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A woman with reddish-brown hair, wearing a white dress splattered with black and red paint, is shown from the waist up. She is reaching her right arm up towards the 'New' part of the masthead. The background is a light-colored wall with vertical wood paneling.

**A DANGEROUS TIME TO BE  
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Alex Newman

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# SPREAD THE WORD

## A Dangerous Time to Be Christian

Christians by the million worldwide are being subjected to biased rules, torture, kidnapping, and murder. Because mainstream media won't report it, other organizations are stepping up.

(June 3, 2019, 48pp) TNA190603



## The Age of Artificial Intelligence Is Here

Machines that can do autonomous problem solving are here. These machines will obviously transform society from the workplace to the home, but will the changes be for the good? (May 20, 2019, 48pp) TNA190520



## Forced Vaccinations

Governments are putting on a full-course press to get Americans vaccinated, though the diseases supposedly being warded off are oftentimes less deadly than the vaccine, vaccines often don't work, and Americans should have a choice. (May 06, 2019, 48pp) TNA190506



## Climate Change: It's (Not That) Complicated

Are you one of the many millions of Americans who really want to do something about climate change? We're with you, and have a solution to the problem. (April 22, 2019, 48pp) TNA190422



## China's New Aggression on the World Stage

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



## Rescuing Our Children

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

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## COVER STORY

### RELIGION

#### 10 A Dangerous Time to Be Christian

by Troy Anderson — Violence — including torture and murder — against Christians around the world is at historic levels.

#### 17 The War to Destroy Christianity in America

by Troy Anderson — In the United States, leftists are subverting state and federal laws to stigmatize and criminalize Christianity.

## FEATURES

### CLIMATE

#### 21 Democrats Try to Block Trump's U.S. Exit From UN Paris Scheme

by Alex Newman — Democrats are trying to stop the use of U.S. tax dollars to exit from the Paris Climate Accord and, at the same time, slash U.S. carbon-dioxide emissions.

### ENERGY

#### 25 Nuclear Power: The Promise vs. Irrational Fear

by Steve Byas — Nuclear power generation is still being unfairly vilified as a hazardous, costly, and anti-environmental option.

### BOOK REVIEW

#### 31 Environmental Handcuffs

by Alex Newman — The book *Sustainable* revolves around the globalist reasons that “sustainability” is promoted around the world, reasons that have nothing to do with protecting the environment.

### HISTORY — PAST AND PERSPECTIVE

#### 35 The Ancient Triumph of Faith

by Dennis Behreandt — When the Caesars grasped dictatorial power in Rome, they turned the full power of the empire against both Jews and Christians. But miraculously, the Roman Empire is but a memory, while the Judeo-Christian faiths remain.

### THE LAST WORD

#### 44 If They Can Get Trump, They Can Get You Too

by R. Cort Kirkwood

## DEPARTMENTS

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 Letters to the Editor | 34 The Goodness of America |
| 7 Inside Track          | 40 Exercising the Right    |
| 9 QuickQuotes           | 41 Correction, Please!     |



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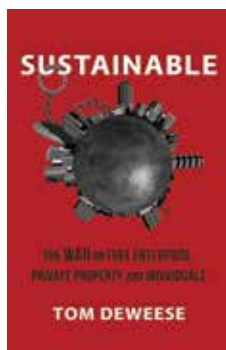


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## Big Bad Don

I am confused by the people who do not want to build more walls on the border or who want to tear down what has already been built. What do they really want?

Let me give you this parable: There were some people who lived out in the country. They had two large neighbors (one on each side of them) who were cattle ranchers. When winter came, it cost too much to provide hay for their cattle, so to save money, the neighbors cut down their fences to let the cattle fend for themselves and roam where they would. But free ranging was not free. The country folk between the ranchers soon had muddy trails caused by the cattle, and cow manure in the yards and driveways. Roads would get blocked by cows, and dangerous conditions and damage happened when the cows caused traffic accidents and barged into private areas.

Children were not safe to play in their own yards because of the occasional mad bull. Law enforcement was busy answering calls by people complaining of cows wandering on their property.

While most of the country folk wanted the fences put back up — bigger and better than before — to return the area to past, more-pleasant living conditions, others said that cattle are God's creation so they should be allowed to roam where they will, despite the problems they bring and despite the fact that the neighbors caused their own problems in the first place.

Question: Who is making the most sense here?

In the real world, Americans elected a wrangler to solve the problems caused by the invasion — Donald Trump — and to build that fence. His goal is to lower America's already unpayable bills, lower crime, make roads safer, reduce environmental damage, make the country more safe for children, reduce disease, and more.

Thank God for Big Bad Don.

JAMES BROWN  
Morgantown, Indiana

## Who Are the Haters Here?

I recently received a death threat from an anonymous, self-identifying lesbian

because of my activities in support of traditional values and traditional marriage, activities that include exposing all the flaws in the pseudo "arguments" heterophobic homosexuals use to try to rationalize homosexual activity. (Thinking people have known for centuries that homosexual activity is immoral.)

A DePaul University professor named Dr. Jason Hill very recently received death threats and now needs security to get around campus because of an article he wrote supporting Israel.

A man was very recently arrested for a death threat against conservative talk-show host Ben Shapiro.

At Trinity College in Connecticut, a student leading an effort to launch a club, the Churchill Club, devoted to defending the good things Western Civilization has done (while also admitting the bad things), very recently reported a threat against him to authorities.

Liberals have been ginning up hate for years against decent moral people who rationally believe in traditional values, ginning up hate against conservatives in general, and ginning up hate against Israel.

Do you see what many liberals have morphed into — intolerant fascists who don't want to debate (mainly because they would lose those debates), and who fanatically are trying to impose their bizarre and extreme values on everyone.

The Democrat Party has moved so far to the left it has created a huge gulf between it and many decent, moral, normal Americans. The extremists running the party need to be crushed in the next elections. This country needs to send a clear message to them that their extremism is repugnant.

WAYNE LELA  
Downers Grove, Illinois

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## Voluntary Deportation Requests Spike Under Trump



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The illegal-alien juggernaut at the southwest border of the United States pushed nearly 110,000 Central Americans into the United States in April. The total for fiscal 2019 thus far now exceeds all of fiscal 2018.

But at least some illegals have received the strong message that they aren't welcome here, and so they want to leave, or at least plan to leave. Illegal aliens, the Marshall Project reported on May 8, are applying in record numbers for "voluntary departure," which means they are self-deporting. In fiscal 2018, almost 30,000 border jumpers said they're ready to pack up and head back home.

Voluntary departure, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, permits aliens to leave the country officially without being deported. A deportation prohibits an illegal from returning to the country for five, if not 10 years. Voluntary departure avoids that penalty, although "failure to depart within the time granted results in a fine and a ten-year bar to several forms of relief from deportation," the agency's website says.

"The number of immigrants who have applied for voluntary departure has soared since the election of Donald Trump," the Marshall Project reported. Data it compiled from the Justice Department show that applications in fiscal 2018 doubled from the year before, "rising much faster than the 17 percent increase in overall immigration cases."

Voluntary departure applications were 29,818, the Project noted, and they increased 50 percent in 2017. The peak month for applications was October, with 4,192.

The Marshall Project deduced that the increase demonstrates that the "Trump administration's crackdown on immigration is having an impact: More people are considering leaving the U.S., rather than being stuck in detention or taking on a lengthy legal battle with little hope of success."

A Mexican woman told the Marshall Project why women in her facility want to pack up and leave: "They're tired of living in here, of dealing with ICE, dealing with guards.... They give up."

## Democracy Losing Street Cred as Latin Americans Lose Prosperity

"Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others," as the saying goes. But those undefined "others" are precisely what Latin Americans may get, as their faith in "democracy" is waning along with their economies. The trend, though tragic, is not surprising, since in a democracy, unlike a republic (a government of law), basic rights are not protected from the whims and passions of the majority, who can be, and are, beguiled by demagogues.

Reporting on the decline of democracy and citing Latin America's two biggest nations, Bloomberg wrote on May 8:

Elections in Brazil and Mexico last year saw anti-establishment leaders surge to power as voters turned against the status quo. Stagnant economies played a part in the revolt — and the prospect of a quick revival under new governments is fading. Instead, economists have been slashing growth forecasts for both....



IGphotography/Stock/Getty ImagesPlus

Over the past five years, Latin American economies have lagged emerging-market peers. It's the only region where living standards actually declined.

Bloomberg provides a chart illustrating the phenomenon. Showing change in per capita GDP since 2013, the greatest disparity is between "emerging Asia" (+31.6 percent) and Latin America (-2.3 percent).

While increasing skepticism about "democracy" is a global phenomenon, it's especially acute in the aforementioned nations. Support for democracy "fell to 34 percent in Brazil last year,

from 48 percent two decades earlier," reports Bloomberg, citing a study. "There were similar-sized declines in Argentina (from a higher starting point) and Mexico."

Of course, if people were rejecting "democracy" in the pure (direct) sense, it would make sense, but at issue here is representative government in general. Yet insofar as such a system is *of*, *by*, and *for* the people — and considering Joseph de Maistre's statement, "Every nation gets the government it deserves" — what are the people complaining about but themselves?

## Facebook Co-founder: Zuckerberg Is Too Powerful

The co-founder of Facebook says it's time to break up the social-media behemoth because it is a dangerous, out-of-control corporate predator that threatens the country.

But Chris Hughes' May 9 piece in the *New York Times* also says Facebook tycoon Mark Zuckerberg is too powerful, that no one man should control what Zuckerberg controls.

Zuckerberg, Hughes wrote, is dangerous on two main counts: his two-fisted iron grip on the social-media market, in which he has virtually zero competition, and, most significantly, on speech. He not only controls access to what should be a growing market of new competitors, but also what people can say to each other, and to the world.

That, Hughes argues, is intolerable. "Mark's influence is staggering, far beyond that of anyone else in the private sector or in government," he wrote.

Facebook's omnipotence — it owns WhatsApp, Messenger, and Instagram — means it "faces no market-based accountability."

Consider the data: "70 percent of American adults use social media, and a vast majority are on Facebook products." Facebook claims 2.3 billion monthly users. WhatsApp has 1.6 billion; Messenger, 1.3 billion; and Instagram, one billion. Thus, "even when people want to quit Facebook, they don't have any meaningful alternative."

That monopolistic power has also permitted it to beat the competition by imitating abstract technological concepts without stealing technology outright. That stifles investment because

investors know Facebook will either imitate a new technology or buy a successful start-up.

But Zuckerberg's control of the market isn't as worrisome as his "unilateral control over speech," Hughes wrote. "There is no precedent for his ability to monitor, organize and even censor the conversations of two billion people."

Breaking up the company as Hughes wants, by "undoing the Instagram and WhatsApp acquisitions and banning future acquisitions for several years," won't change that. Nor will a "new agency empowered by Congress to regulate tech companies" with a "first mandate" to "protect privacy." Tens of millions of people leaving Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp would.



Flickr/Anthony Quintano

## Pope Francis Calls for End of Sovereignty and for Global Government

At a meeting of the Pontifical Academy held May 2, Pope Francis advocated a policy of decreased national sovereignty and increased global unity.

"When a supranational common good is clearly identified, it is necessary to have a special authority legally and concordantly constituted capable of facilitating its implementation. We think of the great contemporary challenges of climate change, new forms of slavery and peace," his holiness told those gathered to discuss "Nation, State, and Nation-State," the conference theme.

Pope Francis put a pretty fine point on his message, claiming that planetary problems are exacerbated by "an excessive demand for sovereignty on the part of States."

He moved on to immigration, declaring that nationalism is too easily twisted into a doctrine repugnant to the welcoming of immigrants. "The Church observes with concern the reemergence, in many parts of the world, of currents that are aggressive towards foreigners, especially immigrants, as well as a growing national-



Jeffrey Bruno

ism that neglects the common good," Pope Francis said.

Our only hope for planetary peace and progress is to make room for "international organizations" to develop into governing bodies, supplanting the "state interests" with the will of the United Nations, he stated.

Pope Francis announced his ardent support for the sine qua non of all globalists: "sustainable development." He

declared that if we hope to save the planet we must accept that we are one people and unite to create "a space for dialogue and meeting for all countries in a spirit of mutual respect," and must stop what "hinders the attainment of the sustainable development goals approved unanimously by the United Nations."

Pope Francis warned attendees that sovereign nations attempting to govern themselves will find they are unable to protect their populations from the myriad menaces abroad in the world. "The nation-state is no longer able to procure the common good of its populations alone. The common good has become global and nations must associate for their own benefit," Francis said. ■



### If Others Ask About Citizenship, Why Shouldn't the United States?

"Virtually every English-speaking country and a great many others ask this question in their censuses."

*The Supreme Court will soon rule on the legality of having a question about citizenship in the upcoming 2020 census. Justice **Neil Gorsuch** seems poised to vote in favor of having each respondent say whether he or she is a citizen of our nation.*



TheWhiteHouse

### Sri Lankan Official Condemns Radical Takeover of His Community

"To be taken over by radicalism, this is not what we want for Kattankudy. We are living in Sri Lanka, not a caliphate."

*The vice chairman of Kattankudy's urban council, **Mohammed Ibraheem Mohammed Jaseem** lamented the presence of militant Islamists in his community. A Muslim himself, he joins with other Sri Lankans in mourning the Easter Sunday deaths of approximately 250 persons. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for those deaths.*



GageSkidmore

### Baseball Champions Amused by Gaffes During White House Visit

"President Trump Welcomes the 2018 World Series Champions, The Boston Red Sox, to the White House. [Congratulations to the] World Cup Champions."

*The welcoming message and the congratulatory acknowledgement were obviously produced by **White House staff personnel** who know little about the name of the team and the goal it achieved.*

### A Recent Victim of Gunshot Wounds, He Still Supports Gun Rights

"Our rights come to us from God, not lawmakers."

*In a speech delivered to thousands of National Rifle Association members, Representative **Steve Scalise** (R-La.) favored fewer restrictions on ownership of firearms, along with his emphatic assurance that the*

*Almighty is the source of the right to be armed.*

### His Protest Consisted of a Blank Poster, but He Still Got Arrested

"I want to show that the idiocy in our country has gotten so strong that the police will detain me even though there are no inscriptions, no slogans, and without my chanting or saying anything."

*Kazakhstan's constitution grants basic rights to citizens but allows the government to restrict what it has granted. With his blank sign, twenty-two-year-old **Aslan Sagutdinov** sought to show that government power can indeed cancel basic rights. He was apprehended by police, but was soon set free.*

### Congressional Testimony Omits "So Help Me God"

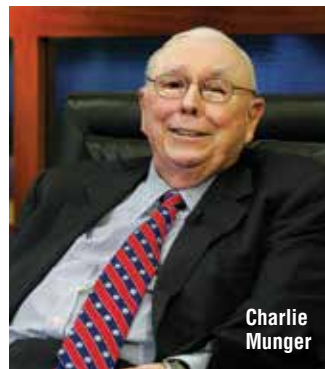
"I think God belongs in religious institutions, in temple, in cathedral, in mosque but not in Congress. [What Republicans are doing] is using God. And God doesn't want to be used."

*The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, Representative **Steve Cohen** (D-Tenn.) drew the ire of Republican subcommittee members with his decision to have witnesses omit the customary closing phrase of the oath each is required to take. Congressman Cohen seems to think he can speak for God.*

### Democrats Are Overstating Their Contempt for President Trump

"The Democrats are committing suicide. They hate him so much they're against him even when he's right. We should have way more control over our borders than we do have."

*The top assistant to legendary Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett, **Charlie Munger** insists that very few Americans want unlimited immigration. ■*



AP Images

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. McMANUS



# A DANGEROUS TIME TO BE **CHRISTIAN**

AP Images

Though its incidence is not shared by major media, violence — including torture and murder — against Christians around the world is at historic levels.



by Troy Anderson

**T**his past Easter will live in infamy — as an omen and wake-up call for global Christendom and Western civilization.

At a time when many of the world's 2.5 billion Christians were celebrating the resurrection of their crucified savior Jesus Christ, two shocking events just days apart sent reverberations around the world.

First, a few days before Easter, the world watched as the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was largely consumed in flames. In an article the following day, nationally syndicated radio talk-show host Dennis Prager captured the tragic irony of the disaster. "The symbolism of the burning of Notre Dame Cathedral, the most renowned building in Western civilization, the iconic symbol of Western Christendom, is hard to miss," Prager wrote in his column "Notre Dame: An Omen."

"It is as if God Himself wanted to warn us in the most unmistakable way that Western Christianity is burning — and with it, Western civilization."

A few days later, on Easter Sunday, over 250 people were killed, including nearly 50 children, when three Christian churches and three luxury hotels in Sri Lanka were targeted in a series of coordinated Islamic terrorist bombings.

"What you have in these kinds of events are people who have a radical agenda who want to attack churches, attack Christians, and destroy the freedom of religious expression of Christians," David Curry, president and chief executive officer of Open Doors USA, told THE NEW AMERICAN.

"This attack on these churches, by the way, is not rare. It's happening regularly in various parts of the world where Christian churches are attacked, not just on Easter, but many times throughout the year. It's based on this radical idea that they think Christians are infidels and they want to eradicate them."

This attack on Christians, among the worst in modern history, came amid reports that persecution of Christ's follow-

ers globally is worse today "than at any time in history."

