

Was Epstein a Man Who Knew Too Much? • “You Are Not Forgotten” • Annie Oakley

September 16, 2019 • \$3.95

The New American

www.TheNewAmerican.com

THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH



MAKING
YOUR MEDICINE

Family Owned & Operated Since 1972



Natural Foods Market

What does "family owned & operated" really mean? For the Clark family, it means getting up early for 45 years to work in their own community, and choosing to invest in the Inland Empire. In a time when Wall Street is trying to run Main Street, Clark's Nutrition still believes that family owned and operated businesses are the backbone of the American dream, and feels privileged to help families live healthier and happier lives.

Selection - Staff - Experience - Affordability

SELECTION

Clark's has the largest selection of organic produce and supplements in the Inland Empire.

NUTRITIONAL CONSULTANTS

We have trained Nutritional Consultants to help assist you with whatever your health goals are. They're not on commission, and are here to help you "Live Better!"

WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET YOU! It is our company mission to provide customers with nutritional assistance that can really have a lasting impact on their quality of life. We look forward to meeting and serving you!

AFFORDABLE

Clark's goes to great lengths to make sure your family has what they need at an affordable price.

STORE TOURS

Come by any time and we will be glad to give you a personal tour and answer any of your questions.

CHINO

909.993.9200

12835 Mountain Ave.
Chino, CA 91710

LOMA LINDA

909.478.7714

11235 Mountain View Ave.
Loma Linda, CA 92354

RIVERSIDE

951.686.4757

4225 Market St.
Riverside, CA 92501

RANCHO MIRAGE

760.324.4626

34175 Monterey Ave.
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270



www.clarksnutrition.com

Ray & Carol Clark



China: Making Your Medicine

China is rightly renowned for making inferior and unsafe products, yet most of America's pharmaceuticals originate there. This has already had deadly effect. We point out the problem and what needs to be done.

(September 16, 2019, 48pp)

TNA190916

Spreadsheets



CHECK OUT OUR OTHER ISSUES!

Socialist Jackpot?

Socialism has great appeal because, in theory, it claims to nearly provide utopia on Earth, but in reality, it leads to less wealth, poorer healthcare, and greater inequality.

(September 2, 2019, 56pp)

TNA190902

Facebook: Censorship & Hypocrisy

Facebook's censoring of conservatives now includes The John Birch Society, the parent organization of THE NEW AMERICAN, for the crime of being politically incorrect, even while Facebook allows threats of violence by liberals.

(August 19, 2019, 48pp)

TNA190819

"Drag"ing Kids Into the LGBTQ Abyss

Drag Queen Story Hours — stories read by drag queens — are being promoted countrywide by the LGBTQ lobby, Big Business, and Big Media to groom the next generation to be immoral.

(August 5, 2019, 48pp)

TNA190805

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

Rescuing Our Children

American children are progressively doing worse in math, reading, and other subjects, while being indoctrinated with leftist pablum — the cause and the prognosis.

(February 4, 2019, 48pp)

TNA190204

QUANTITY	TITLE/DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PRICE
	China...	
	Socialist Jackpot?	
	Facebook...	
	"Drag"ing Kids...	
	The Age of Artificial Intelligence...	
	Rescuing Our Children	
	ENTER MIX OR MATCH QUANTITIES AND SUBTOTAL	

Mix or Match

- ☐ 1 copy \$3.95
- ☐ 10 copies \$15.00
- ☐ 25 copies \$31.25
- 100+ copies**

ShopJBS.org
The Official Store of The John Birch Society

Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org
Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:

ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
APPLETON, WI 54912

1-800-342-6491



Order Online

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Check

☐ VISA

☐ Discover

☐ Money Order

☐ MasterCard

☐ American Express



VISA/MC/Discover
Three Digit V-Code



American Express
Four Digit V-Code

Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

190916

SUBTOTAL

SHIPPING
(SEE CHART BELOW)

WI RESIDENTS ADD
5% SALES TAX

TOTAL

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Number of Issues	Shipping/Handling
1-2 copies	\$7.20
3-10 copies	\$11.95
11-25 copies	\$17.80

*For special rates for case lots of 100, call (800) 727-TRUE or go to ShopJBS.org.

O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS *Skies*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The only thing as broad and beautiful as America's skies are the opportunities beneath them. Since 1976, IPS has been helping America's businesses make the most of those opportunities with packaging systems and innovative, turn-key solutions. So whether your skies are Carolina Blue, California Gold, or just plain big, we can help keep them bright with promise.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

 **PACKAGING**
800-277-7007 www.ipack.com

Packaging Products: Automated Systems: Engineering Solutions: On-Site Service & Repair: ISO 9001-2015 Certified

COVER STORY

HEALTHCARE

10 China: Making Your Medicine

by Rebecca Terrell — As trade wars between the longtime adversaries escalate, America's dangerous dependence on China for vital medicines could have lethal consequences.

FEATURES

CRIME

17 Right-wing Terrorists?

by C. Mitchell Shaw — According to major media, mass shooters in America end up being unhinged right-wingers. But that's just another lie backing up President Trump's claim that much of media specializes in fake news.

23 Was Epstein a Man Who Knew Too Much?

by R. Cort Kirkwood — Here's why the death of the sex trafficker and financier might have been a Deep State hit.

CULTURE

28 "You Are Not Forgotten"

by John White — One flag was designed to remind Americans about U.S. prisoners of war and those missing in action.

HISTORY — PAST AND PERSPECTIVE

31 Annie Oakley

by Roger D. McGrath — Annie Oakley overcame personal hardship to become famous, and used that fame to boost patriotism and truly empower women.

THE LAST WORD

44 New Trade Deal, Same as the Old One

by Christian Gomez

DEPARTMENTS

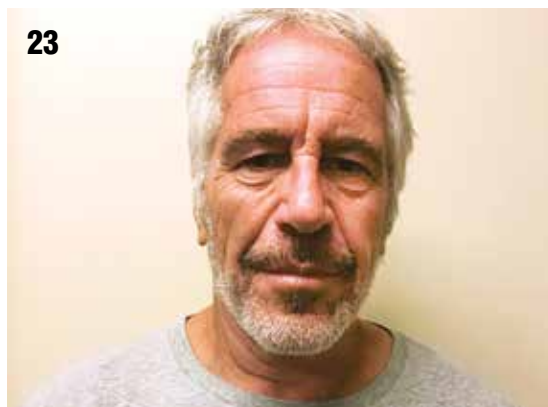
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 Letters to the Editor | 30 The Goodness of America |
| 7 Inside Track | 40 Exercising the Right |
| 9 QuickQuotes | 41 Correction, Please! |



arunchristensen/Stock/Getty ImagesPlus



AP Images



AP Images



af.mil



Daderot

TRAIL WINDS PLAZA



SPACE AVAILABLE

5,640 square ft.

Call 239-677-7441 or Email dennyfog@aol.com

Cleveland Ave. (Rt. 41) • Ft. Myers, Florida • Stamra Inc.

Publisher & Editor
Gary Benoit

Senior Editor
William F. Jasper

Managing Editor
Kurt Williamsen

Web Editor
John T. Larabell

Foreign Correspondent
Alex Newman

Contributors
Bob Adelman • Dennis Behreandt
Steve Byas • Raven Clabough
Selwyn Duke • Brian Farmer
Christian Gomez • Larry Greenley
Gregory A. Hession, J.D.
Ed Hiserodt • William P. Hoar
R. Cort Kirkwood • Patrick Krey, J.D.
Warren Mass • John F. McManus
James Murphy • Dr. Duke Pesta
Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.
C. Mitchell Shaw • Michael Tennant
Rebecca Terrell • Fr. James Thornton
Laurence M. Vance • Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Creative Director
Joseph W. Kelly

Senior Graphic Designer
Katie Bradley

Research
Bonnie M. Gillis

Chief Strategy Officer
Bill Hahn

Advertising/Circulation Manager
Julie DuFrane

The New American

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

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

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

Going Globalist

There has been a renewal of interest in globalism recently. Many people, even ones who are fairly savvy, feel that there will be benefits to all by moving toward global economic and foreign policy.

The socialist statist (including the Democrats) are even calling for “open borders,” with the thinking being that anyone should be able to live anywhere they want in the world, and should not be limited by their birthplace. The “New World Order” that George H. W. Bush espoused is an example of this modern thinking.

But though it all might sound fine and good, and many would say, “What’s wrong with that?” there is a catch: a profound loss of freedom and safety.

In the USA we have a system of government that has checks and balances throughout it. The Founders recognized (by Divine inspiration) that the worst impulses of man must be reined in at every level.

These checks and balances facilitate that reining in. The checks prevent bad people from going beyond certain limits in control over their fellow man.

Under our present system, we have the freedom of people to vote with their feet. That is, if some local political leader or system becomes onerous enough, folks can pack up and leave, going somewhere else that may be more compatible with their desired life preferences.

If one state’s taxes are so burdensome that it becomes difficult to maintain a desired lifestyle, a person can move to another state with more reasonable taxation. My own step-brother did that.

If one doesn’t like it here in America, he can move somewhere else — within immigration limitations.

The problem with globalization is that those valuable checks and balances are removed. Once we have reached that pinnacle of globalism — global governance — there *are no more* checks and balances. Who would impose them even if there were? In other words, we will have reached the “final” level of world domination.

At that point whoever is in charge will have ultimate power to impose any system upon us they choose. And since people will then likely not be able to vote with their feet, they will become slaves of

the world government, with no recourse but the sword to try and overcome the enslavement.

That is the reason we must constantly attempt to push governance to the lowest level possible, where there is more accountability and transparency.

The United Nations very much wants to become “the” world government. In fact, they salivate over the possibility constantly. The UNFPA, which is the population arm of the UN, is part of that plan, monitoring movements of people worldwide and demanding that countries allow masses of “refugees” in, supposedly for the refugees’ safety and to redistribute wealth and balance the standard of living for everyone. But it is really about voting out the checks and balances, and will not end up beneficial for them or us.

We are witnessing foreign powers trying to have an influence on our local politics in order to gain an edge up in future economic and political gamesmanship. This is a dangerous trend and must be fought in a significant way.

Globalism is not a good thing! Yet the dark side wants it very badly. Only evil can come from moving governance to the highest possible international level.

We need to educate our very uninformed young people today that this trend may eventually make them subservient to leaders they did not elect and over which they will have no power.

The end path of communism and socialism is to make people equally miserable and atheistic. We must not let it happen!

JAMES GREEN
Heber City, Utah

Conveniently Late?

Why didn’t Trump push his immigration agenda (the wall) when he first entered the White House, when the Republicans controlled the House, the Senate, and the presidency? Could it have been bad (CFR) advisors? Just askin’.

DAVID HAMMER
Bronx, New York

Send your letters to: THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912. Or e-mail: editorial@thenewamerican.com. Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

KEEP AMERICA INDEPENDENT!

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

No organization is more feared by the Deep State than The John Birch Society. With your help we can hit critical mass, defeat the globalists, and "Drain the Swamp!"

TAKE ACTION!

There's never been a more critical time to join our epic struggle to preserve American freedom and independence. Visit **JBS.org** or call **1-800-342-6491** to learn more, apply for membership, and contact your local coordinator to get involved.

The John Birch Society



RAFFIN
CONSTRUCTION CO.



*... Serving the Chicagoland
area for over 90 years*



Facebook Admits John Birch Society Post Was Not “Hate Speech”

In July, Facebook removed a post by The John Birch Society, this magazine’s parent organization, claiming that the “post goes against our Community Standards on hate.” Facebook also banned the JBS from monetizing its videos on Facebook for 30 days. But there was nothing hateful about the post in question: It showed our July 8 print magazine cover, which carried the title “Immigrant Invasion” and included a real photograph of illegal aliens illegally crossing a border fence. THE NEW AMERICAN responded to Facebook’s actions with a print article accurately accusing the social-media giant of censorship and hypocrisy. As a result of the backlash following the publication of that article, Facebook has backed down.

On August 21, members of Facebook’s U.S. Politics & Government Outreach and Advertising departments reached out to JBS/TNA and scheduled a conference call with JBS Chief Strategy Officer Bill Hahn. During that call, Facebook “concluded that [the post] was not a violation and



apologized for their original action and restored the post, as well as re-instated our video monetization,” according to Hahn.

Those Facebook representatives told Hahn that the post was tagged because “an automated system ‘learns’ hate speech and is employed to alert [Facebook employees] of it.” While pointing to the text of the article as the “red flag” — since it mentioned both immigrants and diseases — Facebook’s representatives declined to provide JBS/TNA with a list of terms to avoid, claiming that no such list exists.

While it is difficult for this writer to believe that an automated computer system can be taught to flag a list of terms even though no such list of terms exists, the positive take-

away is that — in a classic David vs. Goliath moment — Facebook not only apologized and admitted it was wrong, but also restored the post and reinstated the ability of The John Birch Society to monetize videos on its Facebook page.

Chinese-style “Social Credit Rating” in America?

Among China’s totalitarian policies, perhaps one of the most egregious is the invasive “Social Credit System.” If you are unfamiliar with this, yes, it’s as bad as it sounds. Since 2014, citizens have been given a rating on how well they behave. Their “Social Credit Rating” covers things such as whether a citizen jaywalks, buys products made in China, or smokes in a non-smoking area, and what they post and share online.

Those who play by the rules are given a high score and put on a Red list. Those who don’t are given a low score and placed on a Black list.

Those who are “blacklisted” pay higher rates for electricity, may not be able to purchase high-speed Internet service, may not be able to get their kids into better schools, or in some cases are banned from leaving the country on either business or pleasure. Blacklisted citizens are also routinely shamed by having their pictures and addresses published on government-owned television and social-media platforms.

Tech companies are looking to create a similar program for America. In fact, some components of it are already up and running. Earlier this year, the New York State Department of Financial Services cleared life-insurance companies to base premiums on what they see in your social-media posts.

Imagine getting kicked out of a restaurant for complaining too loudly about the lousy service, only to find that you are now on a nationwide list banning you from scores of restaurants and bars.

That is exactly what PatronScan does. Uber announced in May that it will now allow drivers to rate passengers, and reserves the right to ban passengers whose rating is “significantly below average.” And WhatsApp will ban you if too many other users block you.

It is not difficult to imagine the emerging “Social Credit Rating” system in America turning into a method by which minor crimes or social infractions are punished by “offenders” being deprived of basic means of communication, transportation, dining, and entertainment. Such people could quickly find themselves on the outside of society looking in.



National Poll Shows Shift in Values Between Older and Younger Americans

The last 21 years have seen major changes in how Americans of different generations prioritize personal values. Members of younger generations rate patriotism, religion, and having children as less important to them than did young people between the ages of 18 and 38 two decades ago, a new *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News survey conducted August 10-14 finds.

When a similar *Journal*/NBC News survey conducted 21 years ago asked Americans to state which values were most important to them, large majorities selected hard work, patriotism, commitment to religion, and having children.

The only one of those values that remains high on the list in the latest survey is hard work. The percentage of Americans listing the other three values has fallen substantially, with most of the changes attributable to people under the age of 50.

Sixty-one percent of those surveyed in the recent poll cited patriotism as very important to them, down nine percentage points from 1998. Fifty percent cited religion, down 12 points since 1998, and 43 percent named having children as an important priority, down 16 points from 1998.

However, the results varied widely according to the age of those polled. Nearly 80 percent of those aged 55 or older said patriotism was very important, while only 42 percent of those ages 18-38 (“Generation Z” and “Millennials”) selected patri-

tism as an important value. Two-thirds of the older group cited religion as very important, compared with less than one-third of the younger group, reported those conducting the *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll.

The change is likely due to the influence of institutions to which parents have surrendered the formation of their children such as schools, the entertainment industry, and the media. If parents had taken a more proactive role in developing their children’s values, one would expect the differences from one generation to the next to have been less.



skynesher/E+/GettyimagesPlus

Libs Dance on Koch’s Grave but Ignore How He Helped Their Cause

It’s said one shouldn’t speak ill of the dead, but this is meaningless to the morally dead. This has again been proven with leftists’ reaction to the passing of billionaire libertarian David Koch, whose death of prostate cancer at age 79 was announced August 23.

Bill Maher perhaps was the cream of the slop on his HBO talk show, *Real Time With Bill Maher*: “David and his brother have done more than anybody to fund climate science [realists] for decades, so f**k him. The Amazon is burning up. I’m glad he’s dead. And I hope the end was painful.”

Actress Bette Midler also chimed in, tweeting, among other things: “I tweeted the #CharlesKoch had died, instead of #David-KochIsDEAD. I’m sorry to give others false hope. Guess it was just wistful thinking. As we watch the Amazon Rainforest burning, all the #GlobalWarming culprits are foremost in one’s mind.”

The website Common Dreams wrote, “After Life of Incalculable Harm, Billionaire Climate Denialist and Right-Wing Villain David Koch Dead at 79. Death is an escape hatch for David Koch while the rest of us are left scrambling for the emergency brake before we go over the cliff.”

Then *Esquire* displayed this: “The Koch Money Was a Primary Vector for the Prion Disease That’s Infected the Republican Party.”

Esquire is correct about the Kochs’ efforts having infected the GOP — but the infection is not what they think. David Koch was a devoted anti-Trump, open-borders libertarian. The Kochs did

work through the GOP — *in order to transform it*. Their goals didn’t totally align with the Democrats’, but some of them did. Most significantly, their open-borders aims facilitated the entire Democrat (socialist) platform.

After all, this immigrationist agenda ensures that 85 to 90 percent of our newcomers will continue hailing from the Third World. And with 70 to 90 percent of this group voting Democrat upon naturalization, its continued growth would portend leftist hegemony — giving the Democrats the power to impose whatever they wish. But David Koch has passed on now, and may he rest in peace. As for those dancing on his grave, they should “never send to know for whom the bell tolls,” as British cleric and poet John Donne wrote — “it tolls for thee.” ■



GageSkidmore

Sanders Calls for \$16.3 Trillion to Fight Climate Change

“Climate Change is an existential threat to the entire country and the entire world, and we must be extraordinarily aggressive.”

Describing his extremely costly proposal as putting “meat on the bones” of the Green New Deal, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders said the enormous funding for his scheme could be raised by enacting new fees and new taxes on the fossil-fuel industry.



GageSkidmore

Demands for Withdrawal From Afghanistan Grow Louder

“The withdrawal is coming. It’s not a matter of when or how fast. My sense, though I can’t prove it, is that [U.S. presence in the war-torn nation] will be all over with by Election Day 2020.”

A senior fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracy, Thomas Joscelyn is openly optimistic that U.S. forces will soon leave Afghanistan.

