be closed to the mass of men.”

Kirk and Solzhenitsyn were troubled

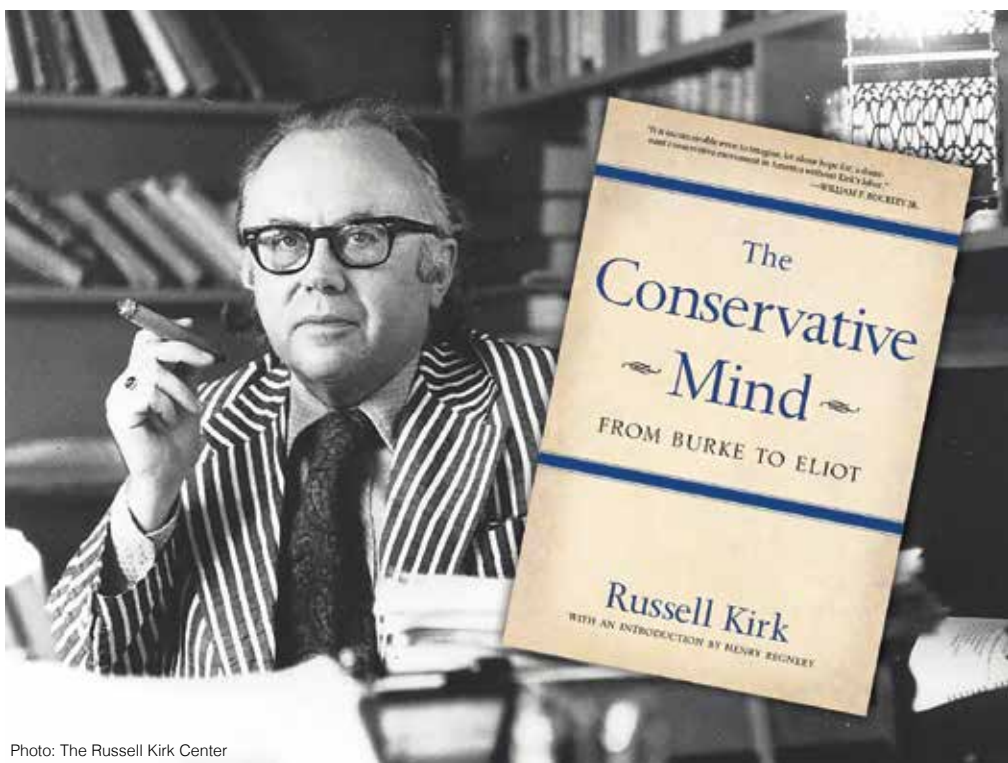


Photo: The Russell Kirk Center

**Kirk’s magnum opus, *The Conservative Mind*, was published in seven editions before his death in 1994, and Czech and Portuguese translations of this work have recently been published.**



by the inhuman character of Marxist ideology, and sought to combat it. Solzhenitsyn's motivation throughout his writings was similar to Kirk's notion of the moral imagination; as he notes in *Between Two Millstones*: "My goal in the entire book [*Gulag Archipelago*], as in all my books, was to show what a human being could be turned into — to show that the line between good and evil is constantly shifting within the human heart." Ideologists such as the communists could not endure forever; but who would oppose them now, so as to limit the evil they would work before their downfall? This was a question that troubled both men. In Solzhenitsyn's words:

To me it was clear that Communism could not last forever. It was decaying from within, chronically ill, but on the outside seemed immensely powerful, marching forward with great strides! And it was marching forward because the hearts of the affluent people of the West were timid, timid due to that very prosperity. But with Communists, as with thugs, you must show unrelenting toughness. In the face of toughness they will relent, toughness they will respect.

But who will demonstrate the necessary toughness? How decisive the next American president's views must be, how unwavering his heart! How will such a president arise?