Not only are Christians more persecuted than any other faith group, but ever-increasing numbers are experiencing the very worst forms of persecution, according to the authors of a study by Aid to the Church in Need.

"There is a war being waged against the world's Christians and unfortunately American Christians have been lulled or shamed into silence while secular and progressive voices in media and our own government have sought to keep us in the dark about the brutal, worldwide war being waged against Christianity in a growing and record number of countries," Dede Laugesen, executive director of Save the Persecuted Christians (STPC) coalition, said at the recent National Religious Broadcasters "Proclaim 19" convention in Anaheim, California.

"Rest assured, the cake baker here in the United States, the 15-year-old school girl being held by jihadists as a slave for life in Nigeria, and the imprisoned North Korean being slowly starved to death for the crime of being Christian, are casualties of the same brutal war that has been festering for centuries. This war, most accurately, a war between love and hate, a war between good and evil, is raging and spreading like a wildfire left to burn uncontrolled."

All this has occurred, Laugesen con-

tinued, as the citizens of the only nation in the world built upon the principles of Christian love and justice, are safely sleeping in a "carefully constructed bubble of ignorance and distraction."

This may be the most dangerous time in history to be a Christian.

"More Christians have died for their faith over the last 100 years than in all prior centuries since Jesus' time," Laugesen says.

An April 2019 study commissioned by the United Kingdom's Foreign Office echoed this assessment, noting Christians are "by far the most persecuted" religious group and are experiencing what amounts to genocide in some parts of the world.

"The eradication of Christians and other minorities on pain of 'the sword' or other violent means was revealed to be the specific and stated objective of extremist groups in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, north-east Nigeria and the Philippines," Bishop of Truro Reverend Philip Mounstephen wrote. "An intent to erase all evidence of the Christian presence was made plain by the removal of crosses, the destruction of Church buildings and other Church symbols.... Where these and other incidents meet the tests of genocide, governments will be required to bring perpetrators to justice, aid victims and take preventative measures for the future."

"The main impact of such genocidal acts

**Symbolic of reality: An inferno raged through the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris in April. Radio talk-show host Dennis Prager wrote the fire is an "omen" that "Western Christianity is burning — and with it, Western civilization."**



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Perhaps the most vulnerable are Christian women and girls, who often face sexual assault and double persecution for their faith and sex.

against Christians is exodus. Christianity now faces the possibility of being wiped out in parts of the Middle East where its roots go back furthest. In Palestine, Christians number below 1.5 percent; in Syria the Christian population has declined from 1.7 million in 2011 to below 450,000 and in Iraq, Christian numbers have slumped from 1.5 million before 2003 to below 120,000 today.”

### Pockets of Christianity Facing Extermination

Today, according to Open Doors, which supports persecuted believers around the world, Christians are the most persecuted religious group on the planet.

While Christian persecution takes many forms, it is defined as any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Christ. The persecution of Christians is a serious issue for believers throughout the world, many of whom are beaten, tor-

tured, beheaded, crucified, raped, imprisoned or enslaved, or wind up losing their livelihoods, homes, and assets as a result of their faith.

Trends show that countries in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa are intensifying persecution against Christians, and perhaps the most vulnerable are Christian women and girls, who often face sexual assault and double persecution for their faith and sex.

Each month, on average, 345 Christians are killed for faith-related reasons, 105 churches and Christian buildings are burned or attacked, and 219 Christians are detained without trial, arrested, sentenced, or imprisoned, according to Open Doors.

Today, nearly a quarter billion Christians experience high levels of persecution in the countries on Open Door’s World Watch List.

“It’s severe and we base that on the fact that there are more Christians being per-

secuted than ever before and the intensity is higher,” Curry says. “Sometimes it’s governments that are doing it, other times it’s non-state actors and radical groups like ISIS, and others. Persecution has been spiking for the last seven to eight years in record numbers and every year it seems to be getting more intense.”

Christians in a record number of countries are being subjected to brutal human rights abuses and even genocidal violence by authoritarian regimes and radical groups, according to STPC, a coalition of over 130 faith leaders and community influencers.

“There have been 26 million martyrs over the past 100 years which is more than the previous 1,900 years combined,” says Kevin Jessip, chairman of the Board of Directors of STPC, which endeavors to provide American policymakers with the popular support they need to effect real change worldwide and alleviate the suffering being experienced by so many of those following Christ.

“If you think of the worst atrocities in the history of the world — what Pol Pot did in Cambodia, what Adolf Hitler did in the Third Reich, what Joseph Stalin did in the Soviet Union, what Mao Tse-tung did in China — and if you put the numbers of people that they killed together, they would pale by comparison to the number of lives that are being destroyed — not in every case people being killed — but their lives are being destroyed around the world today,” says Frank J. Gaffney, president and chief executive officer of STPC and former deputy assistant secretary of defense for nuclear forces and arms control policy during the Reagan administration.

In 2018, Open Doors estimated there were 215 million Christians who were heavily persecuted — not just inconvenienced or suffering, but heavily persecuted, meaning tortured, raped, sold into slavery, crucified, murdered, expelled from their homes, and harmed in egregious ways, including genocide, Gaffney says.

“But their estimate [in 2019] is there are now 245 million Christians who are experiencing that kind of persecution,” he says.

### One in Nine Christians Experiences High Levels of Persecution

Globally, one in nine Christians experiences high levels of persecution, and Is-



**Devastation:** Anusha Kumari (center) holds a coffin during a mass burial for her husband, two children, and three siblings, all victims of the Easter Sunday bombing in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She was left childless and a widow when suicide bombers launched an attack on churches and luxury hotels in Sri Lanka.

AP Images



lamic oppression fuels Christian persecution in eight of the top 10 countries on Open Doors' World Watch List.

Open Doors has identified many factors behind the increase in persecution, including the rise and spread of radical Islam.

"It's more than just whether ISIS owns territories," Curry says. "They don't need territory to share their ideas. These ideas — first recognized in Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda — are now widely spread and it's like a cancer that has metastasized."

"That's a driver that is still in place and it's driving persecution in a number of countries in the world, so when you look at the top countries on the World Watch List, North Korea is number one, but then you jump to Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran. All those countries are driven by radical Islam. They have a radical ideology that wants to force Islamic belief on other people, attack Christians and restrict the rights of Christians."

This means that for millions of Christians — particularly those who grew up Muslim — openly following Jesus can have painful consequences.

But it's not just adherents of radical Islam that persecute Christians. For the first time since the start of the World Watch List over two decades ago, India has entered the top 10. Additionally, China jumped 16 spots, from 43 to 27.

Hindu nationalists in India continue to attack Christians with what seems like no consequences, and in China, the increased power of the government and the rule of Xi Jinping continue to make open worship difficult in some parts of the country, according to Open Doors.

And while the violent excesses of ISIS and other Islamic militants have mostly disappeared from headlines in the Middle East, their loss of territory there means the fighters have dispersed to a larger number of countries not only in the region but, increasingly, into sub-Saharan Africa.

"Despite broad-based agreement that people should not suffer for their faith, in spite of most of the world's countries signing on with the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights, more than 80 percent of the world's population lives in a religiously-restricted atmosphere," Sam Brownback, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom, told hundreds of mostly Christian television and radio



**Remnants:** Remains of ancient Christian books burnt by ISIS militants, found in the Saint George Cathedral in the northeastern Syrian province of Al-Hasakah. A U.K. Foreign Office-commissioned study found Christians in the Middle East are experiencing what amounts to genocide.

broadcasters at the NRB International Christian Media Convention.

"As I travel the world, I'm struck with stories of men and women who suffer restrictions, discrimination and persecution, yet their souls are beautifully crafted through pain. It is their voices that spur me on in our office and work, and I believe it is their voices that will help turn the tide of religious persecution around the world."

### Voices of the Persecuted

One of these voices is American Pastor Andrew Brunson, who spent a couple of years in a "nightmare prison" in Turkey until President Donald Trump intervened late last year.

Afterward, Brunson, who had been in Turkish custody since October 2016, returned to the United States. He was accused of being party to a failed coup attempt against Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, charges he denied.

Brunson's imprisonment sparked a diplomatic conflict between the United States and Turkey, with Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Trump's Twitter accounts all calling for Brunson's release, while Erdoğan insisted on a prisoner exchange. Then, in October 2018, a Turkish court ordered Brunson's release amid reports of a "secret deal."

"President Trump got this done," Brownback said. "I was pushing, pushing, but he just got fed up and said, 'I'm going to slap these tariffs on, tank the economy, and wait for them to do the right thing.'"

And they eventually did. No other president has ever put tariffs and sanctions on a fellow NATO ally, but this president did."

While Brunson's story has a happy ending, many of the believers imprisoned for their faith around the world face horrifying conditions.

Hea Woo, a pseudonym Open Doors created for a woman who spent time in North Korean prisons, lost her husband and daughter and narrowly escaped with her own life.

In 1997, amid a famine in North Korea, her daughter starved to death. Woo's husband fled to China, where he became a Christian, but he was caught by the secret police and thrown in a North Korean prison. He died there.

It wasn't long after that Woo also escaped to China. A short time later, she was also caught by the secret police, sent back to North Korea, and put in a prison camp. In an interview with Open Doors, she explained what the conditions were like:

"There were different parts within the prison," Woo says. "Some [sectors] did agriculture, some did construction work, some did mining. Men and women were separated; all the inmates seemed like they were about to faint. They were all hopeless and in despair. And plus, they were starving. Each person received one handful of rotten corn [and] there was nothing else to eat."

"We got something watery — it



AP Images

**Pastors preyed upon:** Andrew Craig Brunson, a pastor from Black Mountain, North Carolina, arrives at his house in Izmir, Turkey. Brunson, who had been jailed in Turkey for more than one and a half years on terror and espionage charges, was recently released from custody after the White House intervened.

wasn't even a soup. We got those as food for the whole year. Nothing else. And people are obligated to work more than cows or animals. Because everyone is forced to labor, people die from malnutrition. People died from accidents while working, too.... So many died — and there was no hope in the prison. All [inmates] were on the verge of death.”

Open Doors estimates about 250,000 people are suffering in North Korea's “Nazi-style prison camps,” 50,000 of whom are imprisoned for their faith.

A 2017 report by the International Bar Association War Committee noted that a child survivor of the World War II concentration camp Auschwitz said the conditions in North Korea were as bad — or even worse — than what he experienced at the hands of the Nazis.

The report described routine public executions carried out in front of both children and adults, designed to “subdue the prison population.”

Dominic Sputo, director of STPC and author of *Heirloom Love: Authentic Christianity in This Age of Persecution*, visited persecuted believers in the Middle East several years ago and met a man who had been “shot by men with beards and machineguns for preaching the gospel.”

“The Lord miraculously healed him and when I arrived, I met him in the same place and he was still preaching the gos-

pel,” Sputo says. “I was scared hanging out with him that day.”

Sputo went to his home and visited with him, his wife, and three children.

“It just etched something deeply in my spirit to see and meet with brothers and sisters who, for them, the normal Christian life is taking up the cross and denying themselves in ways that I never would have imagined,” Sputo says. “After I left them, a couple of weeks later, a brother in their church was clubbed to death on his driveway in front of his family. Another was shot in the back of the head.”

### China and Social Credit Scores

The violent persecution of Christians in the Middle East and other parts of the world is just one aspect of the persecution that believers are experiencing globally.

In China, the world's largest country, with 1.4 billion people, the nation's rapidly growing Christian population has recently experienced serious persecution. China's Communist Party is intensifying religious persecution of Christians, closing and demolishing churches, jailing pastors, and proposing a new state translation of the Bible that will establish a “correct understanding of the text.”

“Think about the 90 million Christians in China who are followers of Jesus who are now facing growing restrictions, having to deal with facial recognition technologies and having a social credit score,” Curry says.

“China is increasing the pressure and trying to force Christians into a ‘China first’ kind of idea — and that's because there are now more Christians in China than the Communist Party, and they quickly realized they needed to control the Christian movement. So, they are starting to force unregistered churches to register with the government, allowing cameras to be posted in the churches and outside the churches, and trying to approve the theology and sermons of pastors.”

One of the biggest concerns among proponents of religious freedom involves China's social credit scores that rate a person's trustworthiness. In China, the government and private companies collect data about people's finances, social-media activities, credit history, online purchases, health records, legal matters, tax payments, and the people they associate with — information gleaned from the nation's hundreds of millions of surveillance cameras.

This data is used to determine citizens' social credit scores. Generally, higher scores give people advantages, such as avoiding deposits on rental properties. Those with lower scores may find their ability to purchase a new house restricted or be prohibited from buying airline tickets.

“For a long time, China viewed Christians as a great part of society,” Curry says. “They taught a moral framework that the Chinese didn't teach, drug use wasn't as prevalent in the Christian population, and so they saw it as a valuable thing.” He added:

Now they see it as a threat to their communist system. The fear is that anybody with a low social credit score will be denied rights that others would otherwise have. Now that sounds like a new thing to us in the West, but this is what has happened in other places like North Korea where Christians are considered enemies of the state. They're the last to get food in a famine and are put in labor camps, sometimes for up to three generations because their grandfather was a Christian or was found with a Bible.

Brownback says it's “truly scary what is taking place” in China and could be exported to other countries.

“I saw a report recently that nearly 400 million security cameras are being de-



ployed in China by the end of next year,” Brownback says. “And then there are the facial-recognition systems behind it to be able to recognize who is going into the church, who is going into a mosque, and then be able to sort through that data.”

“And now they have the social credit score system that they are saying is to make people better people, but it can also be used to remove you from your apartment, keep you from your job, and not allow your children in school. So, they’ve got these systems they’re developing as a security apparatus and are using artificial intelligence to sort through the data to really focus on persecuting people of faith, to marginalize you in society. How do you participate in society with this?”

Brownback says he’s concerned that China may sell the system to other countries, and those nations will be able to “use this system to put down populations that governments don’t like.”

“The Chinese Communist party does not trust its own people to allow them to choose their own path for their souls,” Brownback says. “There are over one billion souls at stake. It seems the Chinese government is at war with faith, and it is a war they will not win.”

### “A War They Will Not Win”

In response, Brownback says, the Trump administration is committed to helping persecuted Christians throughout the world and is “pursuing this aggressively,” with economic sanctions on countries that persecute Christians and other measures.

“Religious freedom is a top foreign policy priority for this administration,” Brownback says. “We believe this is a universal and natural right. When I reflect on my own faith, I think about how God gave man the free will to choose to believe or not. That freedom is a beautiful one, a sacred right. If God has given man this freedom, how much more should governments leave it to their citizens this freedom to do with their own soul as they choose?”

Western media, many elected officials, and even some faith leaders have been silent for too long about this anti-Christian plague of oppression and death sweeping the globe. These crimes against humanity have thus festered and proliferated, according to the STPC.

To combat this, STPC ([www.savethepersecutedchristians.org](http://www.savethepersecutedchristians.org)) is determined to raise America’s awareness of the plight of the world’s Christians and call them to join in a movement to hold the persecutors account-

able and create real costs for their crimes. The group seeks not only to alleviate the suffering, but also to discourage and ultimately stop those responsible. The movement is bringing political pressure to bear on governments that are engaged as a matter of state policy in the persecution of Christians, on those who allow it to take place on their watch, and on those who persecute with impunity. One of the strategies STPC is encouraging the Trump administration to use, as it did with Turkey, involves the imposition of economic sanctions.

“The problem clearly isn’t being ameliorated just by trying to relieve some of the suffering,” Gaffney says. “Our theory is that’s because the persecutors don’t perceive any particular downside to doing what they’re doing. They see the upside — it’s good for the party, it’s good for the leader, it’s good for their service to Allah — whatever their particular rationale may be, but they just don’t see real costs associated with doing so. And our job, it seems to me, is to create those costs, to hold the persecutors accountable, and to create penalties for engaging in this kind of behavior.”

Many organizations in America and elsewhere, including Open Doors, are doing important work on behalf of persecuted Christians, helping feed, clothe, shelter, and otherwise help them. What is needed is more awareness on the part of the American faithful to drive charitable giving, and to apply political pressure to enact policy that will relieve the suffering, obtain justice for those harmed, and exact heavy costs on persecutors of Christians, according to STPC.

As part of this effort, STPC is building a movement such as one in the 1970s that helped free another population suffering from heavy persecution — Soviet Jews — to impel policy changes that will hold the persecutors accountable and increase the costs for their crimes against humanity. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union ruthlessly persecuted the religious, particularly those of the Jewish faith. However, in the 1970s, the “Save Soviet Jewry” campaign launched an effort that would one day help free the Soviet Union’s oppressed Jews. This campaign began with banners and signs outside synagogues and other houses of worship across America.

“Over time it developed into a powerful political force and a guy I happened to



AP Images

**Being watched:** A Chinese flag flutters near surveillance cameras in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. In addition to millions of surveillance cameras, China is also creating social credit scores to track the trustworthiness of its citizens. U.S. officials are concerned the technologies may be sold to other nations.

work for later by the name of U.S. Senator Henry ‘Scoop’ Jackson turned it into the kind of punitive sanctions on the Soviets that we’re talking about,” Gaffney says. “It was called the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and what it said was simply that the Soviets would not get most-favored nation status unless they let the Jews out and anybody else who wanted to go.”