Offer to Purchase Greenland Promptly Rejected

“Greenland is not for sale. [The idea] is absurd. Greenland is not Danish. Greenland belongs to Greenland. I strongly hope this [proposal] is not meant seriously. Thankfully, the time where you can buy and sell other countries and populations is over. Let’s leave it there.”

The response of Denmark’s Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen to President Trump’s unexpected offer to purchase Greenland impelled Trump to characterize her words as “nasty” and cancel a planned visit to Denmark.



GageSkidmore

President Trump Provides a Comment About Trade With China

“I think if China had their wish, they’d wait until after the 2020 election, pray that Trump loses, and then they’ll make a deal with a [Democrat] stiff.”

Confident that a Democrat would be a pushover for China in trade matters, Donald Trump predicts that the Beijing regime wants a Democrat to win in 2020.

Squad Member Says Race, Religion, and Sexual Orientation Should Rule Voting Pattern

“At the Progressive Table, we don’t need any more brown faces that don’t want to be a brown voice. We don’t need black faces that don’t want to be a black voice. We don’t need Muslims that don’t want to be a Muslim voice. We don’t need queers that don’t want to be a queer voice.”

Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) obviously doesn’t have much regard for colleagues who believe the U.S. Constitution — not race, religion, or sexual orientation — should guide their legislative efforts.

English Clergy Create Amusement Parks Inside Cathedrals to Attract Visitors

“This is a deliberate attempt to help people engage with our cathedral.”

The new attractions include carnival rides, a mini golf course, and a slide four-stories tall — all within several actual cathedrals. The unusual steps being taken are what Rev. Canon Andy Bryant hopes will reverse the dwindling number of churchgoers at his and other cathedrals.

Niece of Martin Luther King Defends President Trump


“Listen to my words. President Trump is not a racist! He is one of the best presidents America has ever seen. I fully support him.”

Having met with and spoken with President Trump on multiple occasions, pro-life partisan Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., volunteered her view while hoping to counter accusations insisting that Trump is a racist. ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



GageSkidmore



CHINA MAKING YOUR MEDICINE

As trade wars between the longtime adversaries escalate, America's dangerous dependence on China for vital medicines could have lethal consequences.

If China stopped exporting prescription drugs and their ingredients to the United States, pharmacy shelves across the country would empty within months. “That’s how dependent we are on China,” Rosemary Gibson told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. “It’s a national security threat that few people even know about.”

Gibson is a senior advisor at the Hastings Center and coauthor of *China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America’s Dependence on China for Medicine*, a whistleblower analysis of the dire situation Western countries have brought about by allowing China to dump cheap prescriptions on them, driving domestic producers out of business. “The truth is that America’s dependence on a single country for the active ingredients, raw materials, and chemical building blocks for so many essential medicines is a risk of epic proportions.”

That’s no exaggeration. The communist behemoth is well on its way to controlling the global generic drug market. In June the *International Business Times* reported that, though India still leads in generics, experts note that country receives some 80 percent of its raw ingredients from China. This means the key components in 90 percent of the prescription and over-the-counter meds Americans take are sourced from a country that our Department of Defense considers a major adversary.

“Think about how China devastated our steel industry, dumping its product here at below-market price and destroying our manufacturing base,” Gibson points out. “They want to do the same thing with medicine. They’ve already done it with penicillin.”

Penicillin is the go-to antibiotic for dozens of bacterial infections such as strep throat and children’s colds. It has been 15 years since the last U.S. penicillin plant closed its doors, in the midst of a massive Chinese campaign that dumped the antibiotic on the global market at extremely low prices. The industry trade association European Fine Chemicals Group dubbed the subsequent loss of business a “landslide.” By 2007, China dwarfed all remaining competitors and slapped a significant price increase on this common but crucial medicine.

Other antibiotics stand in the cross

hairs: bio-warfare safeguard ciprofloxacin, anthrax antidote doxycycline, and vancomycin, a last-resort antibiotic for drug-resistant infections. The anthrax attacks on Capitol Hill in 2001 offer a chilling example. Unable to supply our own needs, “The U.S. government turned to a European company to buy 20 million doses of the recommended treatment for anthrax exposure, doxycycline,” explains Gibson. “That company had to buy the chemical starting material from China. What if China were the anthrax attacker?”

But this is only the tip of the iceberg. Common high blood pressure medications such as losartan; chemotherapy drugs for children and adults; birth control pills; antidepressants and psychotherapeutics; anti-seizure meds for epilepsy; and drugs to treat Alzheimer’s Disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and Parkinson’s, as well as medical implants and devices — all of these make the “made in China” list, as do over-the-counter pain killers and vitamins. Chances are many of the pills you and your loved ones take each day contain ingredients from China.

Even the vitamin C that supplements your breakfast cereal is probably Chinese. Along with penicillin, we ceded ascorbic acid (the active ingredient in vitamin C) to China in the early 2000s. The last U.S. production facility shuttered a short time

after Congress passed the U.S.-China Trade Relations Act of 2000 — a measure that then-President Bill Clinton promised would secure American jobs and safeguard against surges of Chinese imports. Instead, China’s predatory pricing crushed U.S. producers and wiped out jobs. After they obtained dominance, Chinese firms raised the price of ascorbic acid by as much as 600 percent. The ensuing anti-trust lawsuit brought by U.S. businesses against the offenders revealed that the Chinese government “required its domestic companies to fix prices and control exports of vitamin C,” relates Gibson. Aspirin’s active ingredient, acetylsalicylic acid, suffered an identical fate from a Chinese cartel.

Think You’re Immune?

Do you want to find out the source of your meds? You likely won’t read it on labels or product literature. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) only requires drug makers to list the name and place of manufacture or distribution, not country of origin. A company here may take powders and pound them into pills, but the powders themselves could all come from China. Call the manufacturer, and you may be told either that the source information is proprietary or that the company has worldwide sources, subject to change over time. Results of online searches are iffy, though

Gibson lists sites such as DailyMed and Drugs.com as good leads.

Why is Big Pharma so tight-lipped about its sources? Pharmaceutical companies do not want to undermine their integrity by admitting they buy from China. For many American consumers, “made in China” means shoddy workmanship and poor quality. When it comes to medicines, imperfect ingredients can have severe, even life-threatening, effects.

Take the case of contaminated heparin in 2007 and

Whistleblower: Rosemary Gibson’s book, *China Rx*, exposes the risks of our pharmaceutical dependence on China. One of its reviewers wrote, “This is scarier than a Stephen King novel.”



TheHastingsCenter



The key components in 90 percent of the prescription and over-the-counter meds Americans take are sourced from a country that our Department of Defense considers a major adversary.

2008, when 246 Americans, including some children, died, and hundreds more were seriously injured after receiving the common blood thinner, used daily in U.S. hospitals and dialysis centers. As the body count rose, the FDA investigated to discover the culprit: a toxic contaminant deliberately placed during the manufacturing process in China. It was used because a fierce virus called blue-ear disease had decimated China's pig population in 2006. (Heparin is made from pig intestines.) The price of pigs skyrocketed, and oversulfated chondroitin sulfate, substituted for as much as 60 percent of the safe ingredient, was deemed acceptable because it mimicked the real product — and saved lots of money. When U.S. officials complained, China denied responsibility, blaming its U.S. customer. But that doesn't explain the deaths and adverse reactions reported in 10 other countries that also imported the contaminated heparin.

Gibson tells the story of one survivor, an Arizona physician who went into the hospital for a simple endoscopy procedure and, after receiving the contaminated heparin, ended up requiring heart and kidney transplants. He will spend the rest of his life on immunosuppressive drugs that prevent his immune system from attacking the transplanted organs — a high price to pay for cheap medicine.

Rocket Fuel Contaminants

Just 10 years ago, the United States surpassed other nations by importing “the most pharmaceuticals and medicines by weight from China: 188 million pounds in 2009,” according to the Pew Prescription Project. Only 10 percent “of the active pharmaceutical ingredient [API] factories listed in generic drug applications [were] in the United States,” while 40 percent were in India. (APIs are the key ingredients in medicines.) At the same time, the



Library of Congress

Miracle med: The U.S. War Production Board spearheaded a massive penicillin production effort in the mid-1940s to ensure an adequate supply for D-Day. Today, the U.S. produces no penicillin.

their inspections. “The companies are making travel arrangements for the FDA, they’re taking FDA investigators out to dinner,” she said, noting that often there is only one inspector with a short amount of time, relying on a translator provided by the company in question. Her book documents cases of several Chinese manufacturers pooling their resources to set up “show factories” with textbook-perfect conditions. “Because the FDA investigators can’t even read the street signs, they’re each inspecting the same facility,” thinking they are at different companies.

She concludes that there is rampant fraud and regulatory infraction. As an indicator, Eban recounted a pilot program of unannounced foreign inspections that the FDA conducted in India five years ago. During that time “the rate of ‘official action indicated’ findings — which is the most severe finding — increased by almost 60 percent.” However, for no stated reason the agency dropped its pilot program in 2015 and fell back to announcing inspections in India. It never expanded the pilot program to other countries. Now, Gibson says, the FDA is so hamstrung that it must “make tradeoffs between defective medicines and shortages.”

That is exactly what is currently happening with valsartan, the active ingredient in many common high blood pressure medications. In mid-2018 various major pharmaceutical companies suddenly began recalling their valsartan-containing products; the API was sourced from China and contaminated with a cancer-causing

FDA inspected domestic drug manufacturing plants every two to three years, while foreign sites averaged FDA visits every nine years.

Fast forward to the present day, when experts estimate that 80 percent of APIs worldwide come from China, and despite scant inspections, the FDA is powerless in oversight of their manufacture. A decade-long investigation of Chinese drug manufacturing facilities by journalist Katherine Eban, which resulted in her 2018 *New York Times* best-seller *Bottle of Lies*, exposed the bizarre situation. She testified at a July 31 hearing of the congressionally mandated U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) that it is the FDA’s practice to announce overseas inspections in advance instead of making surprise visits as it does to domestic facilities. This gives foreign manufacturers six to eight weeks’ notice, allowing them to “stage manage”

impurity. By October, the FDA had identified a second carcinogen, sparking another rash of recalls. In late February of this year, researchers discovered a third carcinogenic toxin. However, because of shortages brought about by the massive recalls, the FDA announced it would allow the tainted meds to remain on the market as long as the toxins' concentrations were below specified limits. The rationale: Uncontrolled high blood pressure poses greater risks to patients than the cancer-causing agents.

Dr. Larry Wortzel, senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council who serves on the USCC, gave his first-hand experience with valsartan recalls during the commission's July hearing:

I'm a military retiree.... In the past three months I have had four blood pressure medications recalled. When I tracked down the sourcing, they all came out of India but originally sourced in China, from four different U.S. [providers]. In [three of the four cases] that particular medication was contaminated with rocket fuel.... I imagine active duty people have the same problem, and that affects the readiness of our force.

The "rocket fuel" contaminant is actually a substance known as NDMA, which, according to the FDA, is no longer used to make rocket fuel because of its carcinogenic potential. NDMA and the other valsartan contaminants are byproducts of the faulty manufacturing process that Zhejiang Huahai Pharmaceutical Co., the manufacturer responsible for the debacle, has had in place since 2011.

Worse yet, *Bloomberg* published an investigative report in May revealing that the FDA definitely knew in 2017 about data manipulation of valsartan quality-test results conducted by Zhejiang Huahai. The agency ignored its own inspector's recommendation to penalize the company, trusting Zhejiang Huahai to follow through on its proposed cor-

rective actions, even though the inspector noted the company's track record of giving "passing scores for drugs that originally fell short of U.S. standards on routine quality tests."

Despite the red flag, it was European regulators, not the FDA, who first detected carcinogenic contaminants in generic valsartan a year later. Eban wasn't surprised; she explained that unlike U.S. regulators, European authorities conduct routine surveillance testing of imported medicines. In fact, FDA spokesman Sarah Peddicord told *Bloomberg*, the agency expects pharmaceutical companies to police themselves, saying it is the "manufacturer's responsibility" to conduct "appropriate tests that are capable of detecting impurities." The FDA relies on results of those tests in approving drugs.

How's that working out? "I found that there is extensive fraud in CROs," Eban said, referring to contract research organizations, which are companies that provide quality testing services for pharmaceutical manufacturers. "It is the drug companies themselves that are paying the CROs, and

it is a very frequent thing to have a 'back channel' agreement to make the data work out okay." That seems to be the case with valsartan; the FDA's follow-up investigation discovered that Zhejiang Huahai had once again lied about test results.

Disturbingly, valsartan is only one example of a nefarious problem that has been growing since the U.S.-China Trade Relations Act became law in 2000. Gibson notes that in 2015, the FDA banned 29 active pharmaceutical ingredients from China owing to bacterial contamination and systemic data manipulation. Ensuing shortages of vital medicines, including several chemotherapy drugs, forced the agency to exempt 14 of the products from its import ban.

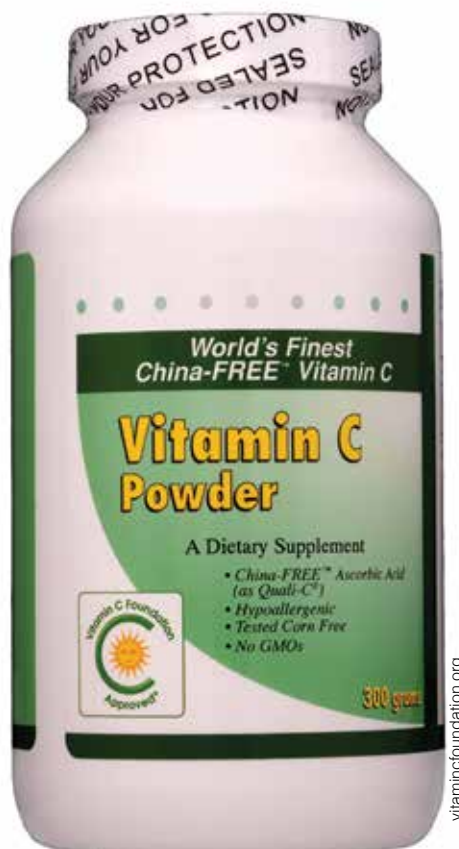
The High Price of Cheap Meds

U.S. pharmaceutical giants realize that our domestic generic drug industry is collapsing as they purchase based exclusively on price at the expense of quality and reliability. Gibson quotes the newsletter *FiercePharma* from a 2012 article, "Dangers Aside, Drugmakers Can't Live Without Chinese Active Ingredients":

When it comes to Chinese-made active pharmaceutical ingredients, Western drugmakers are between a rock and a hard place.... They know Chinese oversight of ingredient manufacturing is insufficient to snuff out substandard producers, but that has not deterred companies from buying anyway.

It's telling that the industry successfully lobbied for tariff exemptions on medicinal products made in China. The argument was that tariffs would increase drug prices, but is that because we have too few reliable alternatives? You can't shop around in a monopoly market.

Maintaining high profit margins in this way will backfire, says Gibson, who points out that if we allow China to undercut domestic producers by dumping cheap products here, price increases are inevitable. "Once China completes its pharmaceutical chokehold on the United States, it will be devastating. They'll be able to dictate prices," she predicts, just as they



"China-free" niche: Catering to customers bothered by China's track record of poor quality and human rights abuse, some supplement companies offer "China-free" products.



AP Images

Heparin catastrophe: Family members of contaminated heparin victims weep during testimony at congressional hearings in 2008.

scalped us with penicillin and vitamin C after wiping out those global markets. Gibson foresees repeat performances as China employs the same playbook with other generics.

We have every reason to expect it as tensions run high in the current trade war. Beijing countered U.S. tariffs of \$200 billion in May with \$60 billion in retaliatory measures. U.S. agricultural exports to China have nose-dived in the past months. Chinese officials also recently announced plans to restrict exports of essential rare earth minerals to the United States, which relies on China for 80 percent of its strategic mineral demand, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. These raw materials are crucial to many industries, including electronics, manufacturing, medicine, and munitions.

What if China decided to do the same with prescription ingredients? What's preventing them from exploiting medical products in the tug-of-war? How did it get to the point that we have so little recourse?

"We consider our medicine as a cheap commodity, to be purchased at the cheapest possible price. That has got to change," Gibson warns. "We have to remember that when you control the supply of medicines, you control price, you control quality, you

control the world." She estimates that the United States is on track to lose virtually all of its generic drug manufacturing capacity within the next five to 10 years. Yet while we surrender control of our national health security for the sake of cheaper prices, Gibson points out, we have no system in place to monitor risk. "It's no one's job in the federal government to know who controls the supply of our medicine. We wouldn't do that for oil; we wouldn't do that for food."

National Security

Nor should we allow it when national security is at stake. Our military has strict rules about procurement of everything from weapons and ammunition to nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers; on grounds of national security, outsourcing manufacturing of these instruments of war is not an option. The same policy applies to medicines and medical supplies under the Buy American and Trade Agreement Acts, which require the Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Administration to negotiate with approved vendors based on price, not country of origin. For medicinal products, moreover, DoD is entirely dependent on the consumer market, inundated with ingredients from China.

The Defense Department's "compliance with these acts drives up DoD pharmaceutical costs while having little or no effect on ... the commercial sector, which is bending toward foreign production sources," testified Christopher Priest of the DoD's Defense Health Agency at the July USCC hearing. "The national security risks of increased Chinese dominance of the global API market cannot be overstated — pharmaceuticals that are crucial to DoD's ability to promote the health of its warfighters and protect them from nuclear, biological and chemical threats."

Even in peacetime, Priest warns:

Should China decide to limit or restrict delivery of APIs to the U.S. it would have a debilitating effect on U.S. domestic production and could result in severe shortages of pharmaceuticals for both domestic and military uses. Our concern is the ability of the domestic manufacturing capability to adjust to that risk, alternate sources, if any, and how long those solutions would take to produce results.

Priest told the commission that the Defense Department is only now in the process of determining its vulnerability. He said the “murkiness of the data add[s] to the risks,” but pointed out the valsartan recalls as a telling indicator: The military is exposed to the same dangers as the general public.

Doxycycline and ciprofloxacin, two bio-warfare antidotes crucial to our armed forces, are no longer produced domestically, he complained. In fact, there are around 150 lines of pharmaceuticals that the Defense Department can’t get without special exceptions to compliance with the Trade Agreements Acts. When asked about vulnerabilities of military-specific items, Priest brought up the joint trauma system and noted, “A lot of this conversation focuses on the pharmaceutical side. There are a host of implications when you start looking at medical devices, laboratory services,” and other biotechnologies in which China is now a global leader. The range of products is immense, from relatively simple (e.g., bandages and diagnostic tests) to life-enhancing (e.g., prosthetics and wheelchairs) to life-preserving (e.g., pacemakers and cardiovascular stents).

