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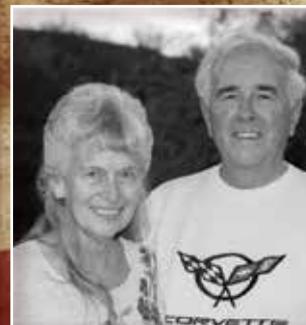
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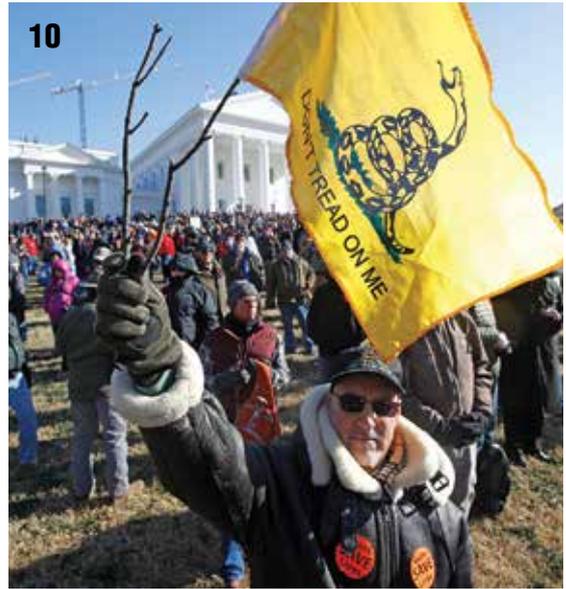
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Cleveland Ave. (Rt. 41) • Ft. Myers, Florida • Stamra Inc.

Publisher & Editor
Gary Benoit

Senior Editor
William F. Jasper

Managing Editor
Kurt Williamsen

Web Editor
John T. Larabell

Foreign Correspondent
Alex Newman

Contributors

Bob Adelmann • 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

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Government as an Evil

The article by Dennis Behreandt in the December 23, 2019 issue of TNA, “The Divine Message of Freedom,” is a great discredit to an otherwise fine publication. The overarching issue becomes clear in Behreandt’s quotation of the statement, “Everyone can admit that [the Gospels] were not written as strictly historical documents.” This is a reflection of the modern view of many who refuse to accept that the Holy Bible is both inerrant (without error) and infallible (cannot be in error); it is the Word of God, who cannot lie.

From there Behreandt proceeds to misrepresent the Holy Bible as teaching that civil government is evil, using faulty exegesis of scripture, namely the people’s demand to Samuel for a king, Christ’s temptation in the wilderness, rendering to Caesar, and Romans 13 on civil government.

For the sake of space, this writer will only comment briefly, but interested readers will do well to consult the commentaries by John Calvin and Matthew Henry on these passages. Helpful books include Samuel Rutherford’s *Lex Rex*, William Symington’s *Messiah the Prince*, and Alexander McLeod’s *Messiah, Governor of the Nations of the Earth*. A more modern treatment is at <https://beforgiven.info/JCRoHRaF.pdf>, Jeremiah Bezalet’s “Jesus Christ: Rock of Human Rights and Freedom.”

Behreandt claims that 1 Samuel 8 teaches that “government is the means to enslave the people.” That is beyond absurd when you consider that God had already given Israel a civil government by the hand of Moses! The problem confronting the prophet Samuel was that the people wanted to reject God and his instituted government for a “king like all the [idolatrous, heathen] nations.” In other words, the people wanted to put a bad government in place of a good one, instead of putting good public officials in place of bad public officials (called judges).

As to the temptation of the Lord Jesus, Behreandt takes the father of lies at his word, saying, “The devil promised to give Him the nations and the peoples of those nations, something that would lead Jesus into the idolatry of political power.” On the contrary, Christ does not deign to debate with such a liar, but blows him off with simple statements from Scripture.

A valid interpretation of Romans 13:1-7,

1 Peter 2:13-17, and Matthew 22:21 shows that civil government is not, as Behreandt believes, the “Antichrist,” but given by God.

Man’s sinfulness will never go away completely; we thus need civil government to restrain evildoers. Present-day California exhibits this truth nicely. Communists might believe that the state will “wither away,” because they do not recognize that all humans are born rebels against God, and sinners against God and man. Contrary to what they and other liberals believe, changing externals will not fix this sinfulness. In Christ, this sinfulness will be forgiven those who put their trust in Him and commit to Him, through the lone instrument of God-given faith.

The Puritans and Scottish Covenanters were bitterly and often fatally persecuted by civil governments, yet they correctly upheld the Scripture, teaching that civil government is a good thing, and is from God. Evils perpetrated by governments are the fault of people in them, not civil government as a biblical institution. One might as well condemn fatherhood on the basis of the fact that some sinners abuse their children.

TOM SULLIVAN
Sent via e-mail

Dennis Behreandt responds: *The letter writer on this matter does us the service of presenting the case for a supposedly biblical rationale for the total state. I encourage readers to consider his words, read carefully his references, and to refer to scripture in order to form their own opinions on the matter, as well as to consider that the record of the state is one of unrelenting tyranny over the entire course of human history, with the state nearly always weaponized against Christians, beginning with the persecution and murder of Christ Himself.*

As to the nature of the state, we should keep in mind Christ’s teaching: “There is no good tree that bringeth forth evil fruit; nor an evil tree that bringeth forth good fruit. For every tree is known by its fruit.” And what, precisely, has been the fruit of government? State-sanctioned pillage, rapine, murder, and mayhem on a massive scale. We might well wonder how such a supposedly good tree has spawned such evil as this.



Saving the Second Amendment

In the aftermath of mass shootings, liberals are attacking the freedom of Americans to own and use guns, despite the fact that the vast majority of murders done with guns are done by criminals who have already lost their gun rights. So citizens are fighting back — peacefully. (February 17, 2020, 48pp) **TNA200217**

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One's habits, purchases, beliefs, and associates are monitored on the Web by both Big Tech and Big Government, but there is a movement afoot to change all that. (January 20, 2020, 48pp) **TNA200120**

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Democrats are pushing Medicare for All, despite its massive costs, the failures of similar healthcare systems, and the fact that it's nothing like Medicare. (January 6, 2020, 48pp) **TNA200106**

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Government policies have largely caused the suffering and dying of thousands of homeless people across the country. It's time to change course. (December 23, 2019, 48pp) **TNA191223**

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In Presidential First, Trump Attends, Addresses March for Life



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Donald Trump made history January 24 when he attended and addressed the 46th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., the first president ever to appear at the iconic pro-life gathering, which began in 1974, the year after the U.S. Supreme Court effectively legalized abortion in the United States with its infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision.

“All of us here understand an eternal truth,” the president told the March for Life audience, made up of tens of thousands of pro-life individuals of all ages and backgrounds. “Every child

is a precious and sacred gift from God. Together, we must protect, cherish, and defend the dignity and the sanctity of every human life.”

Trump declared, “When we see the image of a baby in the womb, we glimpse the majesty of God’s creation. When we hold a newborn in our arms, we know the endless love that each child brings to a family. When we watch a child grow, we see the splendor that radiates from each human soul.”

He went on to list, in part, the accomplishments his administration has made on behalf of the unborn, as well as for religious freedom in general. However, he added, “The far left is working to erase our God-given rights, shut down faith-based charities, ban religious leaders from the public square, and silence Americans who believe in the sanctity of life. They are coming after me because I am fighting for you and we are fighting for those who have no voice. And we will win because we know how to win... You’ve been winning for a long time.”

The president concluded his remarks with the observation that “every human soul is divine and every human life, born and unborn, is made in the holy image of Almighty God. Together we will defend this truth all across our magnificent land. We will set free the dreams of our people. And with determined hope, we look forward to all of the blessings that will come from the beauty, talent, purpose, nobility, and grace of every American child.”

UN Throws Cash at North Korea to Fight “Global Warming”

A United Nations agency is sending large amounts of American taxpayer money and Western know-how to the mass-murdering dictatorship ruling North Korea, official UN documents released in December 2019 show. Officially, at least, the cash and training is supposed to help the brutal regime in Pyongyang fight alleged man-made “climate change” and access even more UN money. But in reality, analysts suggested, the UN funding would almost certainly be used to prop up dictator Kim Jong-un’s savage tyranny and lavish lifestyle.

The initial funding will be almost a million dollars, but that round of funds is supposed to help the regime unlock even more going forward. The decision to fund North Korean oppression with Western tax dollars was made last month by the UN “Green Climate Fund” (GCF).

The GCF has approved a program known as “Readiness and Preparatory Support for Capacity Building of NDA (National Designated Authorities) and establishment of a National Strategy Framework for engagement with GCF in the DPRK.” The confusing and deliberately verbose title serves to conceal a simple agenda: Prop up the mass-murdering dictatorship with Western money, technology, and expertise under the guise of battling the mythical bogeyman known as “man-made global warming.”

According to the dictatorship’s request for funds, which has been published online by the GCF, activities under the project

will involve developing a “package of training and capacity building exercises.” These training programs will help support the regime to “better coordinate and manage GCF and other climate finance,” and to “better engage with GCF and providers of climate finance.”

Under the guise of fighting global warming, the UN has been getting away with all sorts of criminal activities — extorting Western taxpayers, expanding its power, bullying industry, engaging in further infringements on liberty and free markets, brainwashing children with “climate education,” and so much more. For the sake of Americans and Koreans, it is time for Congress and President Trump to step in and end these schemes now.



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USDA Will Tighten Requirements for SNAP; Some States Are Suing

A new Trump administration rule change, set to go into effect in April, will result in nearly 700,000 people across the country being dropped from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as “food stamps.”

In December 2019, the Trump administration said it would limit states’ ability to issue eligibility waivers to single, able-bodied adults between the ages of 18 and 49.

A January 26 *New York Times* report noted that the Trump ad-

ministration sees record low unemployment and steady economic growth as making this an opportune time to nudge people off the SNAP federal assistance program.

Some states have taken to suing the USDA over the changes. A January 18 report from Capital Public Radio in Sacramento said that 14 states, including California, filed suit on January 16 against the Trump administration to block the rule that would eliminate food stamps for those who did not meet the new work requirements.

That report noted that under current federal law, able-bodied adults under the age of 50 with no dependent children must either be working at least 20 hours a week or in vocational training to get food stamps consistently. Otherwise, they can only receive three months of the benefit every three years. However, up until now, states and counties have been able to waive those requirements by demonstrating that the local labor market made it hard for people to find jobs. All but six California counties have waivers. The new federal rule will make that waiver much more difficult to obtain.

There is no authorization in the Constitution for the federal government to appropriate a single cent for programs such as SNAP, but once people become dependent on them, cutting all recipients off in one fell swoop could indeed be traumatic for many. However, the Trump administration’s proposal will reduce the program gradually, and is a fairly humane step in the right direction.



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Does New Hillary Clinton Docuseries Portend 2020 Run?

The new Hulu docuseries about Hillary Clinton and the 2016 presidential campaign — entitled *Hillary* — premiered January 25 at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Not surprisingly, the four-part series, which is set to be released to the public on March 6, is said to be a non-critical look at Clinton and the events surrounding the 2016 presidential election.

In many reviews of the series, Clinton comes off as a straight-talking pragmatist, especially in relation to starry-eyed socialist Bernie Sanders.

Snippets of the docuseries have come out in which Clinton attacks Sanders, saying, “He was in Congress for years. He had one senator support him. Nobody likes him, nobody wants to work with him, he got nothing done. He was a career politician. It’s just all baloney and I feel so bad that people got sucked into it.”

Clinton clearly stakes out her position as a centrist while accusing Sanders of offering ideas that aren’t realistic: “I had people in my campaign say, ‘Just say “free college.” Millennials love it,’” Clinton explains. “And I said, ‘no.’”

One of the recurring themes in the documentary is also a recurring theme of Clinton’s life — especially in the years since she lost the 2016 election to Donald Trump. Put succinctly: It wasn’t her fault.

Poor Hillary. Everyone around her ends up sabotaging her. Whether it’s her husband’s serial infidelity, the media’s not-fawn-



AP Images

ing-enough coverage of her, or the FBI investigating her use of a private e-mail server to conduct State Department business, she’s always the victim.

Her post-election treatise on the result of the 2016 election, *What Happened*, is full of the same responsibility-dodging narrative. It was Russia. It was the Democratic National Committee. It was misogyny. It was Barack Obama. It was Bernie Sanders. It was the “basket of deplorables.” The list goes on and on.

With the release of this docuseries, Hillary is clearly saying, “I’m still here.” If a “draft Hillary” movement — real or manufactured — suddenly arose, it’s unlikely that Clinton could say no to another run. ■

A Scary but Reasonable Prediction

“But Iran is not likely to leave the death of a national hero unavenged for long.”

In an unsigned editorial, the New York Times predicted dire consequences can be expected by the United States for assassinating General Qassem Soleimani.

Senator Warren Insists That a Woman Can Defeat Trump

“Look at the men on this stage. Collectively they have lost 10 elections. The only people on this stage who have won every single election that they’ve been in are the women ... and the only person on this stage who has beaten an incumbent Republican anytime in the past 30 years is me.”

There were six presidential candidates at the January 14 Democratic debate in Iowa — four men and two women — when Senator Elizabeth Warren made her claim. Every point she made was accurate. But the compelling issue is not whether a woman can beat Trump in November, it’s whether any Democrat can win the presidency.



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A Dishonest and Nasty Juxtaposition of Words

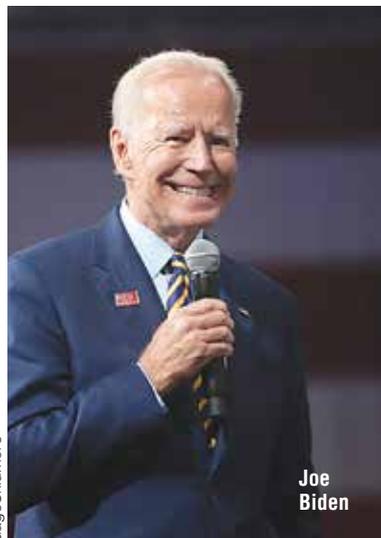
“The president and his — the Ku Klux Klans and the rest of them — they think they’ve beaten us again. But they have no idea. We’re just coming back.”

Speaking to a large congregation of black Americans at a Baptist church in South Carolina, Joe Biden employed the reprehensible tactic of mentioning the president and the KKK in the same sentence. He knows that listeners will remember the negative association, not the fact that Biden didn’t actually accuse the president outwardly of having anything to do with the Klan.

He Insists He’s a Youthful 77 Years Old

“Joe Biden says age is just a number.”

Seeking endorsement by the New York Times, former vice president Joe Biden scoffed at even a hint of the fact that, if he wins the election for the presidency in November 2020, he will be 78 years old when inaugurated in January 2021.



GageSkidmore

South Koreans Oppose U.S. Ambassador Because He’s a Japanese-American

“I am not the Japanese-American ambassador to Korea. I am the American ambassador to Korea. To take that history and put it on me simply because of an accident of birth, I think, is a mistake.”

Born of a Japanese mother and an American naval officer, Harry Harris (age 63) is himself a U.S. Navy retired admiral who is now serving our country as a diplomat. Yet, he is opposed by some in South Korea who consider him a descendant of the World War II Japanese invaders who maltreated many Korean women during their occupation of the country in the 1940s.

Does Trashing Sanders Mean She Wants to Be Considered the 2020 Candidate?

“Nobody likes him. Nobody wants to work with him. He got nothing done. He was a career politician. It’s all just baloney and I feel so bad that people got suckered into it.”