In both *Between Two Millstones* and Kirk's book *Imaginative Conservatism*, one is reminded that both men saw themselves as the victims of slander. Solzhenitsyn knew that not only the Soviet KGB, but also Western liberals, were vociferously opposed to his writings, and he found that Western opponents often repeated lies that had their origin in Moscow:

The particular success of slander, when it is being wrought by a totalitarian state, is that while in an open society all slander can be countered by objections, denials, conflicting recollections, the publication of documents, and the existence of archives and letters, in the Communist vault nothing of the kind is possible.



AP Images

**Both Solzhenitsyn and Kirk devoted themselves to continually writing** in defense of "the permanent things." In 1983, Solzhenitsyn summarized the brutal history of Soviet Communism in a few words: "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened."

There is nowhere one can object, and the slightest motion in favor of those who are slandered threatens the defender with ruin....

The proverb does say: Truth sticks like resin, lies run off like water. So I could hold that all the slander would trickle away, that nothing would remain. But there is another proverb that might be cited — including about the whole Progress Publishers enterprise — that there is no smoke without fire. And in the end, how many years must one spend in the KGB's loving clutches before one realizes for sure that they have their own chemical formula for producing smoke without fire.

Kirk was among those who found themselves at the center of the neoconservative purge of American conservatism after offering his critique of neoconservatism in a lecture at the Heritage Foundation in December 1988. The public attacks on Russell Kirk, Pat Buchanan, and the Rockford Institute on charges of "anti-Semitism" marked a public division. As Kirk wrote in a letter from June 1989: "The Heritage Foundation people tell me that somebody has organized a *sub rosa* campaign to sow dissension among conservative or quasi-

conservative groups, and that the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Times* features are the beginning of this."

In the war against the totalitarian forces of ideology, both the pen and the sword must be employed by those to whom such means have been entrusted by Providence. As Richard Weaver noted in *Ideas Have Consequences*: "It is the duty of those who can foresee the end of a saturnalia to make their counsel known. Nothing is more certain than that we are all in this together. Practically, no one can stand aside from a sweep as deep and broad as the decline of a civilization. If the thinkers of our time cannot catch the imagination of the world to the point of effecting some profound transformation, they must succumb with it.... Perhaps we shall have to learn the truth along some *via dolorosa*." In the battles of the 20th century, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Russell Kirk earned places of respect for themselves among the ranks of traditional conservatives. Though they were both far from flawless (both men had a Christian understanding of sin which informed them of their failings), there remains much of value in their writings to teach the rising generation and to emulate in wielding what Kirk deemed the "sword of the imagination." ■



## Witness Stops Kidnapping, Bad Guy Still Out There

Fox News reported out of Phoenix, Arizona, on April 8 about a harrowing ordeal where an 11-year-old girl was almost kidnapped by a stranger. The girl was walking down a street when a man who was later described as “wearing a black hoodie” ran up to her and grabbed her by the arm. The girl was terrified as the man pulled her arm behind her back and covered her face with his arm. As the stranger tried forcing the young girl to come with him, another man quickly intervened. Sgt. Tommy Thompson with the Phoenix police told Fox10 that this individual shoved the would-be kidnapper to the ground and then pointed a handgun at the man, demanding that he leave the girl alone. Once the suspect realized he was staring down the barrel of a gun, he turned tail and ran away from the scene.

Police are still searching for the suspect, and the investigation is ongoing. Parents are anxious and hope that the suspect is soon caught, since a lot of children walk to school in the area where the incident occurred. Neighbor Don George told AZ-Family.com that “kids walk up to school 2 blocks to the east.... It’s a grade school and probably 25 kids walk by here every morning between 7:30 and 8.”

## Federal Judge Rules California Magazine Ban Is Unconstitutional

The Federalist reported on April 8 that a federal district judge ruled in *Duncan v. Becerra* that a nearly 20-year-old California state law banning gun magazines that hold more than 10 rounds is unconstitutional.

The ruling initially resulted in huge sales in the state for higher-capacity magazines. The magazines quickly sold out of stock at local gun stores as gun owners rushed to snatch up the now-legal magazines. The booming business for gun shops was short-lived, as California Attorney General Xavier Becerra quickly sought and got an injunction to reinstate

the ban while the decision is appealed to a higher court.