“I cannot overstate Chinese medtech companies’ desire to overtake the Western medical device business,” writes international industry consultant Ames Gross in *MedTech Intelligence* in 2016, warning his

readers to “be very careful” and practice “extreme due diligence” when it comes to China’s standards. He said Western companies are now buying lower price, lower quality products from China and conducting clinical trials here at home to add them to “their sales teams’ bag of tricks.” Considering the rampant contract research organization fraud of which Eban warns, even if we are comfortable with trusting our personal health to these companies’ testing methods, do we really want to subject our military combat readiness and force protection to it?

Weaponizing Pharmaceuticals

Equally devastating is the prospect of China using meds as weapons of war. Beijing is synonymous with human rights violations, espionage, and cyber hacking. Would China scruple to withhold vital antibiotics, sell placebos in place of real medicine, or even lace drugs with lethal contaminants in wartime? “I have no doubt that they would consider weaponizing their dominance of the pharmaceuticals market if they felt that that would give them an advantage over us strategically,” retired Brigadier General John Adams told *Fox News*.

None of this is happening by accident. China has stated designs to corner the biopharmaceutical market globally in less than 10 years. In 2015, Chinese govern-

ment officials published “Made in China 2025,” their ambitious national plan to dominate 10 high-tech manufacturing sectors — including biotechnology and medicine. At that time, China’s pharmaceutical market ranked second-largest worldwide after the United States, according to global management consulting firm McKinsey & Company. Part of the strategy involves sweeping regulatory changes to catalyze China’s pharma industry by encouraging innovative drug development. “We have seen rapid growth of new drugs in the pipeline,” bragged Frank Jiang, CEO of CStone Pharmaceuticals, who told McKinsey that applications for medicines entering clinical trials grew from 21 in 2011 to 88 in 2016.

However, plans were under way long before 2015, thanks in large part to Capitol Hill’s Beijing lobby. “China’s pharmaceutical industry has been growing at a break-neck pace for decades, especially since the normalization of U.S.-China trade relations in 2000,” said author and investigative journalist Ben Westoff in USCC hearing testimony. From 2008 to 2015 China increased investment in pharma research and development by 254 percent, compared with 7.3-percent growth in the United States during the same time period. In only four years, from 2010 until 2014, China more than doubled its biopharmaceutical production capacity, including active pharmaceutical ingredients. Data from the Information Technology and Innovative Foundation (ITIF) also shows that between 2009 and 2013, the Chinese government quadrupled funding of medical research. Most of the world’s top 20 pharmaceutical giants maintain manufacturing and/or medical research facilities in China.

They haven’t necessarily come by all this growth honestly; China has a track record of devious behavior. “In other industries, such as solar panels, high-speed rail and robotics, China caught up to leaders by copying their technology — often through theft or forced technology transfer — and then using a variety of means, including predatory pricing supported by government subsidies, to weaken foreign competitors,” ITIF relates.

China also has a penchant for state-backed purchases of foreign companies. Take the 2013 buyout of the world’s largest pork producer, Smithfield Foods of Virginia, by China’s largest meat-process-



Rocket fuel contaminant: Many China-sourced high blood pressure meds today are contaminated with NDMA, an ingredient in rocket fuel.

AP Images



AP Images

sor, Shuanghui International, a company both controlled and funded by the Communist Party. The sale caused distress as the largest Chinese acquisition of an American firm, and more importantly, because “Smithfield was the source of the raw material to make 25 percent of the heparin used in the United States,” says Gibson. African swine flu is currently devastating China’s pig population, an ominous reminder of the deadly 2007-2008 heparin contamination, and could easily mean U.S. shortages of the crucial drug. Regardless, “now that Smithfield is a wholly owned subsidiary of a Chinese company, Congress has no leverage to question where a product from America’s heartland ends up,” notes Gibson. Moreover, in regard to food safety, Shuanghui “could use provisions in a bilateral investment treaty to challenge new food safety standards Congress might enact that would increase the company’s costs,” a juridical game plan China has effectively used in other industries to circumvent U.S. law.

Make America Safe Again

China is on target to achieve its biopharma dominance goals, and if it does, it could obliterate us without launching a single warhead or hacking the electrical grid. American consumers and taxpayers are funding that growth for the sake of cheap,

second-rate medicines, while the adversary drains our domestic industry dry.

It’s time to turn off the spigot. Congress must reclaim the leverage it wielded prior to 2000 when it voted annually on China’s trade status. The U.S.-China Trade Relations Act is a proven failure, having ushered in staggering trade deficits and a manufacturing exodus unheard of in our nation’s history. We must bring our industry home. In the meantime and toward that end, Congress should act quickly to preserve the American biopharma industry with protective tariffs, essential for national security and health.

Congress must favor domestic manufacturers over foreign competitors, offering corporate tax incentives and regulatory relief. It must encourage companies such as online pharmacy Valisure, based in Connecticut, which tests every batch of medication it sells, says Gibson. (Ten percent of the batches fail for issues such as dosage inaccuracies and toxic contamination.) Fostering companies such as Valisure would eliminate calls for federal regulatory expansion into drug testing while providing a better safeguard for

Smithfield sellout: Experts warned that China’s 2013 acquisition of the largest U.S. pork producer, Smithfield Foods Inc., would endanger the safety and adequacy of U.S. heparin supplies.

patients than the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness typical of federal bureaucracy.

Our courts must prosecute predatory pricing and cartels, instead of rewarding them, as did the U.S. federal appeals court in 2016 when it cleared Chinese companies of antitrust charges and paved the way for copycats of the destructive vitamin-C cartel. Moreover, if foreign manufacturers want access to our market, they must be held to the same regulatory standards that shackle domestic companies, and should likewise be subject to unannounced inspections. No foreign government or industry can be trusted to police itself.

Instead of buying meds from the lowest bidder, our military and Veterans Administration must procure them based on national security interests, demanding country-of-origin transparency and using the Defense Department’s purchasing power to spur U.S. production. This is already working in the private sector. Gibson relates that Civica Rx, a nonprofit formed by Mayo Clinic and 900 other hospitals nationwide, is ensuring transparent sourcing from trustworthy manufacturers, and providing long-term contracts to ensure stability. Civica Rx announced in May it plans to deliver 14 generic medications this year, including several crucial antibiotics.

That’s good news in the current landscape and shows that, unlike our government, private industry acknowledges our medicines to be valuable assets, as crucial as food commodities and energy resources in preserving not just our high standard of living, but life itself. All Americans need to realize that, too, and demand that our policymakers act accordingly. Otherwise, we have a bitter pill to swallow. ■



EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

◆ Additional copies of this issue of *THE NEW AMERICAN* are available at quantity-discount prices. To place your order, visit www.shopjbs.org or see the card between pages 34-35.



RIGHT-WING TERRORISTS?

According to major media, mass shooters in America end up being unhinged right-wingers. But that's just another lie backing up President Trump's claim that much of media specializes in fake news.

by C. Mitchell Shaw

In the current political wave of the on-going culture war, there is good news and there is bad news. The good news is that the Left has run out of new material and is using the same old stuff over and over again. The bad news is that — having used the same old tactics so many times — the Left has honed them to a razor's edge and uses them with great efficiency. Perhaps nothing better demonstrates this than the lie repeated so often by the liberal media that maintains that mass shootings are all the work of “right-wing” fanatics. It is so patently false that it simply boggles the mind that anyone would claim it or that anyone else would believe it; but the Left

— having cultivated that lie to the level of a received truth — pushes it out again and again after (nearly) every mass shooting.

Evidence of the mendacity of that claim is indeed legion. The space of this article does not allow this writer to unpack all of that evidence, but fortunately, it is unnecessary to do so: A look at only the two most recent shootings will easily demonstrate that such shootings are more likely the work of those who have drunk too deeply from the poisoned well of leftist thinking, and not that of “right-wing” fanatics.

In the wake of the most recent mass shootings (as of this writing), which took place over the weekend of August 3 and 4, the liberal media claimed — or at least im-

Pinocchios: The Left has defied all logic in claiming that President Trump's policies and rhetoric were responsible for the El Paso shooting. In the recent mass shootings, the responsibility lies squarely at the feet of the Left.

plied — that the two men who collectively murdered 31 people and injured another 51 were motivated by “right-wing” ideology. As part of the liberal media barrage on that front, the left-leaning *Slate* claimed in an August 5 headline, “Right-Wingers Are America's Deadliest Terrorists.” The article's subhead stated, “After this weekend, right-wing terrorists have killed more people on U.S. soil than jihadis have since 9/11. So why is the government's focus still on Islamic radicalism?”



AP Images

Lying about dying: The men responsible for both the Dayton and El Paso shootings were both pronounced hard-core leftists. To blame their actions on the Right is beyond wrong; it is deliberately dishonest.

In its typical style, *Business Insider* took the lie even further, claiming in a headline also dated August 5, “All of the extremist killings in the US in 2018 had links to right-wing extremism.” The implication is easy to see: The shootings over the weekend of August 3 and 4 are a continuation of the “trend” from 2018. Ergo, the claim that “Right-Wingers Are America’s Deadliest Terrorists” is true. That, of course, assumes that two things can be demonstrated: First, that *exactly zero* people were killed in 2018 by anyone influenced by leftist thinking, and second, that the shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, were the work of right-wingers.

If — based on the fraudulent claim that “all of the extremist killings in the US in 2018 had links to right-wing extremism” — one accepts the implication that the “trend” is continuing, it may be reasonable to conclude that “Right-Wingers Are America’s Deadliest Terrorists.” Conversely, if the premise is false, so is the conclusion.

On that note, even the “study” cited by media groups such as *Business Insider* in claiming that all of the 2018 extremist killings were the work of right-wingers clearly states that that is not the case. In fact, as a January 28 article by *Breitbart* points out, the “study” — based on limiting the scope of what is considered an “extremist

killer” — actually admits “that political ideology was a motive only in a minority of the killings — and, moreover, that the proportion of ‘extremist’ killings attributable to political motives actually declined in 2018,” and that in at least one example — the Parkland school shooting — the “study” concedes that “it is not clear” whether the shooter’s political ideology played any role at all.

To use that flawed and exaggerated “study” — by the far-left Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which really should consider renaming itself considering the lengths to which it goes to defame anyone to the right of Clinton or Pelosi — to propagate the lie that (first) right-wingers are responsible for all of the “extremist” killings in 2018, and (second) that that non-existent trend is continuing, is completely dishonest.

Ignoring that basic logic, other media organizations and outlets have likewise seized upon nearly every mass shooting to paint the shooters as right-wing, conservative, Trump-supporting, racist radicals intent on purging America of foreign blood.

For instance, the *New York Times* — forever poised to attack the Right — ran article after article claiming that the shooting in El Paso, Texas, was the work of a right-winger under the influence of President Trump and conservative talk-show hosts. While not actually making that

claim about the Dayton shooting (for reasons we shall show), the *Times* bent over backward to imply that was the case.

On August 7, the *Times* used President Trump’s visit to El Paso in the wake of the shooting there as an opportunity to attack not only the president and his policies regarding illegal immigration, but conservatism in general. Under the headline, “Trump Comes to Console. El Paso Says No Thanks,” the *Times*’ Simon Romero and Rick Rojas wrote that President Trump’s “racist” rhetoric of painting illegal immigrants as a threat to the nation led to the shooting.

And on August 11, the *Times* ran a headline claiming “The El Paso Killer Echoed the Incendiary Words of Conservative Media Stars.” The thinly veiled political screed that the *Times* passed off as an objective article claimed that the Right’s reasonable concern over an invasion of illegal aliens at our southwest border was directly responsible for the carnage of the El Paso shooting.

But is it so? Let us examine those claims, unpacking the most recent two mass killings, since they were the springboard for the media’s claims.

In the wee hours of Sunday, August 4, 2019, 24-year-old Connor Stephen Betts opened fire outside a bar in Dayton, Ohio, killing nine people — including his own sister — and injuring 27 others. Almost as soon as the media attempted to paint Betts as a “right-winger,” the story began to fall apart, as voter registration records and social-media posts showed him to be a registered Democrat who favored the likes of Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. He also had ties to Antifa and had posted on social media that he hated Trump and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and wanted to “kill every fascist.” His friends were quick to defend this murderer against accusations that he was a right-winger. The *Dayton Daily News* quoted one friend of Betts, Will El-Fakir, as saying that Betts was “definitely not a right-leaning person. His political views definitely leaned to the left.”

He may be a killer and a psycho, but *please* don’t besmirch his name by calling him a “right-winger.”

As soon as that information came to light, the liberal media — usually quick to discuss the racial makeup of the victims

of such shootings — ignored the fact that six of the nine people killed by Betts were black. One is left to ponder the response of those same media groups if Betts had expressed support, instead of hatred, for President Trump.

As it is, Betts — who was killed by Dayton police 32 seconds into his shooting spree — was a hard-core leftist who was also mentally ill. His fixation with violence and death was certainly fed by his regular diet of socialist and anti-American ideology — much of which he consumed as part of his experience as a college student.

A former girlfriend wrote in a medium.com post that she met Betts “in our Social Psychology class at Sinclair College” and began a “polyamorous” relationship. For the uninitiated, that means they were both free to sleep around. She was actually engaged at the time, though her fiancé

was aware of her promiscuous nature. She wrote that she and Betts both suffered from “mental illness” and “bonded over depression humor” since “joking about personal mental illnesses is one of the biggest coping tools in the mental health toolbelt.” To put in the for-what-it’s-worth column, all that joking didn’t seem to help Betts. Apparently, the course work for a psychology degree at a liberal college only made matters worse for this troubled, sick, young man.

On their first date, he shared a video of the October 27 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. She couldn’t hear it because of the loudness of the bar, so, “Connor gave me the play-by-play of what was happening. Even then, I did realize that that was a weird thing for a first date, but not too weird given the context of our class. In our Social Psychology class, we regularly got off-topic to talk about serial killers, Ted

Bundy was a hot topic given all of the media attention he was getting. A psychology student being fascinated in the horrors of humans is not an abnormal thing. It weirded me out because it was definitely not my focus on psychology, but it wasn’t a weird thing in general.”

Here’s a tip: Yes, it was a weird thing in general. Is it any wonder that a mentally ill young man, whose moral compass is so out of whack that going on a date with a girl who is engaged and “polyamorous” seems normal, and who shows killing-spree videos on *any* date (much less a *first* date), and deals with his mental illness by making a joke of it, would slip a cog and murder people?

While there appear to be many reasons for his actions, none of them can even be loosely linked to conservative or “right-wing” ideology. His thinking, his politics, and his morals were all part of the philosophy of the Left.

A mere 13 hours before the shooting in Dayton, Patrick Crusius turned a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, into a killing field, leaving 22 dead and another 24 injured. He was heard shouting racist slurs as he deliberately targeted Hispanics. In the immediate wake of the shooting, the media went all in, declaring Crusius a “right-wing” extremist who was influenced by President Trump’s “talking points.”

Those phrases come directly from media reports published after the shooting. In fact, the liberal news site Crooks-AndLiars managed somehow to work all of that into one article’s headline, claiming on August 5 that the “El Paso Shooter’s Manifesto Uses Trump And Right Wing Talking Points.” That piece of political propaganda thinly disguised as a news report included such fictions as “his ‘manifesto’ hate screed is filled with talking points and terminology used by Donald Trump at his Nazi MAGA rallies and FOX News hosts like Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity.”

And also in the for-what-it’s-worth column, the same liberal media that selectively quoted the Crusius manifesto to make him appear to fit their pre-selected picture of him are the same media that refused to publish his manifesto *in toto*. The reason for attempting to keep their readers from reading his manifesto appears to be the simple fact that it blows their picture



AP Images

He was full in: The killing spree by Connor Betts in Dayton, Ohio, was a tragedy that was set in motion by the philosophy of the Left — its thinking, politics, and morals. Blaming it on the Right is simply a tactic of the Left to capitalize on the tragedy while avoiding the duly earned blame.

While there appear to be many reasons for his actions, none of them can even be loosely linked to conservative or “right-wing” ideology. His thinking, his politics, and his morals were all part of the philosophy of the Left.

of him as a “right-winger” completely out of the water. The manifesto — which can be found online with a quick search — shows that his ideology is actually that of the Left, not the Right.

Among the grievances listed in his manifesto, Crusius cites the “takeover of the United States government by unchecked corporations.” Reality check: Is that language and sentiment from the conservative Right or from the liberal Left? Asked another way (to respond to the above media

claim), does it sound like he borrowed that from “talking points” by Donald Trump, or does it sound like it was regurgitated from any of a plethora of speeches delivered by that darling-of-the-Left Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.)?

In fact, while the liberal media attempted to simplify his targeting of Hispanics by casting it as rank racism, the real reason for his choice of targets also fits neatly in with leftist thinking about both corporations and the environment. For, in his manifesto,

Crusius goes on to decry the evils of pro-corporatism, writing, “Procorporation = pro-immigration” (i.e., because big corporations want cheap immigrant labor). He then goes on to attack America itself as a blight on the environment. He wrote:

Of course these migrants and their children have contributed to the problem, but are not the sole cause of it. The American lifestyle affords our citizens an incredible quality of life. However, our lifestyle is destroying the environment of our country. The decimation of the environment is creating a massive burden for future generations. Corporations are heading the destruction of our environment by shamelessly overharvesting resources. This has been a problem for decades. For example, this phenomenon is brilliantly portrayed in the decades old classic “The Lorax”. Water sheds around the country, especially in agricultural areas, are being depleted. Fresh water is being polluted from farming and oil drilling operations.

Consumer culture is creating thousands of tons of unnecessary plastic waste and electronic waste, and recycling to help slow this down is almost non-existent. Urban sprawl creates inefficient cities which unnecessarily destroys millions of acres of land. We even use god knows how many trees worth of paper towels just wipe water off our hands. Everything I have seen and heard in my short life has led me to believe that the average American isn’t willing to change their lifestyle, even if the changes only cause a slight inconvenience. The government is unwilling to tackle these issues beyond empty promises since they are owned by corporations. Corporations that also like immigration because more people means a bigger market for their products. I just want to say that I love the people of this country,



Lefty leanings: In his manifesto — which can be found with a quick Internet search — Patrick Crusius stated his leftist motives for his murder of Hispanics at the El Paso Walmart. The liberal media refused to publish that manifesto in full, selectively quoting it out of context.

but g*d d**n most of y'all are just too stubborn to change your lifestyle. So the next logical step is to decrease the number of people in America using resources. If we can get rid of enough people, then our way of life can become more sustainable.

He follows up by saying that he hopes and believes that his massacre of immigrants will serve as “the right incentive” for “the Hispanic population” to “return to their home countries” and ameliorate the extra burden they place on the environment.