The losing candidate for president in 2016, Hillary Clinton hasn’t forgotten being challenged by Bernie Sanders during that year’s race for the Democratic nomination. Her recent attack aimed at him may be a way of saying that she’s still available to oppose Donald Trump in November 2020 if the Democrats want her. ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



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QuickQuotes



SAVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Virginia has become the battleground for Second Amendment rights, as its Democratic majority wants to strip citizens of guns, but the people are fighting back — peacefully.

by C. Mitchell Shaw

RICHMOND — Scores of thousands descended on the Capitol grounds in Richmond, Virginia, Monday, January 20. On one of the coldest days of the year, they came

to stand up for the right to keep and bear arms. They came from all over Virginia and from across the country. Their message was simple: The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

By 7:00 a.m. — a full hour before the event was to begin — there was already a crowd of thousands. They lined the streets of

Richmond all around the Capitol grounds. The jubilant, peaceful crowd chanted patriotic slogans — including a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance — and carried flags, banners, and posters. Despite the reason behind the event — the Democrat-led state assembly’s slate of anti-gun laws aimed at disarming residents of the Old Dominion — the feeling of the rally was one of optimism. Men and women — black, white, Asian, Hispanic, and more — marched together peacefully to show that Governor Ralph Northam has gone too far.

There was a heavy police presence, and guns — usually legal to carry in Richmond and even on the Capitol grounds — were banned by special order by Governor Northam. He had taken the heavy-handed measure after claiming that there was “credible intelligence” of “armed militia groups storming our capitol” and perhaps even using “weaponized drones.” He added, “Let me be clear. These are considered credible, serious threats by our law-enforcement agencies.”

Northam seized the opportunity to invoke memories of the tragic violence of the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville in 2017 that devolved into a free-for-all clash between neo-Nazis on one side and communists on the other (with the average demonstrator caught in the middle). On the official GovernorVA Twitter account, Northam tweeted, “We have received credible intelligence from our law enforcement agencies of threats of violence surrounding the demonstration planned for Monday, January 20. This includes extremist rhetoric similar to what has been seen before major incidents, such as Charlottesville in 2017.”

Of course, his self-serving doomsday prophecy was proved false. The rally was entirely peaceful. There was no violence and no disruptive behavior from anyone. In a crowd estimated to be between 22,000 and 50,000, with many hundreds of those outside the fence surrounding the Capitol heavily

armed with handguns, rifles, and knives, the atmosphere was one of peace and unity. Northam’s pretended fears of a repeat of Charlottesville were all for nothing.

The single arrest of the day was that of a woman who refused twice to remove a bandanna — her protection against the arctic winds on a day that barely got above freezing — from her face. Her arrest is an oddity in more than one way. Given the freezing temperatures of the day, many of the attendees kept their faces covered by bandannas, scarves, and ski masks. Why this one woman was singled out is not known.

In an obvious attempt at saving face after his prediction proved false, Northam issued a statement, saying, “Thousands of people came to Richmond to make their voices heard. Today showed that when people disagree, they can do so peacefully.” The statement went on to say, “The issues before us evoke strong emotions, and progress is often difficult. I will continue to listen to the voices of Virginians, and I will continue to do everything in my power to keep our Commonwealth safe.”



Ralph Northam

AP Images

Of course, for him that means pushing forward with his anti-gun agenda, despite the overwhelming response of Virginians — scores of thousands strong — braving the cold and traveling from all over the state to “make their voices heard.”

This writer was there and met and interviewed dozens of people from as nearby as Richmond and as far away as Texas. Everyone was optimistic that the peaceful turnout would serve as evidence of their claim: Law-abiding gun owners are not a threat.

A common theme that ran through the day was the idea that gun rights are inseparable from other rights. If rights are allowed to be infringed in one area, that infringement threatens freedom in other areas, as well. One woman expressed that idea well, with a sign saying, “Gun rights are women’s rights.” And while she declined to be interviewed, other women expressed the same idea.

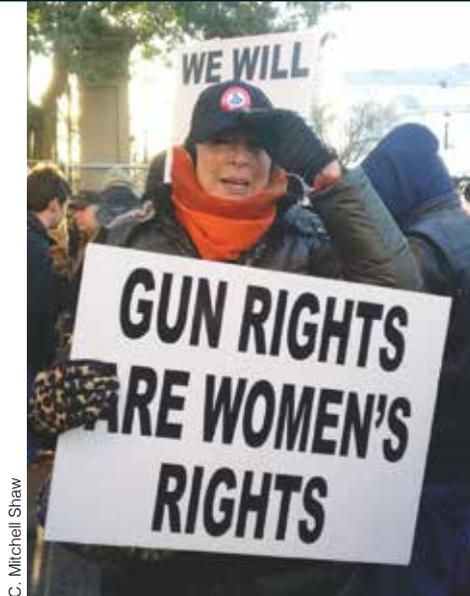
Tori — who declined to give her last name — held a sign that said, “I am unarmed today due to Government oppression.” Since she decided to attend the portion of the rally taking place inside the fence surrounding the Capitol grounds, she was forced to come unarmed. Despite that fact, she was excited to be part of a historic moment, standing up for her rights and those of millions of others. She laughed and told me that she had shaken hands with a state senator.

Tori said she came out to “show Governor Northam that we cannot be put down any longer.” She added that citizens need to have their rights protected “because we are concerned American citizens.”

She was not alone in expressing that view. We also spoke with Julia Glenn, a handicapped senior from Woodbridge, Virginia, who told us that the right to keep and bear arms is tantamount to her ability to defend herself. “I am a single woman, I live by myself. How am I going to protect myself? I’m also handicapped, so if someone were to attempt to attack me, I would be defenseless.”

Employing the type of common sense that is sorely lacking in the Democrat-led state assembly,

C. Mitchell Shaw is a freelance writer and public speaker who addresses a range of topics related to liberty and the U.S. Constitution.



Glenn said that she realizes that there have been some people shot by crazed criminals, but that has nothing to do with the right of law-abiding, peace-loving citizens to keep and bear arms. “The people I have met at these shooting ranges, gun shops, they’re peaceful. They want to keep the peace. They want to protect themselves,” she told *THE NEW AMERICAN*, adding, “We’re not violent people, so why can’t we have our guns?”

Others — including State Senator Bryce Reeves and former U.S. Congressman Scott Taylor — expressed the same sentiments. Reeves told us he supports the Second Amendment and does not believe that law-abiding Virginians should have the right to keep and bear arms taken away by radical Democrats.

Taylor — who is running to regain his seat in the House of Representatives — agreed. He called the legislation now being considered “a premeditated assault on the Second Amendment.” As to the crowd present at the rally, he said that even with his two terms as a Virginia state delegate and his time in Congress he has “never, ever, seen the engagement that I have seen here.”

The consensus of those we spoke to was that protecting the Second Amendment in Virginia, where it is now under attack, helps protect it in other states as well.

Kenny Wolfam from Houston, Texas, said he was at the rally to defend the Second Amendment here, before the threat spreads.

Sal Gutierrez, from Ashboro, North Carolina, came to show support for Virginians and their right to keep and bear arms. He told us, “These are our rights and we’re going to exercise them.” Gutierrez did exercise his right to keep and bear arms, sporting a rifle on a sling across his chest. He remained outside the Capitol grounds, marching in the streets around Richmond, meeting like-minded Second Amendment supporters.

Jim Young, an 82-year-old Air Force veteran from Youngstown, Ohio, said he was also in Richmond to defend rights in his home state. “I talked this up back home, and I came down here to put my money where my mouth is.” He described the current threat to our God-given rights as “probably one of the most troubling things I’ve experienced in these 82 years.”

And Dave Spicer, a Shelby County, Ohio, deputy, came to show support for any law-enforcement officers who decide to honor their oaths of office and refuse to support infringement on the Second Amendment. When asked about his concerns as a deputy, Spicer — who is also a member of Oath Keepers — told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that he worries about “what the government may try to ask me to do.” He added, “I lay awake at night thinking about that.” He was quick to say that his decision has already been made, saying, “It’s obvious; I mean, I’m down here, supporting you Virginians.” He said he is not alone. “Every deputy I work with stands for the Second Amendment.”

Tom, who also declined to give his last name, traveled to the rally from Long Island, New York. He told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that he believes the proposed laws in Virginia are worse than those already in place in New York. He was at the rally to support the Second Amendment in Virginia before it erodes even further in New York. “In New York, we already have horrible gun laws, but [this proposed legislation] is much worse than what we have.”

As for the attempt by Governor Northam and the liberal media to portray the event as a “white separatist rally,” Wade, a black Second Amendment advocate, said, “I woke up the same color today as I was yesterday.” He added, “Here I am. These are my people.”

There were also counter-protesters present. While they did engage some gun-rights advocates, those engagements were non-confrontational, due to the peaceful attitude of those who were there to voice their support for the Second Amendment. Members of a Richmond-based Antifa group also attended. In a strange-bedfellows twist, they were there to demonstrate in favor of the Second Amendment. They said they believe in an “armed Left.” They kept a low profile and did not instigate any violence or disruption.

With the rally having gone peacefully despite Governor Northam’s dire — and self-serving — predictions, he and his fellow Democrats might find themselves out of power in the next election. After all,

scores of thousands of Virginians just marched on the Capitol to tell them they are out of step.

In fact, one group is looking to have Northam recalled for violating the Virginia Constitution.

Chris Anders, director of Virginia Constitutional Conservatives, told us that his organization had already gained more than 60,000 of the 402,000 signatures needed for a petition to have Northam recalled. By the time we spoke to him around mid-morning, he said his group had already collected another estimated 15,000 signatures.

Anders said that members of his group were there to exercise their First Amendment-protected rights in order to defend their Second Amendment “God-given rights” to keep and bear arms.

As to the petition, Anders said, “In Virginia, we don’t have a recall election; we have a recall trial. Northam would go before the circuit court initially, to be tried for his violation of [Article I] Section 13 of the Virginia State Constitution — which is the right to keep and bear arms.”

Section 13 reads:

That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

As to the heavy police presence, Anders said that with “very peaceful” and “very friendly” gun owners in the crowd — as expected — the heavy police presence “wasn’t for public safety” but was “to intimidate patriots from coming out.”

Given the loud, proud, peaceful, and large crowd, it appears Northam’s attempt failed miserably. ■

THE NATION AGAINST POLITICIANS ON GUN RIGHTS

The political Left has been using recent mass shootings as rationale to take gun rights from Americans, but Americans are responding with “Second Amendment Sanctuaries.”



AP Images

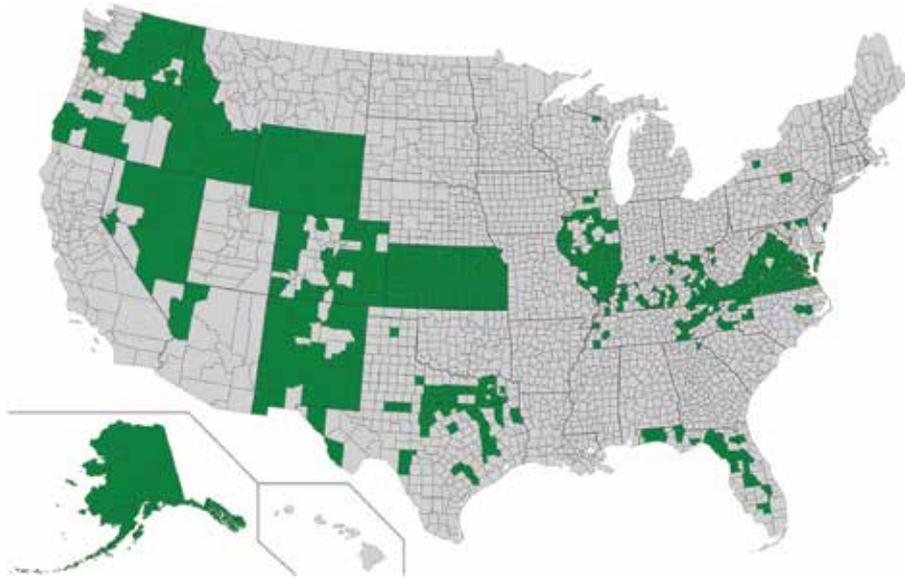
A gathering: In many meetings of city and county councils across Virginia, overflow crowds showed up to present the case for declaring their communities “Second Amendment Sanctuaries.” As of this writing, 95 percent of Virginia’s counties have passed those resolutions.

by C. Mitchell Shaw

As the Left pushes harder and harder for civilian disarmament under the euphemistic title of “common-sense gun control,” individuals, communities, cities, counties, and entire states are pushing back. The result may be that liberal Democrats — who have enjoyed the media-inspired backlash against President Donald Trump — may soon find that they have been digging their own political graves.

In fact, Virginia — which is under Democratic control for the first time in a generation, thanks to the efforts of pro-Chinese communists (see article on page 18) — the pushback from citizens all over the state has led 91 out of 95 counties, 15 out of 38 independent cities, and 33 towns to declare themselves “Second Amendment Sanctuaries.” That amounts to about 95 percent of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Clearly, Governor Ralph Northam and his fellow Democrats in the General

Before the Democratic revolutionists could even take office, towns, cities, and counties across the state declared they would not recognize or enforce any unconstitutional gun laws passed by the General Assembly.



Green as good: As this map illustrates, the Second Amendment Sanctuary movement — marked in green — is strong and growing, as cities, towns, counties, and even entire states push back against the leftist anti-gun agenda.

Assembly do not have the gun-control “mandate” they pretend.

As the main cover-story article shows (page 10), scores of thousands of Virginians from all over the state showed up in Richmond on Monday, January 20, to show Northam and the Democrat-led General Assembly that they expect the right to keep and bear arms to remain un-infringed. Many of them carried poster-board signs showing a map of Virginia with vast liberty-loving parts of the state highlighted in green. Residents of the Birthplace of a Nation are standing up to be counted. And while the state legislature is thus far ignoring them, their local officials are standing with them.

Almost as soon as the 2019 elections were over and it was clear that Democrats had taken control of Virginia, those Demo-

crats began making it clear that they would follow through on campaign promises to dial back the right to keep and bear arms in the Old Dominion. As those bills started to come forward, local municipalities began responding to the threat of civilian disarmament. In one meeting after another, city councils, town councils, and county councils heard from residents about the idea of becoming a “Second Amendment Sanctuary.”

Before the Democratic revolutionists could even take office, towns, cities, and counties across the state declared they would not recognize or enforce any unconstitutional gun laws passed by the General Assembly. Within a mere six weeks, more than 40 counties had adopted Second Amendment-protecting resolutions. That trend continued after

those Democrats were sworn in, leading to the 95 percent mentioned above. A large number of Virginia’s sheriffs have made that same point.

One such sheriff, Scott Jenkins of Culpeper County, went so far as to say that, if needed, he will “properly screen and deputize thousands of our law-abiding citizens to protect their constitutional right to own firearms.” As deputies, those citizens would be considered “law enforcement” and would be exempt from the anti-gun laws.

And Virginia is far from alone on this issue. Nearly half the states in the nation have pockets of Second Amendment Sanctuaries, and several states are covered in them. And in past years, whole states have declared themselves Second Amendment friendly.

Colorado, for instance, is comprised of 64 counties. In response to anti-Second Amendment laws passed in that state — including so-called red flag laws that would strip the right to keep and bear arms from people not convicted of any crime — 38 of those have recently adopted resolutions declaring themselves “Second Amendment Sanctuaries.” Three cities and three towns have done likewise.

Over the past two months, 24 of Florida’s 67 counties, one city, and one town have followed suit, with more counties, cities, and townships considering coming on board. Again, a major element fueling the movement is the passage of red flag laws. As gunrightswatch.com reported:

Florida’s Second Amendment Sanctuary movement has plodded on, county by county, since November 5th when Lake County became the first to declare. With red flag repossessions happening at a furious pace, the march doesn’t seem to be slowing.