The opinion on *Duncan v. Becerra*, written by District Judge Roger Benitez, is well worth the read for supporters of the Second Amendment. As Benitez explains, “Individual liberty and freedom are not outmoded concepts.” The first few pages of the opinion read like “Exercising the Right” columns, as Benitez recounts example after example of people being able to use firearms against violent criminals.

He even analyzes the high number of crimes committed in California as a rationale for private citizens to be able to defend themselves. “In one year in California (2017), a population of 39 million people endured 56,609 robberies, 105,391 aggravated assaults, and 95,942 residential burglaries. There were also 423 homicides in victims’ residences. There were no mass shootings in 2017. Nationally, the first study to assess the prevalence of defensive gun use estimated that there are 2.2 to 2.5 million defensive gun uses by civilians each year. Of those, 340,000 to 400,000 defensive gun uses were situations where defenders believed that they had almost certainly saved a life by using the gun. Citizens often use a gun to defend against criminal attack. A Special Report by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics published in 2013, reported that between 2007 and 2011 ‘there were 235,700 victimizations where the victim used a firearm to threaten or attack an offender.’ How many more instances are never reported to, or recorded by, authorities?”

Even the NRA lauded the opinion as “one of the strongest judicial statements in favor of the Second Amendment to date,” but cautioned its supporters that the case faces an uphill battle in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which has been “notably hostile to the Second Amendment in past decisions.” But a loss in the Ninth Circuit might be appealed to the Supreme Court, and there’s no telling what might happen if the highest court in the land reviewed this issue, especially if the president makes another court appointment in the meantime.

## Violence Against the Second Amendment

Anti-gun activists love to conceal their true intention to ban guns behind emotional legislation that tugs on a voter’s heartstrings, and the recently reauthorized “Violence Against Women Act” (VAWA) was only the most recent example of their duplicity. The Conservative Review posted on April 8 about how House Democrats snuck some anti-gun legislation into the act as part of their unrelenting effort to take away Second Amendment protections.

The changes to the law were promoted as intending to combat domestic violence, but loose wording broadened the ways in which the government could take away a citizen’s firearms. Similar to recent so-called Red Flag laws, the new VAWA contains language that enables a judge to take a husband or boyfriend’s gun based solely on the claim of an aggrieved wife or girlfriend. The NRA strongly opposed the new measure, explaining that the prior version of the VAWA never contained any firearm provisions and specifically noted that it opened the door for gun rights to be suspended even over relatively innocuous misdemeanors.

Representative Chip Roy from Texas gave a speech on the House floor excoriating the deceptive tactics of anti-gun ideologues. Roy called the current bill “unrecognizable from the legislation originally passed in 1994” and said, “In the name of protecting women, Democrats are exploiting this bill as an opportunity to assault the Second Amendment rights of American citizens ... and it’s despicable that anyone would seize on this as such an opportunity to weaponize a measure that was intended to protect victims.”

Arizona Congressman Debbie Lesko, who herself is a domestic-abuse survivor, likewise lambasted the act because it “infringes on second amendment rights by taking away a gun owner’s right to due process. This reauthorization has strayed far from the law’s original intention of helping women, girls, and children.” ■

— PATRICK KREY





## The Contrived Fight Against “Inequality”

**ITEM:** After the moderator on the CBS show *Face the Nation* interviewed Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, an avowed democratic socialist, a panel discussed those who were criticizing Sanders for wanting to impose socialism. On the March 31 show, New York Times columnist and CBS News political analyst Jamelle Bouie, a panelist, pooh-poohed the notion that the Vermont senator sought a radically transformed country.

Argued Bouie: “It’s not as if Bernie Sanders is calling for like, you know, democratic control of means of production, right?” He is not seeking, said the panelist, “nationalization when it comes to the state industries.” Rather, he maintained, Sanders is “calling for a very, very robust welfare state, for more Medicare, for free college, for these sorts of things ... things that are broadly popular with the public.”