Again, does this sound like a right-winger or a liberal environmentalist? Ironically, in 2018, a left-leaning source, Politifact, quoted Alan Lipmann, professor at George Washington University Medical Center and founder of the Center for the Study of Violence, debunking a claim by a Republican representative that the preponderance of mass shooters are actually left-wing. He said, “There’s absolutely no evidence to show that mass killings are motivated by political ideologies of any type” — of course, with the notable excep-

tions of the last two mass shooters and the Christchurch shooter, who was Crusius’ role model.

Crusius began his manifesto with the words, “I support the Christchurch shooter and his manifesto.” As we will now see, that manifesto was also rife with leftist ideology — especially that of rabid environmentalism.

While the Christchurch shooting was not in the United States and therefore does not directly fit into the claims of the liberal media that it is “right-wingers” who are to be feared as the worst of terrorists, it does fit in *indirectly*, because Crusius — a supposed “right winger” — cited the Christchurch shooter and his manifesto as a motivating factor for his shooting spree. “Right-wingers” don’t cite leftists, stating their support for them and their ideas.

The manifesto 28-year-old Brenton Tarrant posted online before his massacre at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, can also be found online and shows that his ideology — which the media also claimed was “right-wing” — is one of a mixture of communism, socialism, and

what he calls “Eco-fascism. He plainly states in the manifesto, “The nation with the closest political and social values to [his] own is the People’s Republic of China,” and that he chose to kill Muslims because of their high birthrates and high immigration rates, which he saw as a strain on the environment. He wrote that immigration/birth rates and climate change “are the same issue” and stated, “Kill the invaders, kill the overpopulation and by doing so save the environment.” These are the same sentiments expressed in the Crusius manifesto.

So, yes, Crusius modeled himself after Tarrant. Both of them — purported to be “right-wing” extremists — were acting out of leftist ideology in seeking to save the environment by killing outsiders.

It turns out that both of the recent mass killings used as a pretext by leftist media to cast “right-wingers” as the greatest danger to America were actually the work of leftists. In other words, the Left set the stage for those shootings and then blamed them on the Right.

Typical. ■



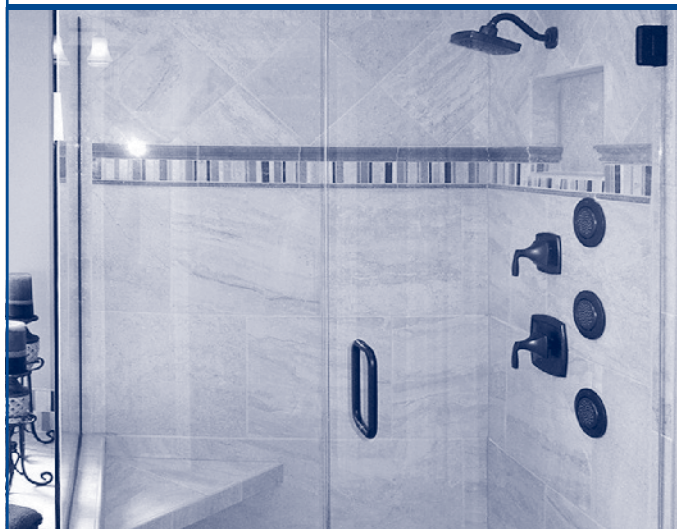
Elegance for your bath

Proudly Made In Kansas, USA

SHOWERS

LAVATORIES

ACCESSORIES



www.onyxcollection.com • 800-669-9867 (phone) 800-393-6699 (fax)

202 Anderson Avenue, Belvue, KS 66407



EQUITY 1 - LOANS

Get Cash Loan • Pay Bills
Buy Home • Bad Credit, OK
Get Cash and Pay No Interest
Ask How

Call or Text:
(661) 330-2222

Equity1Loans@gmail.com
www.equity1-loans.com
Bakersfield, CA 93309



A Superior Degree
of Reliability

Mister Ice of Indianapolis

7954 E. 88th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46256
(317) 849-4466 ext. 101

ICE MAKERS
and
ICE DISPENSERS

DISTRIBUTOR,
HOSHIZAKI
AMERICA, INC.
PEACHTREE CITY, GA

BRANDT AGENCY

In business since 1936!

Residential • Farm
• Ranch

203 11th Ave. S.
Nampa, ID
208-466-7821

BrandtAgency.com



7 Lexington Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06854
(203) 838-6978

MetroMaterialsTesting.com

Pence Walnut Plantation *and Hensler Nursery, Inc.*

Now offering for sale
"Pence Select"
Walnut Seedlings

The 44,000 trees planted in 1989 are from a highly diverse genetic pool. The seedlings available to you will be from nuts gathered from the best 200 trees!

This is an exceptional opportunity to secure superior quality Black Walnut seedlings!

For more information contact:

Hugh B. Pence

1420 Adams St. • Lafayette, IN 47905

Ph: (765) 742-4269

Fax: (765) 742-6667

E-mail: hughbpence@cs.com



One of many 27-year-old
Superb trees

WAS EPSTEIN A MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH?

Here's why the death of the sex trafficker and financier might have been a Deep State hit.

by R. Cort Kirkwood

I just hope that Epstein will sing like a bird before he will suffer a VERY SUDDEN death,” Twitter user MozInOz wrote on the feed of prominent trial lawyer Robert Barnes. “It’s just a matter of weeks. At most. Wait & see.” “He will suddenly depart this immortal coil soon,” Texas Freedom Fighter added. “Watch ... Secrets are meant to be kept secret right?”

Those comments appeared on July 12, 2019, almost a full month before registered sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, the Deep State financier and fellow traveler with global elites, was found

dead in his cell in the Special Housing Unit at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City. He was in custody after federal prosecutors charged him with sex-trafficking dozens of girls as young as 14. It was the second time around on such charges for Epstein, who cut a plea deal in 2008 and waltzed away with work release, during which, a lawsuit alleges, he raped again.

The predictions of Epstein’s demise appeared below Barnes’ tweet about a report from *New York* magazine that speculated that the source of Epstein’s fortune was the blackmail of powerful men who availed themselves of his large harem of sex slaves.

Other reasons powerful people might want to see him dead:

- He might rat on his powerful friends and associates, exposing their nefarious activities, sexual or not, and regardless of blackmail;
- His Deep State connections, including his membership in the Trilateral Commission and Council on Foreign Relations;
- His murky 2008 plea deal with prosecutors regarding previous illicit sexual activities that also exposed his possible connections to intelligence agencies; and
- His relationship with the woman accused of procuring girls for him and molesting them herself, Ghislaine Maxwell, who is daughter of the late British publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell, an Israeli spy.

Supplementing the intrigue is how and when Epstein died and was found. He was on his knees, with a noose made from a bedsheet around his neck and attached to the top of a bunk bed. It was the day after the release of 2,000 pages of court documents related to his case.

The sum of all that circumstantial evidence might be that one or more of the men in his stellar orbit thought it best that he depart the stage before he confessed his carnal crimes and those who participated.

Was Epstein the victim of a Deep State hit?

It’s not likely we’ll ever know.

How He Made His Money?

But that question is worth asking, along with others, such as those about his riches, some \$577 million: \$378.3 million in hedge funds, equities, and business and fixed-income investments — \$56.5 million of that in cash — \$179.4 million in



AP Images

real property and homes, and \$18 million in jets, cars, and boats.

Multiple stories in *New York* going back 17 years tried to pinpoint Epstein's income stream without much luck. Calling him an "international moneyman of mystery," the magazine reported that he managed \$15 billion for "wealthy clients, yet aside from Limited founder Leslie Wexner, his client list is a closely held secret." Reported the magazine in 2002:

"My belief is that Jeff maintains some sort of money-management firm, though you won't get a straight answer from him," says one well-known investor. "He once told me he had 300 people working for him, and I've also heard that he manages Rockefeller money. But one never knows. It's like looking at the Wizard of Oz — there may be less there than meets the eye."

"The Fantastist," published in 2007 after his first indictment on sex charges, raised the question of how much he actually worked. "At times, his powers seemed magical," the magazine observed, "magical" being the operative word:

"I think it's all done with mirrors," says Michael Stroll, a Chicago businessman who sued Epstein (and lost) when an oil deal didn't work out.

Stroll says he could never get a straight line from Epstein. "Everybody who's his friend thinks he's so darn brilliant because he's so darn wealthy. I never saw any brilliance, I never saw him work. Anybody I know that is that wealthy works 26 hours a day. This guy plays 26 hours a day."

The article "Real Hedge-Fund Managers Have Some Thoughts on What Epstein Was Actually Doing," published on July 11 this year, five days after his arrest, recounted the thoughts of hedge-fund manager Douglas Kass, Epstein's neighbor in Palm Beach:



"I'm hearing about the parties, hearing about a guy who's throwing money around," says Kass.... While stories about young girls swarming Epstein's waterfront mansion and the sex parties he hosted for the rich and powerful were the talk of the town, Kass was more focused on how this obscure person, rumored to be managing billions of dollars, had become so wealthy without much of a track record.

Kass was well-connected on Wall Street, where he'd worked for decades, so he began to ask around. "I went to my institutional brokers, to their trading desks and asked if they ever traded with him. I did it a few times until the date when he was arrested," he recalls. "Not one institutional trading desk, primary or secondary, had ever traded with Epstein's firm."

When a reporter came to interview Kass about Bernie Madoff shortly before that firm blew up in the biggest Ponzi scheme ever, Kass told her, "There's another guy who reminds

me of Madoff that no one trades with." That man was Jeffrey Epstein.

"How did he get the money?" Kass kept asking.

As a hedge-fund manager explained to *New York*, "It's hard to make a billion dollars quietly." Epstein, the magazine noted, "never made a peep in the financial world."

Except, that is, for his one big client. That was Wexner, whose L Brands retail empire operates Victoria's Secret and Bed Bath & Beyond. And that "peep" wasn't a good one.

Two days before Epstein supposedly committed suicide, *New York* divulged that he stole at least \$46 million from Wexner. "In a letter to the Wexner Foundation, the 81-year-old Ohio billionaire wrote that Epstein 'misappropriated vast sums of money from me,' stealing more than \$46 million in their decade and a half working together."

Only after prosecutors indicted Epstein for sex crimes in 2007 did Wexner learn

The sum of all that circumstantial evidence might be that one or more of the men in his stellar orbit thought it best that he depart the stage before he confessed his carnal crimes and those who participated.

Not paradise: Police raided Jeffrey Epstein's Little Saint James isle in the U.S. Virgin Islands to get evidence of his sex-trafficking operation.



of the theft. Wexner jettisoned Epstein after the sex revelations and recovered the ill-gotten booty, the same amount Epstein transferred to a Wexner charity, also unbeknownst to Wexner. And that \$46 million wasn't all Epstein stole. Thus, it's unclear just how much money the light-fingered financial impresario lifted and from whom. Wexner never pressed charges.

Was Epstein a Blackmailer?

The \$46 million aside, Wall Streeters speculate that blackmail was another source of his wealth. One clue? His explanation for how he worked sounded a lot like convicted Ponzi schemer Bernie Madoff, the money manager who defrauded 4,800 clients of \$65 billion.

Reported *New York*, Epstein "claimed to do all the investing by himself while his 150 employees all worked in the back office — which Kass says reminds him of Madoff's cover story. Though it now appears that Epstein had many fewer employees than he claimed, according to the *New York Times*." The *Times* cited Thomas Volscho, a sociology professor at the College of Staten Island, who was writing a book about Epstein and learned that he had just 20 employees. Reported *New York*:

Given this puzzling set of data points, the hedge-fund managers we spoke to leaned toward the theory that Epstein was running a blackmail scheme under the cover of a hedge fund.

How such a scheme could hypothetically work has been laid out in detail in a thread on the anonymous Twitter feed of @quantian1.... It is a rough blueprint for how a devious aspiring

hedge-fund manager could blackmail rich people into investing with him without raising too many flags.

Kass and former hedge-fund manager Whitney Tilson both emailed the thread around in investing circles and both quickly discovered that their colleagues found it quite convincing. "This actually sounds very plausible," Tilson wrote in an email forwarding the thread to others.

"He somehow cajoled these guys to invest," says Kass, speaking of hypothetical blackmailed investors who gave Epstein their money to invest, but managed to keep their names private.

The fact that Epstein's fund is offshore in a tax haven — it is based in the U.S. Virgin Islands — and has a secret client list both add credence to the blackmail theory.

Volscho told *New York* that he believed Epstein was also embezzling money, presumably from his own and Wexner's foundation. Just after Epstein's arrest in July, NBC reported Epstein stiffed major charities on promised contributions.

That said, the men who partook of the girls Epstein offered faced not only the prospect of having their sexual kinks exposed, but also long prison sentences.

Many clues point to the possibility of blackmail.

The \$57 million, 21,000-square-foot home on Manhattan where Epstein molested some of his victims, Whitney Webb reported for *Mintpressnews.com*, citing a report in the *New York Times* in 1996, was equipped with surveillance equipment. Jennifer Araoz, who sued Epstein's estate and Ghislaine Maxwell, accused of procuring girls for Epstein, also discussed the plethora of cameras in Epstein's house, which he acquired from Wexner, by the way, for nothing.

More evidence for blackmail is what investigators pulled from Epstein's safe: photographs of nude girls that included not just their names but what appear to have been the names of their abusers, or, given the girls' ages, rapists: "Law enforcement officers found compact discs with hand-written labels including the following 'Young [Name] + [Name].'"

Also alleging blackmail is Virginia Giuffre, who sued Maxwell for defamation



Prince Andrew, Duke of York, is pictured with Virginia Giuffre (center), one of molester Jeffrey Epstein's many victims, and Ghislaine Maxwell, the woman accused of being Epstein's procurer and accomplice.

United States District Court Southern District of New York



Depraved behavior: Jeffrey Epstein, who faced federal sex trafficking charges when he was found dead in his jail cell, pretended he was a “scout” for Victoria’s Secret, convinced a model to “audition,” and molested her.

in 2015. Giuffre claims the 57-year-old hard-partying British socialite molested her and also kept a harem of sex slaves. But Giuffre, as the *Miami Herald* reported, also claimed Epstein collected information with which to control those to whom he pimped the girls:

“Epstein and Maxwell also got girls for Epstein’s friends and acquaintances. Epstein specifically told me that the reason for him doing this was so that they would ‘owe him,’ they would ‘be in his pocket,’ and he would ‘have something on them,’” [Giuffre] said in a court affidavit. “I understood him to mean that when someone was in his pocket, they owed him favors.”

Epstein “debriefed her” on the assignments so he would have “intimate and potentially embarrassing information.”

Among the names that surfaced in the document dump from the Giuffre lawsuit against Maxwell, which settled in 2017, are former Maine Democrat Senator George Mitchell, Epstein’s attorney Alan Dershowitz, and Britain’s Prince Andrew. The latter appears in a photo with his arm around Giuffre. Maxwell is in the background. Andrew also flew on Epstein’s airplane, nicknamed the “Lolita Express,” including on its maiden flight and with Giuffre twice, an affidavit in her case alleges.

All those men deny participating in Epstein’s sexual crimes, as does former President Bill Clinton. He flew on Epstein’s sex jet 26 times but denies having gone to his private isle in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Little St. James, also the scene of even more sex crimes.

Giuffre says that Clinton, who lied about his Oval Office romps with Monica Lewinsky, was there.

Connections to Intelligence

Beyond theft and blackmail as possible motives for a hit, Epstein was, reports averred, connected to one or more state intelligence agencies. In 2008, then-federal prosecutor Alexander Acosta, who became Trump’s labor secretary, cut a plea deal with Epstein on charges similar to those he faced in New York. Acosta believed Epstein was an intelligence asset or agent, the online *Daily Beast* reported:

“Is the Epstein case going to cause a problem [for confirmation hearings]?” Acosta had been asked. Acosta had explained, breezily, apparently, that back in the day he’d had just one meeting on the Epstein case. He’d cut the non-prosecution deal with one of Epstein’s attorneys because he had “been told” to back off, that Epstein was above his pay grade. “I was told Epstein ‘belonged to intelligence’ and to leave it alone,”

he told his interviewers in the Trump transition, who evidently thought that was a sufficient answer and went ahead and hired Acosta.

“D.C. is on edge,” *Vanity Fair* reported after Epstein’s arrest and indictment in July. Others, too, were on edge. David Boies, Giuffre’s attorney in the defamation claim against Maxwell, told the magazine just how worried, for instance, Britain’s Royal Family was about Epstein’s possible revelations.

“Epstein bragged about his contacts in Washington,” Boies said. Reporters are likely to dig into why the Justice Department decided not to prosecute Epstein and kept the deal secret from his victims. One theory circulating among prominent Republicans is that Epstein was a Mossad agent. Another is that the George W. Bush White House directed Acosta not to prosecute Epstein to protect Prince Andrew on behalf of the British government, then the United States’ closest ally in the Iraq war. “The royal family did everything they could to try and discredit the Prince Andrew stuff,” Boies told me. “When we tried to follow up with anything, we were stonewalled. We wanted to interview him, they were unwilling to do anything.”

In other words, Epstein’s connections — he was, again, a former CFR-Trilateral man — included global elites of the Bilderberg genus with the obvious connections.

Another curious find shows just how connected Epstein was. When cops raided Epstein’s home, they found a fake Austrian passport with his photograph but a different name that said he lives in Saudi Arabia.

Epstein’s attorney said “a friend gave it to him in the 1980s after some Jewish-Americans were informally advised to carry identification bearing a non-Jewish name when traveling internationally during a period when hijackings were more common,” the *Associated Press* reported.

Mintpressnews’ Webb believes she knows who the “friend” is: cosmetics heir Ronald Lauder, President Reagan’s ambassador to Austria, who was in a position to provide Epstein with such a passport.

Webb published a three-part series that detailed Epstein's connection to Lauder and others who are part of an outfit called the Mega Group, which the *Wall Street Journal* described as a "loosely organized club of 20 of the nation's wealthiest and most influential Jewish businessmen." Wexner and Charles Bronfman, an heir to the Seagram's whiskey fortune, founded the Mega Group. Its members, Webb reported in great detail, are major political donors in the United States and Israel, and are connected in many ways to organized crime, the Israel lobby, and even Israel's Mossad.

Another possible connection, of course, is Maxwell, the daughter of the man called Israel's "super spy," Robert Maxwell. He was a business partner with Mega Group co-founder Bronfman.

And Epstein was business partners with former Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, as the *Times of Israel* disclosed, who admitted that he visited Epstein's sex plantation. Epstein met Barak through deceased Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, another top Israeli connection. As well, Barak stayed at a building owned by Epstein's brother, Mark. The Epstein-Barak connection also runs through Wexner. His foundation sent millions to Barak between 2004 and 2006, *New York* reported.