The real issue at stake in Florida is the state’s egregious Red Flag law, which so far is responsible for the unconstitutional theft of thousands of firearms from gun owners across the state. These RPO’s have been granted for such crimes as posting a photo of a recently completed AR-15 on social media and criticizing teenage gun control activists, or for having an argument with a family member. Hav-

wikimedia/terroris96

ing your guns taken away in Florida means that you can't obtain a court-appointed lawyer (since you're not accused of any crime) and appealing the decision takes an average of 12 months or more.

To make matters worse, the system is rigged against gun owners, such that at least 95% of all RPO's that get submitted wind up getting granted — typically within minutes and often with no questions asked. In the RPO-frenzy county of Volusia, one police officer reported that they take an average of only 20 seconds to go through.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the Florida Senate, led by an anti-gun Republican Senate President, has just voted for universal background checks and a gun registry. The more sensible Speaker of The House and Governor are said to be alarmed by their actions.

And in response to similar anti-gun legislation in Illinois, 67 of the state's 102 counties, two cities, and three townships have made themselves Second Amendment Sanctuaries. (For more information about the slippery slope of red flag laws, see page 23.)

The mention of Illinois brings up an interesting point. That state's largest city, Chicago, holds two distinctions where guns are concerned: First, Chicago has historically had some of the strictest gun laws in the nation. And while that has changed over recent years, the process for legally obtaining a gun is still lengthy. Second, Chicago has the most shootings of any city in America. In fact, in 2018, the city congratulated itself on the decline in shootings, when that number dropped nearly 33 percent to a still-staggering 2,391.

If nearly seven people per day can get themselves shot in a city where the process for legally owning a gun requires a lengthy background check and paying fees for the right to keep and bear arms, this writer feels no risk in saying gun-control laws are not the answer. And to put in the for-what-it's-worth column, the decline in gun violence in Chicago seems to

coincide with the slight loosening of gun-control laws due to court decisions over the past few years.

Due to pre-filed legislation similar to that in Virginia and other states, Kentucky has seen Second Amendment Sanctuary resolutions passed in 47 of its 120 counties and two of its cities. The trend there was also on the fast track. In only the two and a half weeks between December 16 and January 3, 12 of those 47 counties passed their resolutions.

The list goes on and on. Ten of Nevada's 16 counties have joined the movement, with all 17 sheriffs (Carson City has its own sheriff, in addition to those of the 16 counties) signing a public letter saying they support the right to keep and bear arms. That letter begins:



Gun laws don't apply to the law: Sheriff Scott Jenkins said he would "properly screen and deputize thousands of our law-abiding citizens to protect their constitutional right to own firearms," if needed.

The United States Constitution is the foundation upon which this great country of ours is built. It is what binds us together as one people. The Sheriffs of the State of Nevada are Constitutional Officers, sworn to uphold the Constitutions of this state and this country.

The letter goes on to address the issues raised by gun-control advocates before stating:

The Sheriffs of the State of Nevada do not believe that the answer to this issue includes making criminals out of otherwise law-abiding citizens. As the old saying goes, "When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." The answer lies within a myriad of approaches including education, addressing violence, keeping firearms out of the hands of the mentally ill, criminal gang members and illegal controlled substance users, as well as prosecuting and incarcerating those who use firearms to commit crimes.

While there are certainly those who believe these rights under the Constitution are soon to be lost, we believe a systematic, logical approach to the issue is warranted and will work to preserve these rights. The Sheriffs of the State of Nevada are here to enforce the laws and uphold the Constitutions of this state and this country. We will do so with all persons, while still protecting our Second Amendment freedoms.

The Second Amendment is important to us, and we as Sheriffs will uphold all that it stands for. We will work within the law and not succumb to perceived threats, rumor, false or malicious information to weight our decision-making process. We as Nevada Sheriffs support The Right to Bear Arms, and we will do all within our power to uphold and defend its principles.

In New Mexico, a substantial 26 of the state's 33 counties were joined by one town in passing Second Amendment Sanctuary resolutions to protect the rights of residents to keep and bear arms.

Thirty of the state's 33 sheriffs signed a public letter by the New Mexico Sheriffs Association promising to not assist in enforcing unconstitutional gun control.

Other states are quickly coming on board. In fact, things are moving so quickly that by the time this magazine goes to print and ships, these numbers will likely be outdated. North Carolina has 22 of its 100 counties as sanctuaries. In Oregon, it is 14 of 36. Tiny Rhode Island has 10 of 31. Sixteen of Tennessee's 95 counties have done likewise, as has one town. In the state of Texas, the number is 58 out of 254 counties, one city, and one town.

"To make matters worse, the system is rigged against gun owners, such that at least 95% of all RPO's [gun confiscation orders] that get submitted wind up getting granted — typically within minutes and often with no questions asked."

As *THE NEW AMERICAN* covered in a previous article, Washington State was an early adopter. In the wake of the passage of Initiative 1639 — approved by a low-information majority of the state's residents in a popular vote — one sheriff after another has stood up for the people, the federal Constitution, and the state constitution. They publicly declared that I-1639 was unconstitutional and that their oaths of office require them to ignore it. Period. In all, more than half of the sheriffs in Washington State declared I-1639 nullified in their counties.

Those sheriffs were joined by one brave police chief, Loren Culp in the aptly named town of Republic, Washington,

who is now running for governor. Because of his stand, Culp was also named "Police Chief of the Decade" by the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA), a pro-Constitution police group headed by retired Graham County, Arizona, Sheriff Richard Mack.

In an interview for a previous article on this subject, Chief Culp echoed the sentiments of many others about gun-control laws disarming the law-abiding, telling *THE NEW AMERICAN*, "Gun-control laws infringe only on the law-abiding citizens. Criminals don't obey laws; that's what makes them criminals." He also said his stand against unconstitutional anti-gun laws is based in the principle of America being "a republic, where the minority is protected by law."

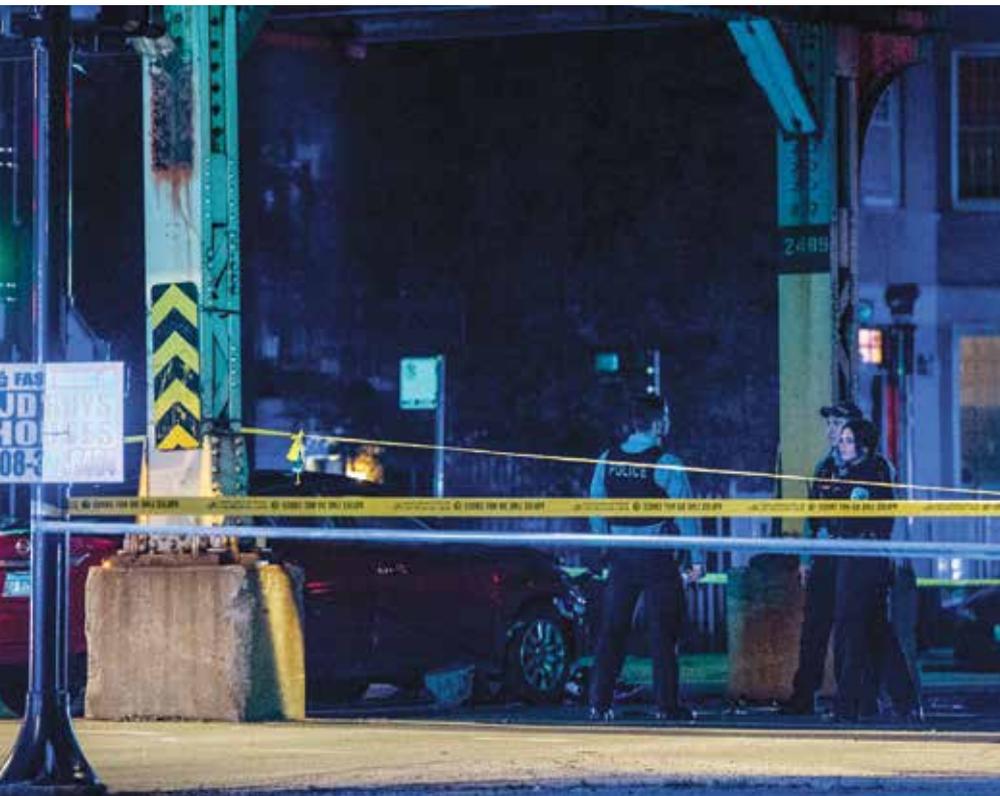
Besides the states listed above, others have had a smaller, but not insignificant turnout for the Second Amendment. One of Arizona's 15 counties and one city have passed resolutions to declare the Second Amendment alive and well there. Two of Georgia's 159 counties are on board. One of 92 counties in Indiana has stood up against the assault on the Second Amendment. In Maryland, two of 23 counties have done the same.

Michigan has one of 83 counties and one township on board. Mississippi has seen three of its 82 counties pass resolutions. In West Virginia, six of 55 counties and one town have passed similar resolutions. And one county and one city in Wisconsin have done the same.

There are some surprise members of the Second Amendment Sanctuary club, as well. One county, four townships, and three boroughs in New Jersey have bucked the liberal establishment there to pass resolutions supporting the Second Amendment's guarantee of the right to keep and bear arms.

And in liberal New York, one out of 62 counties and one town have adopted resolutions against some gun control in response to the 2013 passage of the misnamed SAFE Act. And while that legislation and the pro-Second Amendment reaction of that one county and one town predate the recent slate of Second Amendment resolutions, Wyoming County and Grand Island Town deserve their membership cards.

Likewise Needles City, California, is



Criminals don't follow laws: With some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, Chicago has the highest gun-violence rates.

AP Images



Guarding the people: Police Chief Loren Culp of Republic, Washington, stood up against unconstitutional gun laws in his state, joining more than half of Washington State's sheriffs in refusing to enforce those laws.

the single city in that Left Coast state to stand up for the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Needles City passed its Second Amendment Sanctuary resolution back in June 2019, making it something like a charter member.

Also predating the recent slate of pro-Second Amendment resolutions, there are several states that belong on the list as charter members of the Second Amendment Sanctuary club. Between 2009 and 2014, Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, and Wyoming all passed state laws protecting the God-given, Second Amendment-protected right of the people to keep and bear arms.

Alaska's law — the Alaska Firearms Freedom Act (HB 186), signed by Governor Sean Parnell in July 2010 — declares

certain firearms and accessories as exempt from federal regulation. It was amended in September 2013, when Governor Parnell signed HB69. That amendment expanded the law to prohibit “state and municipal agencies from using assets to implement or aid in the implementation of the requirements of certain federal statutes, regulations, rules, and orders that are applied to infringe on a person’s right to bear arms or right to due process” as well as “implementation of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005.”

Idaho’s SB 1332 — signed into law by Governor Butch Otter in March 2014 — along with 2009’s

HJM 3, also effectively nullifies federal laws that may infringe on the right to keep and bear arms.

In Kansas, Governor Sam Brownback signed the Second Amendment Protection Act in April 2014, citing the 10th Amendment as granting Kansas the authority to nullify unconstitutional federal laws. It then goes on to apply that principle to federal laws infringing on the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

And in March 2010, Governor Dave Freudenthal signed the Wyoming Firearms Freedom Act. That law — HB0095 — provides “that specified firearms that are manufactured, sold, purchased, possessed and used exclusively within Wyoming shall be exempt from federal regulation, including registration requirements; providing exceptions; creating offenses; providing penalties; authorizing the attorney general to defend specified actions; providing legislative findings and declarations of authority; establishing conditions for the possession and purchase of specified firearms; and providing for an effective date.”

The sum and substance of all of these laws, resolutions, and declarations by state legislatures; county, city, and town councils; and sheriffs is that though the anti-gun Left will continue to push for disarming the people, the right to keep and bear arms will not be allowed to be infringed. States, counties, cities, and towns will push back and defend that right.

As policymakers on the left continue to make their push, they also reveal their bent toward the “Philosopher King” mentality of Plato’s Utopian city Kallipolis from his *Republic*. It is evermore clear that they see themselves as the “Ruling Elite” whose job it is to keep us mere mortals in our place. Given the rising tide of Americans who resist that thinking, this issue may prove to be a bridge too far, and those Americans may turn out en masse to turn Democrats out in upcoming elections. ■



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COMMUNISTS WINNING ELECTIONS

Despite the disasters that communism has wreaked on countries around the world, communists are getting elected in this country by promising free stuff.

by C. Mitchell Shaw

RICHMOND — Mainstream media outlets have spent the last four and a half years focused on the phantom of Russia influencing U.S. elections with the help of Donald Trump. Meanwhile, pro-Chinese communists working within and without the Democratic Party have been successfully implementing a plan to flip one state after another toward the left. The goal is to use Democratic control as a transitional stage toward communist control.

According to a co-executive director of a pro-Maoist group operating in the United States, that plan was “put in motion years ago.” That co-executive director is Tram Nguyen, and her organization is New Virginia Majority (NVM). Nguyen’s admission took the form of a boast in a November 6 op-ed piece for the *New York Times*.

Nguyen wrote that NVM has spent the past 12 years working to “reach voters of all colors, women, low-income workers and young people where they are.” She added that this “has made it possible for us to develop a robust base of support along Virginia’s so-called Urban Crescent, from Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads.”



AP Images

Going with the communists: Durham, North Carolina, voters — like those in other areas throughout the country — were swayed by pro-Chinese communists who targeted strategic areas for a leftward shift.

As to the tactic and the message, Nguyen wrote, “Long before Election Day, we registered more than 300,000 voters, knocked on more than 2.5 million doors, and organized within communities of color to help win significant policy changes like Medicaid expansion, which covered nearly 400,000 people.”

So, NVM targeted minority neighborhoods (which are statistically lower-income neighborhoods) with a pitch for voter registration and an increased voter turnout tied to

the promise of more money and benefits from the public till. The result was exactly what they hoped for. Those newly minted, politically uninformed voters turned out en masse and placed Virginia squarely in the clutches of the Democrats.

Of course, political activist groups are nothing new. And for a political activist group to knock on doors, register voters, and nudge those new voters to vote a certain way is to be expected. What sets NVM apart from the pack is its pedigree — which includes pure-bred Maoist elements.

As the inestimable Trevor Loudon has been reporting in a series of articles published online by *The Epoch Times*, “NVM is a front for Liberation Road, known until April this year [2019] as Freedom Road Socialist

Organization (FRSO), the United States’ most influential Maoist organization.”

As Loudon wrote in an article focused on NVM’s success in Virginia:

NVM is led by longtime FRSO/Liberation Road cadre Jon Liss of Alexandria. Several FRSO cadres have served in NVM over the years, as have many activists from two NVM satellite groups, LeftRoots and the Virginia Student Power Network.

FRSO/Liberation Road comes out of the militantly pro-China American Maoist student movement of the 1970s. While it's more discreet about its Chinese loyalties these days, several of its leading supporters maintain close ties to the People's Republic [of China].

Loudon has documented other connections between NVM and FRSO/Liberation Road. In that same article, he lists some of NVM's "leading supporters," as well as their communist credentials. That list includes the likes of Fred Engst, "a longtime FRSO supporter" who was born in China to parents who moved there in the 1940s "to be part of the Communist Revolution." Engst left China for the United States in the 1970s for his education, but returned to China in 2007. He now teaches at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

Another NVM supporter is Alex Tom, who, Loudon explains, is "a leader of Left-Roots and the pro-Beijing San Francisco-based Chinese Progressive Association." According to Tom's 2013 LeftForum speaker's bio, he formed the China Education and Exposure Program in 2012 to "build a deeper analysis of China for US progressives and leftists and to build relationships with the grassroots movement in China."