President Ronald Reagan used “economic warfare against the Soviet Union decisively to not only free a lot of Jews, but hundreds of millions of other people who were enslaved in the Soviet empire, the ‘Evil Empire,’ as it was famously called.”

The same thing could happen today with persecuted Christians, Gaffney says.

At the first-ever Help the Persecuted Summit in Washington, D.C., in March, Vice President Pence said no people of faith face greater hostility or hatred than followers of Christ. “In Iraq, we see monasteries demolished, priests and monks beheaded, and the two-millennia-old Christian tradition in Mosul clinging for survival,” Pence said. “In Syria, we see ancient communities burned to the ground and believers tortured for confessing the name of Christ.”

“It’s heartbreaking to think that the Christian population in Syria has been cut in half in just the past six years, and many of those who remain have been displaced from their ancient homes. In Iraq, the followers of Christ have fallen by 80 percent in the past decade and a half.”

Like the “miracle” that helped free millions of Soviet Jews and others, Gaffney believes “another miracle is entirely possible.”

“Now maybe it’s not going to stop all the persecution all over the world,” he says. “Christ said that won’t happen, but we could alleviate it in any of the places where it’s currently happening, save lives — and save a few souls too.”

In addition, the group is lobbying Trump and Congress to serve notice that those responsible for persecution of Christians will jeopardize the benefits they garner from U.S. foreign aid, military sales, bilateral relations and the opportunity for the leaders of these countries, their family members, and citizens of their nations to visit the United States, go to college and maintain bank accounts in America.

Critics of America’s foreign policy in the Middle East have noted that the poli-



cies couldn’t be intentionally designed to do a better job of liquidating Christians.

Many of the Christians who have suffered and died have lived in countries that receive billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars every year. After trillions of dollars and thousands of American lives were sacrificed by the U.S. government over the last few decades intervening in the Middle East — the birthplace of Christianity — Christian communities now face genocide and serious persecution.

In many cases, U.S. taxpayers are either subsidizing the slaughter by distributing billions of dollars to oppressive regimes, or worse, helping to create the conditions that allow the persecution to happen in the first place.

In response, Gaffney says, STPC is urging Trump and Congress to withhold foreign aid from those nations that are persecuting believers.

“The point is that when Christians are persecuted in places around the world like these we find that they often feel as though they have been abandoned by the rest of us, which only further emboldens their persecutors,” Gaffney says. “So, I’m very pleased to say I’m leading an organization that aspires to become a movement that will change the calculus with these persons, not simply by helping people who are providing symptomatic relief to those suffering, but by holding the persecutors accountable and creating real costs for what they’re doing.”

### SaveUs Banner

The SaveUs movement asks houses of worship and concerned Americans to

**Save the Persecuted Christians** assists the hundreds of millions of Christians who face heavy persecution, including rape, torture, crucifixion, enslavement, and genocide.

place a SaveUs banner in a prominent place to build awareness.

People can encourage their pastors to visit the STPC website and order a free banner to display in front of their houses of worship. These banners feature a graphic “SaveUs” plea with a cross and the coalition’s website where Americans can learn about the global persecution of Christians and find out what they can do to help stop the violence.

STPC also invites people and groups to host their traveling exhibit, “The People of the Cross.” This exhibit shows what millions of Christians are suffering.

In the summer of 2018, as a side event to the U.S. Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, STPC debuted an exhibit at the U.S. Capitol that featured a series of more than 20 7-foot-by-32-inch vertical banners showing what millions of people experience simply because they follow Christ. Since then, the banners have toured the nation and been featured at 21 events in 10 states, reaching an audience of at least 14,500.

Also, with such staggering statistics, and the knowledge that most of these crimes are not covered in the media, STPC developed a special news aggregator — [www.ChristianPersecutionNews.com](http://www.ChristianPersecutionNews.com) — to capture those present-day stories of persecution that do make the news and to provide STPC coalition members an easy way to share these heartbreaking stories with others. ■



# THE WAR TO DESTROY CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA



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In the United States, leftists are subverting state and federal laws to stigmatize and criminalize Christianity.

by Troy Anderson

In his new book *Dark Agenda: The War to Destroy Christian America*, *New York Times* best-selling author David Horowitz wrote that the liberal establishment and their radical allies envision a “godless, heathen American society” in which Christianity is banished.

Their success, he argues, could destroy the very fabric of America’s political order and culture. He warns that the rising attacks on Christians and their beliefs threaten all Americans — including Jews such as himself — because these are attacks on the founding principles of America.

“Since its birth in the fires of the French Revolution, the political left has been at war with religion, and with the Christian religion in particular,” wrote Horowitz, a former 1960s radical-turned-conservative and president of the David Horowitz Freedom Center.

“In a symbolic, revolutionary act, the Jacobin leaders of the French Revolu-

tion changed the name of the Cathedral of Notre Dame to the ‘Temple of Reason.’ Then, in the name of ‘reason,’ they proceeded to massacre the inhabitants of the Vendee region of west central France because its citizens were Catholics.”

Considered the first modern genocide, it was far from the last. Inspired by this hatred, revolutionaries have regarded religion as the “enemy of progress and the mask of oppression” ever since, Horowitz wrote.

In Russia, socialist revolutionary Karl Marx’s followers scrubbed religious teaching from the schools, forbade criticism of atheism, and burned over 10,000 churches. When priests demanded freedom of religion, they were executed. Between 1917 and 1935, 130,000 Russian Orthodox priests were arrested, 95,000 of whom were shot by firing squads.

“Radicals in America today don’t have the political power to execute religious people and destroy their houses of worship,” Horowitz wrote. “Yet they openly declare their desire to obliterate religion.

In their own minds, their intentions are noble — they want to save the human race from the social injustice and oppression that religion allegedly inflicts on humanity. ‘Religion must die in order for mankind to live,’ proclaimed left-wing commentator and comedian Bill Maher in *Religulous*, the most-watched documentary feature of 2008.”

Frank Gaffney, president and chief executive officer of Save the Persecuted Christians coalition, told THE NEW AMERICAN that the coalition has been making the case since it was formed in January 2018 that the persecution of Christians in other parts of the world is a “precursor to what can happen closer to home if we’re not careful, and if we don’t do a better job than we have to date in trying to stop” persecution around the world.

“That said, obviously what’s happening in the United States at the moment is nowhere near what is taking place in Nigeria or China or parts of the Middle East where people are being routinely brutalized, tortured, raped, sold into slavery, murdered, even on a genocidal scale,” Gaffney says.

“But I’ve been in a number of meetings where public interest law firms have described what is happening in case after case after case after case that is clearly on the leading edge of kind of a targeted effort to make the lives difficult of people who are practicing Christianity. They are doing things that their faith calls them to do but are not approved of by whoever it is that is suing them or getting the government to prosecute them.”

## Is Persecution Coming to America?

At a time when experts say 245 million Christians worldwide are experiencing severe persecution, Christian communicators at the recent National Religious Broadcasters “Proclaim 19” convention in Anaheim, California, said Christians in America are facing increasing “soft” persecution and restrictions on religious freedom.

“It’s gotten a lot worse,” Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. “I think it’s part of a change of attitude in our society, which is one of hostility toward the gospel. In the past, our society was either accepting toward the gospel or complacent with the gospel culturally.”

“But now we have large parts of America where people openly despise the gospel and see church people as symbols of hatred. They feel they are doing a good and righteous thing by attacking and silencing people preaching the gospel. To me it’s not just uncomfortable, but they see it as an affront to their lifestyles and their very self-identity.”

One of the most egregious examples involves multiple arrests of ministers preaching the gospel in public places.

The Apostle Paul would have had a difficult time in the United States preaching the “good news” because so many ministers have been arrested in recent years for preaching in public places, Dacus says.

“In the past, if someone would preach the gospel on a public sidewalk, some people may not like their particular style, but they were never arrested,” Dacus says. “But now criminal arrests for public preaching have become very common.”

Over the last few years, the Pacific Justice Institute has successfully defended 12 individuals who were criminally prosecuted for public preaching. In two other cases, the legal defense organization did not prevail and has filed appeals.

“In one case out of San Diego the man was preaching, and he mentioned a whole bunch of sins,” Dacus says. “Well, because one of the [Bible] verses mentioned was homosexual conduct, the police were called, and he had criminal charges brought against him for attempting to incite violence and hate speech.”

Initially, the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office would drop the charges only if Dacus’ client was willing to go to an LGBT reorientation program, Dacus says.

“I mean that’s the way George Orwell’s *1984* book ends — the exact same way,” he says. “And our client said, ‘No.’ We were prepared for trial. The day before the trial the DA dropped the charges. That’s their tactic. These aren’t accidental. These criminal cases are dragged on — usually until the day of or the day before the actual trial.”



AP Images

**Guilty of religiosity:** A preacher hands out free Bibles along the main street for Biketoberfest activities in Daytona Beach, Florida. In recent years, many ministers have been arrested for preaching in public places in America.

Dacus’ remarks come as a new report by the Pew Research Center finds 50 percent of Americans say evangelical Christians are discriminated against in the United States, up from 42 percent in 2016. Nearly one in five — 18 percent — say evangelicals, who constitute about a quarter of America’s population, face “a lot” of discrimination.

### Religious Freedom Under Fire

This discrimination is taking many forms.

Across the “land of the free,” according to the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), religious freedom is under fire. Some recent cases, according to the ADF, include:

In Idaho, ordained ministers Don and Lynn Knapp, who were threatened by the City of Coeur d’Alene with fines and jail time for declining to officiate same-sex weddings at their wedding chapel.

After cake artist Jack Phillips politely declined a same-sex couple’s request to design a cake to celebrate their wedding, a Colorado civil rights commissioner stated at a hearing that religious freedom is a ‘despicable piece of rhetoric’ that slave owners, Nazis, and Jack used ‘to hurt others.’ He was also ordered to stop ‘discriminating,’ ‘reeducate’ his staff, and file quarterly compliance reports.

Five pastors in Houston, Texas, had their sermons and personal communications with churchgoers subpoenaed as part of a campaign by the mayor to silence them on important moral issues.

In California, Dacus says, a “new education framework, which states across the country are considering adopting, is hostile to children from Christian families.”

In the past, parents could opt their children out of sex-education courses in schools, Dacus says. But California lawmakers recently approved the California Healthy Youth Act, requiring a “pro-LGBT indoctrination curriculum that on its face parents cannot opt out of,” Dacus says.

“It’s totally divergent from a biblical, Christian worldview,” he says. “The spiritual casualties from this kind of indoctrination are horrific, but it gets worse. The new education framework will have children from kindergarten through third grade taught story books like *Princess Boy* where it teaches children it’s okay for them to be a boy on the inside but be a girl on the outside. Transgender persons putting on presentations to these young children with a worldview totally divergent from the Christian worldview is already in process and becoming commonplace with this new framework.”

Further, the California Department of Education is proposing a curriculum that recommends using Planned Parenthood



personnel to teach students about sexual health. As part of this curriculum, students would be taught to view religious boundaries of sexual activity as “spiritual abuse,” Dacus says.

“It would authorize the removal of a child from a family, a religious family, that constrained the sexual relationships that their children wish to have,” Dacus says. “This is curriculum [that] is in [the] process of being adopted and proposed in other states as well, but California is leading the way.”

Meanwhile, Dacus says, he’s seen a purging of college professors with Christian worldviews in recent years.

College campuses used to be the marketplace of ideas. Now, public colleges and universities are becoming the “most repressive places in the country” when it comes to sharing and living the Christian faith, Dacus says.

“An example of that are universities setting up little, six-by-six-foot free speech zones to attempt to limit where students can share their faith,” he says.

Christians have also faced discrimination on social media, Dacus says.

“The Big Tech companies have been blatant in their hostility and silencing of Christian biblical worldviews and have limited organizations and ministries,” Dacus says. “We’ve seen a number of

cases of organizations, including our own, that at times have suffered from such blatant, hostile discrimination against those customers with religious messaging and biblical worldviews.”

One of the primary drivers behind this larger phenomenon of discrimination against Christians is the “LGBT agenda,” Dacus says.

“The LGBT agenda has become very hostile to traditional Christianity and those who believe in the teachings of the Bible,” Dacus says. “Christians and the biblical worldview are what stand in the way of total sexual transformation in the United States.”

Recently, the ADF and others have expressed concerns about the proposed “Equality Act.” H.R. 5, if passed, would amend the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, and public education. The ADF says it “poses a devastating and unprecedented threat to religious freedom.”

The act adds “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” as protected classes to existing nondiscrimination laws, the ADF’s Sarah Kramer wrote.

This would prohibit employers, individuals who rent out apartments in their homes, preschools, and even religious schools and

organizations from making choices based on biology, bodily privacy, and their beliefs about the nature of marriage.

The act would force women to share private spaces with men, Kramer wrote. The act would also open shower facilities, restrooms, and locker rooms to members of the opposite sex in schools and churches.

“Essentially, the ‘Equality Act’ gives people of faith an ultimatum: Change your faith-based practices or face government punishment,” Kramer wrote.

Stephen Black, executive director of First Stone Ministries in Oklahoma City, told THE NEW AMERICAN that the Equality Act would put “LGBT on the same level equal to race and gender.”

“As an ordained Christian minister this is intolerable in being able to preach the Bible because what H.R. 5 would do is it would — bottom line — make Christian speech and proclaiming the truth about homosexuality, or any form of sexual sin and brokenness, criminalized,” Black says. “You wouldn’t be able to preach against it because it would be considered hate speech.”

## Stigmatizing Opponents

In *Dark Agenda*, Horowitz explains that the Left likes to label its political opponents as “phobic” and divides America into two kinds of people — those who care about gay rights, minorities, and other victim groups and “un-American ‘deplorables’ who hate and oppress society’s victims.”

“Stigmatizing one’s opponents is a classical radical tactic,” Horowitz wrote. “That is why radicals paint their political opponents as homophobes, xenophobes, and Islamophobes.”

“According to the Left, in other words, people who oppose abortion and same-sex ‘marriage’ have a kind of mental illness.... Calling critics ‘phobic’ is a rationale for denying their First Amendment rights. Shouts of ‘No free speech for homophobes or Islamophobes’ are already heard from leftists on college campuses. Or, to put them all in one fearful basket: ‘No free speech for fascists.’”

Ironically, by suppressing the First Amendment rights of Christians and labeling them as “fascists,” the Left are themselves becoming fascists and following the example of their Jacobin predecessors in the French Revolution. ■



**Subverting religion:** Protesters objecting to the adoption of a platform rejecting same-sex “marriage” and ordination of LGBT clergy gather outside the United Methodist Church’s 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis. Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, says the “LGBT agenda” is driving much of the loss of religious freedom in America.

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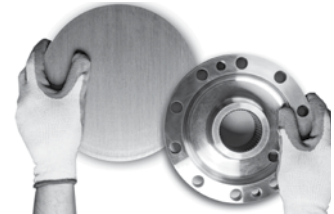
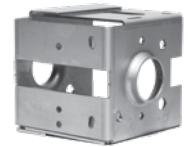
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# DEMOCRATS TRY TO BLOCK TRUMP'S U.S. EXIT FROM UN PARIS SCHEME

Democrats are trying to stop the use of U.S. tax dollars to exit from the Paris Climate Accord and, at the same time, slash U.S. carbon-dioxide emissions.



AP Images

by Alex Newman

After years of playing defense, the “climate cult,” as numerous scientists have described man-made warming theorists, is striking back. Evidently hoping to destroy the U.S. economy and further build up Communist China’s under the guise of stopping “climate change,” Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill on May 2 to ban the use of tax dollars by the Trump administration to withdraw from the United Nations Paris Agreement. In addition to keeping the United States shackled to the UN global-warming scheme, the Climate Action Now Act, known as H.R. 9, would force the White House to develop a plan to massively restrict freedom and prosperity by slashing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It is widely expected to die in the U.S. Senate.

But Republicans In Name Only (RINOs) such as Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) are working to persuade others in the GOP to drink the dangerous climate Kool-Aid and jump on the alarmist bandwagon.

The legislation, passed by the House by a vote of 231 to 190, is almost too kooky to be believed. For instance, it begins by listing “findings,” including the notion that the UN Paris scheme would somehow “respect” and “promote” a so-called “right to health.” Clearly, the authors of the bill missed first-grade civics class, as it is impossible to have a “right to health,” unless cancer and other illnesses can be prosecuted for violating said “right.” Then the bill lists all the progressive policies that the Paris Agreement supposedly “requires” Americans to accept. In particular, the legislation claims the UN deal “requires” a plan to drastically slash American emis-

**Political environment:** Democrats have tried to separate themselves from Republicans by jumping on the global-warming bandwagon, with the aim of limiting U.S. releases of CO<sub>2</sub>.

sions of the gas of life, also known as CO<sub>2</sub>. Human emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, of course, make up a fraction of one percent of all the greenhouse gases present naturally in the atmosphere. Countless experts and scientists, meanwhile, have pointed out that the man-made warming hypothesis, which claims CO<sub>2</sub> drives climate change, has proven incorrect, and that CO<sub>2</sub> is hugely beneficial. Even the UN admits the Paris Agreement would do virtually nothing to stop climate change.