The Epstein-Wexner-Israel "philanthropy" nexus, however, returns the story

to Epstein's awful sex crimes. In 1997, Epstein tricked model Alicia Arden into an "audition" and molested her. Epstein's access to her was provided by Wexner's L Brands subsidiary, Victoria's Secret, the lingerie outfit for which she wanted to display her charms. Epstein claimed he was a company "scout."

Artist Maria Farmer, who worked for Epstein and Wexner at Wexner's house in Ohio in 1996, provided a sworn affidavit for the Giuffre lawsuit that accused Epstein and Maxwell of a sex assault at Wexner's mansion. She also claimed Wexner's security squad blocked her from leaving for 12 hours after that assault. Epstein and Maxwell, Farmer alleged, also molested Farmer's 15-year-old sister.

The "Suicide"

And so the day after the 2,000-page document dump from Giuffre's lawsuit, Epstein hanged himself. Or so the New York City medical examiner says. Aside from Epstein's Madoff-like thievery and suspected blackmail, the circumstances of his death make the verdict seem just a little too pat:

- After a suicide attempt in July, the facility had Epstein on suicide watch. It quickly removed him.
- Guards who were supposed to check his cell every 30 minutes left him alone for

hours, and his cellmate was removed just before he died. And, the *Washington Post* reported, at least eight officials at the federal facility, including high-level supervisors, knew he was not to be left alone but ignored the order.

- A jail supervisor called an attorney who represents three of Epstein's victims, Britain's *Sun* reported, to say "don't believe what you are hearing." Confirming what a former inmate wrote to the *New York Post*, the source said Epstein was in "an even more secure unit" inside the Special Housing Unit — a "jail within a jail" — completely covered by surveillance cameras. So suicide would have been impossible unless the cameras weren't working — or turned off.

- The autopsy turned up a broken hyoid bone, which, just above the Adam's apple, anchors the tongue, stabilizes the neck muscles, and moves up during swallowing. Strangulation, not hanging, is usually the cause.

Epstein was, indeed, hanging, TMZ and other reports claimed: He "either hurled himself off the top bunk or had his feet to the ground and leaned forward to cut off his air supply," the website reported. The former would explain the broken hyoid, reports explained.

Maybe, but that doesn't explain why Epstein committed suicide given what the *Post* reported:

- Epstein was in "great spirits" and thought he could beat the latest indictment, which covers sex crimes committed between 2002 and 2005, on a double-jeopardy motion related to the conviction in 2008. "Every day he was very positive and the night before he was real positive," a source told the *Post*. "He was in great spirits the night before," the source said, and anticipated his lawyers' next visit. "He was like, 'I'll see you Sunday,'" the source said.

No wonder Epstein's lawyers are dissatisfied with the coroner's conclusions, and want their own probe and copies of jailhouse surveillance video.

None of this is dispositive. None of it proves a Deep State enforcer whacked Jeffrey Epstein.

But the Twitter prognosticators were right. Thirty-five days after his arrest — alone in his jail cell — the "international moneyman of mystery" was dead. ■



AP Images

One accuser: Virginia Giuffre has accused Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislane Maxwell of turning her into a sex slave loaned out to Epstein's rich and powerful friends.

"YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN"

One flag was designed to remind Americans about U.S. prisoners of war and those missing in action.



af.mil

by John White

Only two flags that represent the United States have ever flown over the White House. One is the Stars and Stripes. The other is the POW/MIA flag. POW/MIA means Prisoners of War/Missing in Action.

The flag calls to mind the sacrifice and plight of Americans who have sacrificed their own freedom to preserve freedom for all of us. It reminds us that, while we enjoy the privileges of freedom, somewhere there are soldiers who have not been accounted for and may be held against their will by the enemies of freedom. America honors them annually with National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the third Friday in September.

We know about those Killed in Action (KIA) or Wounded in Action (WIA) because the evidence of their sacrifice is ever before us in monuments and displays. Sadly, the same cannot be said for those who are missing in action or who may have been taken prisoner by an enemy and never repatriated.

Since World War I more than 200,000 Americans have been listed as Prisoners of War or missing in action. Fewer than half of them were returned at the end of hostilities, leaving more than 125,000 American servicemen missing in action since the beginning of World War I. During the 14 years of American involvement in Southeast Asia, more than 2,500 Americans were captured or listed as Missing in Action. More recent conflicts such as Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom have added to that total.

John White is a former U.S. naval officer. As a veteran in his community of Cheshire, Connecticut, he is commander of VFW Post 10052.

Families of American soldiers who are POW or MIA endure a special kind of heartache. Until the fate of their loved ones can be determined, many emotional, legal, and practical issues can not be addressed. For them, every day is POW/MIA Day.

The POW/MIA flag was created in 1971, during the Vietnam War, by the National League of Families, which was formed by families of POWs and MIAs. They saw the need for a symbol of their POW/MIAs. The result: a flag with stark black-and-white images of a silhouetted man with head bowed, a guard tower and a strand of barbed wire, and the words "You Are Not Forgotten" stretched across the bottom.

The flag designer was Newton F. Heisley of Colorado Springs, Colorado, who died at home on May 14, 2009. He was 88.

Heisley was a World War II pilot. The words "You Are Not Forgotten" were inspired by his memories of piloting transport planes on long flights across the South Pacific during the war. In his 2002 book *Faith Under Fire*, he said that, while flying, he thought about "being taken prisoner and being ... forgotten." As he worked on designing the flag, that wartime experience came back to him. He wrote down the phrase and incorporated it into the design. His son Jeffrey, then 24 and a Marine, was the model for the captured soldier.

The flag quickly caught on with the league and veterans organizations. Its popularity spread. In 1990, Congress recognized the league's POW/MIA flag and designated it as "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation." Today, however, the flag has come to represent all the missing from U.S. military actions.

The POW/MIA flag flies each year on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day. It flies on the grounds or in the public lobbies of major military installations as designated by the secretary of defense. It also flies at all national cemeteries, the national Korean War Veterans Memorial, the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the White House, the United States Postal Service post offices, and at the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense, and veterans affairs, and the director of the Selective Service System.

The design of the POW/MIA flag was never copyrighted. It became a flag that belongs to everyone, a design that hauntingly reminds us of those we must not ever forget. Behind the black-and-white silhouette is a face we can't see — the face of a husband, a father, or a son who has paid with his freedom for our freedom.

In 2005, Heisley told *The American Legion* magazine that he made no money from reproductions of the flag. "I didn't get anything, and I don't want anything," he said. "I'm only thinking of the POWs and MIAs. They're not forgotten."

In 2008, there were 22,000 living former POWs from World War II through

the Gulf Wars. The older ones — most of them from World War II — are leaving us as their generation passes on. MIAs, however, are slowly coming home. In 2007, the remains of 62 service members from all wars were returned home and identified. The military continues to seek return of those 82,000 servicemen still missing worldwide since WW II.

The mission of the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. It records accounted-for and unaccounted-for figures for the conflicts from World War II until today.

DPAA lists 7,648 missing Americans from the Korean War, with some 5,300 believed to be in North Korea. DPAA also lists 111 Cold War losses in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula. The DPAA search-and-recovery teams have not operated in North Korea since 2005 due to team safety and security concerns.

However, many veterans and the loved ones of missing soldiers believe that U.S. government policy prohibits it from being successful in its search: To reduce international tensions, the United States has routinely denied the existence of live U.S.

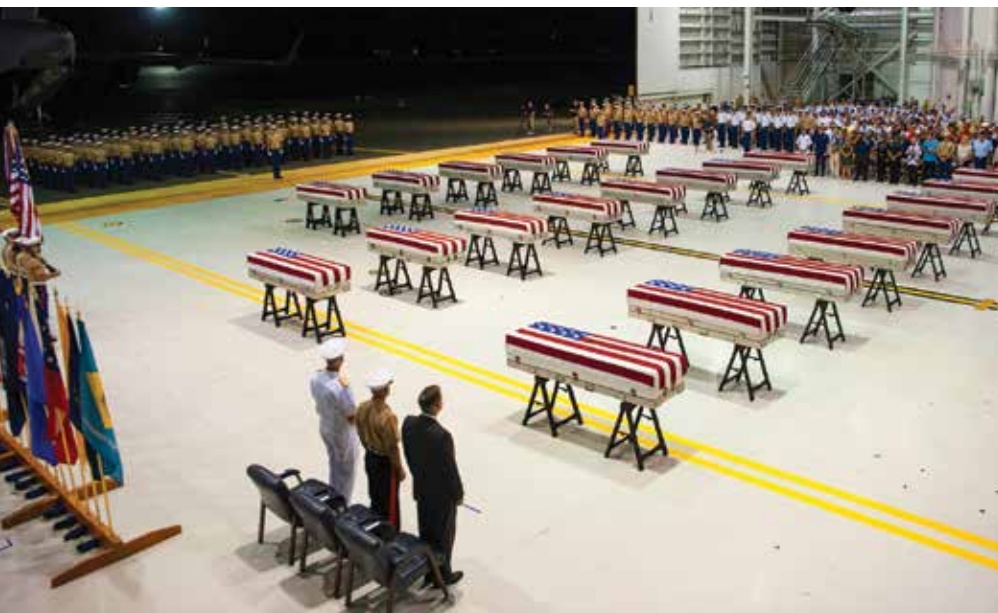
POWs in adversarial countries after a conflict has ended, despite compelling findings from its own research proving otherwise. For instance, the U.S. government has told Russia that it has no evidence that Russia held unrepatriated U.S. POWs, yet knows this to be untrue. A government report entitled *The Transfer of U.S. Korean War POWs to the Soviet Union*, compiled by U.S. Air Force personnel, determined that during the Korean War, U.S. military personnel, namely F-86 pilots who were shot down, were transferred to the Soviet Union (an entity whose pilots were not-so-secretly flying on behalf of the North Koreans) so that the U.S. pilots could be interrogated for intelligence.

The U.S. government lists 31 flyers seen alive by both U.S. forces and Soviets after they were captured, about whom it has extensive eyewitness documentation of their transfer to the Soviet Union, flyers who were not returned at the end of the war.

Likewise, though two defense secretaries — Melvin Laird and James Schlesinger — testified under oath that they concluded that U.S. military personnel were left in Vietnam after the war, basing "their conclusions on strong intelligence data — letters, eyewitness reports, even direct radio contacts," the U.S. government's official position, beginning with President Richard Nixon, is that no U.S. troops were left behind in Vietnam.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the nation's oldest and largest war veterans organization, is among those who do not forget. When it learned that President Trump would be meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore in June 2018, it sent a letter to Trump urging him to include the return of American remains as a discussion point with Kim Jong-un.

In late July 2018, North Korea returned 55 boxes of remains believed to be U.S. service members who have been missing in action since the Korean War. When the boxed MIA remains were returned, VFW National Commander Vincent Lawrence said, "The VFW will continue working toward the fullest possible accounting of missing Americans.... We owe it to their families and we owe it to their battle buddies. This is a top priority to the VFW and we thank President Trump for making this issue his priority, too." ■



Journey home: As "Taps" is played, the possible remains of unidentified WWII service members lost in the Battle of Tarawa are given an "honorable carry." The remains were recovered in 2019 by History Flight, and transferred to a laboratory in Hawaii to begin the identification process.

AP Images



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Two recent mass shootings forced the emergence of several brave heroes who deserve to be honored in this installment of “Goodness of America.” These people serve as reminders that evil can never defeat goodness. They are the purest examples of the “Goodness of America.”

Honoring Heroes in El Paso Shooting

When a gunman opened fire in a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, on August 3, killing 22 people and injuring more than 20 others, at least three heroes emerged who put their own lives at risk to save others.

Glendon Oakley, a 22-year-old automated logistical specialist stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, was shopping at the Cielo Vista Mall when the shots began, ABC News reported. He recalled a young child approaching him to say there was a shooter at the nearby Walmart. Hearing the gunfire, Oakley immediately ran toward the store with one thing in mind: save as many children as he could.

“We run towards Dillard’s, and it’s like a play pen over there. I see a whole bunch of kids like, without their parents running around screaming and crying, so I grab as many as possible,” Oakley told CBS affiliate WMAZ-TV.

Oakley told reporters he did not want to describe what he witnessed when he entered the store because it was “the worst thing” he’s ever seen.

“I don’t I don’t want to talk about what went on there because I just want to forget about it all. I just want to focus on the people that lost their loved ones.... I’m already suffering from this. I don’t want to continue to suffer from it,” he added.

Oakley has been uncomfortable with the praise and attention he has received following the shooting.

“I know what I did was heroic but I’m more focused on the families that were lost and the kids that died and the people that died,” Oakley said, breaking down in tears. “I want to reach out to the families that were lost and the families that lost their children.”

Walmart employee Gilbert Serna re-

called standing at the back of the store when a “code-brown” (active shooter) was announced on his two-way radio, Breitbart News reported. Serna signaled for customers and co-workers to follow him to the back room of the store to safety.

“We were out in the open,” Serna said. “I opened the shipping containers and told everyone to get in.”

Once Serna led them to safety, he went back to look for others in need of help. CNN reported he noticed others standing out in the parking lot, including a group of six members of a girls’ soccer team who had been fundraising in front of Walmart. He led them into another store and told them to wait for police.

“I was scared, I’m not going to lie, but I wasn’t thinking about my own safety,” he recalled. “I was thinking about everybody else’s safety.”

And while Serna was bravely saving strangers at the back of the store, customer Adria Gonzalez, who was shopping for school supplies and groceries with her mother when the shooting began, led approximately 40 shoppers to safety elsewhere.

Gonzalez told CNN she used her pink hat to wave to other customers and get their attention. She then led them to the storage area near the meat counter, where they waited in silence until the gunfire stopped.

Gonzalez told CNN she was still in shock after seeing a grade-school-aged boy shot in the leg near the entrance of the store. The carnage she witnessed is not something she will soon forget.

Countless others acted heroically during the shooting to save their loved ones, some of whom died while shielding others.

Heroes Emerge in Dayton, Ohio

Jeremy Ganger is a bouncer at Ned Pipers in Dayton, Ohio, whose bravery likely saved the lives of dozens of people after a gunman wearing body armor and armed with a semi-automatic rifle opened fire in a popular entertainment district in

the early morning on April 4, less than 24 hours after the El Paso shooting.

Ganger put himself in harm’s way to block the door of the bar to prevent the shooter from entering, video footage shows. Ganger held open the front door to the bar to wave and pull people inside as the shooter got closer. Ganger instructed them to “get down” once inside as he continued to save others, ABC News reported.

“I could see him coming our way and I started getting people as fast as I could,” Ganger said, explaining he had to physically throw people into the bar to get them out of danger as he watched people being shot outside. “[I was] grabbing people, telling them to get in, get down, stay safe. Telling them to get all the way in as far as they could. Don’t watch the door, don’t watch what’s coming.”

Determined to block the shooter from entering the bar by standing guard at the door, he recalls seeing the gunman staring at him as he approached the bar just before police opened fire and ended the shooter’s reign of terror, just 30 seconds after it began.

“Our patrons are more important than one active shooter, so I was going to try to stand my ground the best I could,” he said.

Ganger said he “would’ve died” before he let the gunman into the bar. In fact, Ganger was struck with a piece of shrapnel during the ordeal, putting him among dozens of people who were treated for injuries from the attack. Sadly, nine people died in the incident.

Meanwhile, nurse Kayla Miller was at the scene when gunfire broke out. She began to flee until she noticed a row of people and bodies on the ground and stopped to perform CPR. “I look down the sidewalk and see just a row of bodies. People shot — some alive, some not,” Miller recounted on NBC’s *Today Show*.

According to the *Daily Mail*, witnesses remember seeing Miller covered in blood as she tried to save approximately five victims. Tragically, none of them survived.

As in El Paso, many others acted heroically during the shooting, some of whom died in the process. Let us remember those people as well. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

Annie Oakley

"Little Sure Shot" overcame personal hardship to become famous, and used that fame to boost patriotism and truly empower women.

by Roger D. McGrath

Annie Oakley was the most famous American woman of the late 19th century and a legend in her own time. She entertained U.S. presidents, European royalty, and the general public, and was one of the featured acts of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. She was also a proponent of arming women and teaching them to shoot, and she herself gave instruction to thousands of women.

Born Phoebe Ann Mosey (also recorded as Moses) in 1860 to Quaker parents Jacob and Susan, Annie spent her early years on the family farm in Darke County, Ohio. The dark-haired, blue-gray-eyed girl liked hunting with her father and brother in the woods that surrounded the farm rather than staying home with her sisters. She learned to trap game before she learned to shoot, but quickly became an expert at both.

Young Annie was an absolute natural with a rifle. "I was eight years old when I took my first shot," said Annie, "and I still consider it one of the best shots I ever made. I saw a squirrel run down over the grass in front of the house, through the orchard and stop on a fence to get a hickory nut. It was a wonderful shot, going right through the head from side to side."

Although Annie didn't confirm it, there's another story that her brother was upset that she had used the rifle and he thought he'd teach her a lesson. He put a double load of buckshot in the family shotgun and bet her she couldn't hit his hat if thrown in the air. He reckoned the kick of the shotgun would knock her flat. He tossed his hat and Annie fired. Full of holes, the hat fluttered to the ground while Annie remained upright.

Annie wasn't enthralled by school or studying and wanted to spend her days in the woods, gun in hand. "My mother ... was perfectly horrified when I began shooting and tried to keep me in school," recalled Annie, "but I would run away and go quail shoot-



Daderot

Golden girl: For publicity photos Annie often posed with some of the 27 medals — most made of gold — she received from gun clubs in America and overseas. In 1920, she had the medals melted down and donated the money from the sale of the gold to a tuberculosis sanitarium.

ing in the woods or trim my dress with wreaths of wild flowers.”

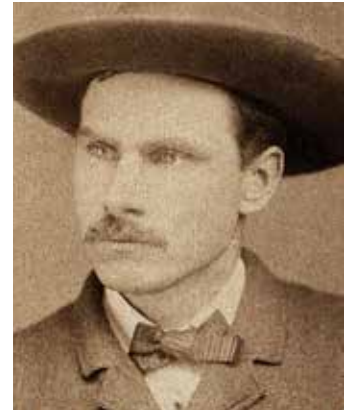
Caught driving a wagon and miles from home when a blizzard suddenly swept down on Darke County, Jacob Mosey arrived home near death from hypothermia. His speech was gone, his hands were frozen, and he couldn't climb down from the wagon under his own power. Pneumonia set in and he was soon dead. This meant an end to childhood for Annie. The family moved to a rented farm and struggled to survive. Annie's oldest sister, Mary Jane, died from tuberculosis, and the mother sold the family milk cow to cover doctor and funeral expenses. Annie's mother went to work nursing maternity cases and sent the youngest child, Hilda, to live with another family.