**ITEM:** Several “top-tier Democratic presidential candidates,” reported the Washington Post for February 2, “are pushing for new taxes on the wealthiest Americans and attempting to portray themselves as best positioned to fight the country’s yawning inequality gap.” Mentioned were soak-the-rich plans by Senators Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, and Bernie Sanders.

Warren often links her proposed wealth tax to the alleged need to fight “inequality.” She is apparently duking it out against all sorts of inequality, to include “racial,” “gender,” “pay,” “economic,” and “wealth.”

**ITEM:** An article entitled “Who’s Afraid of the Budget Deficit?” appears in the March/April 2019 issue of *Foreign Affairs* magazine, the publication of the establishment’s Council on Foreign Relations. Subtitled “How Washington Should End Its Debt Obsession,” the piece was written by two CFR members — Jason Furman and Lawrence Summers.

Furman is an economic policy professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government; he served as the chairman of the Obama White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2013 to 2017. Summers is a



**Socialist?** Media have defended Bernie Sanders’ plans to use government spending to remedy inequality, saying he is not really socialist because socialists want to control a country’s means of production. But he desires to control the medical field, hiring decisions, spending decisions, etc.

professor of economics at Harvard University; he served, among other posts, as U.S. secretary of the treasury during the Clinton administration and as director of the National Economic Council under Barack Obama.

The writers stress that they are not particularly worried about mounting government deficits, the skyrocketing national debt, or ever-rising entitlements expenditures; on the other hand, they are fans of much more government spending and higher taxation to target “inequality.”

**CORRECTION:** Bernie Sanders admits he is a socialist, while most other leading Democrat presidential candidates merely support and promote socialist programs.

Elizabeth Warren, for example, calls herself a capitalist who wants to “fix” capitalism. A friendly column by David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* (March 15) pats her on the back, saying Warren “comfortably explains that she is not socialist. She is a capitalist and, like Franklin D. Roosevelt, is trying to save American capitalism from its own excesses.”

(New President Roosevelt, it should be recalled, filled his administration with progressives and socialists of the day and “lifted ideas” from Socialist Party leader Norman Thomas.)

As the various ideologically similar statist candidates for 2020 try to distinguish themselves for voters, one of the major issues they all echo is the wickedness of “inequality.” Keep in mind that the principle underscored is not preserving or improving equality in the eyes of the law, but rather a push for “equality” in results. (Tellingly, there is plenty of “equality” in Cuba, North Korea, and Venezuela, for instance — not counting, that is, the dictating political elite.)

Here’s the actual American ideal: We are created equal. Our goal, not an easy one, is to grow out of it.

Unfortunately, each American child born today inherits a share of the national debt amounting to \$67,000. And that national debt is growing daily in a stomach-twisting fashion, rising from \$10 trillion when Barack Obama was elected in 2008 (about 68 percent of the national economy) to well over \$22 trillion now (around 106 percent of the GDP).

That’s what happens when you spend money that you don’t have, much of it in violation of the tenets of the Constitution. Sadly, such spending gets defended by those who should know better. Consider the lengthy *Foreign Affairs* article cited above.



## Correction, Please!

Therein, Furman and Summers blast those who are supposedly “fixated on cutting spending, especially on entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicaid. That is a mistake. Politicians and policymakers should focus on urgent social problems, not deficits.”

But deficits have to be paid for. As noted by Gerald Seib of the *Wall Street Journal* (February 19), the federal government has to pay

interest [on its debt]; that’s not optional. And as more of the federal budget goes to interest payments, less money is available for other government programs: infrastructure, schools, social benefits.

This interest expense is going to keep rising as the debt keeps piling up. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan watchdog group, says annual interest payments will nearly triple to \$928 billion by 2029, from \$325 billion last year. The federal government, it says, will spend more on interest than on Medicaid or on children by next year. By 2024, interest payments will match military spending.