The Climate Action Now Act, introduced in March by man-made warming alarmist Representative Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), is based on several easily de-

H.R. 9 is widely expected to die in the U.S. Senate. But Republicans In Name Only (RINOs) such as Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) are working to persuade others in the GOP to drink the dangerous climate Kool-Aid and jump on the alarmist bandwagon.

bunked premises. “On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, which would leave the United States as the only UNFCCC [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change] member state that is not a signatory to the Paris Agreement,” the bill states. That much is true. After all, the Obama administration and the European Union bribed and bullied governments worldwide to sign on. But then come the absurdities in the bill. “Under the terms of the Paris Agreement, the earliest possible effective withdrawal date by the United States is November 4, 2020,” it claims. “However, the United States is still obligated to maintain certain commitments under the Paris Agreement, such as continuing to report its emissions to the United Nations.”

Of course, the Paris Agreement was never ratified by the U.S. Senate. Instead, it was described by the Obama administration as an “executive agreement,” which has no basis in law. Therefore, the scheme has no legal force or effect. Trump could dump it tomorrow if he wanted to. Even if it were ratified by the Senate as required under the Constitution, though, the U.S. government cannot grant itself new unconstitutional powers merely by signing treaties, as the Founders and the U.S. Supreme Court have recognized. The bill also points to an executive order by Barack Obama — an order that has the same level of legitimacy as the Paris Agreement: none — purporting to commit the U.S. government to coercing Americans into reducing CO<sub>2</sub> output by 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. The bill then refers to Paris Agreement demands

that governments provide more “climate change education” (read: indoctrination) to ensure future generations do not realize they have been duped.

Fringe leftists and crony capitalists were thrilled with the passage of the bill. The extremist Center for American Progress (CAP), funded by billionaire George Soros, deployed all of its propaganda capabilities in support. “This vote sends a powerful message that Americans want to build a clean energy economy and lead the fight against climate change,” claimed CAP boss Neera Tanden in a statement. “It has been 10 years since the House last voted on major climate change legislation, and in that time, the impact has become all too clear. Over the warnings of scientists and the wishes of millions of Americans, President Trump and his climate-change denier allies continue prioritizing polluters, sabotaging climate science, and undermining America’s role as a global leader on climate. After this important first step, we look forward to debate by both parties about moving toward a 100 percent clean economy as quickly as possible — because our planet depends on it.”

Countless pseudo-environmentalist groups — some of which have been funded by the Kremlin in Russia to undermine U.S. energy, as Congress revealed in a recent report — celebrated the bill as the first step in revamping the dying climate movement. “It’s a simple, and bold, statement of a fundamental change in our country’s direction,” the group Natural Resources Defense Council, one of many radical organizations that would dismantle industrial civilization if it could, said about H.R. 9. “It’s time to stop dismissing climate change as a hoax and to stop rolling back clean car, clean power, and other climate protections already on the books. Instead, it’s time to face the science and lean into the transition to an equitable American economy based on clean energy and pollution-free cars, power plants, industries, and homes.” Note the reference to CO<sub>2</sub> — literally the gas exhaled by people and required by plants — as “pollution.”

Democrat leaders in Congress echoed those sentiments. “Climate change is perhaps one of the greatest threats we face as a nation and as a planet, those who deny it do



AP Images

**Setting a snare:** President Barack Obama pledged to follow the Paris Climate Accord to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but he never had the treaty ratified by the Senate — though it would have been unconstitutional even if he had. His plan was to shame politicians into implementing the scheme.





AP Images

**Call him reluctantly willing:** President Trump, noting that most signatories to the Paris Climate Accord did not follow through on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and that worries about CO<sub>2</sub> are a farce, has said he will totally abandon the Paris Accord in the future, though he could do it now.

so at great peril to the health, security, and economic prosperity of our country,” argued House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.). “H.R. 9 will not solve climate change. The first step in any journey does not get you there, but without it, you get nowhere. House Democrats are laying down a marker today that we are committed to tackling this challenge with the seriousness it deserves.... America, if it is to be great, must not sit on the sidelines and shrug like Atlas in confronting the rest of the world. We must act on climate change.” By “act” on “climate change,” Hoyer means redistribute more American wealth and further handicap America’s economy, as the UN’s own numbers and data show.

Experts who testified before Congress slammed the efforts to stop the climate from changing by restricting human liberty. Speaking to the House Subcommittee on Environment, climate statistician Dr. Caleb Rossiter explained the significance of his efforts. “We are trying to save the people of the planet from the people ‘saving the planet,’” he told lawmakers before debunking the increasingly outlandish claims of alarmists about a supposedly looming climate apocalypse. “Extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, droughts and tornadoes are not increasing in incidence or lives lost. Indeed, the global mortality from all weather-related natu-

ral disasters declined by 99 percent while the population trebled after 1920, thanks to improved economies and technologies. Food production and calorie consumption per capita continue to increase, thanks to the green revolution, increased CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization and longer growing seasons. Fossil fuels contribute enormously to the production, safe storage and transport of food and thus to human nutrition.”

The non-profit Heartland Institute, a leader in the fight for honesty in climate science, also lashed out at the legislation and the motivations behind it. “Barack Obama never submitted any component of the Paris Climate Accord to the U.S. Senate for treaty ratification because he knew there was no chance the Senate would approve it. Accordingly, it is not binding on President Trump or the American people,” observed James Taylor, a senior fellow for environmental policy at Heartland. “The American people spoke loudly and clearly when they elected Donald Trump president on a climate-realist message. Climate alarmism may play to the strengths of far-left politicians in deep blue House districts, but most Americans do not support a radical and costly climate agenda. Hopefully, House Republicans learned a valuable lesson in the 2018 midterm elections, when Republicans supporting carbon dioxide limitations suffered disproportionate losses compared

to Republicans who stood true for sound science and climate realism.”

Despite accusations from the Left that those not catering to the climate-change agenda are doing the bidding of big polluting oil companies, it is Democrats who have aligned themselves with pro-globalist Big Business and Big Oil on the phony “climate” issue. Indeed, as the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow noted in a report the day before H.R. 9 was passed, massive oil companies are pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into lobbying for “climate action.” Other major companies that are working to preserve the sovereignty-shredding, prosperity-killing UN Paris scheme include Adobe, Apple, McDonald’s, Google, eBay, Campbell Soup Company, Levi Strauss, L’Oreal USA, Timberland, Target, Nike, Gap, and many more. The firms, part of a coalition dubbed “We Are Still In,” were brought together by the group CERES. Among other schemes, this outfit works to enlist investors — including major public pension funds such as California’s CalPERS — in the war against human freedom and prosperity masquerading as an effort to fight “climate change.” Critics have suggested those institutions, by squandering investors’ money on phony “green” investments, are not upholding their legally mandated fiduciary responsibilities.

The effort to shackle humanity to a UN climate regime suffered a major setback with the 2016 victory of President Trump, who has repeatedly referred to the man-made warming hypothesis as a “hoax.” However, climate alarmists will not give up easily — they have trillions of tax dollars, their credibility, and their precious global governance schemes all at stake. But Trump has a trump card, and could blow up the UN Paris Agreement right this moment if he wanted to. It was never legal to begin with. At the moment, the administration is working on a Presidential Commission on Climate Security to re-examine the science, an effort many scientists hope will expose the massive fraud employed by alarmists. But the White House and Congress must continue to hear from concerned Americans on this issue. As H.R. 9 proves, the war between freedom and global tyranny posing as “climate action” is far from over. It may be just beginning. ■

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## NUCLEAR POWER THE PROMISE VS. IRRATIONAL FEAR

After decades of unprecedently safe energy production, nuclear power generation is still being unfairly vilified as a hazardous, costly, and anti-environmental option.

by Steve Byas

**B**ernie Sanders, who will once again be running to be president of the United States in 2020, has said that he plans to power the United States with green energy, absent nuclear power. He wants nuclear power gone.

Sanders claims to believe that man-made CO<sub>2</sub> is leading to climate catastrophe, hence his power plan. And he, like many others, fears nuclear power.

However, despite what one believes about the validity of human-caused global warming, not using nuclear power to generate electricity for this country is a mistake no matter how you look at it.

The energy that can be produced by nuclear fission — the splitting of the atom — is mind-boggling. According to Scott Montgomery and Thomas Graham, in their recent book *Seeing the Light: The Case for Nuclear Power in the 21st Century*, “One fission event [in 1939] yielded

more than 200 million times the energy of the neutron that caused it.” One gram of uranium (about the size of a standard BB), through fission, could produce as much energy as 3.3 tons of coal.

Today, despite the great potential of nuclear power, there are only 98 commercial nuclear reactors in United States in use to produce electricity. Yet that limited number of reactors provides nearly 20 percent of the generated electricity in the country. In contrast, France switched from electricity generation mainly via fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas) to cheaper and cleaner nuclear power. The country gets 75 percent of its power from nuclear, and it is the largest electricity exporter in Europe (electricity is France’s fourth-largest export) because its costs are so cheap. France was a net electricity importer through most of the 1970s, until it began building a series of nuclear plants.

As the world’s original innovator of nuclear weapons and nuclear power, why

**They are still there:** Along with Nagasaki, Hiroshima was one of the two unfortunate cities that were targeted with atomic bombs in 1945. The bombs killed many thousands, in the blasts themselves and the ensuing fallout. But many thousands survived both, and the cities still exist today, and there is no indication of any resulting birth defects or genetic mutations caused by radiation effects.

does America now lag behind? The answer is a combination of factors, including an irrational fear of nuclear power, concern over nuclear waste, the start-up expenses involved, and the cost and time associated with fighting frivolous lawsuits by self-proclaimed eco-warriors, especially the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

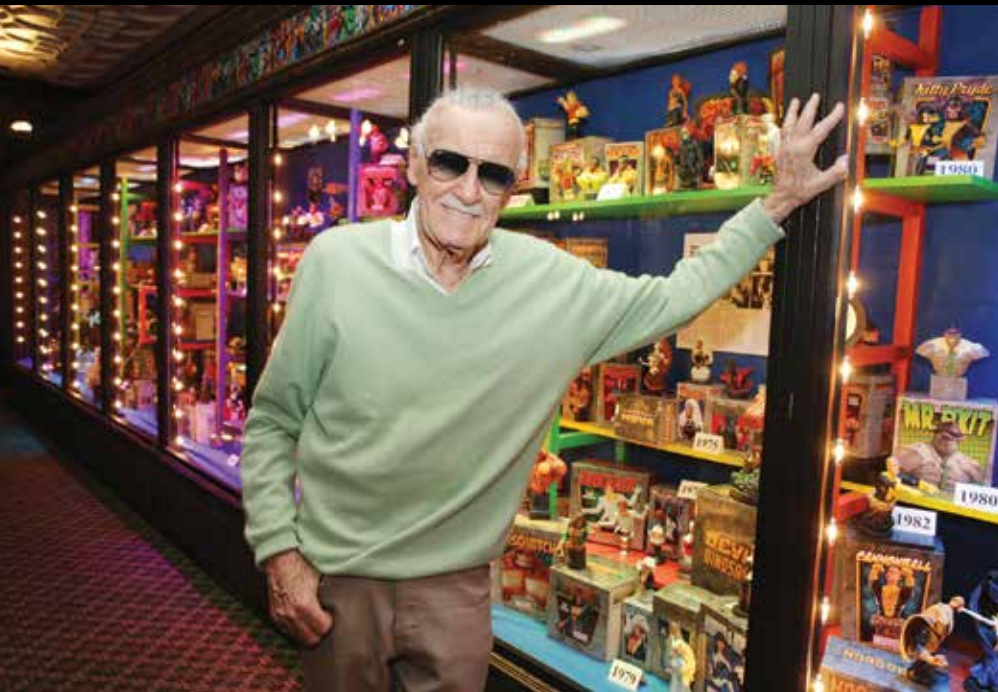
Even politicians who are inclined to support freeing America’s energy industry to develop nuclear power fear the political consequences of supporting an expansion of nuclear energy production. But what has caused this anxiety?

### Misunderstanding Radiation

Popular culture, from movies to comic books, has contributed greatly to the fear of nuclear power. Some of what might be deemed anti-nuclear propaganda has involved rank demagoguery, in which the creators of it knew they were spreading falsehoods. Sometimes the purveyors of untruths backed an ideological cause, such as more government restrictions upon society; other times the fear of nuclear power was part of a premise to sell books and movie tickets, not believing anyone would take the fanciful stories all too seriously.

The late Stan Lee, the creator of many comic book heroes and villains during his long career with Marvel Comics, probably fits into the latter group. After all, comic books are for fun, and superheroes have to get their powers some way. So, Lee has an atomic scientist, Bruce Banner, get bombarded with gamma rays, and he turns into the green-skinned monster known as the Incredible Hulk.

In actuality, had a person absorbed the amount of gamma rays that created the Hulk in the comics, he more likely would have died an agonizing death from radiation sickness.



**Teller of tales:** Stan Lee of Marvel Comics fame was a genius storyteller. But his stories about human beings walking up the sides of buildings, or turning into huge, green monsters — attributed to the effects of radiation — probably contributed to negative and incorrect public beliefs about nuclear power.

Then, there was a high-school kid, Peter Parker. In the original story Lee dreamed up, Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, which then transferred the “powers” of the spider, like being able to climb walls, to Parker, and he became the amazing Spider-Man. Similar radiation events produced the Fantastic Four. Some, like the X-Men, were even born with superpowers because each had at least one parent exposed to high levels of radiation.

No one wants to become a giant green monster, although being able to climb walls like a spider could come in handy at times. But thinking a radioactive spider could transfer that ability to a human being is just plain silly.

Most anti-nuclear energy Americans would protest that they do not really believe radiation can do these types of things, but what they do believe is not that far removed from the world of the comics. While appearing somewhat more sophisticated, movies such as 1979’s *China Syndrome* and the recent HBO miniseries *Chernobyl* perpetuate irrational fears concerning the production of electricity using nuclear fission. Another source of wild distortions of reality is the Internet — Facebook, e-mails, websites, blogs, and the like — often perpetuating doomsday scenarios that have no

basis in fact. The damage done to the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan by the 2011 tsunami has produced such Internet scare-mongering as claiming that there has been contamination of the Pacific Ocean and that vast clouds of killer radiation have made their way to America.

The reality is that no deaths in the nation of Japan, in the ocean, or anywhere else were caused by radiation emitted by the nuclear power plant at Fukushima.

Yet the fear-mongering went on. Internet messages claimed both that a cloud of radioactive material was floating on the air currents to America, where it would pollute our edible plants, and that radiation was dispersing across the ocean and contaminating much of the seafood in the Pacific Ocean, making it unsafe to eat. In truth, at the moment of worst release, one could stand outside the gate of the Fukushima plant for 10 hours and only get about the same amount of radiation that one would get from a full-body CT scan, and even the water of the 74-acre harbor outside the plant never reached levels of radioactive contamination that would warrant not swimming there, according to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which carefully monitored the situation.

Much of the mythology of nuclear power

is created by radical environmentalists such as Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and the Clamshell Alliance, but it is also spread through magazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek*, movies, television, and the like. In 1976, the very influential globalist publication *Foreign Affairs* provided space within its pages for a Friends of the Earth leader, Amory Lovins, who wrote, “Energy Strategy: The Road Not Taken.” In his article, he not only criticized fossil fuels such as coal and oil, he inveighed against the use of nuclear power as environmentally damaging. And even if it were “clean, safe, economic ... and socially benign, it would still be unattractive because of the political implications of the kind of energy economy it would lock us into.”

Lovins offered solar and wind as examples of more socially responsible energy production.

And then, as now, what appeared in the pages of *Foreign Affairs* often filtered down into accepted orthodoxy not only for elitists, but also radical activists. Celebrities such as actress Jane Fonda and her radical husband Tom Hayden joined groups such as the Sierra Club and the left-wing Union of Concerned Scientists in calling for no nuclear power.

Actually, though, the incident at Fukushima, and the far more serious episode at Chernobyl, have actually proved the falsity of the “China Syndrome” — the belief that core meltdowns can burn a hole through the Earth all the way to China — and other scare scenarios. Nothing remotely like that occurred in either case — and wouldn’t in the future, because of safety features and the laws of physics.

### The Role of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Probably the chief reason that public perception persists that nuclear energy is so dangerous is its association with the atomic bomb blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed thousands of Japanese civilians, either by the blasts themselves or by radiation sickness induced by nuclear fallout. Along with above-ground nuclear tests performed by the United States and the Soviet Union during the early years of the Cold War, the public understandably came to think “bomb,” “radiation sickness,” and “fallout” when they heard the word “nuclear” or “atomic.” This is as irrational



as associating an electric lamp with an electric chair.

As horrific as the impact of the two bombs was, the fire-bombing campaigns of Dresden (Germany) and Tokyo (Japan) also killed hundreds of thousands of civilians, who also endured agonizing deaths. But we don't vilify and ban fire; we use it to manufacture our comfort, many products, and our safety — as well as cook marshmallows around.

It is surprising to many that the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still exist today, and that survivors and more recent residents haven't suffered lifelong sickness.

Fifty years after the atomic bomb blasts, more than 90 percent of children from those cities who were under 10 years old at the time of the blasts were still alive, and more than 40 percent of those who were then adults were still living.