It wasn't long afterward the mother sent Annie to live at the county poor house, a three-story brick building known as the Infirmary. Annie was still adjusting to life there when a farmer asked the Infirmary for a girl to work in his home, helping his wife and her new baby. Annie essentially became an indentured servant. “I got up at 4 o'clock in the morning,” said Annie, “got breakfast, milked the cows, washed dishes, skimmed the milk, fed the calves and pigs, pumped the water for the cattle, fed the chickens, rocked the baby to sleep, weeded the garden, picked wild blackberries and got dinner. Mother wrote for me to come home. But they would not let me go. I was held a prisoner.”

When Annie fell short of the farmer's expectations, he beat her with a belt. The wife wasn't any more lenient. One night Annie fell asleep while darning, and the wife forced her outside the house and into the snow. At 11 years old, Annie ran away from the couple she would later identify only as “The Wolves.”



Teaching tricks: Frank Butler (below) taught Annie all of the trick shots he had perfected, including standing with her back to the target and sighting into a mirror. In this position she not only hit various stationary targets but also objects on the fly.



Katzenberger brothers to supply their Greenville grocery store with game. Into the north county woods went Annie, trapping and hunting daily. By now she was also taking advantage of the latest generation of rifles and shotguns, which made her father's old muzzle-loading firearms that she had first used seem primitive. Annie was wildly successful, and the Katzenberger brothers were able to ship fresh game meats to hotels and restaurants in Cincinnati, 80 miles to the south. With her profits Annie not only saved money but also paid off the mortgage on her mother's new house.

At the same time Annie was trapping and hunting, she was also entering local shooting contests. She won so regularly, taking home prize money and goods, that she was finally banned from entering some of the contests. It must have been galling to the other shooters because not only was she a teenage girl but she stood but five feet tall and weighed only 100 pounds.

Her shooting prowess was coming to the fore at exactly the right moment in

Annie returned to the Infirmary voluntarily, but only because Nancy Ann Edington, the wife of the new superintendent, was a friend of Annie's mother. Nancy Ann treated Annie as another daughter, and Annie began attending school with the Edington children. Superintendent Samuel Edington also paid Annie for work at the Infirmary, first as a seamstress and then as the manager of the dairy. Most of the money she earned she saved.

At 15, Annie was finally back living with her mother, who had remarried and was living near Greenville, a growing town at the intersection of rail lines and overland roads. Annie concluded a deal with the

When Annie fell short of the farmer's expectations, he beat her with a belt. The wife wasn't any more lenient. One night Annie fell asleep while darning, and the wife forced her outside the house and into the snow.

America — in the 1870s shooting contests and exhibitions were all the rage. Fancy shooters such as Adam Bogardus, Doc Carver, John Ruth and his wife, Charley Austin, Ira Paine, Frank Howe and Tillie Russell, and Frank Butler awed crowds throughout the United States.

A Welcome Hitch in Her Path

The last named, Frank Butler, was born in Ireland early in 1847 and worked his way to “Amerikay” as a deckhand when only a 13-year-old boy. In New York City he mucked stables, blew glass in a factory, and went to sea as a fisherman. Along the way he got married and had two children, which got him thinking of ways to make more money. With his good looks, gift of gab, and sense of humor, people suggested the stage. He developed a dog act and was doing well until, as he tells it, he played at a theater in Philadelphia. The theater was next door to a fire station and when an alarm sounded, one of his dogs, a retired fire dog, ran for the station, followed by the other dogs in the act.

After that incident he began developing a trick-shooting act. He was a natural and quickly became a deadeye. Assisted by a partner, he appeared not only on stage in theaters but also at outdoor venues. He was on the road throughout the year, which may have been the cause of his divorce. In 1881, he found himself in Cincinnati, Ohio, and checked into the Bevis House hotel. The proprietor of the hotel, J. B. “Jack” Frost, was one of those who bought fresh game meat from the Katzenberger brothers, and he knew all about Annie. Frost asked Butler just how good a shot was he really. “I told him I could beat anything then living save Carver and Bogardus,” replied Butler. “He said he had an unknown who would shoot me at Greenville ten days from that time for \$100 a side. It seemed a

shame for me to take the money from those country people. I thought there were some country people who thought someone could shoot a little and were ready to lose money, and as I needed it, I went out.”

Butler arrived in Greenville by train. He then traveled 18 miles by coach to the shooting site close to the unknown’s home. Butler reasoned the time and travel was worth it because he’d soon be richer by \$100 — the equivalent of several thousand dollars today. He said he “almost dropped dead when a little slim girl in short dresses stepped out to the mark with me. I was a beaten man the moment she appeared for I was taken off guard.”

The little slim girl was Annie Mosey. If Frank Butler was a beaten man before the shooting match commenced, he didn’t show it. Annie would have a pigeon released from a trap and blow the bird out

of the sky. Butler would then do the same. Annie didn’t miss and neither did Butler. Finally, the 25th and last pigeon was released for Annie. She hit it squarely. Butler’s 25th was released and he fired. The pigeon was hit but so late in its flight that it fell beyond a boundary line for the contest. Butler’s shot was counted as a miss.

Butler may have lost but so taken was he with the pretty 20-year-old sharpshooter that he gave her and her mother tickets to his show in Cincinnati. They attended and enjoyed the show immensely, but before the spark of romance could be fanned into a flame, Butler was off to tour with the Sells Brothers Circus. While on the road, he began a letter-writing campaign to win Annie’s heart. A little more than a year after their fateful shooting match, they were married in June 1882 while the Sells circus was in Windsor, Ontario.

Mrs. Frank Butler didn’t immediately begin performing with her husband. His shooting partner at that time was John Graham. The circus advertised them as the “Graham & Butler rifle team and champion all around shots.” They had better have been champions because among other feats of marksmanship they shot apples off each other’s head.

On a night late in 1882 when Graham was too ill to shoot, Butler had Annie substitute. Annie held various objects and Frank shot them. Annie did no shooting herself. It was part of Frank’s act to miss a time or two to build up suspense. One night while Annie was still substituting for Graham and Frank was missing shots, a well-oiled spectator yelled, “Let the girl shoot.” Frank thought the drunk might actually be on to something



Library of Congress

Real showmen: Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill Cody pose for a publicity photo in 1885, the year the Sioux chief toured with Cody’s Wild West show.

and told Annie to give it a try. She hadn't practiced the particular trick shot and she missed the first time. On her second try she hit the target and the "crowd went into an uproar," said Frank, "and when I attempted to resume my act I was howled down."

Annie adopted the stage name Oakley and suddenly it was the rifle team of Butler & Oakley. Audiences were enthralled by the sight of a pretty and petite female shooter who could perform trick shots with ease and style. Moreover, she looked sweet and innocent and no more than 16 years old. Frank had been in show business long enough to understand she was the main draw, or as he put it, "She out-classed me." He taught her all the trick shots he knew and turned to playing a supporting role only.

Little Sure Shot

In March 1884, Annie and Frank arrived in St. Paul, Minnesota, for a series of performances with the traveling road show, the Arlington and Fields Combination. Coincidentally, Sitting Bull was there to tour the big city with Major James McLaughlin, the Indian agent from the Standing Rock Reservation. Sitting Bull visited various schools and businesses and seemed to enjoy the tour, especially the cigars he sampled at a cigar plant, but was dumbfounded by a telephone, calling it "Waukon" — the Devil.

Then one evening, Sitting Bull was taken to the Olympic Theater to see the Arlington and Fields Combination, advertised as "the greatest aggregation of talent" ever to appear in St. Paul. Sitting Bull watched singers, acrobats, minstrels, comedians — and Annie Oakley. Annie's trick shots astounded him. He had never seen anything like it. "He was about as much taken by my shooting stunts as anyone ever has been," declared Annie. "He raved about me, and would not be comforted. His messengers kept coming down to my hotel to enquire if I would come and see him. I had other things to do and could not spare the time." He finally sent her



\$65 — at least a couple thousand dollars today — asking for a photograph.

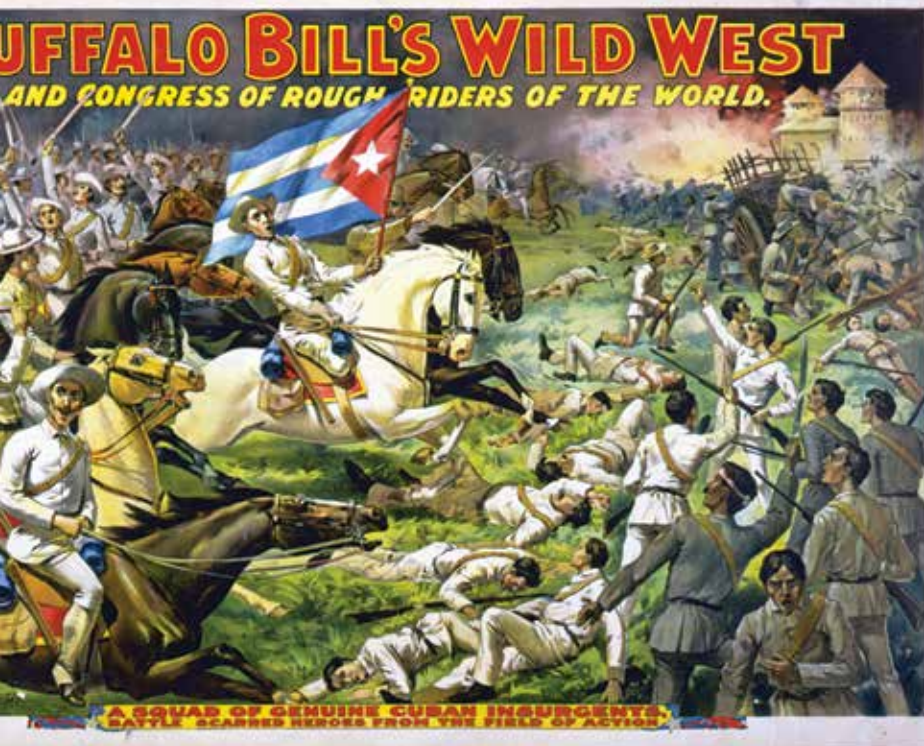
"That amused me," said Annie, "so I sent him back his money and a photograph, with my love, and a message to say I would call the following morning. I did so, and the old man was so pleased with me, he insisted upon adopting me, and I was then and there christened 'Watanya Cicilla,' or 'Little Sure Shot.'"

Annie had fun with it all, noting that as the daughter of a Sioux chief she was now entitled to five ponies, a wigwam, and livestock. She and Frank also understood Sitting Bull's actions were of great pro-

motional value. Frank immediately began writing advertising copy and designing posters with Sitting Bull included. Nonetheless, the Butler and Oakley shooting team rejoined the Sells Brothers Circus when it went back on the road in April and stayed with it until it closed for the winter after a two-week engagement in early December in New Orleans.

Also in New Orleans in December was Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West show. The Butlers met with the former Army scout turned showman and discussed working in his show. Cody told them he had several star shooters at the moment, including the legendary Adam Bogardus and his sons. Early in March 1885, though, Bogardus quit Buffalo Bill's show, and Cody and the Butlers began discussing terms. Cody was worried that the petite Annie couldn't handle the heavy shotguns

She held a rifle upside down over her head and destroyed glass balls or clay pigeons in flight.



Sales pitch: One of the most popular of Buffalo Bill's performers, Annie Oakley was featured on promotional handbills, along with other highlights such as reenactments of battles. Buffalo Bill was quick to capitalize on the insurrection in Cuba as depicted in this handbill from 1898.

ruined more glass balls within a given time than I would like to pay for in a week. She slammed a rifle through the air in almost any old direction, and when she snapped the trigger there was a broken ball falling ground ward.... As fast as the target flew upward, so fast did Miss Oakley bring about their [*sic*] destruction. She shot from almost every conceivable position."

Although most of her trick shots with stationary targets didn't translate well to the outdoor arena, Annie still shot at targets while standing backwards with a rifle resting on her shoulder and sighting through a mirror.

One of her stunts, which makes me wonder what kind of athlete she'd be today, demonstrated extraordinary quickness, coordination, and spring. Frank placed a shotgun on the ground about ten feet from the gun table in the center of the arena. Annie stood about an equal distance on the other side of the table. When Frank sprung a trap and a clay pigeon flew into the air, Annie sprinted forward, hurdled the table, sprinted to the gun, grabbed it, aimed, and fired. Invariably, she shattered the disc before it hit the ground.

If all this weren't enough, Annie had a grand finale. It was announced she'd shoot 11 glass balls in 10 seconds using six different guns. She stood at the ready holding a rifle upside down. Five loaded shotguns were on the table. When Frank threw the first ball into the air, Annie blew it to pieces with the rifle. As quick as he could Frank next threw two balls into the air. As quick as she could Annie grabbed the first shotgun and fired, shattering both glass balls. In lickity-split fashion she repeated the feat four more times. A newspaper called the feat "her cleverest number" and noted it was done "in the wonderful short time of 10 seconds."

With spectators applauding, stomping, and cheering, Annie blew them a kiss and ran across the arena, kicking up her heels before disappearing through a canvas curtain.

needed for firing at glass balls and clay pigeons flung into the air.

Cody's doubts lighted Annie on fire. On an April morning at a gun club in Cincinnati, she set out to break 5,000 glass balls thrown into the air in one day of shooting. Bogardus had broken 4,844. Annie began firing and the glass balls began shattering. When time was called, she had broken 4,772 balls, falling only 72 short of Bogardus' mark and proving she had the strength and stamina to wield heavy shotguns.

When the Butlers arrived in Louisville, Kentucky, where Cody was preparing his show for the year's tour, Annie immediately began practicing shooting clay pigeons. She noticed a well-dressed man watching her but didn't think much of it. She fired right-handed and left-handed and from different positions and angles and shattered one clay disc after another. When she finished, the well-dressed man came running up to her exclaiming, "Fine! Wonderful!" and asked her if she had photographs of herself with a gun in hand. The man was Nate Salsbury, Cody's business manager. He knew a woman who could shoot like what he had just witnessed would be a smash success. He didn't bother waiting

to consult with Cody but signed a contract with the Butlers on the spot.

While most of those in Cody's Wild West show performed as part of an ensemble cast, Annie's act was hers alone. Dressed in a blouse, skirt, and leggings, Annie would gracefully glide down a gangway into the arena, all the while waving and blowing kisses. Waiting for her in the center of the arena was Frank and next to him a table with revolvers, rifles, and shotguns. He loaded the traps with either glass balls or clay pigeons. At first only a single target was flung into the air, then two, and then three or four. No matter. Annie unerringly hit them.

Annie didn't give the awe-struck spectators a chance to move back off the edge of their seats. She repeated the process firing left-handed instead of right. She then took a revolver in each hand and shattered glass balls that were hurled skyward — two, three, then four at a time. She held a rifle upside down over her head and destroyed glass balls or clay pigeons in flight. She shot lying on her back. Frank whirled a rope with glass balls on its end over his head and Annie blew the balls to pieces. A writer for the *New York Evening News* declared, "Miss Annie Oakley



Hollywood depiction: Annie Oakley was a character in several major movies, including the 1950 hit musical *Annie Get Your Gun*, starring Betty Hutton as Annie Oakley, Howard Keel as Frank Butler, Louis Calhern as Buffalo Bill, and J. Carrol Naish as Chief Sitting Bull.

When the Wild West show arrived in New York City in late June, a new arena had recently opened on Staten Island. It could seat nearly 25,000 in comfort. On weekends it was packed to overflowing and on weekdays two-thirds full. The retired grand showman P.T. Barnum himself came down from Connecticut to see what all the fuss was about. He left saying it was the show of the future.

Annie almost didn't survive the first week. Despite running a high fever — evidently an allergic reaction to a bug bite — she rode in the parade through New York City before the first show. By the conclusion of the parade, she was so weak she could barely stay upright in the saddle. Frank had to lift her out of the saddle and lower her to the ground. For the next four days she remained in bed in her tent dangerously ill. After missing four shows she could stand it no longer and struggled out of bed and performed.

Part of her motivation may have come from a new addition to Cody's troupe, Lillian Smith, a 15-year-old girl from California. Lillian was California's answer to Ohio's Annie Oakley. Cody signed her thinking of the spectacular success of Annie. Why not another girl shootist? Annie responded with her typical competitiveness. She not only introduced new trick shots but she also became six years younger. Annie was 25 and would turn 26 in August, but now said she had been born in 1866, making her only 19. Lillian was a mere teenage girl. Well, now Annie was a mere teenage girl. Annie got away with the deception for the rest of her life. It wasn't difficult. She always looked far younger than her years — she was petite and slim and was careful to protect her face from the sun. Moreover, she didn't drink or smoke and remained Mrs. Frank Butler until she died.

Although Lillian proved to be a crack shot with a rifle, she was not nearly as proficient as Annie with shotguns or revolvers. Moreover, Lillian tended to brag about her accomplishments, flirt shamelessly,

Newspaper reporters wrote glowing reviews of Annie's performances whenever Buffalo Bill's Wild West show was in town. Even her run across the arena was praised and described as "like a deer" or "like an antelope." From the very beginning, it was clear Annie not only wowed spectators with her extraordinary marksmanship but also with her charm, humor, and style. She inserted skits into her shooting exhibition that had her repeatedly missing glass balls thrown into the air by Frank, becoming exasperated, and stomping about. She then dashed for Frank, pulled the hat off his head, threw it in the air, and shot it full of holes. The crowd roared. When Frank again began throwing glass balls into the air, Annie didn't miss a one. Actress, opera singer, and drama critic Amy Leslie said Annie was "an actress of no mean pretensions" and her comedic skits were "half the performance."

After only one season of touring with Cody's show, Annie was becoming famous. Contributing to that fame in her initial season was Sitting Bull, who joined the tour in June in Buffalo, New York. It was only a little more than a year earlier he had given her the name Little Sure Shot. Sitting Bull had been recruited by

the show's promoter, John Burke. The chief didn't come cheap — a \$125 signing bonus and \$50 a week, about five times what the average American working man earned. But then, Sitting Bull had two wives and 11 children to support back home on the Standing Rock Reservation.

When Annie and Sitting Bull were reunited, she asked him if he had received a red silk handkerchief and coins she had sent him. Through an interpreter he replied, "I got them but left them at home for safety. I am very glad to see you. I have not forgotten you feel pleased that you want to remember me."

The 1885 season was hugely successful for Cody's Wild West show and the profits allowed old debt to be retired. Cody was wildly optimistic when the tour began for the 1886 season, although it would be without Sitting Bull. The chief said he had enjoyed himself, especially meeting the Big Chief — President Cleveland — in the Big Teepee in Washington, D.C., but missed his family and was tired of traveling. It couldn't have been the work — all he had been required to do was ride in the parade upon the show's arrival in each new town and in the opening processional for each show.