Furman and Summers do acknowledge, in passing, that economics textbooks “teach that government deficits raise interest rates, crowd out private investment, and leave everyone poorer,” and that cutting deficits “reduces interest rates, spurring productive investment.” Yet, they insist, although those forces “may have been important in the late 1980s and early 1990s,” that is no longer the case.

Too, the authors declare, preemptorily, it is a “widely held misconception that the deficit has risen primarily because government programs have grown more generous. Not so.” Deficits, they insist, “have ballooned because of a series of tax cuts.” Indeed, they also blame “tax cuts in the last 25 years” for misallocating “resources,” worsening “income inequality,” and, “at best,” doing “very little for economic growth.”

Ironically, as an article title says at in-



AP Images

**Not much fiscal sense here either:** The Trump administration budget that came out recently doesn’t attempt to repair fiscal deficits, so in the next presidential election, we’ll likely see Trump, who plans to put a big hole in the budget, vie against a Democrat who wants to explode the budget.

vestors.com, “Federal Revenues Hit All-Time Highs Under Trump Tax Cuts.”

Without specifically endorsing the presumed solutions among the would-be Democrat presidents, the economist duo clearly look favorably at “progressive” proposals for “Medicare for all, free college, a federal jobs guarantee, and a massive green infrastructure program.”

To pay for their desires, the solons say: “The truth is the federal government needs to raise more revenue.” That means more taxation. Credit them with more proof of an oft-used precept, namely: Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results.

The word “entitlement” supplies a convenient excuse for politicians to keep the payments going, and these days such spending is widely seen as the equivalent of *mandatory*. However, what Congress makes, it can unmake. And there is no truer saying than, “When something can’t go on anymore, it won’t.” Congress is abdicating its responsibility, and it’s a problem. According to projections made last year by the Congressional Budget Office, by the year 2031, all of the federal government’s revenues will be “pre-committed” before legislators start debating the budget. Congress exercised discretion of more

than 40 percent of the budget just 18 years ago; with “entitlements” uncontrolled, that portion has been cut to about 14 percent.

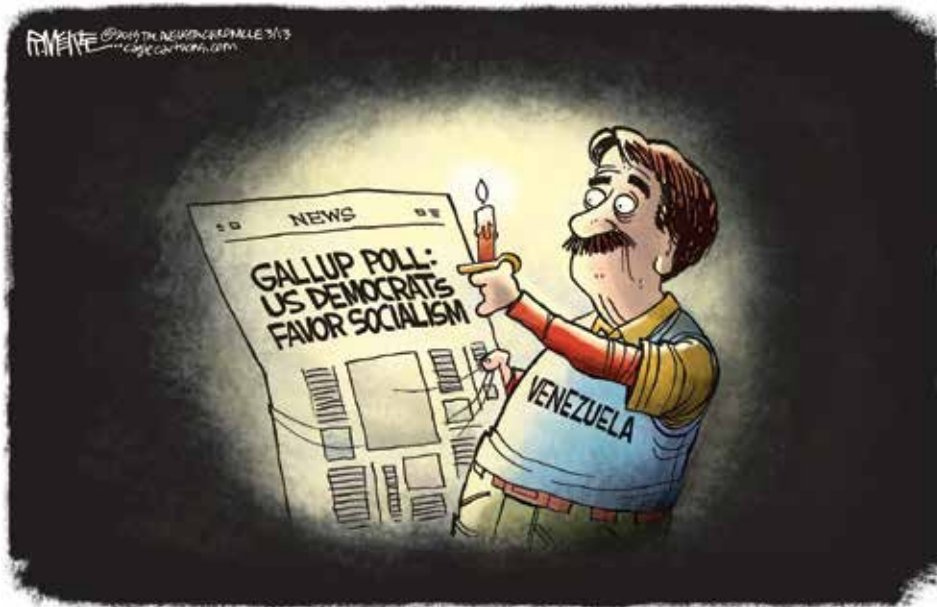
Warren’s attempt to tax “wealth” — which, by any fair reading, would violate the 16th Amendment (since it isn’t an income tax) and Article I, Section 9, Clause 4, of the Constitution (because it is an unapportioned direct tax) — would not even accomplish what she seeks. As pointed out in late March by Chris Edwards in *National Review* (online):

More than a dozen European countries used to have wealth taxes, but nearly all of these countries repealed them, including Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Sweden. Wealth taxes survive only in Norway, Spain, and Switzerland.