And Steve McClure, another NVM supporter, was in the 1970s "active in the pro-Mao Revolutionary Student Brigade." His ties to FRSO and NVM — along with his background of Engineering Information in Surveying, Mapping, and Remote Sensing at Wuhan University in China, where he is a research associate with the State Key Laboratory in that field — have served the communist cause well.

His blog shows that he worked with NVM from China "to make a series of maps to inform planning for precinct walks in Virginia State house districts." Those are the maps NVM used to choose the neighborhoods where they knocked on more than 2.5 million doors and registered nearly 300,000 voters with promises of bigger and better government handouts. Those maps — provided by a traitorous American employed by a Chinese university — were indispensable in the action plan of communists in America to flip Virginia to the Democrats.

So, while the liberal mainstream media have spent four and half years pounding the "Trump/Russia collusion" narrative into the public consciousness, despite lacking anything resembling evidence, pro-Chinese communists have worked doggedly to influence U.S. elections. And far from exposing that foreign influence, the only real mention of it in the liberal mainstream media was the op-ed boasting of Nguyen published by the *New York Times*.

With Loudon's research revealing the myriad connections between communists in China and communists in America, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the liberal mainstream media are complicit in the communist plan to take over America. After all, given their vast resources and operating budgets, why did they not uncover this?

Due to the high journalistic standards evident in Loudon's exposé of the Chinese communist influence in U.S. elections, THE NEW AMERICAN reached out to him. In an exclusive interview, he told this writer that NVM's success in Virginia is only the beginning of FRSO/Liberation Road's plans for America.

For instance, NVM is merely one piece in a nefarious puzzle. Similar organizations with the same goals have been

formed with FRSO/Liberation Road influence and connections in other states. Partly by forming new groups and partly by infiltrating existing groups, FRSO/Liberation Road and other communist organizations have been successful in taking over politics in selected areas, especially in the South, according to Loudon.

In mid-December, Loudon wrote about "how and why pro-China communists took over Durham, North Carolina." He explains that "Liberation Road has a strategy of destroying the Republican Party base in the South — what it terms the 'New Confederacy' — by using the minority voting base to flip county by county, state by state to the Democrats." And North Carolina is a "prime target" because it is "one of the most politically marginal Republican-held states in the South" and because it is right next door to Virginia, where the Reds recently enjoyed a Blue victory.

The communist tactics for taking over North Carolina are simple: Infiltrate and sow discord. About the communist targeting of the South, Loudon wrote:

In the 2000s, FRSO began sending comrades from California, Massachusetts, and New York to beef up the numbers, soon making the Maoists the most significant force on the



In the open: Tram Nguyen, a director for the pro-Maoist New Virginia Majority, boasted in a *New York Times* op-ed piece of the tactics her group used to flip Virginia from red to blue.

twitter.com/tramnguyen



Covering collectivism: Investigative journalist Trevor Loudon has reported extensively on the communist origins of groups that are working toward — and succeeding at — moving American politics to the left.

left in the region. This was part of a deliberate colonization of Southern states, particularly Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida. FRSO targeted the South because of its high concentration of black and Hispanic potential voters, which, coupled with a history of racial polarization, made for great revolutionary potential.

North Carolina, one of the most politically marginal Republican-held states in the South was a prime target. Durham, with the largest concentration of black voters in the state, became ground zero for the Maoists. FRSO supporters began to infiltrate Durham student unions, community groups, labor unions, churches, and local government.

Part of that plan involves infiltration of

the Democratic Party. That infiltration does not follow the traditional model of only taking over a party from within. The new model is about strategic placement of infiltrators in the party *and* having others outside the party pressure the party to move even further to the left.

For instance, in her op-ed piece, Nguyen consistently refers to Democrats in the third person (*they*, not *we*). Loudon explained that this is because of an alliance called the Left Inside/Outside Project, which is a pet project of the communist People's World online news site. Loudon went on to say that it is a coalition of the Communist Party USA, Liberation Road, Democratic Socialists of America, and other communist/socialist groups. "They are working explicitly to move politics to the left, especially in the South, by working both inside and outside the Democratic Party."

Pro-Chinese communists working within and without the Democratic Party have been successfully implementing a plan to flip one state after another toward the left. The goal is to use Democrat control as a transitional stage toward communist control.

Loudon said that with some communists and socialists "working inside the party, running as Democrats, and others working outside the party, like Nguyen, putting pressure on the Democrats and helping them," they are succeeding in moving Democrats further and further left.

In fact, Loudon has written much about the Left Inside/Outside Project. In September, he wrote that the "leading socialist and communist organizations in the United States" created the project as part of their plan "to increase their infiltration and manipulation of the Democratic Party." As he wrote in that article:

Communist Party USA (CPUSA) leader John Bachtell partially explained the new strategy in a pitch to Party members to attend an online webinar that was held on May 23, 2018. According to Bachtell, the webinar would feature a panel of representatives from the CPUSA, Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO), LeftRoots, and others.

Loudon further reported:

The Left Inside/Outside Project first announced itself in a letter, titled "The Left We Want to Build: Breaking Out of the Margins," published on the FRSO-aligned website Organizing Upgrade on June 9, 2017.

That letter is unapologetic and unambiguous in its push for "building a left trend — an alignment of organizations and individuals — based on strategic unity." The letter goes on to call for "determined, long-term, energetic efforts to break out of the margins based on a common view of how to engage in our electoral system, while also building mass protest" as the only way to "offer a chance to make the left a force in U.S. politics and, eventually, a contender for power."

The letter — signed by key leaders of America's preeminent Marxist organizations — issues a call that could have been termed "Collectivists of the United States Unite!" For instance, it states:

All of the organizations and networks we belong to have important

strengths, but also very real limitations in terms of size, demographics, or geographic or sectoral concentration. None of them, in their current form, are capable of playing the strategic role we believe the left must play in the next period. A left trend might have that potential — the ability to reach far beyond the existing left to create a force that can move us from defense to offense.

As NVM’s campaign in Virginia demonstrates, collectivists uniting and promising a deeper drink from the public well for those who vote to empower Democrats to move further left can offer low-income (and lower-information) voters something appealing.

The something-for-nothing promises of organizations such as NVM are nothing new. Neither are the consequences that befall those who buy into those promises and vote accordingly.

Staying close to its Chinese communist roots, NVM is setting America up for jumping out of the frying pan of democracy and into the fire of a tyrannical communist dictatorship. Having succeeded in flipping Virginia (known, among other names, as the “Birthplace of a Nation”)

NVM is setting bigger goals. Nguyen plainly states that her objective in writing about NVM’s successful strategy in Virginia is to “make the case that this type of year-round organizing can pave the way for victory nationally.”

Besides North Carolina, the FRSO/Liberation Road pro-Chinese communists have been laying the groundwork in other states, as well. Most of those states are in the South — which the Maoist conspirators prefer to call the “New Confederacy.”

In early December, Loudon wrote, “The Republican Party seems oblivious to a major threat developing in its Southern stronghold. Pro-China communists from the Liberation Road group are working to flip Republican held states in the South one by one.” After pointing out that “Virginia has already fallen,” Loudon went on to write:

North Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee are next on the list. If the communists can flip toss-up states Florida and North Carolina in 2020, President Donald Trump will likely be a one-term president and the Republican Party will be finished as a national force.

And similar to the way the Maoist influence targeted Durham as a cornerstone of the plan to take over North Carolina, FRSO/Liberation Road has heavily targeted Knoxville in its larger bid to take over Tennessee. On November 5, Liberation Road and the Democratic Socialists of America (an apt oxymoron) succeeded in having a second comrade elected to the Knoxville City Council. They had previously helped socialist Seema Singh Perez to join that nine-member body.

Loudon wrote at the time:

Liberation Road, its student wing Progressive Student Alliance, and the DSA have several hundred comrades and supporters in Tennessee and access to many more across the state and from neighboring Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky. The DSA alone has 56,000 members across the nation. They are able to win small local races by bringing in armies of out-of-state volunteers and phone-bankers from all over the country.

Another part of the communist/socialist takeover of Tennessee by way of Knoxville is the major socialist training center known as the Highlander Research and Education Center, located in New Market — a mere 25 miles from Knoxville. As Loudon documents:

Established as the Highlander Folk School by Communist Party USA-affiliated activists in the 1930s to bring socialism to the South, the center is now firmly under Liberation Road/Maoist control. Highlander Co-Executive Director Ash-Lee Henderson is a longtime FRSO leader, as is the school’s personnel chair, Hawaii-based Meizhu Lui. Most of Highlander’s current staffers and board members come from FRSO backgrounds.

In fact, two notable exceptions to the dominance of FRSO/Liberation Road at Highlander are “board members Erica Smiley, who comes from Communist Party USA, and Loan Tran, an activist with the pro-Iran/North Korea Workers World Party,” Loudon’s research shows. Exceptions like those not only prove the rule, they enforce it.



Communists don’t “liberate”: Despite the fact that since the beginning of the communist movement, communists have promised utopia but brought dystopia, they still preach liberation, even calling one of their U.S. groups Liberation Road.



Steering a state leftward: Driving under the influence of pro-Maoist communists, former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe restored the voting rights of thousands of convicted felons who helped flip Virginia to Democratic control.

AP Images

Florida is a prime FRSO/Liberation Road target for 2020. Using nearly the exact same tactic as was used to flip Virginia, FRSO/Liberation Road has given birth in the Sunshine State. The name of that spawn of dictatorial totalitarianism is The New Florida Majority. As Loudon's research shows, they are playing the same loaded hand that paid off in Virginia. "Working through The New Florida Majority and allied organizations, Liberation Road has signed up hundreds of thousands of new minority voters in Florida and helped pass a referendum giving 1.4 million 'Sunshine State' former felons the right to vote."

That last bit is almost exactly what NVM did in Virginia. As this writer explained in an online article for THE NEW AMERICAN published November 22:

Roughly 20,000 of [the] newly-minted, low-information voters [that voted to give control of Virginia to the Democrats] were also felons who had their voting rights restored as a result of NVM's work with former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. Beginning in 2016, McAuliffe announced that he would illegally restore the voting rights of more than 200,000 convicted felons. By the time the dust settled and the smoke

cleared, it took him until January of 2018 to put nearly 173,000 convicted felons back on the voting rolls.

In fact, Nguyen boasted of that "success" in her *New York Times* op-ed piece, writing:

The former governor, Terry McAuliffe, restored the voting rights of more than 173,000 Virginians during his term, more than any other governor in Virginia's history. In 2016, of the nearly 20,000 men and women who registered to vote for the first time as a result of the restoration of their rights, a whopping 79 percent voted. They were a key voting bloc in Virginia, the only Southern state that Hillary Clinton won.

Given the result in Virginia with the restoration of voting rights of 173,000 convicted felons, the prospect for Florida granting that same ability to 1.4 million convicted felons is frightening, indeed.

FRSO/Liberation Road front groups — similar to NVM and The New Florida Majority — have also claimed successes in Kentucky (where they were instrumental in electing a Democratic governor) and Philadelphia (with the election of their candidate to the city council). Besides the cities and states in the South listed above,

they also now have their eye on Arizona. The once reliably Republican state is a target of FRSO/Liberation Road, where, Loudon explains, "socialists have exploited Arizona's growing Latino minorities to move the state toward the left." He points out that as a result of that agitation, "Communist Party-backed Democrat Kyrsten Sinema narrowly won her U.S. Senate race in 2018, and incumbent Republican Sen. Martha McSally faces a strong challenge from Democrat Mark Kelly."

State by state, FRSO/Liberation Road and other communist and pro-communist groups are applying the principle of creating an informed and active electorate — only in reverse. They want an uninformed and active base committed to serving the communists in exchange for handouts. By registering those people who desire a cradle-to-grave nanny state to vote and making sure they show up to vote for largess, they almost guarantee a transition of the United States from a republic to a democracy to a communist dictatorship.

As for the prospects for truly patriotic Americans restoring the Republic, Loudon states that the path forward will be difficult. Given that communists and socialists have simply used a correct principle in reverse, patriots may be tempted to think that if they simply apply that same principle — go knock on doors, register voters, and get them to vote — they can restore the Republic and live happily ever after.

Loudon told THE NEW AMERICAN, "We have to make the case for freedom, we have to go out and intelligently engage people and try and get them to get more understanding of the country's history and the benefits of freedom and the consequences of losing it. It's an intelligent debate we have to have and we have to have it." But, "They go out and tell people, 'You vote our way and we'll give you more benefits.' One's a lot easier to sell — one takes a lot less work."

So, patriots have their work cut out for them. Organized, well-planned, and orchestrated action — such as that provided by this magazine's parent organization, The John Birch Society — is what is needed if the Republic is to survive.

And — with pro-Chinese communists making headway — there is no time to waste. ■

THE SLIPPERY SLOPE OF RED FLAG LAWS

Red flag laws are supposedly implemented to take guns away from mentally disturbed gun owners, but they are based in fallacy and represent real losses of rights.

by Dan Gifford

Proposals for the enactment of “red flag” laws, or “extreme risk protection orders,” as some call them, are at the top of the current list of demands by “progressives.” But two glaring fallacies underlie those proposals. One is that firearms are inherently evil, as are their owners, and catalysts for violence; while the other is the claim that such laws will *not* be mis-administered and lead to endangering other rights.

Proposed red flag laws would allow police to violate both one’s Second Amendment rights and the rights of due process by confiscating one’s firearms based on a claim that the gun owner is unbalanced or prone to violence. The working details vary among the various state and federal versions, but their results are the same. One’s constitutional rights may be clipped on the mere fantasy allegation of anyone from an angry wife to a snooping do-gooder, thereby initiating a sequence of events that could lead, and already has led, to the deaths of police officers and gun owners.

The danger becomes all the more likely when a medical professional such as a psychiatrist claims a gun owner has gone off the rails. But is a psychiatrist’s claim truly an indication of real danger? Most people would likely believe it is. But tests of that belief conducted by Stanford University professor of psychiatry David Rosenhan and others in a landmark 1973 study indicate such an opinion is far from a slam-dunk fact. Rosenhan had sane people fake hallucinations in order to test the widely held belief that



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Dan Gifford is a national Emmy-winning, Oscar-nominated film producer and former reporter for CNN, The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, and ABC News.

psychiatrists could reliably tell a truly mentally ill person from one who is not. The results showed “psychiatrists cannot reliably tell the difference between people who are sane and those who are insane.”

Though Rosenhan received much push-back from the psychiatric community, the essence of his conclusion was found as far back as 1887 by investigative journalist Nellie Bly. She successfully faked symptoms of mental illness to gain access to a lunatic asylum in order to expose its inhumane conditions. At the very least, Bly’s fakery and Rosenhan’s study bring into question the legitimacy of the psychiatric opinion, an opinion to which all red flag laws I’ve seen give added weight regarding who is sane and who is dangerous. Is that warranted?

It has been my observation that psychiatrists are far from objective about gun owners. For instance, almost all mental health professionals at Johns Hopkins, where my mother was a professor of epidemiology and public health, openly viewed gun ownership as a dangerous compensation for things like low self-esteem or sexual inadequacy. That bias, I noticed, often masked an elitist desire to restructure and control society to their liking and was expressed as objective fact in the famous 1960s study chaired by former Hopkins president Milton Eisenhower.

His National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence study recommended that private handgun ownership be banned. But the bias behind that and other recommendations was stripped away in a later study by the Carter administration that was intended to confirm the Hopkins findings and provide a launch pad for draconian gun laws. It didn’t. Carter researchers found the Hopkins study was “results oriented” and intentionally constructed to come to the conclusions it did. The surprise Carter conclusion, which was shoved under the proverbial publicity rug, stated: “It is commonly hypothesized that much criminal violence, especially homicide, occurs simply because firearms are readily at hand and, thus, that much homicide would not occur were firearms generally less available. There is no persuasive evidence that supports this view.” The lead researcher then delivered what remains the coup de grâce most have never heard: “A compelling case for gun control cannot be made.”