AnnieGetYourGun

and dress flashily. Annie had no need to worry Lillian would have greater appeal as a sweet, innocent, and demure girl wielding guns in a man's world. Lillian never enjoyed the popularity of Annie and left the show after three seasons.

The World in Wonder

In 1887, Cody took his Wild West show to England. The timing was propitious — this was Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of her coronation. The show was a smash success, Annie especially so. In the stands on opening day was a who's who of London society, including Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde, Lady Randolph Churchill, the playwright and composing team of William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, actors Henry Irving and Charles Wyndham, and Cardinal Henry Manning, the Archbishop of Westminster.

The royals also attended one of the performances. Edward, the Prince of Wales, who would become King Edward VII in 1901, was an avid shooter and hunter. He sat in the royal box with his wife, Alexandra, and their three daughters. Joining them were a dozen other English royal figures and several royals from continental Europe as well.

Edward was so taken by Annie's performance that he invited her to the royal box to congratulate her. When he extended his hand, Annie ignored it and turned to Alexandra and grasped her hand. "You'll

have to excuse me, please," said Annie to Edward, "because I am an American and in America, ladies come first."

Thousands noticed the breach of English etiquette, but no one seemed upset. As the London *Daily Chronicle* said the next day, Annie's breach was merely a consequence of her "charming naivete." Nonetheless, Annie had intentionally snubbed Edward, who had a reputation for affairs outside of marriage, including one with actress Lillie Langtry. "All I had heard of women trying to flirt with the prince while the gentle princess held her peace raced through my mind as I approached the royal box," said Annie.

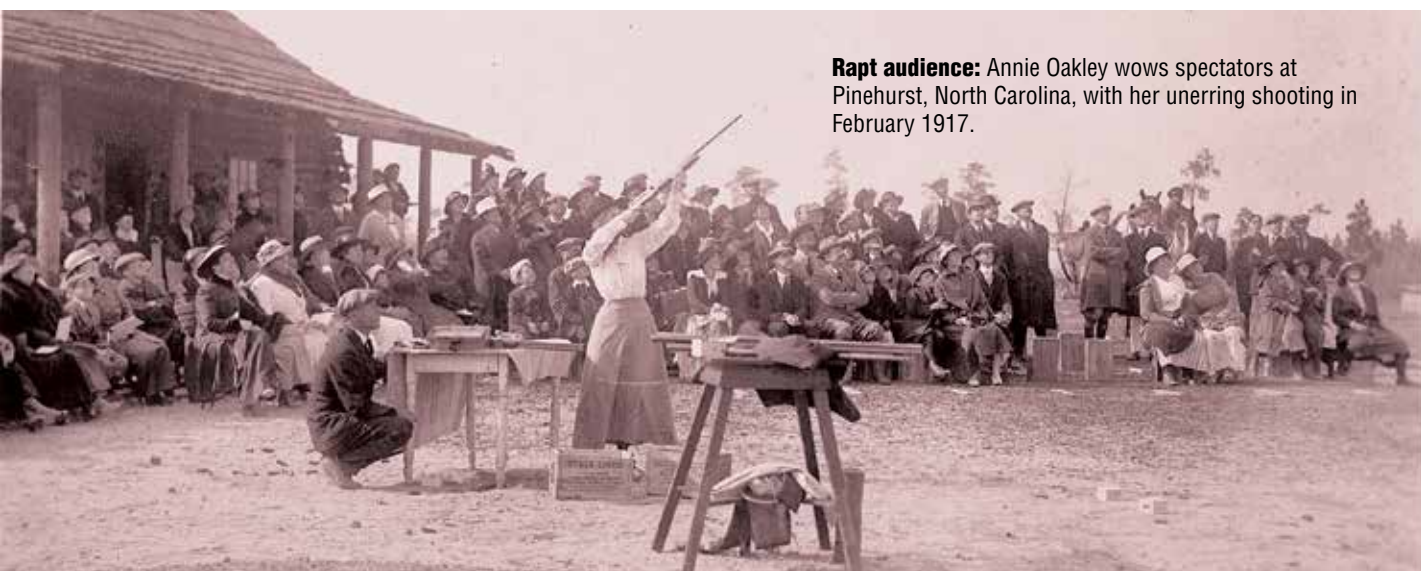
Queen Victoria, herself, attended another performance. It was one of the few times she had ventured out of Buckingham Palace since the death of her husband, Prince Albert, in 1861. Annie's meeting with the queen went smoothly, unlike her earlier introduction to the Prince of Wales. The queen looked down from the royal box and told Annie, "You are a very clever little girl." Annie later said, "I was not so very little, and I was a married woman, but I suppose the costume gave the impression that I was shooting from the high school."

As the days went by, it quickly became evident Annie had won the hearts of the English. "Miss Oakley is a great favorite here," said an American vacationing in England. "She is invited out nearly every day to some reception or other." Newspapers said such things as, "the loudest

applause of the night is reserved for Miss Annie Oakley," she "is winning gold and fame in England," she's "a young lady possessed of a decidedly pretty and winsome face, of sweet and gentle manners, and a soft, girlish voice," and she's "a Western girl with quiet, expressive eyes, and a voice as soft and silvery as the rustling of a summer's breeze among the trees."

Flowers, gifts, and invitations poured in to Annie daily. On her birthday in August, she received nearly 70 presents, including a horse, a carriage, and a St. Bernard puppy. During the show's run in London, she also received four marriage proposals — it seemed no one knew she was Mrs. Frank Butler. One of the proposals came from a purported French count. He became so persistent and insistent that Annie finally took a photo he had sent of himself and shot a hole through the head in the photo. She then wrote "Respectfully declined" on the photo and mailed it back. Through all the adulation and rave reviews, Annie didn't get an inflated opinion of herself. Reporters always found her courteous and sweet, and willing to patiently answer their questions.

Annie was invited to London's two elite gun clubs, the London Gun Club at Notting Hill and the Hurlington Club on the banks of the Thames. Before she shot at the clubs, though, she visited gunmaker Charles Lancaster at his own shooting range. She had a dismal first outing because her shotgun



Rapt audience: Annie Oakley wows spectators at Pinehurst, North Carolina, with her unerring shooting in February 1917.

and loads were all wrong for the English pigeons — Blue Rock — which were smaller than their American counterparts and much swifter in flight. Hitting two-thirds of the birds was considered outstanding. Annie managed to hit only five of 20. She was embarrassed.

With Lancaster's help, she got all corrected and appeared at the London Gun Club for an invitation-only event. She put on her regular show and then tackled the Blue Rocks. This time she hit 18 of 25, which put her among the best shooters of the club. The club presented her with a gold medal, the first awarded by the elite organization. Thereafter, Annie wore it proudly in her publicity photos.

In England, shooting was a man's sport, but Annie's performances and her lady-like demeanor inspired women to give it a try. A group of five upper-crust ladies thought they'd start at the top and came straight to Annie, asking for instruction. They said she could name her price. Since Annie thought women should be proficient in the use of firearms and since she was never averse to extra income, she gave them a lesson. Although she could have charged them much more, her price was five pounds — some \$700 in today's money.

Annie toured with Cody's Wild West show until tragedy struck en route to the last show of the 1901 season, when the train carrying all the performers and animals collided head-on with a freight train. Riding in cars near the front of the train, the show's animals suffered the severest injuries. Annie injured her back and hip but, always the trouper, participated in a shooting match two months later.

The accident and 17 seasons of living on the road were enough for Annie, and she retired from Cody's show. By then had she performed with the

show not only throughout the United States, but also throughout Europe. On many occasions she had entertained royalty. One time she shot the ashes off a cigarette held between the fingers of Crown Prince (later Kaiser) Wilhelm of Germany. He had actually volunteered to clench the cigarette between his teeth as did Frank Butler, but Annie evidently feared the prince might move. The overseas tours had made her a household name not only in the United States but also in Europe.

Unscrupulous women used her name to get appearance money at different events. There was a burlesque dancer in Chicago who went by Any Oakley. When she was arrested for theft, evidently to support her cocaine habit, newspapers ran stories about the terrible demise of the once renowned Annie Oakley. The papers knew better, but it was the period of yellow journalism and anything to boost sales. Annie had attorneys sue 55 newspapers for libel, and she prevailed in 54 of the cases. Attor-

neys' fees and court costs consumed most of the awards. It was fortunate that Frank, upon leaving the show with Annie, had accepted the offer of a well-paid job with the Union Metallic Cartridge Company.

Patriot and Female Partisan

Retiring from Cody's Wild West show didn't mean Annie retired altogether. She continued participating in shooting matches and giving exhibitions, many of the latter for charities. She and Frank also began spending more time at Pinehurst, North Carolina, a resort town designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. They stayed for months on end at the elegant Carolina Hotel, which opened in 1901 and was the largest frame hotel in North Carolina. During the years the Butlers stayed there, the hotel hosted such guests as John D. Rockefeller, Theodore Roosevelt, John Philip Sousa, Alexander Graham Bell, Warren G. Harding, and Will Rogers. The wealthy from the northeast were particularly enamored with the Carolina Hotel, coming down for some or all of "the season," which ran from November to April.

Although Annie had advocated for years that women become proficient with firearms and occasionally gave them lessons, at Pinehurst she made firearm instruction a business — but charged no fee. Her remuneration would be the increased number of women who could protect themselves and their children. "I would like to see every woman," declared Annie, "know how to handle guns as naturally as they know how to handle babies."

Annie began with one student, but within days the number had grown to dozens, causing Annie to devote two hours every morning to instruction. When the season ended at Pinehurst, 700 women had gone through Annie's course. One of them from the wealthy Back Bay section of Boston had started the course, said Annie, "as frightened at the sight of a rifle as a rabbit is of a ferret." The woman thrived



Library of Congress

Little sweetie: Annie Oakley looking every inch the sweet, little old lady in 1922 — but she could shoot your earlobes off at 100 paces.

under Annie's training, and her husband bought her a revolver. One day back in Boston, she came home to find a burglar "with the silverware packed and ready to depart. She didn't become flustered, but got her revolver out, covered the man, and phoned the police." Annie proudly added that the woman credited her training at Pinehurst for her actions.

Within a few years the number of women Annie had trained was well up in the thousands, and would ultimately reach 15,000. Annie encouraged women to keep a revolver in a handy location when at home and to pack a pistol whenever out alone. "If I were accosted," said Annie, "I could easily fire. A woman cannot always rely on getting help just by calling for it.... It is a common remark that woman's only weapon is her tongue, but though this might have been true half a century ago it is not as true now."

When Congress declared war on Germany in April 1917, Annie wired Secretary of War Newton Baker, "I can guarantee a regiment of women for home protection every one of whom can and will shoot if neces-

sary." Although Annie probably could have delivered on her promise, nothing came of her offer. It was the second time Annie had been turned down for military service. When it became obvious during the early spring of 1898 that war with Spain was imminent, Annie wrote an old acquaintance from Ohio, William McKinley, now President, volunteering her services.

If Annie didn't command a home guard of women during the Great War, she and Frank did visit U.S. Army camps as volunteers with the National War Work Council of the YMCA. They visited upwards of a dozen camps and gave the famous Annie Oakley shooting exhibitions. The troops were thrilled and so, too, was Annie. She had great days with Buffalo Bill and his show, said Annie, "But those days can't compare with the experiences I so recently have had when I was entertaining the boys who will fight for us 'over there.'"

By the early 1920s, even though Annie was in her 60s, there was talk of her going into the movies. She had a stage presence, was a natural thespian, and was still popular. That idea came to a crashing end in

1922 in Florida when a chauffeur-driven car she was riding in flipped over trying to pass another car. Annie broke a hip and an ankle. She spent six weeks in a Daytona hospital recovering and spent many more weeks with a brace on her leg and using crutches to walk. She eventually walked fairly well but not without the brace, which would be with her for the rest of her life.

Annie recovered enough to still give exhibitions that wowed spectators and shooting lessons to women, but by the spring of 1926 her health was failing. Will Rogers visited her in Ohio, where she and Frank were living, and wrote a column about her that generated thousands of letters of sympathy. Much of the time, Annie was now bed-ridden. A decade older than Annie, Frank's health wasn't much better. Annie continued to weaken through the summer and into the fall. She died on November 3, 1926. Eighteen days later Frank joined her in eternal rest. The death certificate for Annie listed her occupation as "Expert marksman." It could have also said "American heroine." ■

THE HONEST COMPANY

Fast Service:
Usually Within
60 Minutes!

FREE ESTIMATES

PLUMBING REPAIRS

- Water Heaters
- Re-pipes
- Faucets
- Gas Lines
- Toilets
- Replace Water Lines
- Garbage Disposals

SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING

- Kitchen Sink Drains
- Sink Drains
- Laundry Drains
- Roof Vents
- Tub/Shower Drains
- Roof Drains
- Main Sewer Drains

 **Allstate Plumbing Inc.**

Serving the greater San Francisco Bay Area since 1993.

Call Today! ☎ (800) 280-6594



Fully Insured
License # 694771

Morinville Farms

808 Hill River Road • Brooks, MN 56715

Growers of
spring wheat
and soybeans



**Serving our area
since 1969**

151 S. Main St.,
Myrtle Creek, OR 97457



EXERCISING THE RIGHT

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

Warren Targets Guns With Taxes

Democratic presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren is seeking to out-flank her primary opposition by moving further left on the Second Amendment. In an August 10 post on Medium, Warren called for higher taxes on U.S. gun manufacturers and wrote that "since 1919, the federal government has imposed an excise tax on manufacturers and importers of guns and ammunition. Handguns are taxed at 10% and other guns and ammunition are taxed at 11%. These taxes raise less in revenue than the federal excise tax on cigarettes, domestic wine, or even airline tickets. It's time for Congress to raise those rates — to 30% on guns and 50% on ammunition — both to reduce new gun and ammunition sales overall and to bring in new federal revenue that we can use for gun violence prevention and enforcement of existing gun laws."

Writing in response at Town Hall on August 12, Katie Pavlich warned that "[Warren's] latest idea is to tax Americans out of gun ownership, which discriminates against poor individuals who can't afford it. These are the very people Warren claims to be fighting for.... Further, Warren's plans would actually increase crime.... A tax of any level would do little to dissuade attackers involved in recent tragedies — they would have committed their heinous crimes whether or not they had to pay extra money to buy the ammunition. Much like traditional restrictions on firearms, taxes only affect law-abiding citizens. Those who wish to carry out illegal acts will have no problem buying tax-free guns and ammunition from a black market dealer."

Philly Shootout Exposes Faults With Gun Control

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) Founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb brought attention to the violent shootout in Philadelphia on August 14 in which six officers were injured. "The suspect in Philadelphia has done time for drug and gun law violations, and other crimes.... He's a walking example of gun control fail-

ure and considering his background, we're wondering why he was even on the streets. His presence in the community underscores the argument for judicial reform, and his ability to obtain firearms shows once again that gun control laws do not prevent determined criminals from getting their hands on guns," Gottlieb explained. Investigators are still working on the crime scene, but they believe the suspect had an AR-15 and several handguns. "Law-abiding citizens use semi-auto rifles for all kinds of purposes, including self-defense.... However, instead of admitting that their gun control laws have failed, politicians try to exploit cases like Philadelphia to demand more gun laws that also won't work because criminals don't obey the law.... You do not prevent criminals from having guns by disarming their intended victims.... But that's the nature of gun control. It penalizes the good guys and doesn't stop the bad guys."

Anti-gun Lobby Money

Mark Walters, writing at LifeZette on August 6, discussed how another major push for gun control is under way in light of the recent mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. Walters explained that in "the last election cycle alone, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, one of the most militant pro-gun control voices in America, spent an astounding \$112 million to defeat pro-gun rights Republicans and replace them with pro-gun control Democrats." Such spending dwarfs anything done by the NRA, which is usually made out to be some all-powerful lobby by the media. "The anti-gunners are the ones loaded with cash — and they are spending it at will to deny ordinary Americans their constitutional rights."

Likewise, there is a network of nonprofits that are determined to push for a gun-grabbing scheme. One of the most prominent among them is The Arnold Foundation, which was founded by a former trader at Enron; that's the failed energy company whose collapse led to the indictment, arrest, and conviction of billion-dollar executives. Today, it has committed \$50 million to push an anti-gun narrative." Walters warns his readers that "supporters of the Sec-

ond Amendment are outmanned and out-gunned." This seems to be inconsistent with the narrative we get from the media that it's the pro-gun lobbies flushed with cash and buying influence in Washington, D.C.

Shotgun for Self-defense?

Terry Nelson, writing at OutdoorHub on August 20, advised his readers to choose a shotgun when it comes to picking a firearm for self-defense. Nelson wrote that shotguns are "reliable and effectively intimidating" when it comes to armed self-defense. "Everyone has their own ideas as to what will work best for them in a self-defense shotgun. Because I carried and used one extensively during my career in law enforcement and for more years than I care to remember in a hunting capacity, the pump action in 12 gauge has to be my top pick. A primary reason for me, is the pump action being fairly simple and rugged, making it generally reliable and easy to use. As I mentioned earlier, 12-gauge ammunition is the most readily available of all the gauges listed — a critical consideration when making a 'one-gun-does-all' selection."

While Nelson most assuredly is correct that a shotgun blast at close quarters would be extremely effective in incapacitating any would-be attacker and that the appearance of a shotgun or the sound of a shotgun slide being racked might be enough to get a criminal to halt in his tracks, he didn't acknowledge the downsides of its use as a self-defense weapon. Kevin Creighton, writing at NRAFamily.org in 2018, explained that shotguns usually have less ammunition capacity than pistols or an AR-15, although magazine capacity depends on local regulations as well. Furthermore, shotguns require two hands to operate and can sometimes be hard to maneuver in tight spots owing to the long barrel. Ultimately, Creighton advised having a "safe room" in the home with multiple types of firearms to use in a required self-defense situation. "So which is better for personal defense, a handgun, a rifle or a shotgun? In my opinion, they all have a role to play in keeping you and your loved ones safe," Creighton wrote. ■

— PATRICK KREY



A Fight for the Ages: Joe Biden Jousts With Fossil Fuels

ITEM: *Vox* for August 2 commented on the Democratic primary debate held earlier that week. The “strangest exchange of all,” said the news site, came when CNN’s Dana Bash, a moderator, asked former Vice President Joe Biden about fossil fuels. Bash “pressed Biden,” as noted by *Vox*: “Just to clarify, would there be any place for fossil fuels, including coal and fracking, in a Biden administration?” Biden “gave an uncharacteristically straight answer,” said *Vox*. He declared: “No. We would work it out. We would make sure it’s eliminated and no more subsidies for either one of those. Any fossil fuel.”