Before repeal, European wealth taxes — with a variety of rates and bases — tended to raise only about 0.2 percent of gross domestic product in revenue, based on Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development data. That is only 1/40th as much as the U.S. federal income tax raises.

Yet for little revenue, wealth taxes





are difficult to administer and enforce. They may require taxpayers to report the values of financial securities, homes, furniture, artwork, jewelry, antiques, vehicles, boats, pension rights, family businesses, farm assets, land, intellectual property, and much else.

Moreover, as noted last year by Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies and resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, the problem this tax money is meant to solve — inequality — has been largely resolved. An analysis by the Congressional Budget Office did find that, from 1979 through 2007, a measure of inequality did increase, but in recent years (2007 through 2014) it stabilized. Writes Strain (Bloomberg, June 6, 2018): “Looking at market income, inequality increased by only 3 percent. Once you add in cash payments and in-kind transfers from government safety net programs, inequality actually fell over this period.”

And in fact, some inequality is reflective of better living for the poor. Renowned Austrian-American economist Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973) delivered a speech about this for the American Academy of Political and Social Science in Philadelphia on March 30, 1945:

The inequality of income and fortunes is essential in capitalism. The

progressives consider profits as objectionable. The very existence of profits is in their eyes a proof that wage rates could be raised without harm to anybody else than idle parasites. They speak of profit without dealing with its corollary, loss. Profit and loss are the instruments by means of which the consumers keep a tight rein on all entrepreneurial activities. A profitable enterprise tends to expand, an unprofitable one tends to shrink. The elimination of profit renders production rigid and abolishes the consumers’ sovereignty.

Profits and losses, as Mises continued, “draw the material factors of production from the hands of the inefficient and convey them into the hands of the more efficient.... The market system makes all men in their capacity as producers responsible to the consumers.”

There is, concluded the genius of the “Austrian School” of economics, “no other planning for freedom and general welfare than to let the market system work. There is no other means to attain full employment, rising real wage rates and a high standard of living for the common man than private initiative and free enterprise.”

Yet confiscation of wealth is an ancient tool. Mises wrote of it in his century-old magisterial book *Socialism*:

Not for one moment does it occur to the advocates of this popular taxation policy that direct taxes and taxes on trade may start a chain of events that will force down the standard of living of the very classes whose alleged interests they claim to represent....

More and more the policy of taxation evolves into a policy of confiscation. The aim on which it concentrates is to tax out of existence every kind of fortune and income from property, in which process property invested in trade and industry, in shares and in bonds, is generally treated more ruthlessly than property in land. Taxation becomes the favorite weapon of interventionism....

Nothing is more calculated to make a demagogue popular than a constantly reiterated demand for heavy taxation on the rich. Capital levies and high income taxes on larger incomes are extraordinarily popular with the masses, who do not have to pay them.

At the same time, the federal government also lies about the deficit projections and unfunded costs of “entitlements” such as Social Security and Medicare to hide the damage already being done. In January, Steve Hanke, a Johns Hopkins economics professor, and Stephen Walter, an economics professor at Loyola University Maryland, noted:

Official projections put the present value of these two unfunded liabilities at \$50 trillion over the next 75 years. Boston University economist Laurence Kotlikoff calculates that the total U.S. fiscal gap is more than four times that amount and that closing it would require a tax hike of more than 60%.