That should have pushed the red flag law idea over the precipice, but it didn’t. Gun-control activists keep making up “truths” that reflect their own irrational biases, without any regard to the likelihood that their new laws would bring about a legal and constitutional slippery slope and a descent into a police state of informers and arbitrary arrests.

Red flag law proponents dismiss that scenario and buttress their dismissal with the opinions of academics such as Diablo Canyon College philosophy professor Jacob E. Van Vleet. He and other elites generally maintain that the slippery slope concerns are fallacies “precisely because we can never know if a whole series of events and/or a certain result is determined to follow one event or action in particular. Usually, but not always, the slippery slope argument is used as a fear tactic.” Maybe so, but that’s a rhetorical cop-out, for there is an overriding reality about the type of constitutional-rights-busting power implicit in red flag laws that was stated by English Baron John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

That does not mean America would necessarily slide into an East German-style Stasi police state overnight. It might take a while. “There is no ‘slippery slope’ toward loss of liberties, only a long staircase where each step downward must be first tolerated by the American people and their leaders,” former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming has said. But “once the down staircase is set in place, the temptation to take each next step will be irresistible,” noted former *New York Times* columnist William Safire. The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas understood:

As nightfall does not come all at once, neither does oppression. In both instances, there is a twilight when everything remains seemingly unchanged. And it is in such twilight that we all must be most aware of change in the air — however slight — lest we become unwitting victims of the darkness.

And victims we will be.

The urge to destroy our Second Amendment will require that other rights against abusive government, such as search-and-seizure protections, will have to be weakened as well. As the Sir Thomas More character in the movie *A Man For All Seasons* asked a zealot who wanted to knock down all the laws of England to find the devil, “Do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then — the laws all being flat?”

Wake up and smell the sulfur. ■



Psycho-babble: Promoters of some red flag laws, which take away people’s guns after claims a gun owner is a danger, say only mentally ill people will be targeted because psychiatrists determine who is a danger. But psychiatrists have biases, and studies show they can’t tell who is mentally ill.

DANGEROUS CLIMATE "CULT" IGNORES SCIENCE

Real science is about learning from replicable studies. Climate-change alarmists follow their feelings.

by Alex Newman

MADRID — Numerous scientists and experts have argued that the alarmists peddling hysteria about the man-made global-warming hypothesis are behaving as members of a religious cult while claiming to be acting on the basis of science. Instead of rejecting or revising their earlier dire warnings of climate catastrophe based on the growing body of scientific evidence arguing against their alarmism, they cling to their discredited dogma that environmental doomsday is fast approaching.

For example, according to the alarmist theory, increasing the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere by a certain percentage will not simply cause a corresponding increase in temperature — it will cause *runaway* global warming. That is what the alarmists' models have forecast, but that is not what has happened. Scientists may debate how much global temperature has increased in recent years (satellite readings show almost no warming since 2000), but it is *uncontested* that runaway global warming has not occurred as the alarmists predicted. Same for United Nations claims of more hurricanes, more fires, less snow, and so on. Not surprisingly for a cult, this reality has not caused the climate cultists to reconsider their claims. The supposed environmental tipping point, when it will no longer be pos-

Alex Newman is an educator and the co-author (with the late Sam Blumenfeld) of the book Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America's Children.



Not trying to make scientific points: Climate cultists come up with all sorts of bizarre spectacles for the media, such as this mock hanging, which the mainstream media circulate.

sible to prevent the impending catastrophe, is always just a few years away.

Back in 1989, the Associated Press reported: "Noel Brown, director of the New York office of the U.N. Environmental Program, or UNEP ... said governments have a 10-year window of opportunity to solve the greenhouse effect before it goes beyond human control." U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was born in 1989. Last year, she warned, "The world is going to end in 12 years if we don't address climate change." Oh well, at least she gave humankind two more years than the UNEP's Brown did 30 years earlier. And perhaps she does not know that before she was born, in the 1970s and even into the early '80s, "experts" were warning that a man-made global-cooling trend could trigger another ice age.

But the alarmists of recent decades continue to not only claim that they are right about catastrophic global warming,

they also claim that the "science" purporting to establish a "climate emergency" is "settled." In reality, as this magazine has repeatedly documented, the scientific evidence is overwhelming — that there is no climate emergency.* But cults do not need evidence, science, reason, logic, or any of the tools traditionally associated with the honest pursuit of truth. Instead, they depend on deception, irrational faith, peer pressure, and a total concealing of the truth to advance and keep their members in line.

COP25

The cult-like nature of climatism was on full display at last December's United

*See, for example, "Hiding the Hiatus: Global Warming on Pause" by William F. Jasper, "Meet the Climate Realists" by Rebecca Terrell, and "Climate Alarmists Have Been Wrong About Virtually Everything" by Alex Newman, in the January 4, 2016 issue.

Nations COP25 “climate” conference in Madrid attended by this author, whose cover-story report on the craziness appeared in the previous (February 3) issue of TNA under the title “Climate Alarmists Unmasked.” Absent from the UN circus were scientific realists, who held a “Climate Reality Conference” elsewhere in Madrid hosted by a coalition of environmental groups that reject global alarmism, including the Heartland Institute, the CO₂ Coalition, the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT), and the European Institute for Climate and Energy (EIKE). Not surprisingly, their alternative conference, where evidence debunking the alarmism was presented, was ignored by the mainstream media.

One of the speakers was Dr. William Happer, an internationally renowned Princeton physicist who served President

Trump on the National Security Council until resigning recently. Happer, who did not mince words, used the occasion to identify the alarmists as a cult. “I hope sooner or later enough people recognize the phoniness of this bizarre environmental cult and bring it to an end,” he declared.

Happer also suggested that the climate cult’s “crusade” against CO₂ would end badly for everyone. “We have a climate crusade.... This is not science, it’s a religion,” he declared. “Crusades have a bad way of ending. Typically, many, many people are hurt, no good is done, but a few cynical opportunists profit and most people pay the price. The same thing will happen with the climate crusade if we permit it to go forward. I pray that we can stop it before it does too much damage.”

The entire premise around which the cult has rallied is phony, Happer explained. “We are here under false pretenses, wasting our time talking about a non-existent climate emergency,” said the world-renowned scientist, who previously told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would be good for the planet and the people who inhabit



Dissenting voice: Princeton physicist Dr. William Happer, who worked with President Trump on climate, told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that more CO₂ would be a good thing for the Earth, despite what climate alarmists believe.

it. “It’s hard to understand how much further the shrillness can go, as this started out as global warming, then it was climate change or global weirding, now it is climate crisis and climate emergency. What next? But stick around, it will happen.”

Of course, Happer is hardly the first world-renowned scientist to call the climate-alarmist movement a cult. MIT meteorologist Richard Lindzen has frequently referred to the warmists as a “cult” because they refuse to change their beliefs in response to evidence and proof.

“As with any cult, once the mythology of the cult begins falling apart, instead of saying, oh, we were wrong, they get more and more fanatical,” Lindzen explained in a January 2015 radio interview. “I think that’s what’s happening here. Think about it: You’ve led an unpleasant life, you haven’t led a very virtuous life, but now you’re told, you get absolution if you watch your carbon footprint. It’s salvation!”

And in December of that year, outside the UN COP21 climate summit in Paris, the late Dr. Ivstan Marko, a chemistry professor at the Catholic University of Lou-

vain and the head of the European Chemical Society, told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that the climate cult had perverted Christianity to develop its dangerous theology. Instead of repenting of sins, climate cultists want you to believe that you must repent of your “carbon footprint” — by giving them money and surrendering your freedom.

“It’s a new religion going on,” he explained. “We call it climatism around here. That new religion is there to make sure that people will pay — you will pay for carbon dioxide, you will pay for heating your home, you will pay for everything that touches far or close to climate.” It is also a religion that does not brook dissent. “If you want to have research grants, you have to abide by the current dogma. If you don’t do that, you will never be funded.”

High-profile political leaders have come to the same conclusion. Former Australian Prime

Minister Tony Abbott, for instance, blasted the cult for the danger it represents. “While we still seem to be in the grip of a climate cult, the climate cult is going to produce policy outcomes that will cause people to wake up to themselves,” he told Israel Public Broadcasting Corporation foreign editor Eran Mor-Cicurel in an interview. “The last thing we should be doing is driving our industries offshore, putting extra pressure on household budgets, and risking Third World-style blackouts all in the name of climate change.”

The Cult

As if to confirm that the warmist movement truly had become a cult, self-described “eco-social activist” Stuart Scott — a leading UN COP25 speaker and population-control zealot — put a religious spin on it all. Christians, of course, say, “What Would Jesus Do?” when considering actions. Scott, though, concluded his highly controversial remarks during one of his speeches on a prominent UN stage by asking, “What would Greta do?” — a reference to the Swedish teenager who has been used as a child prop by the climatists.

It would be hard to find better evidence that these people constitute a “bizarre environmental cult,” as Happer put it.

Even apostate Christian churches have joined the climate cult. “Announcement! Jesus of Nazareth has now appointed one of his successors, Greta Thunberg,” claimed a pastor with the Church of Sweden. Listening to Greta’s thundering lectures aimed at “world leaders,” she sure sounded like a cult leader, promising endless punishment, fire, and torment for those evil sinners responsible for harming Mother Earth with man-made “global warming.”

Inside COP25, it sure seemed like a cult — a doomsday cult, to be specific, with the poisoned Kool-Aid being offered to the entire planet in the form of global taxes, global socialism, and more (see “Faith, Family, and Freedom Under Warmist Assault” in the February 3 issue of TNA). Virtually every speaker and delegate and “journalist” and activist referred to “science” as if it were some vengeful god that must be appeased and obeyed, rather than a process used to discover truth. “Science demands that we bla bla bla,” the high priests of the climate cult, who flew in on private jets and arrived in fleets of armored limos, lectured their followers, who mindlessly bleated agreement. “Science must be respected! Sci-

ence must be obeyed! Failure will result in utter planetary destruction. We only have 10 years to obey!”

The irony is that there was absolutely no interest in actual science among the bulk of COP25 cultists, many of whom were trained like Pavlov’s dogs to drool out the outlandish mantra that the “science is settled” and cannot be questioned.

General Secretary Wolfgang Müller of the European Institute for Climate and Energy, Germany’s leading think tank for climate and energy policies, rejected the notion that there was anything scientific about what was going on at COP25. “One of the biggest examples of fake news even before the invention of fake news is ‘settled science,’” he told THE NEW AMERICAN. “If it’s settled, it’s not science. If it’s done by consensus, it’s not science, and vice versa.”

Müller also told us that there appeared to be a deliberate effort to prevent any questions directed at alarmism-promoting scientists and experts at the UN summit. He also noted that blatantly incorrect and unscientific assertions on everything from hurricanes to climate were being encouraged at the UN summit, with no hint of reality allowed in. Indeed, one of the American Democrats who came to COP25, U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), sparked nationwide ridicule during the

Obama years by demanding that anti-mafia RICO laws be used to prosecute those who reject the man-made warming hypothesis. Again, talk about cultish behavior! Dissenters must be punished. Heretics must repent or be burned at the stake!

Müller was one of the scientific experts who spoke at the alternative Climate Reality Conference, along with the aforementioned Dr. Happer. So was Dr. David Wojick, who is affiliated with CFACT and serves as the executive director of the Climate Change Debate Education project. Wojick noted that the UN’s alarmism was purposely ignoring evidence contradicting its agenda. “Their reports are not assessments,” he told THE NEW AMERICAN about the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its alarmist pronouncements. “They have the structure of legal briefs arguing one side of a court case. I call this artful bias. They mostly just ignore the skeptical arguments, or if mentioned they are simply glossed over. So what you have is half a debate.”

Beyond that, the UN’s arguments are “entirely based on computer modeling, but the models they rely on are constrained so that only humans can cause global warming,” explained Dr. Wojick, who has a Ph.D. in the logic and philosophy of science. He added that the notion of a “climate emergency” is not grounded in reality, but in outlandish reports and predictions that often do not even support the alarmism. Basically, the “climate emergency” exists only in the debunked “computer models” of climate alarmists on the government payroll.

Other speakers at the alternative climate conference included NOAA meteorologist Stanley Goldenberg, an expert on hurricanes; prominent meteorologist Anthony Watts of WattsUpWithThat fame; Chilean engineer Douglas Pollock, who exposed the insanity of Chile’s “climate” policies; science policy advisor to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and climate expert Lord Christopher Monckton; International Climate Science Coalition Executive Director Tom Harris; and Heartland Institute Center on Climate and Environmental Policy Director James Taylor.

Also speaking was Dutch geophysicist Dr. Guus Berkhout, who founded the Global Climate Intelligence Group, challenging the alarmism in Europe. Before



Drinking the climate Kool-Aid: Climate protesters demand all sorts of policies that would end the lives of millions, such as getting rid of capitalism and fossil fuels.

COP25 began, Berkhout got hundreds of scientists to sign a petition, delivered to UN and European government leaders, rejecting the premise that there is a “climate emergency.” Not surprisingly, their petition was ignored.

Taken together, the Climate Reality Conference speakers absolutely demolished the pseudo-scientific case for climate alarmism. But the media and all the “science” cultists were nowhere to be found, with just a tiny handful of articles even mentioning the event, mostly to ridicule and demonize it. For cult leaders, “science” (or whatever other false god they may lift up, such as “equality” or “Mother Earth”) is just a pretext for power and control.

Are Cult Leaders True Believers?

Aside from Saint Greta, perhaps, the cult leaders seem to know better than to believe the garbage they teach their followers. If they really believed that CO₂ was pollution, they would quit flying tens of thousands of people thousands of miles around the world to these UN “climate” summits in the name of stopping CO₂ emissions. After all, Skype and virtual meetings are used by Fortune 500 companies all the time. If they truly believed, the cult leaders might also consider reducing their own humongous carbon footprints. After all, climate crusaders such as Al Gore, Michael Bloomberg, and John Kerry, all of whom made an appearance in Madrid, have individual carbon footprints significantly larger than many African villages. If they really believed that meat was contributing to man-made warming, the Burger King at the UN summit would not have been the busiest establishment in the whole place. Ironically, Burger Kings throughout Spain sold the vegan “impossible” burger, but not the one at the UN summit — we checked!

And if the cult leaders really believed, they might

show some concern about Communist China, which is the world’s largest emitter of CO₂, as well as of real pollution. Currently, the Chinese release about 30 percent of all human emissions into the atmosphere — and that is climbing, fast. Beijing also promised to continue *increasing* its CO₂ emissions for at least another decade as the regime continues to build coal-fired power plants. China actually has more coal-fired plants in production right now than the entire European Union has online across the entire continent.

Meanwhile, Americans produce just 15 percent of global human-caused CO₂. And in the United States, due to technology, innovation, and the market-driven shift to natural gas, CO₂ emissions are dropping like a rock. If the warmists were truly concerned about CO₂ — human emissions make up a fraction of one percent of all the greenhouse gases naturally present in the atmosphere — they would

be urging Communist China to be more like America.

But instead of America being praised, the United States was endlessly demonized at COP25 while China was praised. “Xi Jinping is not a dictator,” said Bloomberg before arriving at COP25 in one of his three private planes when asked about these facts. The Nanny State billionaire also owns two helicopters, a dozen homes, almost 50 cars, and a half-dozen yachts. Xi, who actually *is* a mass-murdering dictator, is building the coal-fired power plants away from the cities, Bloomberg said, as if that made any difference in terms of the man-made warming hypothesis claiming CO₂ in the atmosphere anywhere is the problem.