ITEM: “Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is pitching a \$5 trillion-plus climate proposal that he says would lead the U.S. to net zero emission of carbon pollution by 2050,” reported the Associated Press.

Biden’s plan, reported the AP on June 4, is “a mix of tax incentives, federal spending, new regulation and more aggressive foreign policy on climate issues.” The Biden plan, as the wire service put it, “comes as he pushes back on rivals’ assertions that his environmental agenda isn’t bold enough.”

ITEM: The New York Times for June 4 also reported about Biden’s “ambitious climate plan.” Said the establishment left-wing paper: The “sweeping proposal from the typically moderate Mr. Biden demonstrates just how far the Democratic field has moved on climate change. His environmental targets are similar to the goals of the Green New Deal [GND] put forward by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.”

The paper also cited the approval of the plan by the executive director of the Sunrise Movement, an environmental activist group that “has championed Ms. Ocasio-Cortez’s proposal.” The Times quoted Varshini Prakash remarking that Biden had “put out a comprehensive climate plan that cites the Green New Deal and names climate change



AP Images

Man of the moment: Presidential aspirant and former Vice President Joe Biden has a new energy plan for the country, one that removes all fossil fuels from usage. His plan represents a complete cave-in to environmental radicals, as it goes against his long defense of using fossil fuels.

as the greatest challenge facing America and the world.” The group’s leader and the paper credited GND proponents for influencing Biden, with Prakash saying, “The pressure worked.”

CORRECTION: The *Times* omitted some context here — failing to remind readers how deeply Biden bowed before the demands of the youth-based green mob, in this case the group called the Sunrise Movement.

Sunrise previously publicly berated Biden for trying to appear as a moderate when it came to “climate change.” Indeed, the “movement” tweeted: “A ‘middle ground’ policy that’s supportive of more fossil fuel development is a death sentence for our generation and the millions of people on the frontlines of the climate crisis.”

After Joe kowtowed, the *Times* gave him a big hand, saying: “In some ways, Mr. Biden’s plan goes even further than the Green New Deal, which offers aspirational targets but few concrete policy steps to achieve them.”

Biden did take some heat when he admitted outright that fossil fuels in general, including coal and fracking (a process to extract oil and natural gas from the ground), would be “eliminated” in his would-be administration.

In the debate’s aftermath, Pennsylvania

Republican Representative Fred Keller pointed out that Biden’s pledge to get rid of coal and fracking represented a sellout to the “far-left extreme of his party.” The former vice president, as Keller put it, was telling “hundreds of thousands of hardworking Americans that he is coming for their jobs and prepared to jack up their energy costs.” Keller pointed to a recent study that showed that the Green New Deal “would cost Pennsylvania taxpayers \$70,000 per person in the first year alone.” In addition, said the congressman, such a move “means weakening our national security by eliminating our ability to be energy independent [and] killing a thriving energy economy.”

So-called progressives (apparently including Joe Biden, depending on the day of the week) want the United States to keep fossil energy “in the ground,” pointing to what they see as a dire risk of climate change. Here’s a more immediate threat: Such policies, including bans on fracking and fossil-fuel production, would be incredibly costly. An analysis, commissioned by the American Petroleum Institute, has found that such actions would result in the loss of 5.9 million jobs and a cumulative gross domestic product reduction of \$11.8 trillion.

Biden (and many fellow Democratic candidates) are eager to eradicate the



Correction, Please!

power that runs the economy of the United States and the world. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the consumption of fossil fuels (defined as petroleum, natural gas, and coal) “grew by 4% in 2018 and accounted for 80% of U.S. total energy consumption. Natural gas consumption reached a record high, rising by 10% from 2017.” Worldwide, according to the International Energy Agency, energy demand in 2018 grew by its “fastest pace this decade ... driven by a robust global economy ... with fossil fuels meeting nearly 70% of the growth for the second year running.”

Moreover, we will venture to guess that Biden did not travel to the debate’s venue in a vehicle driven by the Flintstones. Self-righteousness and hypocrisy are abundant among the avatars of the environmental Left. (One such is another former vice president, Al Gore. After his *Inconvenient Truth* anti-global-warming film was given an Academy Award for best documentary, it was revealed that his Nashville mansion boasted gas and electric bills more than 20 times higher than the average in the United States — and that was for just one of his houses.)

Actually, all of us, including Biden’s new green allies and Democrat competitors, would be hard-pressed to live in today’s world without products that depend on fossil fuels. The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) has posted an inventory of 144 products (out of about 6,000) derived from petroleum. Mark Perry, a scholar at AEI and a professor of economics and finance at the University of Michigan-Flint, commented on this topic this summer. Perry said he was pretty sure that even if Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez (a prime Green New Deal advocate) and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders could

unrealistically get enough windmills and solar panels to produce all of America’s electricity and get everybody to drive an electric car, they would still want these petroleum-based products to still be produced, including heart valves, eyeglasses, and dentures for voters in Sen. Sand-

ers’ demographic, tires for everybody’s electric car, ink to print AOC’s and Bernie’s campaign literature and the *New York Times*, etc.

For the record, after Biden’s nationally televised pledge to eliminate fossil fuels, his campaign folks tried (albeit very quietly) to “walk back” his promise. Presumably, that means he can have it both ways. Indeed, there are some who still recall that in 2012 Biden said in Ohio, when speaking of various energy sources: “Look, it’s all of the above for us. We desperately need coal, and we need it to get cleaner and cleaner. We desperately need all the source[s] of energy.” Another inconvenient truth, eh?

Others of us are old enough to remember when Joe Biden, wrongly, claimed to be from a family of coal miners and the first of his clan to attend college. His claims were lifted, along with other word-for-word unattributed remarks, from a British Labour Party politician. That politician, Neil Kinnock, was accurately describing his own life. Pennsylvania-born Biden, it turns out, was not from a Welsh coal-mining family.

Folks on his embarrassed campaign, who had fed Joe with the remarks made by Kinnock, did eventually dig up a Biden ancestor, several generations back, who had been a mining engineer. However, that distant relative apparently graduated from Lehigh so that didn’t really help. With the exposure of other plagiarism incidents, Biden dropped out of that presidential bid in September 1987. (Prior to this year, Biden has run or seriously contemplated presidential races six times. Practice seemingly has not made him better.)

The political pressure to take radical action against the perceived ills of climate change comes from many sides, in this country and elsewhere. Earlier this year, for instance, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, an Independent and declared socialist who is also a Democratic presidential candidate, was asked on ABC’s *The View* if he thought that the Green New Deal went “too far.” Responded the senator: “No. You cannot go too far on the issue of climate change. The future of the planet is at stake.”

That’s the same socialist who owns three houses.

Meanwhile, Sanders’ state has closed its Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, which used



Wind flap: Many of the Democratic presidential candidates want to power the country entirely with wind and solar because it’s cleaner. However, not only does manufacturing wind turbines and solar units take tremendous amounts of fossil fuels, they would need very costly battery backup.

AP Images

to be a producer of what has been called the Real Green New Deal. That's because nuclear power is "carbon-free," around the clock, all year round. It does what the fans of "renewable" energy, solar and wind energy in particular, profess their favored systems do. (The U.S. Energy Information Administration credits overall renewables with about 12 percent of national energy consumption in 2018.) According to climate scientists, it would take 474 years for Vermont's new wind farms, at the current rate they are being built, to equal the generation of electricity that was lost when that nuclear plant was closed.

What also happened when the plant was shut? James Meigs, the former editor-in-chief of *Popular Mechanics*, answers. "Carbon emissions went up," he recalled. "This supposedly green state, ultra-liberal Vermont, went backwards."

The United States does not have a monopoly on climate alarmists. Consider the BBC report on July 24 claiming that there is a growing consensus that we have just "18 months to save the planet." For evidence, the BBC cited the considerable sagacity of, among others, His Royal Highness Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB, OM, AK, QSO, PC, ADC, Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland.

That's just one royal guy, of course. The prince had just told foreign ministers from around the Commonwealth, "I am firmly of the view that the next 18 months will decide our ability to keep climate change to survivable levels and to restore nature to the equilibrium we need for our survival." Charles did not remind his audience that he had previously given the world a 100-month deadline; that older cutoff, you will be happy to hear, passed without catastrophe. So he made up another.

Just when you think the Left has gone as far as possible, you find that there are extremists so to the port that they are about to fall overboard.

Many "progressives" claim that it will take universal adoption of renewable energy to save us from the coming bane of cli-



Flickr/PhilRoeder

A claim too far: Bernie Sanders said, "You cannot go too far on the issue of climate change." However, the Green New Deal, which he supports, would do away with using fossil fuels, which provide air travel, the source material for many consumer products, and electricity.

mate change. That "cure" is not in the cards anytime soon. As it happens, it takes a lot of non-renewable energy to make renewable energy. "Renewable" energy does not magically appear. It also requires mining, steel, plastic, concrete, and storage capability. This consumes hydrocarbons. Plus, the "non-renewable" materials needed for this purpose then wear out, need to be replaced, and create waste. If we were to build enough wind turbines to create a large portion of our energy needs, it would take huge amount of coal and oil just to made the blades. For another example, consider that almost all the solar panels in the world are built in Asia; their manufacture requires energy grids that are largely dependent on coal. As summarized by Mark Mills, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, just building

one wind turbine requires 900 tons of steel, 2,500 tons of concrete and 45 tons of nonrecyclable plastic. Solar power requires even more cement, steel and glass — not to mention other metals. Global silver and indium mining will jump 250% and 1,200% respectively over the next couple of decades to provide the materials necessary to build the number of solar panels, the International Energy Agency forecasts. World demand for rare-earth ele-

ments — which aren't rare but are rarely mined in America — will rise 300% to 1,000% by 2050 to meet the Paris green goals. If electric vehicles replace conventional cars, demand for cobalt and lithium will rise more than 20-fold. That doesn't count batteries to back up wind and solar grids.

Indeed, the more folks discover about the production of those batteries, particularly that they are made in China, the less attractive they are.

That is also what happens when you look at Joe Biden's "Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice." As was pointed out by columnist Paul Driessen, a senior policy analyst for the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow, the cumulative electricity demand for Biden's energy programs "would be at least double what the United States currently generates." There would be "wind turbines and solar panels on scales that few can even imagine." In addition, Driessen continues, if all this "power is to be backed up by batteries — since coal and gas-fired backup power generators would be eliminated — we would need billions of batteries ... and thus even more land and raw materials."

The term "silly" doesn't do this foolishness justice. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

New Trade Deal, **Same as the Old One**

“The TPP is a horrible deal. It is a deal that is going to lead to nothing but trouble.” — Donald Trump
November 10, 2015

If you agree with President Trump that the TPP was a horrible deal, then you should also oppose the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), because it’s just another globalist integration scheme.

According to a study conducted by researchers from the University of Ottawa, 57 percent of the text of the USMCA is copied from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Ironically, one of Trump’s first official acts as president was signing an executive order to terminate U.S. participation in the TPP. The study, entitled “How much of the Transpacific Partnership is in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement?” was published on June 26, 2019. It has since received little attention from the media, mentioned only as a blurb in *Politico*’s “Morning Trade” in August.

Comparing the USMCA to existing free trade agreements, researchers found: “The USMCA closely tracks the structure and text of the TPP. 29 out of 30 TPP chapters have equivalents in the USMCA and 72 percent of the articles in the matched USMCA chapters are found in both agreements.” In other words, not only are many of the chapter titles identical, but so are the various articles and clauses contained in them. “Furthermore, when looked at in the context of all U.S. trade agreements, the USMCA and TPP, based on their textual similarity, appear as belonging to the same generation of treaties. In other words, the USMCA, contrary to Trump’s rhetoric, does not mark a fundamental rupture in U.S. practice and has more in common with the TPP than not,” the study stated.

Using a computerized model, researchers compared the text of the USMCA with the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) recently created database of 449 trade agreements, known as the ToTA Corpus (which stands for Text of Trade Agreements). The top 10 results for trade agreements most resembling the USMCA were all U.S. free trade agreements from the last 25 years, with the TPP scoring the highest similarity at 57 percent, followed by the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, and the KORUS FTA (United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement), each being 43 percent similar.

A high-level textual analysis of the USMCA revealed that it “continues rather than breaks with existing practice,” according to the study. This runs in stark contrast to claims by both Sec-



retary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer that the USMCA represents a “new paradigm shift” in the way the United States will conduct future trade agreements.

The study further highlighted that “features in the USMCA ... align more comfortably with pre-Trump U.S. policies and ultimately the ‘Establishment Narrative,’” a term coined by Nicolas Lamp, a former dispute settlement lawyer at the Appellate Body Secretariat of the WTO.

“Lamp identifies an ‘Establishment Narrative,’ which dominates trade textbooks and — until recently — most trade policymaking,” the study stated. This “Establishment Narrative,” as both Lamp and the study call it, is essentially the globalists’ trade agenda for forging integrated regional blocs and ultimately a one-world government via economic liberalization and “free trade agreements.”

Despite all of Trump’s anti-globalism, pro-“Americanism” rhetoric, his premier trade agreement — the USMCA — for the most part does not deviate from the “Establishment Narrative” that has come to define U.S. and globalist trade policy.

Former Obama-era high-ranking officials have also noted the striking similarity between the TPP and the USMCA. On September 30, 2018, the same day that the initial draft of the USMCA was released, former Obama-era U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman appeared on CNBC’s *Squawk Box*, praising the USMCA. Heyman said, “It’s obviously welcome news. This is welcome news for North America; it’s welcome news for the markets obviously this morning.”

The night the text of the USMCA was released on the USTR website, Heyman reviewed various portions and chapters of the agreement, only to discover that they were identical to those in the TPP. “[From] some of the reads I got over night, two-thirds of this agreement is essentially going back to TPP,” Heyman explained.

If Trump believed that the TPP was as bad as he said it was, then it should be clear, even to him if he’s personally willing to compare the two, that the USMCA would likewise be a disaster, and he should therefore take immediate action to terminate it as well. Also, Trump should consider following through on a previous ultimatum to withdraw from NAFTA and thus not be entangled in a permanent economic integration scheme with Canada and Mexico. Those concerned about the USMCA should not optimistically wait on the president alone to recognize the impending disaster. Pressure should be placed on Congress and Trump to reject both ratification and implementation of the agreement. ■



USMCA and the Quest for a North American Union — REPRINT

If Americans are to preserve our God-given rights — afforded by our national sovereignty — then we must convince Congress to reject the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which is a steppingstone toward an EU-style North American Union. (2019ed, 20 pp, 1-24/\$0.50ea; 25-99/\$0.40ea; 100-999/\$0.35ea; 1000+/\$0.30ea)

\$0.50

BKLTDIC



The Law

Frederic Bastiat, in his classic expose of socialism and communism as “lawful plunder,” explains the fundamental principles involved in determining the proper scope of government. It explains socialist fallacies. New excerpts from Bastiat’s other writings include “The Broken Window” & “The Candlemakers’ Petition.” (2019ed, 87pp, pb, 1-9/\$4.95ea; 10+/\$3.95ea)

\$4.95

BKLN



In the Shadows of the Deep State: Destroying Our Sovereignty — DVD

Want to know the primary organization behind the Deep State, who its members are, and what its goals are? This 26-minute DVD is an introduction to a new book that answers these questions entitled *In the Shadows of the Deep State: A Century of Council on Foreign Relations Scheming for World Government* by Arthur R. Thompson, CEO of The John Birch Society. (2019, 26min, 1-10/\$1.00ea; 11-20/\$0.90ea; 21-49/\$0.80ea; 50-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.70ea; 1,000+/\$0.64ea)

\$1.00

DVIDSDSDS



Constitution Is the Solution Lecture Series w/ Manual & Lecture Guide CD + Lecture Materials Packet

Most Americans are not taught what’s in the Constitution, nor are they aware of its limitations on government that have helped make America great. With this lecture series from The John Birch Society, you can help teach this and lead concerned Americans into activism. Materials Packet includes: “AGENDA 21 and YOU” booklet, “Dollars & Sense: Meltdown” booklet, Declaration of Independence/Constitution in pocket size, “Republics & Democracies” booklet, “A Republic, If You Can Keep It” booklet, “Restoring the Rights of the States/People” booklet, *Dollars and Sense* DVD, “Change It or Obey It?” DVD, *Overview of America* DVD, “The JBS AGENDA” booklet (2017ed, 339 total minutes, 1-4/\$45.00ea; 5-9/\$35.00ea; 10-19/\$29.00ea; 20+/\$22.00ea).

\$45.00

DVIDSCSCP



New Digitally Remastered Overview of America

This video explains in a simple fashion the different systems of government throughout the world and the different economic principles underlying each type of government — and why freedom means prosperity.

Sleeved DVD (2018ed, 29min, 1-10/\$1.00ea; 11-20/\$0.90ea; 21-49/\$0.80ea; 50-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.70ea; 1,000+/\$0.64ea)

Cased DVD + CSC APP (2018, 29min, 1-9/\$5.95ea; 10-24/\$4.95ea; 25-99/\$3.95ea; 100+/\$2.25ea)

\$1.00

DVIDOADR

\$5.95

DVIDOACDR



Declaration of Independence and the Constitution

This pocket-size booklet (approximately 3.5" x 5") contains the two most important documents in American political history.

It is a great reference to have on hand to defend constitutional principles. (2019ed, 48pp, pb, 1-9/\$2.00ea; 10-49/\$1.75ea; 50-74/\$1.50ea; 75-99/\$1.25ea; 100+/\$1.00ea)

\$2.00

BKLTDIC



Get US Out! — SLIM JIM

Seize the Day! It’s hard to get people to worry about a UN world government. Side one gives 10 reasons why the U.S. must get out of the UN. Side two tells them what actions to take. (2019, sold in packs of 25, 1/\$3.00ea; 2-4/\$2.50ea; 5+/\$2.00ea)

\$3.00

SJGUOTTR



Myths vs Facts — DVD SET

This is a 40-part DVD series hosted by Arthur R. Thompson, CEO of The John Birch Society. This DVD series takes viewers through Thompson’s 2016 book, *To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments: The History of the First 100 Years of the War Against God and the Constitution, 1776-1876, and Its Modern Impact*. (2019, 4-DVD set, 333 total mins, 1-4/\$29.95ea; 5-9/\$24.95ea; 10-19/\$19.95ea; 20+/\$14.95ea)

\$29.95

DVIDSMVF

GREAT FOR Constitution Day

GREAT FOR Constitution Day



PRISM MANAGEMENT

PRISM: Any medium that resolves a seemingly simple matter into its elements

CONSULTANTS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Specializing in Tax Deductions for Dental Practices • Post Office Box 7007 • Porter Ranch, CA 91327