Many Japanese did die agonizing deaths from radiation sickness soon after the bombings, but contrary to what is widely believed, there is scant evidence that the children of survivors were any more likely to be born with defects or mutations than in non-bombed populations, or that survivors had much higher incidents of cancer.

In *Seeing the Light*, authors Montgomery and Graham noted that when 31,500 children born to parents affected by the bomb blasts were compared with 41,066 children from other Japanese cities, there were no increases in birth defects.

Sadly, the belief that exposure to high levels of radiation results almost inevitably in severe birth defects led hundreds of young women in Europe to abort their unborn babies in the aftermath of the Chernobyl incident for no real reason.

But many people associate nuclear power, produced by nuclear fission, with nuclear bomb blasts, also using nuclear fission, instilling in their minds that a nuclear power plant is just another bomb ready to explode and kill thousands, even millions. It is actually technologically impossible for a nuclear explosion to occur at a commercial nuclear power plant, built to produce electricity. This is because the uranium fuel has not been enriched to the point to make an explosion possible. In a commercial nuclear reactor, the uranium fuel is only enriched to about three to five percent fissionable uranium (U-235); for weapons-grade fuel, capable of producing a nuclear explosion, it needs to be en-

riched to about 90 percent U-235. As well, even with weapons-grade U-235, two or more “sub-critical” masses of the isotope must be forced and held together for the explosive reaction to occur, something a commercial reactor (or any kind of reactor) is incapable of doing.

### The Unreasonable Fear of Radiation

Some opponents of nuclear power admit that a nuclear power plant is no threat to produce a nuclear explosion. Instead, they center most of their objections on the health hazards of radiation exposure and storing nuclear waste. But while radiation is something that can certainly be dangerous, its harmful effects are grossly overstated, especially when one considers that radiation is a part of nature.

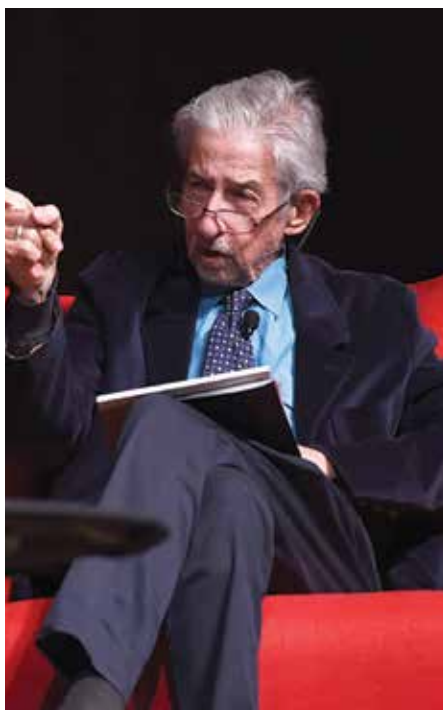
Radiation can come from space by way of cosmic rays, from the ground via the decay of radioactive elements such as uranium and thorium, from the air (radon), and even from buildings, sidewalks, and highways.

We even receive radiation from other human beings. (Blood contains Potassium 40.) During an interview of Astro Teller, grandson of Edward Teller, “the father of the hydrogen bomb,” we learn some specifics — about the man and radiation:

He [Dr. Edward Teller] had a wicked sense of humor. He had it in public, but even more so in private. I remember an almost constant stream of witticisms or observations about the world. He would point out that leaning up against a nuclear power reactor will leave you with more radiation than lying next to a woman in bed. But it irradiates you less than lying next to two women in bed, and lying next to two women in bed is for sure more dangerous.

We get significant levels of radiation from air travel, hiking in the mountains, or lying in the sun, tanning. Those who live in areas of high altitude (such as in Denver) receive higher levels of natural radiation than people in New Orleans.

And while it is definitely true that exposure to very high levels of radiation can lead to an increased cancer risk — even if a person does not experience radiation sickness (caused by the killing of cells) — and even death, low levels of radiation are



**Way of their world:** Anti-nuclear activists, such as Jane Fonda and her former husband Tom Hayden, are usually left-wingers who want to reduce America's private power industry, whether it be generated by coal, oil, gas, or nuclear. Such reductions lead to more socialistic governmental control of the energy industry — and the American people.

France switched from electricity generation mainly via fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas) to cheaper and cleaner nuclear power. The country gets 75 percent of its power from nuclear, and it is the largest electricity exporter in Europe.

innocuous. For example, many patients worry about an increased risk of cancer from a chest X-ray, but such an X-ray is about 1,000 times below the level at which the risk one has of getting cancer goes up one percent.

Even if one were to get a dose of radiation high enough to develop temporary radiation sickness, with nausea, the increased chance of cancer is much less than five percent.

Unknown to many people, exposure to radiation can actually provide health benefits, as documented by Ed Hiserodt in his book *Underexposed: What If Radiation Is Actually Good For You?* Not only does the human body naturally create vitamin D from sunlight, the body uses potassium, part of which is radio-

active, from foods such as bananas to, as Web MD says, “trigger your heart to squeeze blood through your body” and “It also helps your muscles to move, your nerves to work, and your kidneys to filter blood.”

Given the abundance of radioactivity in nature, it should seem obvious that humans are designed to process radiation (in small amounts). And the human body not only does process radiation, it seems the body actually benefits from some radiation — even *reducing* cancer.

Readers of Hiserodt’s book will no doubt be surprised to learn that exposure by 15,000 nuclear workers to small, varying doses of radiation reduced cancer mortality by 40 percent, compared to fellow workers who were not exposed; and

28,542 nuclear shipyard workers had 26 percent less deaths from all causes, as compared with unexposed co-workers. Too, a study of 31,710 women showed that subjecting them to low-dose, low-level radiation, such as a woman might receive in a mammogram, predicted “with better than 99% confidence limits” that radiation “would prevent 10,000 deaths in ... [a] million women.” More shocking was what happened to the survivors of nuclear blasts. After the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima in Japan, calculations were made for each survivor to see how far from the blast he or she was, and then a very meticulous health record was kept to test the consequences of radiation — as each person was hit in a few moments with as much or more radiation than the average person would receive in four lifetimes. All told, the chances of a bomb survivor getting cancer went up by about one percent. And several hundred extra Japanese died of cancer in their lifetimes than otherwise would have.

That’s the “bad.” The “good” is that the exposed residents typically were healthier and lived longer than their unexposed peers. Deaths from all causes of those who were exposed were dramatically lower than their unexposed peers.

In short, the fear of the exposure of radiation that keeps us from taking advantage of its potential in energy production and medical applications is doing a great disservice to our country.

Some, when presented with these facts, fall back to the question of what to do about nuclear waste, but this bogeyman is easily addressed. Three authors, with backgrounds in foreign relations, psychology, and engineering, penned an op-ed published in the *New York Times* last month, and they explained, “Nuclear waste is compact — America’s total from 60 years would fit in a Walmart — and is safely stored in concrete casks and pools, becoming less radioactive over time.” This much waste is generated from coal-fired power plants every hour.

The nuclear waste is usually stored on site at nuclear power plants, as the Nuclear Energy Institute explains:

- Once removed from a reactor, used fuel assemblies initially cool down in a storage pool. The concrete and



AP Images

**Radioactive humans:** Known as the “father of the hydrogen bomb,” Edward Teller often lamented that Americans had an over-concern about the effects of radiation, noting that one actually received more radiation by simply being next to other people than by leaning against a nuclear reactor.



steel pool and the water shield workers from radioactivity.

- When cool enough that it no longer needs to be stored underwater — typically for 2 to 5 years after removal from the reactor — used fuel is transferred and stored in dry casks, which are large steel-reinforced concrete containers. They're safe enough to walk up to and touch.

And the only reason the “waste” is held on site is owing to politics. The United States created the Yucca Mountain waste disposal area in Nevada specifically for storing nuclear materials — in a mine that has hundreds of feet of solid rock above it and hundreds of feet of solid rock below it, so the waste wouldn't go anywhere even if the near impossibility of a leak were to happen. But the storage site was never put into use because Nevada's powerful Senator Harry Reid became the majority leader in the Senate and decided to demagogue the issue so as to excite the passions of his constituents.

Moreover, used nuclear fuel is not “spent”; rather it has only exhausted a portion of its uranium, and it could be used to make new fuel — if Democrat presidents hadn't stopped our country from reprocessing the fuel rods to retrieve the valuable uranium.

Another argument often raised against nuclear power is its expense. But with economies of scale, if America actually began to produce nuclear power plants on a larger scale, the cost of each unit would decline considerably. The reason this has not happened is largely because of the uncertainty of government regulations and political opposition. If those raising this objection — that nuclear power is simply too expensive — would drop their opposition, it is likely that the free market would quickly bring down the costs associated with construction of nuclear power plants, without sacrificing safety. Plainly put, the costs of production of a commercial nuclear power plant are dramatically increased by U.S. government interference and unnecessary regulation, with demagogic politicians playing to the irrational fears of the public, mostly created by anti-nuclear propaganda. In business to make money, many power companies simply opt out of the commercial

# UNDER-EXPOSED

What If Radiation  
Is Actually  
**GOOD**  
for You?

by Ed Hiserodt

nuclear power field so as to avoid having to defend expensive lawsuits, with all of the public-relations problems associated with them.

In South Korea and Japan, it takes between 48 and 54 months to complete a new nuclear power plant, according to the World Nuclear Association. In the United States, it may take decades to merely get a government permit to build — and every delay costs money, and estimated costs to build here (by the U.S. Energy Information Administration) are three times what they are for South Korea.

Of course, safety remains the biggest concern, and anti-nuclear activists raise the specter of what *might* happen in the future. The truth is, new nuclear power plant designs, such as the pebble-bed nuclear design, make it impossible to have a nuclear meltdown, and after several decades of nuclear energy use, the only three negative incidents that opponents can point to are Three Mile Island, Fukushima, and Chernobyl.

## Safety of Nuclear Power

Even relatively old nuclear technology that has had problems, as exhibited by the Three Mile Island and Fukushima power plants, has proven to be safe, especially in comparison to other forms of energy. No one died at Three Mile Island or Fukushima from exposure to radiation. The only deaths at Fu-

**Remedying falsehoods:** In his book *Underexposed: What If Radiation Is Actually Good for You?*, Ed Hiserodt made the case that not only are low levels of radiation not dangerous, but such lower levels can actually provide positive health benefits to humans.

kushima resulted from either the tsunami itself, or government relocation efforts.

Concerning Three Mile Island, it was a popular joke at the time that more people have died in the back seat of Senator Ted Kennedy's car than died after the Three Mile Island accident. Obviously, deaths in any energy accident — whether it be gas explosions, coal mine collapses, dam failures, wildfires caused by wind turbines, or nuclear plant explosions — are nothing to laugh about. But the fear of nuclear power is all out of proportion to its dangers. It should be understood that even a badly designed nuclear power plant such as Chernobyl simply cannot explode like a nuclear bomb. This is because for uranium to become bomb-worthy, the uranium must be “enriched” or purified to a level far beyond anything that has ever been used at a nuclear power plant.

While opponents of nuclear power can argue that there *were* deaths in the Chernobyl incident, even there the deaths were relatively few and the environmental damage almost nonexistent.

Unfortunately, most Americans gleaned all they know about Chernobyl from major-media sources, dramatizations such as the HBO series *Chernobyl* that are long on fabrication and dramatic storytelling and short on unbiased fact. It's just true enough that the producers can say, “It is based on a true story.” Few Americans have heard what actually happened in 1986 inside the former Soviet Union.

Several thousand deaths have been attributed to Chernobyl, but the consensus places the death toll more in the range of 30 to 60.

After the incident, about 350,000 people were forcibly evacuated from the area around the plant. While *Time* claimed in its review of *Chernobyl*, the miniseries, that the area around the site — for about a thousand square miles — is still uninhabitable, all sorts of animals and vegetation are thriving in the area. Even people live there, and have done so since shortly

Many patients worry about an increased risk of cancer from a chest X-ray, but such an X-ray is about 1,000 times below the level at which the risk one has of getting cancer goes up one percent.

after the accident. About 1,000 mainly old people moved back shortly after the accident — and most have outlived their peers who chose not to return.

While between four and six thousand cases of thyroid cancer might be attributable to the radiation, it is likely that cases of thyroid cancer are simply being detected because people were tested for it after the meltdown — a type of confirmation bias. Extra cases of thyroid cancer were said to be discovered across Europe in the year after the Chernobyl incident, and then the cases tapered off, but if Chernobyl caused this cancer, the cancer rates should have gotten worse as the years went on — they didn't. Too, thyroid cancer has a 99-percent survival rate. In comparison, a large dam (designed to produce electricity) in China (another communist dictatorship) collapsed in 1975, which caused the deaths of about 26,000 Chinese due to drowning and perhaps another 145,000

from the resulting epidemics due to water contamination and famine.

Vladimir Lenin, the first dictator of the Soviet Union, said the motion picture was the most important art form for spreading communism to other countries. His successor, the murderous dictator Joseph Stalin, is reported to have asserted he could convert the whole world to communism if he were given control of the American movie industry. Not surprisingly, the compliant media provided positive coverage of the five-part series *Chernobyl*, and coverage echoes the message that the Chernobyl incident is a powerful demonstration that nuclear power generation is simply too dangerous, and we must instead accept a reduced standard of living.

*TV Guide* opined, "The series portrays in grisly detail what it's like to die of radiation poisoning." No doubt it is a terrible sight. But so is dying in a civilian aircraft on the runway in Russia, such as the one

that killed about 40 people on the weekend before the miniseries opened. If people dying in flames were portrayed in graphic detail on a movie screen, it would also be a horrible sight indeed — but does that mean we should end all civilian airline flights?

The authors of *Seeing the Light* noted that the Chernobyl plant was built with no containment structure, writing, "No other nation has ever built such technology; it would have been rejected by any regulatory body."

It should be understood that no plant ever built, or that ever would be built, in the United States, could result in what happened in 1986 under that communist dictatorship. The central problem of the HBO production is that it takes an episode that could never happen anywhere else, and leaves the impression that it is typical of the nuclear power industry.

But such productions are much more likely to attract viewers and sell advertising, and serve to promote the message that our future is grim — that we must radically reduce our lifestyles, turn more control of our lives over to the government, and hope for lots of windy and sunny days for the wind turbines and the solar panels.

When assessing the commercial nuclear power industry, these three facts should be remembered:

1. The fuel is concentrated. Little fuel results in a lot of energy.
2. The waste materials are contained. Unlike coal- or oil-fired power plants, there is no smokestack where pollutants are released into the atmosphere. It is much safer than either, and it is also capable of producing much greater amounts of electricity than any other source.
3. All forms of energy generation are dangerous, since there is always the possibility of the energy getting out of control. The question that should be asked regarding nuclear power is not how dangerous it is, but how does it compare it to other large-scale forms of energy generation. Even fire, which dramatically improved the lot of human beings centuries ago, can get out of control. In contrast, after decades of its history, commercial nuclear power is the safest, the cleanest, and the most productive of all fuels.

Here's to celebrating facts over fiction — and a revival of America's nuclear power industry. ■



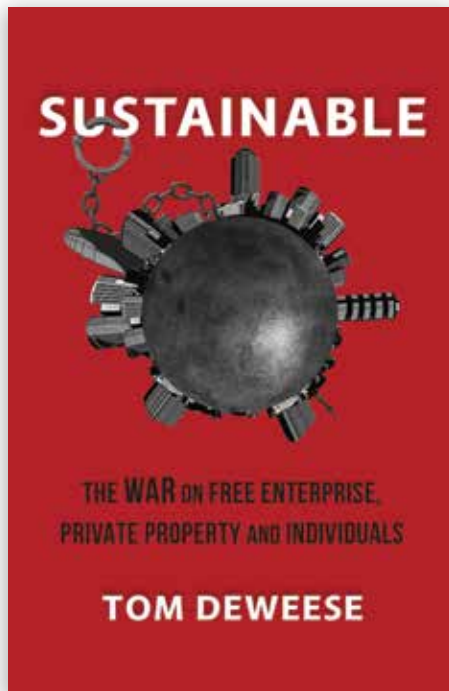
**Nonsense narrative:** Nothing like the infamous, notoriously unsafe Chernobyl nuclear power plant was ever constructed outside of the old Soviet Union. Nonetheless, its earned reputation as the worst nuclear power disaster in history has been grossly over-generalized and used to smear the entire commercial nuclear power industry.

AP Images



# ENVIRONMENTAL HANDCUFFS

The book *Sustainable* revolves around the globalist reasons that “sustainability” is promoted around the world, reasons that have nothing to do with protecting the environment.



by Alex Newman

***Sustainable: The War on Free Enterprise, Private Property and Individuals***, by Tom DeWeese, Richmond, Virginia: Gold Dust Publishing, 2018, 195 pages, paperback.

The sustainable development ideologists are not just coming for you, your children, and your town — they are already there! As American Policy Center chief Tom DeWeese explains, if America does not fight back hard, property rights, free markets, and individual liberty will all become a thing of the past in the not-too-distant future. But instead of being just another book that outlines the problem, *Sustainable: The War on Free Enterprise, Private Property and Individuals* offers ideas for what every American

can do to restore freedom. Whether you are well-versed in the threat of “sustainability” or a novice just starting to learn about it, the book will be well worth your time. It will make you more effective in the freedom fight, too.