Similar hypocrisy was everywhere. While warmists pushed a conspiracy theory about “Big Oil” stifling their progress, in the real world, the major oil companies and virtually all the Big Business players, including mega-banks, are shoveling money into the climate cult’s coffers. Ironically, Spain’s largest energy supplier and consumer of “fossil fuels,” Endesa, was a “diamond sponsor” of the UN COP25. Yes, seriously. The Rockefeller dynasty, meanwhile, which has been the top financial backer of the alarmist movement for decades, as revealed in a report from the Energy and Environment Legal Institute, created one of the world’s largest fortunes using oil. Yes, oil.

The climate cult wants you to pay for indulgences in the form of carbon taxes and wealth redistribution. But they know better than to pay up themselves. Instead, the cult leaders will be laughing all the way to the bank.

In short, it is easy to see why so many experts view the warmist movement as a dangerous cult. The question now is whether this cult will succeed in duping the rest of the world — and especially the American people — into drinking the Kool-Aid, too. ■



AP Images

Signals of a scam: It was clear for many reasons that the cult leaders do not believe their own lies, including the fact that Spain’s largest emitter of CO₂, Endesa, was a top sponsor of the UN summit.

AP Images



WHEN A POLITICAL WIN IS A LOSS

President Trump long claimed that NAFTA was a disaster for the United States, and so he wanted to pass the USMCA to take its place, but the USMCA might actually be worse.

by *Christian Gomez*

On January 29, 2020, two weeks after the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (H.R. 5430) — a 239-page bill that both approves and implements the separate 2,410-page trade USMCA scheme — President Trump signed the legislation into law. A week earlier, in his remarks delivered at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Trump praised the new agreement, contrasting it with NAFTA. “As I mentioned earlier, we ended the NAFTA disaster — one of the worst trade deals ever made, not even close — and replaced it with the incredible new trade deal, the USMCA — that’s Mexico and Canada,” Trump boasted.

Christian Gomez is research project manager for The John Birch Society.

The new USMCA will take effect once all three nations ratify the agreement — with only Canada remaining to complete the process. Despite President Trump’s strong aversion for the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, his assertion that NAFTA is no more is not entirely accurate, at least according to those closest to the negotiation of the new agreement.

At the signing ceremony held in Mexico City, for the “Protocol of Amendment to the Agreement Between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada” — a 27-page document of changes made to the USMCA agreed to by House Democrats — Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, who also served as Canada’s top negotiator on the USMCA, praised the progressive nature of the agreement and also touted how it “preserves NAFTA.” “When this agreement is enacted, NAFTA will not only be

He shouldn’t have: President Donald Trump praised the recently passed United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, though he says he is against globalism.

preserved; it will be updated, improved, and modernized,” Freeland said.

Among the changes negotiated by House Democrats that were agreed to by the Trump administration, and the governments of Canada and Mexico, were language for stronger enforcement provisions to Mexico’s recently passed national collective bargaining legislation, removing the previous language that Democrats feared would have resulted in higher costs for pharmaceuticals, and the addition of seven multilateral environmental agreements to the USMCA’s environmental chapter, along with a clause for the addition of future agreements. These additions were made to what Freeland had previously described as being a “very progressive agreement.”

Despite Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s repeated insistence that the changes made by members of her party resulted in an immeasurably better agreement than what the Trump administration had first given to Congress in late 2018, the reality is that the USMCA was already more progressive than the original NAFTA. Unlike NAFTA, the USMCA included new chapters on the environment and labor.

Even before House Democrats tampered with the language of the agreement, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Canada’s Liberal Party government, and the socialist government of former Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto had already hashed out a deeply globalist trade scheme that included the promotion of collective bargaining laws; mandated protections for “gender-identity” and other “gender-related issues” in the workplace and additional protections for “migrant workers”; promoted the UN Agenda 21/ Agenda 2030 concept of “sustainable development”; and subordinated the United States to international global governance organizations and conventions, such as the World Trade Organization, International Labour Organization, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), otherwise known as the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST). All of this was



AP Images

His trade track: U.S. Trade Representative Robert E. Lighthizer (above), a longtime member of the pro-world government Council on Foreign Relations, was a key architect behind the USMCA and consulted regularly with his Obama-era predecessor and fellow CFR luminary Michael Froman.

already contained in the original USMCA proposal that Trump gave his seal of approval to when he signed the agreement in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on November 30, 2018.

Many of these same globalist entrapments were also contained in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which President Trump has fervently repudiated as the “worst trade deal ever negotiated.” Ironically, as several former Obama trade officials have noted, many of the same trade negotiators who worked on the TPP also worked on Trump’s USMCA and were present at Trump’s original Rose Garden press conference when he announced the completion of the agreement on October 1, 2018. “Ironically, he called them horrible negotiators when running for office,” Trevor Kincaid, the former deputy assistant U.S. trade representative for public and media affairs under the Obama administration, told the *Huffington Post*.

Although Lighthizer did not serve in the Obama administration or work on the TPP, he did have frequent conversations with his predecessor, Michael Froman, Obama’s U.S. trade representative, throughout the course of the USMCA negotiations. At a “markup session” for the implementing bill, H.R. 5430, in the

Senate Finance Committee, minority member Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.) took credit for putting Lighthizer in touch with Froman. “When our friend Robert Lighthizer was nominated to be trade rep, he came to see all of us. And I suggested to him that he reach out to Michael Froman, trade rep during the [Obama] administration,” Carper revealed. “I said Michael had been involved in negotiating something called Trans-Pacific Partnership. They had already negotiated pieces of that trade agreement with Canada and Mexico, 12 nations in all, 40-percent of the world’s trade. And I said to Mr. Lighthizer, I said before you go reinventing the wheel; find out what was negotiated in the last administration.”

“I urged him to put Michael on his speed dial as he went forward. To his credit, they have communicated a lot in the last couple of years. I think it’s been good for those negotiations,” Carper touted.

The biggest similarity to the TPP, and the most destructive to U.S. sovereignty, is the USMCA’s chapter on “Administrative and Institutional Provisions” (Chapter 30), which establishes the creation of a “Free Trade Commission.” The original 1994 NAFTA also established a “Free Trade Commission”; however, the

powers and functions outlined in Chapter 30 more closely resemble (virtually word-for-word) those of the TPP’s “TPP Commission.” Then-U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) warned about the sovereignty-destroying nature of the TPP Commission, calling it a “nascent European Union” that was seeking to develop the TPP into an EU-style Pacific Union or Pacific-Rim Union. The USMCA’s Free Trade Commission, just like the TPP Commission, would oversee a vast bureaucracy of supranational committees and bi-national panels; could propose changes to the agreement, virtually transforming it into a “living agreement”; and would largely influence the movement of labor or people (i.e., migrants) across borders.

The Free Trade Commission’s duties read very much like an EU-lite, serving as yet another building block in the globalist quest to create a “competitive” North American Union, which in itself would be a steppingstone for even larger economic integration into a global economic union or one-world government.

Trump’s USMCA is anything but a “better deal” for American national sovereignty and independence. Its various globalist entrapments are a further advance in the pincer strategy for global integration and world government. However, all hope is not lost. Article 34.6 in Chapter 34 of the agreement reads: “A Party may withdraw from this Agreement by providing written notice of withdrawal to the other Parties.” It further elaborates: “A withdrawal shall take effect six months after a Party provides written notice to the other Parties. If a Party withdraws, this Agreement shall remain in force for the remaining Parties.”

As globalists become distracted with promoting other sovereignty-destroying trade schemes such as a Trans-Atlantic Union, it is imperative to continue educating both the electorate and Congress about the dangers of the USMCA, in addition to new trade schemes promoted by the current and future administrations. For the sake of preserving our Republic’s freedoms and the right to self-governance under the Constitution, Congress must withdraw from the USMCA and stop the globalists’ trade agenda for world government. ■



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Stranger, Samaritan

When Kevin Lindke of Port Huron, Michigan, noticed something was amiss, he took immediate action and became a hero to one pizza delivery driver.

Rayden Jones left his vehicle unattended for a moment while delivering pizza to a local school in January and was shocked to discover his vehicle was gone when he exited the school. Unbeknownst to him at the time, the vehicle had been stolen by a mentally unstable woman.

"I was at Port Huron High School and was in and out in two minutes, and in that amount of time she was gone," Jones later recalled to WDIV of Detroit.

Fortunately, Kevin Lindke was driving home from work when he spotted Jones' vehicle, which was swerving and took the wrong ramp onto the freeway. Lindke immediately called the police and described the situation as he proceeded to follow the car.

The carjacker eventually crashed the car into another vehicle and began to take off, but Lindke would not allow it. He caught up to her and convinced her to wait with the vehicle until the police arrived. Law enforcement later informed Lindke the woman had a history of mental instability.

But Lindke's good deed doesn't end there. When he learned that the destroyed vehicle belonged to a hard-working pizza delivery driver, he decided to gift his minivan to Jones. Prior to that, Lindke had planned to sell the vehicle.

"I understand taking some hits and having to work through it," Lindke explained.

Lindke provided the keys and title to Jones on January 10.

"I'm not going to lie, I about burst into tears 'cause who does that?" Jones said, adding, "It's a Godsend, that this man, out of nowhere, who I've never met, would do this," Jones added. "It's mind-blowing."

Firefighters — and Cashiers?

When firefighters responded to a January 7 call by a gas station employee who fell ill while working all alone on his shift, they went above and beyond their call of duty.

The attendant, known only as Elliot,

was the only employee at the J&H Family Store in Alto, Michigan, when he began to feel ill. He immediately called his supervisor and requested another employee take over his shift before calling 911 for help.

Four firefighters arrived at the shop and stayed with the cashier until the ambulance arrived. Unfortunately, when the ambulance reached the store, the cashier's backup still had not arrived at the shop.

Not wanting Elliot to worry about the store or his job, the firefighters decided to stay at the shop and run it until backup arrived.

"[The customers] weren't pushy and upset," Captain Chris Wieland told News 8. "We weren't doing anything. They literally just wanted to get some snacks and get on the road. So I felt bad and thought we could help them out."

Wieland admitted to having some difficulty at first. "Getting the drawer open was a little tricky," he said. "I kept hitting, pushing a button and it kept saying something: 'error.' And I hit cancel and I could finally find the cash register button."

The firefighters were able to get the customers at the store rung up until the backup employee arrived.

Mom of 600+ Children

An Iowa woman was honored for fostering more than 600 children over the course of five decades, CNN reported.

Linda Faye Herring of Johnson County, Iowa, received a "Resolution of Appreciation" from the Department of Human Services Board of Supervisors for her decades-long service to foster care, which began in the 1970s.

"My best friend was doing foster care for teenage girls and I thought, 'Well, that would be nice to do the same,' but I wanted little kids," Herring told CNN. "So, I talked to the Department of Human Services and agreed to take kids with medical needs."

Herring, who also has five biological children of her own, in addition to adopting several others, quickly developed a reputation for never turning a child away, taking in children all hours of the day and night, regardless of the child's situation.

"The Department of Human Services would call Linda in the middle of the night to take a child, and she would meet anywhere to get a child," the Board of Supervisors wrote in Linda's Resolution of Appreciation.

The resolution says Herring cared mostly for children with special medical needs. It also states Herring kept bins of clothes in her garage so that even children who arrived at her home with nothing had changes of clothes.

Herring, now in her 70s, told CNN she was motivated by "love" to do what she did.

"I cried when the kids would leave my home, no matter how long they had been there. It was so hard for me to say goodbye to them. I always questioned, 'Why do I keep doing this?' because it was never easy to say goodbye to a child. But I kept doing it because I had so much love to give to these children in need."

One of Herring's adopted children, Anthony Herring, now 39, recalls his experience watching other children come into the home. "She was always available and ready for a child in need," said Anthony, who was taken in by Herring when he was six months old and formally adopted into the Herring family at age three. "These kids were usually taken from a traumatic situation and she'd take them in, provide a warm bed, clean clothes, warm meals and love," he continued, noting his mother worked hard to keep families together.

Anthony added that Herring would make sure every new child in her house was photographed professionally, and the picture then placed on the family's wall in the living room.

"That seems like a small thing," Anthony said, "but it helps them feel like they're at home."

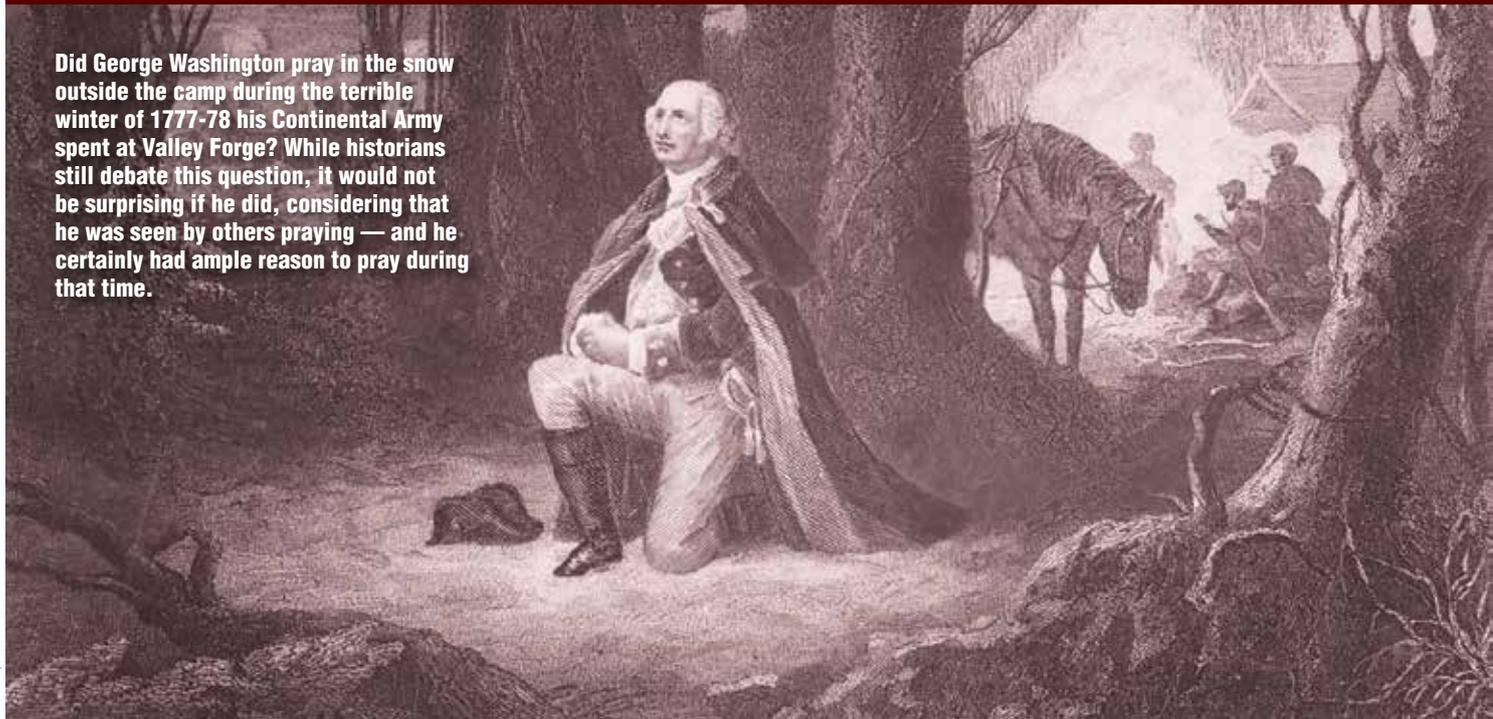
Unfortunately, due to health concerns, Herring decided to stop fostering children last October.