Alternatively, we have the word of “Faux-cahontas” Warren, who swears that she just wants to confiscate a very, very small percentage of wealth from the very, very richest Americans. Do you want to bet your future on that promise? ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

# Swapping Crises **for Crises**

**W**e have a *crisis* on our southern border, and finally, there seems to be a growing consensus acknowledging this reality. President Donald Trump has been clanging on that bell for the past three years. In fact, it was a signature, if not *the* signature, element of his campaign. However, in the past several months, as the crisis has escalated to a level that made it undeniable, the usual suspects in the Fake News cabal continued to ridicule the president's concerns and their "fact checkers" pretended to

show evidence that discredited the crisis claims. In February, when President Trump in his State of the Union address said illegal border crossings are an "urgent national crisis," the *New York Times*' "Fact Check" tweeted: "This is false. Illegal border crossings have been declining for two decades."

Then the border apprehension figures for the month of March rolled in: 103,492 illegals apprehended, more than double the 50,347 of last March, and more than six times the number caught crossing in March 2017. We're on pace to exceed well over one million apprehensions this year. Our holding facilities and processing facilities for this massive influx — including tens of thousands of children — are stretched to the breaking point.

"It should be very clear," said U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, that such "alarming trends ... present both a border security and a humanitarian crisis." Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen described the desperate border situation by borrowing "Category 5" from meteorological terminology for the highest-level monster hurricanes. On April 2, she called the border crisis a "Cat 5 hurricane disaster."

Her predecessor at Homeland Security, Obama appointee Jeh Johnson, confirmed Nielsen's bleak assessment. "By anyone's definition, by any measure, right now we have a crisis at our southern border," Johnson said, noting that what we are seeing now "is by far a greater number than anything I saw on my watch in my three years as secretary of Homeland Security."

The *Los Angeles Times* reported on April 7 that despite claims that Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (also known by his initials, AMLO) is clamping down on the migrant caravans, the latest figures from the Mexican government show that since he assumed office last December, "deportations were down 16% and arrests 7% for December, January and February compared with the same three-month period a year earlier."



Now, finally, even some of the most intransigent skeptics are admitting the obvious. The *New York Times*, for one, now admits that the border crisis is at a "breaking point." But please don't think that the sudden awakening of the *Times*, as well as of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her fellow Democrats, on this issue means that they are ready to be sensible. No, they're blaming President Trump, because he hasn't adopted "comprehensive immigration reform," which is their long-standing code for "open borders" — which

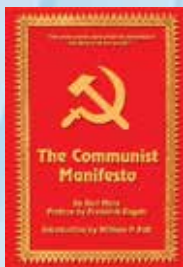
means, essentially, no borders at all. They want more DACAs, more DAPAs, more Dreamers, more amnesties, more refugees, more asylees, more "temporary" worker visas — in short, more migrants. *Migrants* not *immigrants*.

The globalists, you see, as we have been reporting for many years, have been laboring earnestly to transform our *immigration* system into a *migration* system, one in which people have a "right" to migrate, and nation states have an obligation to accept them. National sovereignty must be swept aside; nations must no longer be permitted to guard their borders or decide their own immigration policies. Something resembling the European Union is their ultimate desideratum. That is what "experts" such as Doris Meissner of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) have been promoting for decades. You may recall Meissner as President Bill Clinton's commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, a position she used to set up much of the present border crisis. Naturally, she's a member of the world-government-promoting Council on Foreign Relations and works closely with the United Nations to promote migration as a right.

Ironically, President Trump, despite his hardcore immigration rhetoric, risks completely jeopardizing our border security and sovereignty with his United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which was negotiated by Meissner's CFR colleague Robert Lighthizer. Among the many land mines in this 2,325-page treaty are provisions protecting migrant rights and prohibiting numerical quotas on certain foreign workers. Imagine the havoc that U.S. federal judges or judges of USMCA tribunals or World Trade Organization tribunals could inflict with these provisions. If we allow ourselves to be trapped in this treaty, it will prove itself the Mother of all Crises. Call on President Trump, your senators, and representative to oppose the USMCA before this dangerous venture gains any more momentum. ■



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