Among the most valuable contributions of the book to the resistance in the ongoing war over private-property rights is DeWeese’s meticulous exposure of the various strategies used to undermine those precious rights. For instance, *Sustainable* breaks down the role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the United Nations, UN agencies, federal courts, various federal statutes, local government, conservation easements, “national heritage” areas, trade associations, smart growth, regional governance, homeowners associations, an alphabet soup of federal bureaucracies, and so much more. The book shows clearly the role played by each of these components, and how it fits into the overall war on liberty and private property.

DeWeese, a longtime leader of the liberty movement, also delves into the forces operating behind the scenes — shadowy groups of elitists such as the Club of Rome. In one quote included in *Sustainable*, the secretive outfit even argued against self-government, saying that the “complex” and “technical” natures of today’s “problems” supposedly “do not always allow elected representatives to make competent decisions at the right time.” DeWeese translates the lofty rhetoric into simpler terms that anyone can understand: “In other words, dictatorship is much more effective than letting silly individuals make decisions for themselves.” And indeed, that is a constant theme throughout the literature cited in the book. It is also at the heart of “sustainable development.”

Right at the beginning, *Sustainable* explains why private property is so critical

to prosperity and individual liberty. And it explains how the system in the United States, based on private property and individual liberty, helped fuel the unfathomable wealth that Americans enjoy today. Interestingly, DeWeese describes the County Recorder’s office in every community as the “most powerful force of freedom in the world.”

Not everyone is as fortunate as Americans, though. In most countries, DeWeese points out, vast obstacles exist to the registration and protection of private property rights, making capital accumulation far more difficult, and perpetuating the poverty that reigns worldwide.

Building on that foundation, the book does a masterful job of actually explaining private property — what it is, how it has developed, and why it is so crucial. A quote by Washington State Supreme Court Justice Richard Sanders sums up well the problem represented by the growing restrictions on property rights imposed under the guise of sustainable development: “Property in a thing consists not merely in its ownership and possession, but in the unrestricted right of use, enjoyment, and disposal. Anything which destroys any of the elements of property, to that extent, destroys the property itself. The substantial value of property lies in its use. If the right of use be denied, the value of the property is annihilated and ownership is rendered a barren right.”

And yet, DeWeese shows, using a range of examples, how the federal courts and the federal bureaucracies, in partnership with sustainability ideologues, have mercilessly besieged the property rights that lie at the core of human liberty. Perhaps no single blow in U.S. history was more severe than the Supreme Court opinion commonly known as *Kelo*. In that ruling, the court ruled that government could steal

DeWeese shows, using a range of examples, how the federal courts and the federal bureaucracies, in partnership with sustainability ideologues, have mercilessly besieged the property rights that lie at the core of human liberty.

any piece of property for virtually any reason, provided authorities claim the taking will somehow be for the “common good,” no matter how tangential. That particular case involved the City of New London, Connecticut, taking a house from a woman so the property could be handed over to private developers for “economic development.”

And thus, property rights were eviscerated with the full approval of the nation’s highest court, a tragedy that *Sustainable* documents in all of its horror. “The *Kelo* decision changed the rules,” observes DeWeese in emphasizing the monumental changes unleashed across America by the court’s anti-constitutional opinion, showing how it paved the way for sustainable schemes to keep crushing America. “The precedent was set. Land can now be taken anytime at the whim of a power elite. Mission accomplished.” Anybody in America may be the next victim, too, as DeWeese demonstrates. Some of the abuses and examples highlighted in the book are enough to make the reader want to pull out his or her hair! Some states passed legislation to stop this very thing.

Another key resource provided by the book is all the evidence one could ever need about the true nature of the UN-backed “sustainable” agenda. Throughout *Sustainable*, DeWeese quotes leading officials and UN reports explaining exactly what is going on. In a chapter on “Regionalism,” for instance, he begins with a bombshell quote from the UN Commission on Global Governance — and yes, it is really called the UN *Commission on Global Governance*. “Regionalism must precede globalism,” the commission concluded. “We foresee a seamless system of governance from local communities, individual states, regional unions and up through the United Nations itself.” And that is the objective.

One of the many valuable contributions of this book in the fight against the UN-backed ideology of sustainability is the way it exposes so many seemingly innocuous groups that are advancing it. For instance, the American Planning Association sounds like a harmless outfit for planning wonks. But as DeWeese proves with meticulous documentation, the organization manipulates people with mislead-

ing surveys and fake data to push sustainability on communities across America. A seemingly never-ending parade of non-governmental organizations uses similar deception, as the book also shows.

And whether you live in the city or the country, they are coming for you. DeWeese proves that rural Americans are right in the cross hairs, with sustainable zealots using everything from the Endangered Species Act to the Clean Water Act to target them and their property. He also outlines a “diabolical plan to herd people off the rural lands and into human settlements where they can be more effectively controlled.” The “Wildlands Project” envisions returning half of the United States to “wilderness reserves” free from human activity in the coming decades.

That means countless ranchers, farmers, loggers, and miners will need to be removed from their lands. The other half of the nation would be “managed intelligently as buffer zones,” the architect of the scheme declared. The process involved in fundamentally transforming the nation in this way includes denying water rights and grazing permits, locking away natural resources under various pretexts such as “national parks” and “monuments,” the designation of every “mosquito-infested swamp and occasional mud puddle” as “wetlands,” the invention of phony crises in the number of some species, and much more. It has been happening for years.

Ironically, despite the totalitarian establishment’s feigned concern over “minorities,” minorities have been some of the most abused victims of the sustainability jihad. DeWeese explains that “Smart Growth” schemes — a crucial tool in the sustainable agenda to constantly increase population density — have devastated poor communities. Indeed, “these Smart Growth economic realities are now forcing low-income and young people out of their ethnic neighborhoods and into public housing programs as expensive high-rise condos replace their homes and destroy their local businesses,” the book notes. In Portland, Oregon, such policies have driven more than 10,000 minority families out of their urban homes.

The full-blown sustainable assaults on local government and self-government are exposed in detail in *Sustainable*, too. Particularly nefarious are unconstitution-



Tom  
DeWeese



al federal schemes that overrule state and local decisions — and plenty of examples are provided. Also key is the trend toward creating “regional plans” and “regional governance” whereby multiple cities, counties, and jurisdictions are amalgamated under “regional commissions” with broad powers that cannot be removed or held accountable by local communities. And that is the point — government by the elite, for the elite, at the expense of the people.

The book acknowledges in the overview that it does not attempt to address everything related to the sustainability threat. It does touch briefly on “education,” explaining that “Sustainable ideology has taken control of the education system, indoctrinating students with one view.” And that is very true. However, because the indoctrination of children is so critical to advancing the sustainable-development agenda, as UN agreements and leading UN officials have openly explained, it might have been helpful to include more on this. Parents and taxpayers must understand that their own children

are being brainwashed and turned against them as they become foot soldiers for the sustainable war on freedom.

Another area that could have received more attention is the UN’s obsession with reducing the human population. Preventing the birth of children has become a top priority for the UN. And a full understanding of the scope of sustainability requires an understanding of the ongoing war against marriage, family, and children. In Communist China, the UN Population Fund has even been caught working with authorities perpetrating forced abortions to enforce “population-control” policies. And such barbarism has more than a few supporters within the UN and even within the U.S. government.

The “Solutions” chapter may be the most important and valuable of them all because it provides concrete ideas for action that any American can take. On the bright side, DeWeese highlights the successful efforts of tiny Rindge, New Hampshire, to stop the juggernaut. As *Sustainable* explains in the conclusion, “The fight starts at the local level, not in

Washington, DC.” DeWeese also warns of potential pitfalls with some of what has already been tried. For instance, the state of Alabama voted to ban UN Agenda 21 within its borders. But because the law “failed to define what it meant by Agenda 21,” the “sustainable” assault on freedom and private property continues to steamroller over that state.

Overall, this book is a marvelous resource for the freedom fight. Every freedom fighter should have a copy. And it would be extremely useful to anyone, whether one has been fighting “sustainability” for years or it is the first analysis one reads. It also contains foundational truths about freedom, tyranny, and more that are essential knowledge for being a good American. America’s liberties, self-government, and prosperity depend on this information becoming more widely known so that effective resistance can be mounted before it is too late. Time is short. Get a copy of *Sustainable*, and share it with a friend. ■

*To order the book, see page 45 or go to [ShopJBS.org](http://ShopJBS.org).*



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## THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

### Bella's Boxes

Nine-year-old Bella Smith of London, Kentucky, has taken it upon herself to ensure that all of her fellow classmates at Wyan-Pine Grove Elementary School have a special birthday.

It all started two years ago when one of Bella's classmates told her that he would not be having a birthday party because his parents could not afford one, People.com reported.

"The school she attends is a Title I school, which means 80 percent of the population here is impoverished," said Marlana Evans, Bella's mother, who also teaches at Bella's school. "So we have students that struggle with a lot of things."

According to Channel3000, Bella wanted to buy a birthday cake for the boy, but Bella and Marlana quickly realized that buying a birthday cake for every child at the school who could not afford a birthday party could become expensive.

Instead, they conceived of the idea of handing out "birthday boxes," and soon, "Bella's Boxes" was born. Bella began filling boxes with balloons, cake mix and icing, candles, decorations, and paper goods and handing them out to students on their birthdays so that they could take the items home and use them to celebrate. The birthday boxes are distributed through the school's Family Resource Center.

Bella's Boxes receives donations from community members to help create the birthday boxes. Bella's family will often use their own money to complete the boxes. People.com reported that Bella has even asked for donations instead of gifts on her own birthday so that she can continue to provide boxes to other children.

This year alone, Bella has packed 80 birthday boxes, Channel3000 reported.

"I thank God for the opportunity for letting me be able to shine my light and show that I love my neighbor," Bella told *Good Morning America* about packing the boxes.

### The Opposite of the Soup Nazi

When JC's Café owner Juan Carlos Beristain of Cary, Illinois, learned that one of

his customers was relying on his famous soups as a valuable source of nutrition during his chemotherapy treatments, Beristain went above and beyond the call of a local shop owner.

WTVR reported Beristain happened upon a Facebook post from a local resident that said Noah Dionesotes, who was a big fan of JC's Café, particularly the café's soups, was coping with multiple sclerosis and undergoing chemotherapy, but had a hard time getting out of his residence.

According to WTVR, between Dionesotes' chemo treatments and being in wheelchair, he hardly could find the time to get to the café for soup.

Immediately after reading the post, Beristain reportedly filled several cups of fresh stew and delivered them to Dionesotes' home. When Dionesotes offered payment, Beristain refused to accept it.

"He's like, 'I only want to see you get better,'" Noah recalled.

Since that day, Beristain has been delivering Dionesotes free soup at least four times a week for the past year.

For Dionesotes, the gesture is enormous. "I think the guy's a saint.... He's an amazing human," he told WTVR.

But Beristain believes, "Every time you help somebody that appreciates what you do, that is your reward."

### Dinner Companions

When Jamarion Howards and his friends — Tae Knight and JaMychol Baker — spotted an elderly widow eating alone on April 18, they joined her and quickly forged a friendship in this incredibly sweet story out of Oxford, Alabama.

Howards recalled seeing Eleanor sitting alone at Brad's Diner as he sat at a table with his friends preparing to eat. He thought to himself, "Dang, I'd hate to have to eat alone."

Howards approached the woman and asked if he could sit with her for a moment. They began chatting, and he learned that she was a widow and that it was one day before her 60th wedding anniversary to her late husband. It was at that point that Howards asked Eleanor to join him and his friends for dinner.

Howards asked one of the restaurant employees to snap a photo of the new dinner companions and posted the photo on social media, where it has been shared tens of thousands of times. The story has gone viral and has been featured in dozens of news stories.

Since their initial encounter, Eleanor and her three new friends have met for regular dinners at the same restaurant. She told CBS News that she believes God sent her to Brad's Diner that day so that she could meet these young men, who have said that they already feel like they're her grandkids.

### A Night to Remember

An unidentified stranger stunned a group of high-school students enjoying a pre-prom meal at Ted's Bulletin by paying their bill.

Therese de Leon and a group of 10 friends, all students at Clarksburg High School in Maryland, stopped at Ted's Bulletin for dinner before heading to their prom on April 27.

The students were informed by their server that one of the restaurant's regular customers noticed them and their beautiful attire and told the server that she would like to pay for their dinner. She said they could order whatever they wanted. Therese and her friends first thought the offer was a joke, but their server quickly convinced them that it was not.

At the end of the meal, the server introduced the woman who paid the tab to the group of prom-goers. The teens exchanged kind words with the woman, and were astonished to learn that she wanted her identity to remain anonymous.

The woman did, however, allow the children to snap a photo with her, and Therese later posted it on Twitter.

"It was refreshing and enlightening to know that there are still kind-hearted people out there," Therese told Fox 5. "All over Twitter my friends and I have read about people like this woman who are generous and are genuinely kind to regular people like us. We never would have thought we would be able to experience generosity of this scale." ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH



# The Ancient Triumph of Faith

When the Caesars grasped dictatorial power in Rome, they turned the full power of the empire against both Jews and Christians. But, miraculously, the Roman Empire is but a memory, while the Judeo-Christian faiths remain.



HubertRobert

**Rome burns:** In 64 A.D. much of the city of Rome burned to the ground in a fire some blamed on Emperor Nero. As a scapegoat, Nero blamed the Christians, and kicked off a bloody persecution.

by Dennis Behreandt

Today, even in the modern age that so many pundits wistfully desire to be “post-Christian,” we still reflexively look at civilization through the lens of Judeo-Christian religion and culture. The Old and New Testaments are known to all, even to those who haven’t read them, and to those who do not attend church or synagogue. For all the wailing of the modern atheists and pagans, our civilization in the West is fused with, framed by, and inseparable from the Faith. It colors and informs all perception and is the cultural air we breathe, even if, for so many, recognition of this goes unnoticed.

Indeed, so pervasive is it — so *normal* — that it is almost invariably overlooked just how unlikely it is that the Faith sur-

vived its first decades and centuries. For in its earliest sowings it came to take root and grow in the most unhealthy of soils, in a climate intensely hostile to its survival, and yet it not only survived, but thrived, despite every active attempt at its destruction.

How could this have happened, asked Harvard-educated religion scholar and church historian Alan Kreider in his 2016 book *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church*. “Nobody had to join the churches,” Kreider noted. “People were not compelled to become members by invading armies or the imposition of laws; social convention did not induce them to do so. Indeed, Christianity grew despite the opposition of laws and social convention. These were formidable disincentives. In addition, the possibility of death in persecution loomed over the pre-Constantinian church.... In many

places baptismal candidates sensed that ‘every Christian was by definition a candidate for death.’”

The monotheistic faiths were suspected, hated, and feared by the government of the Roman Empire, by the majority of its elite and intelligentsia, and by much of the citizenry, and yet they prospered and survived. Why indeed? There are many earthly reasons. Kreider points to Christian teaching on the importance of the virtue of patience. Others have argued that the faithful conducted themselves in such a morally noteworthy manner that they inspired admiration and conversion. Yet others argue that it was the cohesive leadership of the monotheistic faiths that held them together in the face of all obstacles. In fact, the early Christians themselves pointed to their cohesive leadership as important in sustaining the Faith.

Cyprian, who served as Bishop of Carthage in the early third century, pointed to the importance of the church leadership, noted historian and theologian Linwood Urban in his influential *Short History of Christian Thought*. “Cyprian held that the bishops stand in the place of the Apostles as teachers and pastors, and thus that the Church is founded on the bishops and is ‘united and held together by the glue of the mutual cohesion of the bishops.’”

All of this is true, but though true, it remains insufficient as an explanation for the survival and ultimate success of the Judeo-Christian religion under the Caesars. Arrayed against the faithful, who were a minority in number, was the full might of the Roman Empire at the height of its power while ruled by some of the most rapacious criminals of all of human history. That the Faith survived, and prospered, and was handed down to the present day was not simply the consequence of human agency, but was, and is, the mark of the Divine upon the world.

**The monotheistic faiths were suspected, hated, and feared by the government of the Roman Empire, by the majority of its elite and intelligentsia, and by much of the citizenry.**

## In Flames and Blood

The terrible fire started near the heart of the great city. The teeming multitude apparently did not notice the first tendrils of smoke, nor the first hungry flicks of flame. The pace of life was such in the Imperial city that such things were not noteworthy.

So the flame grew, the smoke thickened. Its heat, we can well imagine, ignited straw bales, grew into draperies, and lapped at the walls of the shops near where it started. Soon, a conflagration was under way. The vast wooden bleachers and stalls of the great Circus themselves came under threat. They had been damaged by fire 30 years earlier, but had been repaired and extended since. Now, they too burst into flame. Fed with such vast tinder, the heart of the city could not but ignite and the city fall to ash.

This was the great fire of Rome under Emperor Nero. Tacitus, then a young contemporary of the event, relates that after sweeping through the great Circus, the fire engulfed the whole of the city. “There were no walled mansions or temples, or any other obstructions, which could arrest it,” Tacitus records in his *Annals of Imperial Rome*. “It outstripped every countermeasure. The ancient city’s narrow winding streets and irregular blocks encouraged its progress. Terrified, shrieking women, helpless old and young, people intent on their own safety, people unselfishly supporting invalids or waiting for them, fugitives and lingerers alike — all heightened the confusion.”