However, her goodness inspired four of her five biological children and one of her adopted children to carry on her legacy by fostering children themselves. Amazingly, three of Herring's grandchildren are also fostering children. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

Did George Washington pray in the snow outside the camp during the terrible winter of 1777-78 his Continental Army spent at Valley Forge? While historians still debate this question, it would not be surprising if he did, considering that he was seen by others praying — and he certainly had ample reason to pray during that time.

McRae, John C.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Man of Faith, Christian Gentleman

Radical leftists, in their quest to demean American culture to pave the way to redesign our government, have been disparaging our Founders, including George Washington.

by Steve Byas

None of the Founding Fathers stands taller in importance than George Washington. At his funeral, Washington's good friend Henry Lee eulogized him as "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Washington's contributions to the founding of the United States were so great that he is justly called "the Father of our Country," a recognition that without Washington, there would not be a United States of America.

This is why the radical Left, in its efforts to undermine the foundations of the country, are so persistent in besmirching the memory of Washington, whose 288th birthday we celebrate this month, on February 22.

Some of the attacks are subtle, such as referring to the federal

holiday set aside to honor his memory as "Presidents Day." At one time, Washington's was the lone birthday of any American recognized both by Congress and by all 50 states. Now, his birthday is submerged in a generic day to honor all 45 presidents, whether it be Millard Fillmore or Washington. Of course, Washington's contributions to the creation of the United States go far beyond his eight years as president, and include his tenure as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and his service as president of the Constitutional Convention.

Perhaps his greatest contribution was his rejection of the opportunity to become either a king or a military dictator, when offered that chance in 1782 by many of his high-ranking Continental Army officers.

Despite all of this, a group of law students at Washington and Lee University in Virginia recently asked the college to allow future graduates the option of receiving their diploma sans the portrait of George Washington, found on the diplomas of all students. These students argue that Washington was a slave owner (perhaps ignorant that he freed his slaves), and that Washington does not properly reflect the university's "values" today.

Steve Byas is a university instructor in history and government and the author of History's Greatest Libels, a challenge to many of the falsehoods leveled at famous historical figures, including Washington, Jefferson, Christopher Columbus, and Joseph McCarthy.

Among the modern attacks upon Washington is the unfounded assertion that George Washington was a deist, not a Christian. A deist is a person who believes in the existence of a Supreme Being who created the world, but rejects the idea that such a deity intervenes in human affairs — which obviously would rule out a person being a Christian, as Jesus' incarnation, life, death, burial, and resurrection are the very embodiment of God's intervention into human life.

This allegation, that the “indispensable man” of American history was not a believer in Jesus Christ, has the benefit (from the mind-set of those who despise America's founding) of besmirching both Washington and his Christian faith, which provided the cultural consensus necessary for the nation's founding. While it is true that whether one person, even one as eminent as Washington, is a Christian has no bearing on validity of the Christian faith, these detractors desire that we should simply concede that Washington was a non-believer.

But the evidence is strong that Washington was a model Christian gentleman.

Jonathan Mitchell Sewall, a devout New Englander who had closely followed and frequently wrote on the life of Washington, told an audience in New Hampshire less than a month after Washington's death on December 14, 1799, “Let the deist reflect on this, and remember that Washington, the savior of his country, did not disdain to acknowledge and adore a great Savior, whom deists and infidels affect to slight and despise.”

John Marshall, who served as the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court for more than 30 years, was a close friend of Washington, his fellow Virginian. In his biography of Washington, Marshall said that he was a “sincere believer in the Christian faith, and a truly devout man.”

Admittedly, only God can know the heart of a human being, and such testimony cannot be conclusive by itself. What we can do, however, is examine not only testimony of those who knew him the best, but also read Washington's own words, which provide ample evidence that he was a sincere believer in Jesus Christ, placing his faith in Him for his own eternal destiny.

The first corroboration that Washington was a Christian lies in the lack of the evidence to the contrary: There is no evidence that Washington ever claimed to be a deist.

Conversely, much evidence exists in the historical record that Washington often made remarks that indicated he was a Christian.

Washington's Christian Beliefs in His Own Words

According to William Johnson, in his book *George Washington, the Christian*, a book containing Washington's prayers in Washington's own handwriting, the prayers found in the book include Washington's plea that God pardon him for his sins and “remove them from thy presence, as far as the east is from the west, and accept me for the merits of thy son Jesus Christ, that when I come into the temple and compass thine altar, my prayers may come before thee as incense.” Washington also expressed concern about the behavior of his soldiers when he served his country as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. He expressed the wish that every officer and man in that army would act as “becomes a Christian soldier.” He also hoped they would refrain from the “wicked practice of profane cursing.”

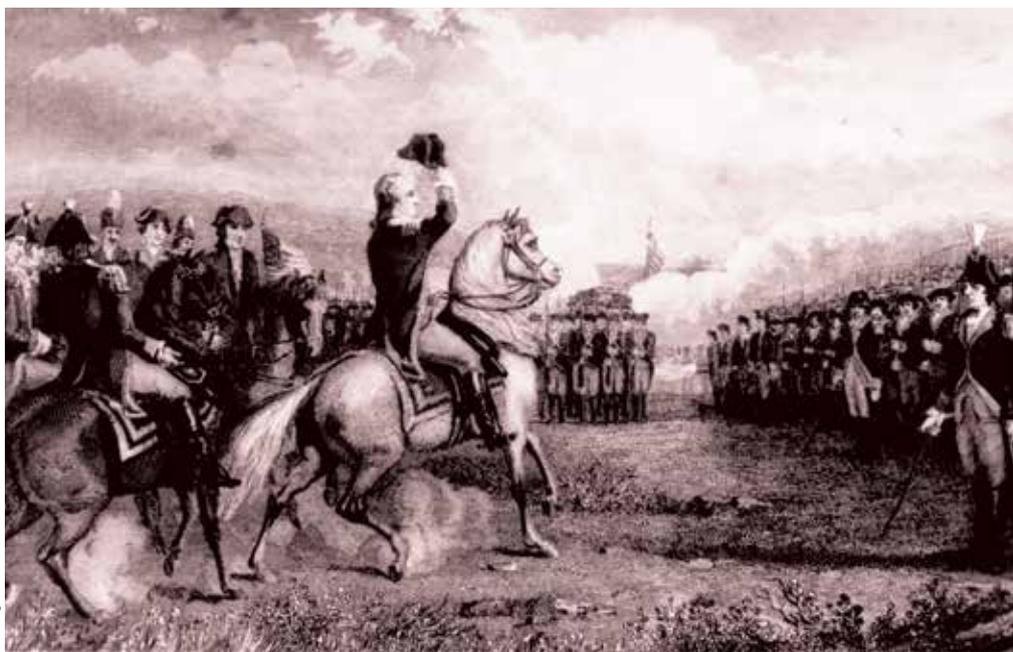
He spoke of Jesus as the one “who lay down in the Grave and arose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”

We also find in the prayer book that Washington repeatedly asks for “forgiveness of sins,” acknowledging the “sacrifice of Jesus Christ offered upon the cross for me.” That would seem to be a very direct piece of evidence that Washington believed God intervenes in human affairs.

Washington offered to become more like Jesus, thanking God for giving him “assurance of salvation.” Finally, his prayers looked forward to the day “when the trumpet shall sound, and dead shall arise and stand before the judgment seat, and give an account of whatever they have done in the body.”

Not only did Washington write down prayers in a book, he regularly offered prayers before meals in his own home. And before his step-daughter, Patsy, died in 1773 of an epileptic seizure, Washington beseeched the Lord to heal her, with tears in his eyes, according to Johnson.

He was also concerned about the welfare of others, praying for the salvation of “the whole race of mankind,” acknowledging the sufficiency of the blood of Christ to “wash” away his own sins. Washington's faith also affected how he treated others. Before he was even 16



On a white horse: One reason John Adams nominated George Washington to lead the Continental Army is that Adams had observed his moral character. He hoped this moral character would keep him from being corrupted by the military power that goes with being commander-in-chief.

The first corroboration that Washington was a Christian lies in the lack of the evidence to the contrary: There is no evidence that Washington ever claimed to be a deist.



The model man: Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention. As the delegates carefully crafted the office of president of the United States, they modeled the position after the man in the chair in front of them. Unfortunately, few American presidents have come close to living up to the model set by Washington.

years of age, he copied the “Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior IN COMPANY AND CONVERSATION” into a book of personal notes. “The Rules” are thought to have been compiled by French Jesuits. Mount Vernon.org states, “*The Rules* guided Washington’s intentional actions, pronounced speech, civility to those of lower ranks, and respect for his superiors.”

One rule advised to “READ no Letters, Books, or Papers in Company but when there is Necessity for you doing of it you must ask leave.” (Today, it is quite common to see a people lost in their smartphones, rather than paying attention to people right in front of them.)

The American Revolution and Providence

Washington never neglected his reverence for God. He regarded the victory of the

United States over the British Empire as a “miracle.” While Americans then, and throughout the course of American history, gave Washington all due credit for his role in securing America’s independence, he often said he was only “an instrument in the hands of Providence.”

Rod Gragg, in his book *By the Hand of Providence*, notes that Washington’s belief that God’s hand was upon the country continued after the Revolution. During his first term as president, Washington said, “I am sure there never was a people who had more reason to acknowledge a divine interposition in their affairs, than those in the United States, and I should be pained to believe that they have forgotten that agency, which was so often manifested during our Revolution, or that they failed to consider the omnipotence of that God who is alone able to protect them.”

During his last year in office, Washington wrote a Farewell Address, published in nearly every newspaper across the land, in which he offered much wisdom to the nation. (Unfortunately, far too few Americans today know what he said in the Farewell Address, and fewer follow it.) “Of all the disposition and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” He argued that it would be “vain” to claim patriotism without “these great pillars of human happiness.” Furthermore, he wrote, “Morality is a necessary spring of popular government.”

It is simply inconceivable that the “religion” that Washington contended would prop up popular government was some dry deism, devoid of the God who intervenes in human history.

Historian Jared Sparks published *The Writings of George Washington* in the 1830s. As part of his research, he wrote to Nelly Custis-Lewis, the granddaughter of George and Martha Washington, inquiring as to the matter of Washington’s religious beliefs. Nelly was the daughter of Washington’s step-son, John Custis, and she was adopted by George and Martha after John’s untimely death. She lived with the Washingtons for the first 20 years of her life, until her marriage in 1799.

In an 1833 letter back to Sparks, she told him that her grandfather had a pew in Pohick Church, where he served for many years as a vestryman, was “instrumental” in its founding, and contributed financially to its success. “He attended the church at Alexandria when the weather and roads permitted a ride of ten miles. In New York and Philadelphia, he never omitted attendance at church in the morning unless detained by indisposition.”

She added that Martha, also a devout Christian, felt assured at George’s death that he was now experiencing “happiness in Heaven.”

Nelly concluded that those who question Washington’s sincere Christian faith “as well may question his patriotism, his heroic, disinterested devotion to his country.”

Skeptical Arguments Against Washington’s Faith

In the face of such powerful evidence, there remain skeptics. Some argue that Washington often left church before the communion

service. But many other times, he *did* take communion. One can only speculate as to why Washington did not always participate in communion. It is known that it was a popular view of the day that one should not participate in communion if one considered himself “unworthy.”

Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, the wife of Washington’s close confidant Alexander Hamilton, told her great-grandson in 1854, “If anyone ever tells you that George Washington was not a communicant in the Church, you say that your great-grandmother told you to say that she had knelt at this chancel rail at his side and received with him the Holy Communion.”

Others are quick to cite Washington’s frequent public reference to God as the “Author of Life,” or as “Divine Providence,” and similar expressions, arguing that such language is more like one would hear from a deist than a Christian. In his first inaugural address, Washington argued that America “was under the special agency of Providence.”

To the modern Christian, such words sound impersonal. But in the culture of the day, such references to God were common, much like today someone might refer to God as “The Almighty.”

Perhaps “The Rules” gives us a clue into Washington’s thinking. Rule 108 states, “WHEN you Speak of God or his Attributes,

let it be Seriously & with Reverence.” One cannot imagine Washington ever referring to God “as the Man Upstairs,” or taking his name in vain, as is done regularly today in the popular culture.

Ron Chernow, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his book *Washington: A Life*, was blunt: “He was clearly a Christian.” He added, “He was quite intensely religious, because even though he uses the word Providence, he constantly sees Providence as an active force in life, particularly in American life. I mean, every single victory in war he credits to Providence. The miracle of the Constitutional Convention he credits to Providence. The creation of the federal government and the prosperity of the early republic, he credits to Providence.... I was struck at how frequently in his letters he’s referring to Providence, and it’s Providence where there’s a sense of design and purpose.”

As Nelly Custis-Lewis wrote to Sparks, “I should have thought it the greatest heresy to doubt his firm belief in Christianity. His life, his writings, prove that he was a Christian. He was not one of those who ... pray that they may be seen of men.”

He prayed to God, not to man. During the War for Independence, General Robert Porterfield said that Washington would kneel in prayers for morning devotions, and Alexander Hamilton noted the same

activity as Washington’s “constant habit.” According to Sparks, Washington’s nephew George Lewis “accidentally witnessed [Washington’s] private devotions in his library both morning and evening; that on those occasions he had seen him in a kneeling position with a Bible open before him and that he believed such to have been his daily practice.”

To continue to insist that Washington was a deist, not a Christian, despite such overwhelming evidence, seems ludicrous.

The Importance of Christianity and Civil Government

So why is it such a common assertion today? Many simply repeat what they have heard in ignorance. Others, however, know that the statement that Washington was a deist is a falsehood, but they repeat the accusation because they wish to tear down the “great man” of American history, and thus bring him down to their own level. After all, if George Washington rejected biblical Christianity, it justifies their own rejection of the God of the Bible, and the rejection of the foundations of the country they wish to destroy and “fundamentally transform.”

Certainly we should not make a god out of George Washington, or any other man. The Founding Fathers were all human beings, complete with all of the failings found in all human beings, and Washington had his faults. But that is the essence of the Christian faith — all human beings are sinners and in need of a Savior. And that is what Washington believed.

Distortions of history, such as ones disparaging Washington’s faith, should be corrected, especially falsehoods intended to advance some secular agenda. As Paul Gottfried wrote in *The American Conservative*, “The fact that he [Washington] and other founders include in their addresses stern affirmations on the link between religious faith and social virtue indicate that they were not smirking at Christian theology.” He added that Washington issued a Thanksgiving proclamation, extolling “our blessed religion.”

A few years ago, my family and I took a vacation trip to the Washington, D.C., area, and we went out to Mount Vernon. While there, I was struck by the Bible verse on the wall of Washington’s tomb. Taken from the Gospel of John, it is a quotation from Jesus, to reassure Martha,



Howard Chandler Christy

First, best: The nation grieved at the passing of George Washington on December 14, 1799. His great friend “Light-Horse Harry” Lee delivered the eulogy, describing what Washington meant to his country, saying he was “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

the sister of Jesus' dead friend, Lazarus: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

It would indeed be strange for a deist — a person who believes God is some impersonal deity who takes no interest in human affairs — to include such a statement of belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ at his burial plot. Since deists believe in a Creator of the universe who otherwise does not intervene in human affairs, belief in just about *any* Christian doctrine, much less the belief in the literal physical resurrection of its Founder, would be a flat contradiction.

Of course, one could argue that Washington did not believe in the bodily resurrection of the saints, and members of his family included the saying at his tomb anyway. But one has to wonder why the family of George and Martha Washington would erect a placard with such an explicitly Christian statement supporting the doctrine of the bodily resurrection of Christians, if he was actually a deist.

So why do some insist that Washington was a deist, and not what he clearly was, a Christian gentleman? The de-Christianization of the Founders is mostly the result of a political agenda. While a recent president neglected to include the words

"by their Creator" when citing the passage in the Declaration of Independence which declares "all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights," it is unthinkable that Washington or any of the Founding Fathers would have done so.