Worse, it seemed as if some wanted the city to be consumed, and were ordered to help the flames in their deadly work. “Nobody dared fight the flames,” Tacitus recounted. “Attempts to do so were prevented by menacing gangs. Torches, too, were

openly thrown in, by men crying that they had acted under orders. Perhaps they had received orders. Or they may just have wanted to plunder unhampered.”

What caused the disaster? Tacitus flirts with the idea that it was a sort of a fateful retribution for Emperor Nero’s recent outrageous behavior. Not long before the fire, the historian recounted, Nero was married to his homosexual partner in a public ceremony, noteworthy for its openly lewd displays.

The emperor had been “corrupted by every lust, natural and unnatural,” Tacitus recounted. He “went through a formal wedding ceremony with one of the perverted gang called Pythagoras. The

emperor, in the presence of witnesses, put on the bridal veil. Dowry, marriage bed, wedding torches, all were there. Indeed, everything was public which even in natural union is veiled by night,” said the historian, noting thereafter of the fire: “Disaster followed.”

Because of the emperor’s outrageous behavior, and the assertions by miscreants that they had been ordered to encourage the flames, suspicion fell on the emperor as the agent of the imperial city’s destruction. Indeed, “a rumor had spread that, while the city was burning, Nero had gone on his private stage and, comparing modern calamities with ancient, had sung of the destruction of Troy.”

The emperor needed a scapegoat, and he found one in the followers of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christians, a new, misunderstood, and even feared group that had burst upon the scene following Christ’s death and resurrection.

Tacitus, who like most Romans feared the Christians and thought them depraved, described Nero’s campaign against the faithful. The emperor “had self-acknowledged Christians arrested. Then, on their information, large numbers of others were condemned — not so much for incendiary as for their anti-social tendencies. Their deaths were made farcical. Dressed in wild animals’ skins, they were torn to pieces by dogs, or crucified, or made into torches to be ignited after dark as substitutes for daylight.”

## Against the State

Why would Christians have come in for such treatment? As Tacitus’ own attitude attests, the typical pagan of the empire was disdainful of the new religion. Its adherents separated themselves from “normal” Roman civil and religious practice. And in the monotheistic faiths themselves, the Roman government found a challenger to its power, and the Roman state had a tradition of violently suppressing any movement that threatened or challenged its power.

This was the case, for example, with the great slave uprising led by the gladiator slave Spartacus.



**Tortured:** Many of the Christians martyred at the hands of Nero were burned alive, when, according to the Roman historian Tacitus, they “were made into torches to be ignited after dark as substitutes for daylight.”





**Heads of the church:** Among the many Christian victims of the Roman persecutions were the Apostles Peter and Paul. Depicted here is the decapitation of Paul. An ancient tale relates that when he was decapitated, Paul's head bounced three times, and each time it landed a new spring poured forth from that spot.

Having taken refuge on Vesuvius with 70 other escaped slaves and other followers, he began to plunder the countryside and attract additional fighters. Soon enough the fearsome former gladiator had an army at his disposal that made him the terror of the country, threatening even the city of Rome itself with a force numbering as many as 120,000, according to the historian Appian. Not surprisingly, this was intolerable to Rome, and the legions were dispatched to put down the revolt. This they did, under the leadership of Crassus, eventually killing Spartacus himself and slaughtering most of his army in a great, bloody battle. Those who escaped, numbering, Appian tells us, about 6,000, were captured. These were "crucified along the whole road from Capua to Rome," Appian wrote.

Execution by crucifixion as carried out against the soldiers of Spartacus was a particularly heinous means of execution, intended to be as slow and painful and as humiliating as possible while also being a means of warning others not to engage in the same crime. That crime, typically, was that of rising up against some "authority." Originally, this was generally reserved for slaves who had violated the "rights" and "authority" of their "owners." But the punishment could also be used against those

who rose up against the authority of the state. Thus, the Spartacans were doubly condemned, having risen up against both their owners and the Roman state.

The very nature of the monotheistic faiths made them susceptible to this treatment. In both Judaism, first, and Christianity, the two great monotheistic faiths had — and still have — beliefs and governing structures, authorities, and mechanisms that are separate from, and theologically superior to, the corresponding structures and functions of the state. When state power finds itself thus challenged, it sometimes resorts to the violent application of force, leading often enough to war, and frequently to tyranny and genocide.

The state powers of the ancient world were frequently and violently opposed to Jews and Christians as a result. The Hellenizers of the Near East, especially the Seleucid ruler Antiochus Epiphanes, conducted a violent persecution of the Jews, outlawing the Jewish faith and attempting to force, among other things, the worship of Zeus.

This continued under the Romans. In the year 70, Jerusalem was controlled by rebel Jewish factions and besieged by the Roman legions under Titus, future emperor and son of Emperor Vespasian. It was a bitter siege and hard fought. A number of those shut up in the city, made desperate

by hunger, sought to leave the city, even if just to find food. Many of these were apprehended by the Roman troops, and all, regardless of circumstances, were regarded as seditious. And the punishment for sedition was crucifixion.

Josephus, the Jewish rebel and historian who had been captured by the Romans earlier, and had since attempted to negotiate a peace between the Jewish rebels and Romans, was with the legions during the siege. He described the fate of those caught by the legions.

The soldiers, he wrote, "out of the wrath and hatred they bore the Jews, nailed those they caught ... to the crosses, by way of jest; when their multitude was so great, that room was wanting for the crosses."

### Savagery Against Peace

There was enough savagery to go around all about and even within the walls of Jerusalem during the terrible siege, but a constant that predated the siege, and continued past it, was the ongoing effort of the state to confront and, if possible, destroy the monotheism that stood apart from the state.

So Christians too remained under threat of persecution, and many were martyred for their faith. These included the Apostle Peter, who was crucified in Rome under Nero just months after the fire that swept through the Circus and destroyed much of the city. Pope Clement, who was ordained by Peter, recounted the Apostle's death in his Letter to the Corinthians.

"The greatest and most righteous pillars [of the church] have been persecuted and put to death," Clement wrote. "Let us set before our eyes the illustrious apostles. Peter ... endured not one or two, but numerous labors; and when he had at length suffered martyrdom, departed to the place of glory due to him." Tradition has it that Peter was crucified upside down.

Martyred at the same time was the Apostle Paul. "Owing to envy," Clement writes, "Paul also obtained the reward of patient endurance, after being seven times thrown into captivity, compelled to flee, and stoned. After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the west and suffered martyrdom under the prefects."

The Roman state's continued attempts to stamp out the Faith persisted long after the despicable Nero departed life.

Many indeed were the illustrious faithful of that ancient age who met their fate as martyrs at the hands of a jealous pagan state. They included Ignatius and Polycarp, church fathers who knew the Apostles themselves.

After Nero, under Vespa-sian and his sons Titus and Domitian, the proscription against Christians continued, Jerusalem was subdued, and Judaism remained outlawed. Those accused of being Christians would be brought before Roman authorities to learn their fate.

Titus, whose triumphal arch celebrating his conquest of Judea remains in Rome, is widely regarded as a wise and good emperor, under whose rule capital punishment was rarely if ever employed. But his reign was short, and his brother, Domitian, has gone down in history as an incestuous and murderous criminal whose reign of terror spared no one, family members, friends, senators, and Christians alike. In one instance, he killed an actor in the street, the poor victim having been suspected of infidelity with the emperor's wife. When "many persons paid honour to that spot with flowers and ointments," the Roman historian Cassius Dio tells us, "he ordered that they, too, should be slain."

Christians, because they refused to worship the emperor as a god and because they also refused to worship the pagan gods, were generally accused of atheism. And, this would lead to their martyrdom. Being of high standing in the government of the empire was no protection against this charge. "Domitian," Cassius Dio relates, "slew, along with many others, Flavius Clemens the consul, although he was a cousin and had to wife Flavia Domitilla, who was a relative of the Emperor's. The charge brought against them both was that of atheism, a charge on which many



**Upside-down society:** Like Paul, also martyred in Rome under Emperor Nero, was the Apostle Peter. Pope Clement, in a letter recounting the persecution of Christians, including Peter and Paul, noted that "the greatest and most righteous pillars [of the church] have been persecuted and put to death."

others who drifted into Jewish ways were condemned. Some of these were put to death, and the rest were at least deprived of their property."

After Rome was delivered from the depravity of Domitian by his assassination, the empire was briefly and ineffectually led by Nerva, and then by Trajan. During the reign of this emperor, we have the remarkable letter of Pliny the Younger to Trajan consulting with the emperor on the proper legal proceedings for dealing with the Christians.

At the time, Pliny the Younger was serving as governor of Pontus and Bithynia on Turkey's Black Sea Coast. Concerning the treatment of Christians, he wrote to the emperor asking for advice on the measures he had adopted when confronted with those accused of being Christians:

I ask them whether they are Christians; if they say yes, then I repeat

the question a second and a third time, warning them of the penalties it entails, and if they still persist, I order them to be taken away to prison. For I do not doubt that, whatever the character of the crime may be which they confess, their pertinacity and inflexible obstinacy certainly ought to be punished. There were others who showed similar mad folly whom I reserved to be sent to Rome, as they were Roman citizens. Subsequently, as is usually the way, the very fact of my taking up this question led to a great increase of accusations, and a variety of cases were brought before me. A pamphlet was issued anonymously, containing the names of a number of people. Those who denied that they were or had been Christians and called upon the gods in the usual formula, reciting the words after me, those who offered incense and wine before your image, which

I had given orders to be brought forward for this purpose, together with the statues of the deities — all such I considered should be discharged, especially as they cursed the name of Christ, which, it is said, those who are really Christians cannot be induced to do.

In his investigations, Pliny admitted that he was not above engaging in cruelty and crime, noting that he put "two women, who were called deaconesses, to the torture." He went on to point out that the campaign against the Christians was achieving its aims. "Many persons of all ages, and of both sexes alike, are being brought into peril of their lives by their accusers, and the process will go on," he noted, calling Christianity a "contagion" that could be, and was being, stopped. Because of the ongoing persecution, he said, the pagan temples, once deserted,



were “beginning again to be thronged with worshippers” and “the sacred rites which have for a long time been allowed to lapse are now being renewed.”

To this, Trajan replied: “You have adopted the proper course, my dear Pliny.”

### Hand of the Divine

After Trajan, the persecutions continued and even intensified. In his *A History of Christianity*, historian Kenneth Scott Latourette noted: “Christians were always in danger.... They were chronically regarded with suspicion.... Their peril was further accentuated by a procedure which gave their possessions to those who brought a successful accusation against them. Confiscation of goods, imprisonment, and torture might overtake them at any time, followed by hard labor in the mines or by execution.”

Yet the Faith persisted in spite of these storms. Not even the full weight of the mightiest of ancient empires, animated by the bloodlust of tyrants who believed themselves to be gods among men, could thwart the will of God.

In fact, as the ancient theologians at-

test, the more Christians were persecuted, the more that very persecution inspired the growth of the Faith. “Kill us, torture us, condemn us, grind us to dust; your injustice is the proof that we are innocent,” wrote the great Christian apologist Tertullian. “The oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; *the blood of Christians is seed.*”

Other Christians contemporary with the persecutions conducted by the Romans pointed out that it was owing to God’s grace that the martyrs were able to face their cruel fates, and through them, as Tertullian wrote, sow the seeds of their blood.

So wrote Roman rhetorician and Christian convert Minucius Felix. “How beautiful is the spectacle to God when a Christian does battle with pain; when he is drawn up against threats, and punishments, and tortures; when, mocking the noise of death, he treads under foot the horror of the executioner; when he raises up his liberty against kings and princes, and yields to God alone, whose he is; when, triumphant and victorious, he tramples upon the very man who has pronounced sentence against him!”

All of this could only be possible, Minucius Felix concluded, because of God. “And do you not perceive, O wretched men, that there is nobody who either is willing without reason to undergo punishment, or is able without God to bear tortures?”

From their miraculous foundations through to the survival and expansion of the Judeo-Christian faith traditions under the intense persecutions of Roman antiquity, both inspired human action and the mark of the Divine are amply in evidence as reasons for the outcome. One of these, though, is greater than the other, and we can leave it to Gibbon, who in his *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* eloquently noted the Divine miracle of the triumph of the Faith.

“Our curiosity is naturally prompted to inquire by what means the Christian faith obtained so remarkable a victory,” Gibbon wrote. “To this inquiry an obvious but satisfactory answer may be returned; that it was owing to the convincing evidence of the doctrine itself, and to the ruling providence of its great Author.” ■



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## EXERCISING THE RIGHT

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

### Gated Community

MySanAntonio.com reported on April 22 out of San Antonio that a would-be car-jacker followed his intended victim into his garage in “The Jax,” an affluent gated community that has both apartments and town houses in it. The victim lived in a town house that had its own garage, and as the man was pulling his car into the garage, an armed intruder ran alongside the car and began violently attacking the driver. Police say the assailant, who was not identified, began pistol-whipping the driver, but the victim was able to reach a firearm that he had stashed nearby and open fire on the suspect, seriously wounding him.

The badly injured driver called 911 to report what happened, and the suspect was found dead when police arrived. The driver was treated for a gash above his right eye, and an officer at the scene said that it appeared the man’s actions were justified under the law. A neighbor told MySanAntonio.com that he was asleep when he heard yelling followed by the sound of a gun firing. Dorothy Gonzales told MySanAntonio.com that she’s lived at The Jax for about four years and has repeatedly complained about what she thought was inadequate security. The gate to enter the community requires a code to be entered, but the gate sometimes gets stuck, leaving it wide open for anyone to enter. She said thieves broke into her car twice last year, about two months apart. Gonzales told MySanAntonio.com that “there are a lot of break-ins,” but “nothing that bad” as what happened overnight, and she said she plans to talk to management about the matter again.

### Pizza Shop Employee

News5, the ABC affiliate in Cleveland, reported on April 20 about an employee who refused to be a helpless victim. The incident unfolded at a Cleveland-area pizza shop late at night when three men wearing masks barged into the shop and demanded that the employees inside turn over all of the money.

The police report was not clear on what happened next, but there was an almost immediate exchange of gunfire, as one of the employees in the store was armed and was able to defend himself from the armed

burglars. Both the armed employee and one of the burglars were shot in the hail of bullets. The masked hoodlums fled the store on foot, and the employees drove their wounded associate to a nearby medical facility for treatment. As the employee was being treated, police say the wounded suspect was dropped off at a different hospital, and police were able to positively identify him as the perpetrator in the armed robbery. The suspect had gunshot wounds on each leg and was soon placed under arrest. The robbery is still under investigation, and police are searching for the other two suspects.

### Domestic Disturbance Ends in Fatality

The *Clayton News-Daily* (Georgia) reported on May 7 about a deadly shooting that apparently was the culmination of an escalating series of violent encounters between a woman and her abusive ex-boyfriend. Clayton County Sheriff’s deputies and emergency medical services personnel were called to a home for what they were told was a home invasion. Responding officers discovered a man lying face down in the upstairs of the house, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police talked to a woman who was in the house, identified as the actual homeowner, who explained that her ex-boyfriend had been sending her increasingly hostile text messages throughout the day, with some even going so far as threatening to take her life. The woman was expecting the worst, and she had a loaded firearm that was quickly retrievable when the suspect later broke in to her house. The woman was hiding in her bedroom with her gun when he entered, and she fired at him, hitting him in the chest. Law enforcement is treating the woman as the victim and says she has been cooperating fully with the investigation.

### Husband and Wife Team Kill Intruder

KHOU.com reported out of Houston on May 5 about a pastor and his wife who showed us the proper way to deal with a

violent intruder. The husband, Jeff Powers, and his wife were fast asleep when loud sounds from their backyard woke them up. The couple looked out their window and witnessed a man force his way into their house. Each Powers retrieved a firearm, and they confronted the man. When the man refused to abide by their verbal commands, they both opened fire, and he was fatally wounded. The couple called 911, and firefighters arrived on the scene and pronounced the suspect dead. Surveillance video within the house captured the shooting, and prosecutors believe their actions were well within the law.

### Gun-control Blowback

The laws of physics teaches us that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, and it appears that the same is true in the world of politics. *The Reflector* reported on this out of the state of Washington on May 14 when it covered the creation of a new pro-Second Amendment group in opposition to gun-control legislation at the state level. The North County-based organization is called the North County Sons and Daughters of Liberty (NCS DL), and it intends to focus on getting local municipalities to pass pro-Second Amendment resolutions. The group was created by people who networked at rallies organized by the Vancouver-based Patriot Prayer group and formed strong bonds on social media. The source of their ire is state initiative I-1639, which was passed by voters this past November with more than 60 percent of the vote and imposed a series of gun-control measures.

Shauna Walters, the chief organizer of NCS DL, explained to *The Reflector* that the group’s long-term goal is the complete repeal of I-1639, but short-term efforts are based on getting local towns, villages, and counties to pass pro-Second Amendment resolutions. Another member of NCS DL, Josh VanGelder, said that the people behind I-1639 might be celebrating their victories prematurely. “They’re trying to come to a full stop. They’re trying to shut us down.... I think they think they did that, but they didn’t. They’ve just started something bigger.” ■

— PATRICK KREY





## China Imposes Digital Dictatorship, Spreads Surveillance Tech

**ITEM:** The Chinese government has released a “Planning Outline for the Construction of a Social Credit System (2014-2020).” The blueprint, still online, was first posted in 2014 and updated subsequently; several pilot programs have begun. The Chinese Communist Party says it will be fully operational by 2020. When in place nationwide, according to a Party document, it will “allow the trustworthy to roam freely under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step.” The government document maintains that the system will “commend sincerity and punish insincerity” as put forward by the 3rd Plenum of the 18th Party Congress.

**ITEM:** “In the Western imagination,” according to a piece in the MIT Technology Review for February 26, 2019, China’s “social credit system is an AI-[artificial intelligence] powered surveillance regime that violates human rights.” The article (entitled “Is China’s social credit system as Orwellian as it sounds?”) offers another “narrative” — in which the system “is a governance mechanism welcomed by many citizens.” Other scholars, we are told, contend that the system “is simply an extension of Chinese culture’s long tradition of promoting good moral behavior and that Chinese citizens have a completely different perspective on privacy and freedom.”

**ITEM:** Bloomberg for January 24 also carries a rosy-glasses account, entitled “Why Big Brother Doesn’t Bother Most Chinese.” “For now at least,” assures the subtitle, “citizens are embracing social-credit systems that can establish greater trust between people and businesses.” For proof, we read: “On social media, at least, China revels in seeing individuals land on social credit-related blacklists.”

**ITEM:** UN Secretary-General António Guterres was criticized in April by the executive director of Human Rights Watch (HRW) for his silence over the harsh



AP Images

**We can see you now:** China has installed millions of cameras with facial-recognition technology, combined with a computer system that scores a person’s loyalty to the government. Many liberals have dubbed the technology good.

treatment, in particular, of the Uighurs in China — including stifling surveillance in Xinjiang province as well as detention and forced indoctrination. In fact, said the HRW leader, the UN head “praises China’s development prowess and rolls out the red carpet for President Xi Jinping.”

**ITEM:** The South China Morning Post, headquartered in Hong Kong, reported on February 7, 2019 that Communist China’s social credit system “relies on a series of rewards and punishments meant to encourage people and businesses to abide by rules and to promote integrity and trustworthiness in society at large.”

**ITEM:** Some Chinese “are so used to cameras watching them that they find venturing in the unmonitored parts of the world scary,” according to an article in the New York Times for April 14. “My countrymen now say,” writes Jianan Qian, “if we don’t keep a watch on them, there’s no guarantee of safety. What once seemed unrealistic is made possible by technology and justified in the name of security.”

**CORRECTION:** One might say, in a wretched way, that a prison provides the ultimate security. In the case of China, the Orwellian plan of the communists is to create a national digital dungeon.

Some, as usual, are more equal than others. Think: Party leaders. Some are

less equal: Minority Muslim Uighurs fall into that category. The ethnic cleansing of the Tibetan people has generally been dropped into the memory hole (though *Time* magazine in March did note that the Chinese Communist Party is busy working to co-opt Tibet’s Buddhist principles and to name the Dalai Lama’s successor).

While the head of the United Nations is playing shy and making excuses rather than condemning China and Xi Jinping’s schemes, surveillance is being instituted in pilot programs. This is not a secret — just considered unworthy of much international fuss or effective action. ABC (the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, that is) pointed out last September that Beijing anticipates that every one of China’s 1.4 billion people will be at the

whim of a dystopian social credit system, [which] is on track to be fully operational by the year 2020....

Under the social credit scheme, points are lost and gained based on readings from a sophisticated network of 200 million surveillance cameras — a figure set to triple in 18 months. The program has been enabled by rapid advances in facial recognition, body scanning and geo-tracking.



## Correction, Please!

Meanwhile, the government has a *dang'an*, or file, on each of its subjects. Of late, as was reported last year in the *Spectator* in the U.K., this *dang'an* is being weaponized with, among others:

- Recognition technology, “with databases covering the face, voice, fingerprints and DNA of every Chinese citizen”;
- Positional monitoring, including mobile devices, “which even now can report on the location of 1.4 billion citizens”;
- Lifestyle monitoring, with databases of purchases, health and education records, and Internet activity, including details from the social credit system now being instituted; and
- “Grid system” information, “which divides cities into small parcels overseen by citizens who are paid to report unusual activity to the police. In Chaoyang district in Beijing, for instance, there are around 120,000 paid informants in operation.”

Apologists mining for alibis argue that China is a traditional law-and-order society. Sure. It’s for the Reds who make the laws and give the orders. And the populace just loves all of this special attention, we are told — albeit based on selective interviews of those who are being tracked 24/7 by their wardens.

The name of the video surveillance

project can be translated as “Sharp Eyes.” The *Washington Post* observed in January of 2018 that the moniker is “taken from the Communist slogan ‘the masses have sharp eyes,’ and is a throwback to Mao Zedong’s attempt to get every citizen spying on one another.”

The minority Uighurs, enemies of the majority Han Chinese who distrust their “separatist” tendencies, have been especially tyrannized. Most estimates of how many have been put into “re-education” camps range from one to two million; some assessments are even higher. The actions of relatively few Uighurs, including some said to be involved in terrorist activities (and a number of the charges over the years are no doubt true), have provided all the excuse needed for the despotic response.

The number of Uighurs being held in camps could be appreciably higher, according to comments made on May 3 in Washington by Randall Schriver, an assistant secretary of defense who leads Asia policy at the Department of Defense. During a Pentagon briefing, Schriver charged that the Communist Party “is using the security forces for mass imprisonment of Chinese Muslims in concentration camps.” He put the number at “at least a million but

likely closer to 3 million citizens out of a population of about 10 million.”

The *New York Times* has had surprisingly in-depth reporting of the cruel treatment of the Uighurs, including those in the ancient city of Kashgar, in the western region of Xinjiang. That paper, both in print and online coverage, said in mid-April that hundreds of thousands from the region have been detained in camps. Yet, even “outside the camps Uighurs live in a virtual cage.” This is part of the Chinese Communist Party’s “vision of automated authoritarianism.” Here, as the *Times* put it, “Neighbors become informants. Children are interrogated. Mosques are monitored.”

On a broader, somewhat less severe, scale, this is the coming future for the whole country. To be sure, many will get state rewards for conforming. The *South China Morning Post*, in a February piece, concentrated on those who are getting positive points in a pilot program. They had, for instance, offered “free labour” or made other donations to the community, such as two points for installing a new basketball hoop in the village playground. Ten points were given to a couple who “have a son serving in the army in Tibet.” The *Morning Post*, published in Hong Kong, was acquired three years ago by the Alibaba Group, the Chinese technology and retail giant. Since then, what was left of its professed independence has become even more suspect. As has been acknowledged by even leftist media in the West, the paper now seems to consider its main assignment to be promoting Beijing’s “soft power.”

The sting of the social credit program is linked to its punishments, or threatened penalties, for perceived offenses. These offenses against the state might include, as the Heritage Foundation has pointed out, jaywalking, smoking on a train, or criticizing the government. There are plenty of other things that one can do to offend Big Brother in Beijing (or his local autocrats). Here are some, as collated from various sources: Not having your dog on a leash; playing too many video games; making what are consid-



**Surveillance abused:** An Uighur man in China’s far west points to a picture of his brother, who disappeared at the hands of Chinese authorities. The Muslim Uighurs have been subjected to near-total surveillance by the Communist Chinese, and more than a million have been put in internment camps.





Gang Zhou/E+/Getty Images/Plus

**What they do with the doo-doo:** Chinese citizens are monitored by their government in nearly all areas, and they are given a social credit score based on how well they follow government rules and cultural norms.

ered frivolous purchases; eating too much junk food or drinking too much alcohol; or visiting unauthorized websites.

You can also get dinged for being friends of, or messaging with, others with low social credit scores or those who commit such offenses. Such offenses may lead to financial penalties or travel restrictions, among other negative consequences. Or they could derail your chances for a desired job. This provides a clue about why the social credit system has supposedly “been welcomed by many citizens,” as claimed in the *South China Morning Post*.

Uighurs get even more special treatment, as revealed by Georgetown University Professor James Millward, who wrote last year about a Uighur village party chief who was

demoted for not smoking, on grounds that this failing displayed an insufficient “commitment to secularization.” Officials in the city of Kashgar ... recently jailed several prominent Uighur businessmen for not praying enough at a funeral — a sign of “extremism,” they claimed.

Then there is the Human Rights Watch investigation of the Integrated Joint Operations Platform (IJOP), which is one of the

main systems used by Chinese authorities for mass surveillance in Xinjiang. According to HRW, its analysis (dated May 1) “shows that Xinjiang authorities consider many forms of lawful, everyday, non-violent behavior — such as ‘not socializing with neighbors, often avoiding using the front door’ — as suspicious.”

Lest you think such events are just anomalies or glitches in a wayward crack-down in an obscure part of a distant Asian country, consider that when Beijing completes its high-tech handcuffing, it will affect (in China alone) about 20 percent of the world’s population.

Moreover, China is distributing its technology widely around the globe, making it more convenient for authoritarians to quash dissent in their backyards. Officials from the Center for a New American Security in Washington, D.C., have detailed how Chinese authorities and businesses have been selling facial-recognition technology — “with great potential for repressive use” — to multiple countries in Africa and Europe. While the technology can be used to identify, say, thieves and drug users, they note that it can also be employed “to hunt human-rights activists” and protesters.

Police in Ecuador have been using Chinese-made surveillance technology

for years. Authorities in many other nations are doing so now or are in line to start soon. A report issued last October by Freedom House found that 18 countries (those on the list include Germany, Kenya, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe) were then employing Chinese-made monitoring systems. Meanwhile, 36 nations had received training for “public opinion guidance,” which is how “censorship” is spelled in most such cases.

Ecuador’s surveillance system, the *New York Times* reported on April 24, is called ECU-911. It “was largely made by two Chinese companies, the state-controlled C.E.I.E.C. and Huawei. Replicas of the network have been sold to Venezuela, Bolivia and Angola, according to government announcements and Chinese state media.”

According to Adrian Shahbaz, research director at Freedom House, the Chinese are selling their new technology exports “as the future of governance; the future will be all about controlling the masses through technology.” In a similar vein, Freedom House president Michael Abramowitz charges that China “is exporting its model of censorship and surveillance to control information both inside and outside its borders.”

Moreover, the U.S. government, according to a revealing piece in March by Yi-Zheng Lian (a former chief editor of the *Hong Kong Economic Journal*), has been warning its allies that Huawei “has developed critical capabilities to carry out cyberespionage worldwide.” In fact, the U.S. Congress has “banned the use of Huawei products in federal projects for fear of compromising national security.” Lian also noted that China’s 2017 Intelligence Law stipulates that espionage for the state is literally a duty for citizens and Chinese corporations. He quotes the measure itself: “All organizations and citizens shall support, assist and cooperate with national intelligence efforts according to the Law.”

It is said where there is smoke, there is fire. In China, it can be said, where there is a video camera, there is totalitarianism — not benevolence. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

## If They Can Get Trump, **They Can Get You Too**

**T**he hard Left and its auxiliaries in the media and the Democratic Party have been repeating a mantra for at least two years: “constitutional crisis.”

But of late it’s become not just an occasional suggestion to undermine Trump’s presidency, but a running narrative to justify impeachment.

Most recently, the Democrats have been crying “constitutional crisis” over Trump’s refusal to release his tax returns, and because Attorney General William Barr refused to surrender the unredacted version of the report

from Special Counsel Robert Mueller. Mueller came up with bupkus on “Russia collusion” and cleared Trump of wrongdoing during Trump’s campaign in 2016.

The House Judiciary Committee voted to cite Barr for contempt, and Representative Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.), who runs that panel, said, “We are now in a constitutional crisis.” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi agreed, and CNN even posted a story on “How to know when it’s a US constitutional crisis.”

Of course, the country is not facing a “constitutional crisis” along the lines of what the Left describes. Rather, the hard-left Congress faces its own crisis: a president who won’t bend to its will.

Despite myriad falsehoods and a three-year campaign to ruin Donald Trump — leftists were talking impeachment *before* he won the GOP nomination — Trump remains popular, and might win reelection.

For all of the Left’s lamentations about the Constitution, Trump’s actions regarding the areas of concern to the Left pale compared to other real crises.

One was Abraham Lincoln’s invasion of the Southern states that had seceded from the Union. Among Lincoln’s unconstitutional and openly totalitarian acts were the suspension of habeas corpus, the arrest of ministers who refused to pray for him, the arrest and deportation of anti-war politician Clement Vallandigham, and waging war upon civilians — burning the Shenandoah Valley and Sherman’s March to the Sea. Given that secession was not only constitutional but also anticipated as a check on federal power in the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions, one might reasonably say the principle Lincoln established — might makes right — wasn’t just a “crisis” but a repudiation of our constitutional order and the rule of law.

Other very real crises include the undeclared wars in Korea and Vietnam, which cost more than 80,000 American lives



Donald Trump

William Barr

AP Images

combined, and the latter of which began in earnest with false reports that North Vietnam attacked two U.S. Navy vessels in the Gulf of Tonkin. Both Presidents Bush began undeclared wars; the first in 1991 when Bush 41 smashed Saddam Hussein’s army in Kuwait, and then when Bush 44 initiated two wars, still going on 16 years later. And both Presidents Obama and Trump have continued wars sans congressional declarations, with Obama embracing regime change in Libya and bombing that country to smithereens, and most re-

cently Trump himself attacking Syria.

Another crisis was the penetration of the U.S. government by communists and Soviet spies after World War I.

Outside of war and national security, crises have abounded. One was FDR’s ambitious plan to alter the number of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court because it had declared so much of the socialist president’s New Deal unconstitutional. Others include the high court’s decisions that have struck down “unconstitutional” state laws and further centralized power in the federal government.

They include *Brown v. Board of Education*, a case in which an associate justice held *ex parte* discussions with a litigant to orchestrate its outcome and that, while finding segregation of children in public schools unconstitutional, established the flawed principle of federal control of public education; *Engel v. Vitale*, which ruled that state officials cannot write prayers and require or encourage their use in public schools; *Roe V. Wade*, which detected a privacy right to murder the unborn in the “penumbra” of the Constitution and struck down abortion laws in all 50 states; and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which struck down laws in all 50 states that defined marriage as between one man and one woman.

Others abound, and they have a common denominator: the flagrant violation of the few and specified powers of the U.S. Constitution.

If anything about Trump’s tax returns or Barr’s intransigence on the Mueller report is a crisis, it is this: Hard-left elected officials would impeach a president not because he has committed the high crimes and misdemeanors the Constitution demands for such an indictment, but because he is fighting the hard left-Deep State alliance and is at least trying to do what he promised.

That nefarious alliance wants to criminalize opposing its aims. That isn’t just trouble for Trump. It’s trouble for us. ■

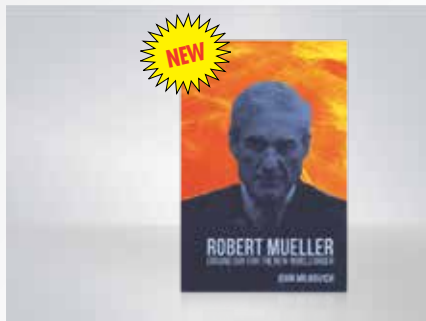


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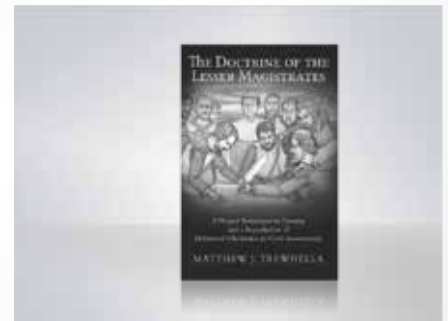
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## Robert Mueller: Errand Boy for the New World Order

Because of Mueller’s rapport with the Washington elite, Milkovich suggests the former FBI director has been “an architect and willing accomplice to governmental corruption, chicanery, deception and cover-ups for at least the last 30 years.” Furthermore, he says Mueller “is an ever-willing instrument of Deep State dissimulation” and has been “plunged up to his elbows in corruption and cover-ups.” (2018, 205pp, pb, \$18.95ea) **BKRMEB**



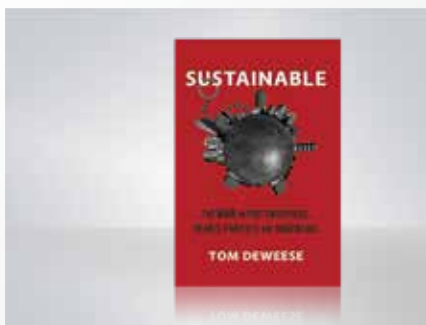
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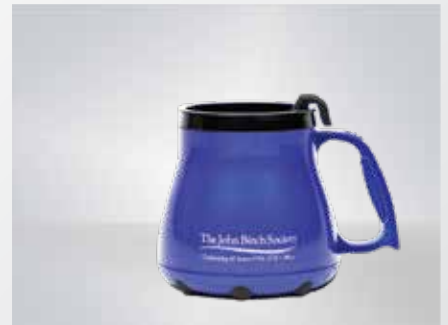
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