When Thomas Jefferson penned those words, he was drawing heavily from the writings of English political theorist John Locke. Locke argued in his famous book *Treatise on Civil Government* that the rights of human beings come from God, not from government. Locke also argued for the intervention of God into human affairs via miracles, that the Bible that recorded them was "truth, without any mixture of error."

The very foundation of the American Revolution — the revolution in which George Washington served as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army that won our national independence — was that God intervenes in human affairs. In his Farewell Address, Washington also saw the importance of Christianity to the success of civil government. "Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in Courts of Justice?"

Even Benjamin Franklin, perhaps the most worldly of the Founding Fathers, remarked at the Constitutional Convention, "I've lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing Proofs I see of this Truth — That God governs in the Affairs of Men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his Notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without his Aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that except the Lord build the House they labor in vain who build it."

If Franklin, who was a member of the committee assigned to write the Declaration of Independence along with John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, could make such a statement, which essentially rejected deism, it is ludicrous to believe that Washington, who often expressed orthodox Christian beliefs both in writing and in public statements, was a deist.

Washington Did Not Lie About His Christian Faith

After reading the numerous letters that Washington wrote to various people over the course of his life, the historian Jared Sparks concluded, "To say that he [Washington] was not a Christian would be to impeach his sincerity and honesty. Of all men in the world, Washington was certainly the last whom any one would charge with dissimulation or indirectness; and if he was so scrupulous in avoiding even a shadow of these faults in every known act of his life, however unimportant, is it likely, is it credible, that in a matter of the highest and most serious importance he should practice through a long series of years a deliberate deception upon his friends and the public? It is neither credible nor possible."

It is not credible. In 1778, during the War for Independence, in which Washington had witnessed many times what he considered divine intervention in the survival of his rag-tag Continental Army, he wrote, "The Hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith ... that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations." Anyone who could write that was no deist, at least not an honest one. Perhaps that is why it is very appropriate that the bodily resurrection so central to the Christian faith is affirmed at Washington's grave. ■



Harald Klinke

Conspicuous Christian: Visitors of the tomb holding the bodies of George and Martha Washington are struck by the Bible verse on the wall behind them, in which is cited the hope of the resurrection promised to believers in Jesus Christ.

Gun Battle Brewing in Minnesota

The *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis) reported on January 20 about a political fight over gun rights in Minnesota that has the potential to become a major issue in an election year. The state legislative session begins on February 11, and Republicans, who are in the majority in the Senate, intend to pass a series of pro-Second Amendment measures that includes “constitutional carry” and “stand your ground” laws.

This column has previously written on the concept of “constitutional carry,” which refers to making it lawful for gun owners to carry their firearms on them without first seeking a permit from the state. “Stand your ground” laws refer to laws that regulate the justified use of lethal force, removing the duty-to-retreat requirement before one is allowed to initiate self-defense during a deadly attack. The Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party plans to take the opposite approach and is urging the passage of so-called red flag laws, which take away a person’s guns based upon the sometimes unfounded accusations of others, and expanded background checks for gun purchases. State lawmakers gathered in Hibbing to debate the various proposed gun laws, but no votes were taken. The *Star Tribune* described it as “a roiling political fight that is likely to play out throughout the coming legislative session and the November elections, when control of both the state House and Senate will be up for grabs.”

The state House is under the control of the DFL, which passed gun restrictions in the last legislative session that were eventually blocked in the Senate. Republican Senator Warren Limmer told the *Star Tribune*, “I’m interested in solutions that work, and in a divided government ... that we have now, those types of extreme proposals just aren’t going to pass.”

On a similar note, the GOP proposals for “stand your ground” and “constitutional carry” seem likely to stall in the House and not garner bipartisan support. But that’s not deterring Minnesota Gun

Owners Caucus political director Rob Doar, who is confident that his side will ultimately prevail, especially if the DFL continues to pursue an anti-gun agenda. Doar referred to the pro-gun rally in Virginia as an “excellent indicator of what we can expect in Minnesota if there is total control in the hands of anti-gun Democrats.”

The Sight of a Gun Gets the Job Done

Your Hometown Stations, a FOX/NBC/ABC/CBS-affiliated television station located in Lima, Ohio, reported on January 15 about an armed robbery at a store that ended as soon as the suspects saw that the store clerk was armed. The Allen County Sheriff’s Department is still searching for the two suspects, who wore masks over their faces but were recorded on video in the store.

The incident occurred a little after 8 p.m. when two masked men with guns ran into Hermies Party Shop and ordered the person working behind the counter to hand over all of the store’s money. It was at that moment that one of the suspects realized the cashier was armed, and both men immediately fled from the store without taking anything.

Detectives are searching for the two men and believe they are the same people who robbed a Little Caesar’s pizza shop a few hours earlier. In that case, the employees were not armed, and the robbers made off with some cash they stole from the cash registers. This story shows that in some cases, just being armed might be enough to scare off criminals who want to avoid a gun fight at all costs.

Other Times, the Criminals Will Try to Kill You

A story out of St. Louis reminds us that armed criminals can have deadly intent, regardless of whether you do exactly what they demand or not. KPLR11.com reported on January 13 about how a carjacking might have turned deadly but for

a gun malfunction. The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department spokesperson stated that a carjacking occurred around 5:50 p.m. and that the 22-year-old victim did everything that was demanded of him by the armed suspect who commandeered his vehicle. In a terrifying moment after handing over his car keys, the victim observed the suspect point his gun right at him and pull the trigger.

Thankfully the gun jammed, and the victim was able to retrieve his own firearm from within his car and fire several shots at the suspect. The armed suspect fled the scene, and the victim told police that he didn’t believe that any of his shots hit the man. Police are still looking for the suspect, but the scary ordeal is a reminder that simply doing what a criminal asks is no guarantee that he will spare your life. In this case, the victim was wise enough to be armed and defend himself, but there’s no telling what the outcome would have been if he hadn’t been armed.

Cook Out Shoot-out

The Fox Affiliate in Dallas reported on January 11 about an armed robbery attempt that was thwarted by a gun owner who was carrying concealed. It all started at the scene of a front-yard cookout among neighbors and friends. Everyone was enjoying themselves on a patio near the grill in the front yard of a residence when three men approached the party and tried robbing them. Two of the suspects were armed and demanded cash and other personal property of the partygoers under the threat of deadly force.

Unbeknownst to the armed burglars, a guest at the get-together was armed and knew how to handle his gun. The man, who was licensed to carry a handgun, pulled out his own gun and shot at the suspects, wounding one of them. The three suspects ran from the scene, but the injured man later was dropped off at a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Law-enforcement officers are still investigating and are looking for the two other suspects. ■

— PATRICK KREY



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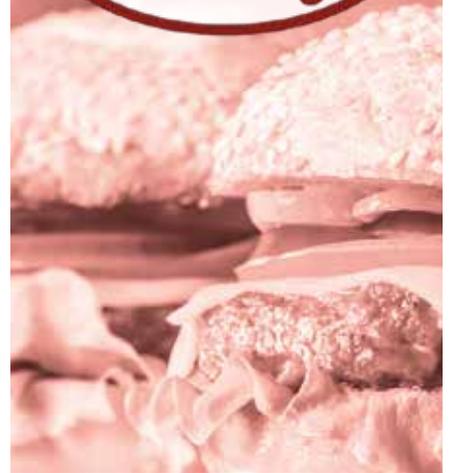
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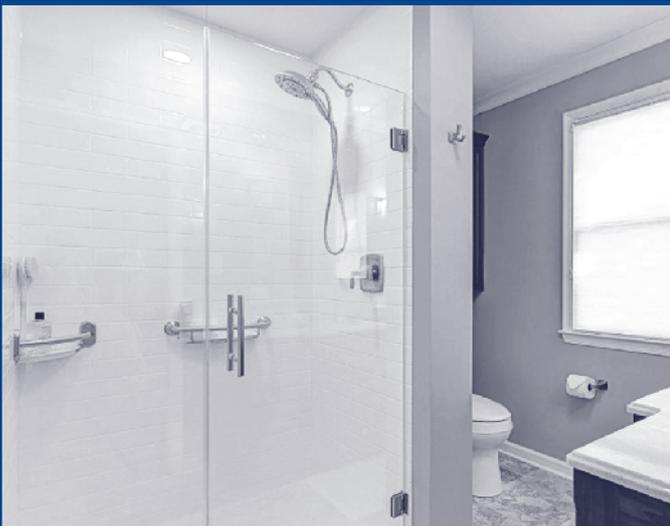
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Middle-class Gains Threatened by Profligate Spenders, Overtaxing

ITEM: *The Des Moines Register for January 15 carried a transcript of the previous night's debate among Democratic presidential candidates in Iowa. Former Vice President Joe Biden, in his usual muddled fashion, claimed that he couldn't wait to face off against Donald Trump. He said, obliquely: "Where I come from, the neighbors I come from, they're in real trouble, working-class people and middle-class people."*

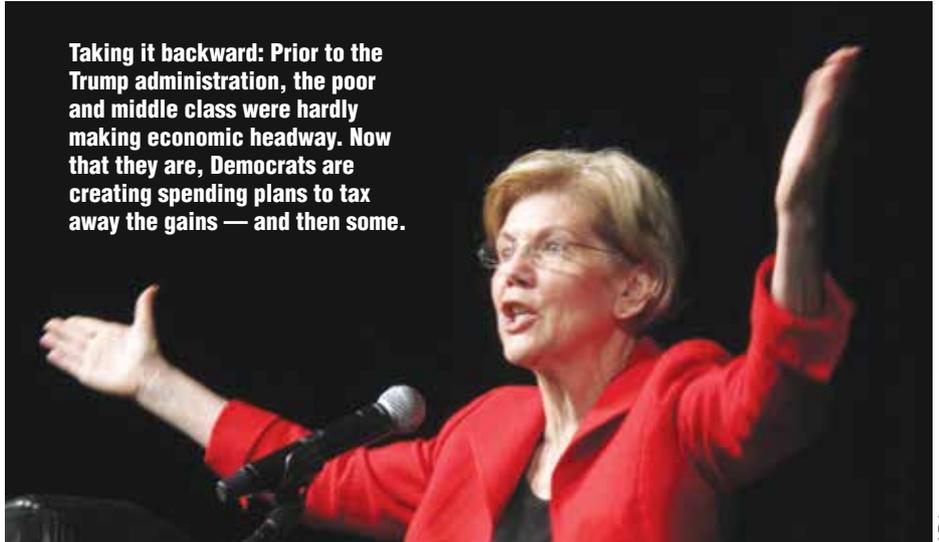
He continued: "When the middle class does well, the working class has a way up and the wealthy do well. But what's happening now? They're being clobbered. They're being killed." Biden insisted that *"the wealthy are the only ones doing well."*

ITEM: *Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, during the same debate, promised that her (extremely expensive) version of "Medicare for All" would not raise the taxes of the middle class. "My approach to this," she said, "is that we have to get as much help to as many people as quickly as possible. I have worked out a plan where we can do that by not raising taxes on middle class families by one thin dime."*

ITEM: *The New York Times for November 9 cited the claims of the various candidates, including that of socialist Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. He has repeatedly said (as he did in October on PBS), "The average American will pay less for health care under Medicare for All." The Times also took note of Warren's comment (in a Twitter post in November) about her healthcare scheme: "It puts \$11 trillion back in the pockets of American families, and doesn't raise taxes on the middle class by even a cent."*

ITEM: *CBS News on December 31 carried a deceptive article entitled "Two years after Trump tax cuts, middle-class Americans are falling behind." The CBS piece was misleading enough that it was the first one touted by the official Democratic Party site "War Room" in a January 10 entry emblazoned, "Trump's Tax Law Still Hasn't Helped Working Families." Said the website: "Trump promised that his tax*

Taking it backward: Prior to the Trump administration, the poor and middle class were hardly making economic headway. Now that they are, Democrats are creating spending plans to tax away the gains — and then some.



AP Images

law would benefit the middle class, trickle down to workers, and significantly boost economic growth. None of that happened. Middle-class families, who Trump promised would be the focus of his tax law, are instead falling further behind."

ITEM: *The headline on the December 22 D.C.-based Hill newspaper read: "Two years in, Trump tax cuts face big test with reelection bid." It maintained: "Democrats believe that their calls to roll back the 2017 law and raise taxes on the wealthy will resonate with voters and help them win back the White House next year. 'We have to eliminate [a] significant number of these god-awful tax cuts that were given to the very wealthy,' former Vice President Joe Biden said during [the December 19] Democratic presidential debate."*

CORRECTION: Though a *Washington Post* article dated January 12 by two "budget experts" (Eric Harris Bernstein and Ben Spielberg) correctly pointed out the general position that Democrats are taking on taxation, saying, "On the question of raising taxes, and for whom, most Democratic candidates have hedged to an all-too-familiar position [and] ... asserted their opposition to tax increases on anyone but the very rich," the two know Democratic policies can't run on taxing the rich alone.

In the view of the writers, such a stance is "misguided." The two contend that it is "long past time to reverse this trend by em-

bracing tax-positive politics." Their article is called "Democrats won't raise middle-class taxes. They should." The writers are clearly not seeking office, where real consequences of policies are rarely discussed.

Misguided is the belief that the government can give to some without first taking it from others. The oft-hidden but inevitable target for bleeding is the middle class — because that is where most of the money can be found.

The con game, played repeatedly, is to dupe the multitudinous rubes to exchange their support and votes for empty assurances that only the stinking, full-pocketed fat cats will be dunned.

Here is just some of the bait being offered by the Democrats leading in the polls: single-payer healthcare, with the government replacing private insurance; a Green New Deal that will end the use of fossil fuels while curing "climate change"; free college tuition for some or all as well as the forgiveness of existing student loans; millions of units of "affordable housing"; universal pre-school and child care support for all; a trillion dollars or so of spending to build infrastructure across the land; guaranteed jobs; and more.

That needs money, you undoubtedly recognize. A lot! So here's one of the imaginary solutions: a massive wealth tax — not aimed at you, of course, and



Correction, Please!

not at me, but (as the saying goes) at that rich guy behind the tree.

When that turns out to be insufficient, which is preordained, you can be sure that the same progressive candidates who feigned being our “friends” will quickly see us as “taxpayers.” Much more will be needed than one of Elizabeth Warren’s “thin dimes.”

Ask Europeans where the money comes from to fund their welfare state. The rich simply don’t have enough to support endless socialist pipe dreams. Europe shows how the Warren-Sanders agenda really works, as the *Wall Street Journal* summarized in November. Among the levies are the payroll taxes that are there called “social insurance contributions.” For a single American, noted the *Journal’s* editors,

earning the average wage, the employer and employee payroll taxes for Social Security and Medicare average 16% of gross labor costs, according to the OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development].

In Britain the share for similar social-benefit payroll taxes is a little over 20%, and in Sweden and Ger-

many about 40%. Such middle-class payroll taxes account for 35% of government revenue in Spain, 30% in Italy, and 37% in France and Germany, and without them Europe’s welfare systems would be bankrupt.

Senator Warren, continued the *Journal*, “has figured this out.” Warren’s version of “Medicare for All,” for example, includes

an expanded payroll tax for employers that she says isn’t a tax on the middle class, but Europeans know better. Employer payroll taxes for social insurance account for as much as 25% of revenue in France or 20% in Belgium. This is a hidden tax on the middle class because it reduces the cash employers can offer in salaries.

Europe also imposes a value-added tax (VAT) with a flat rate averaging 21% on almost all consumption. These taxes account for up to a quarter of total government revenue in many countries. They’re regressive since lower-income households devote a larger share of income to consumption taxed by a VAT.

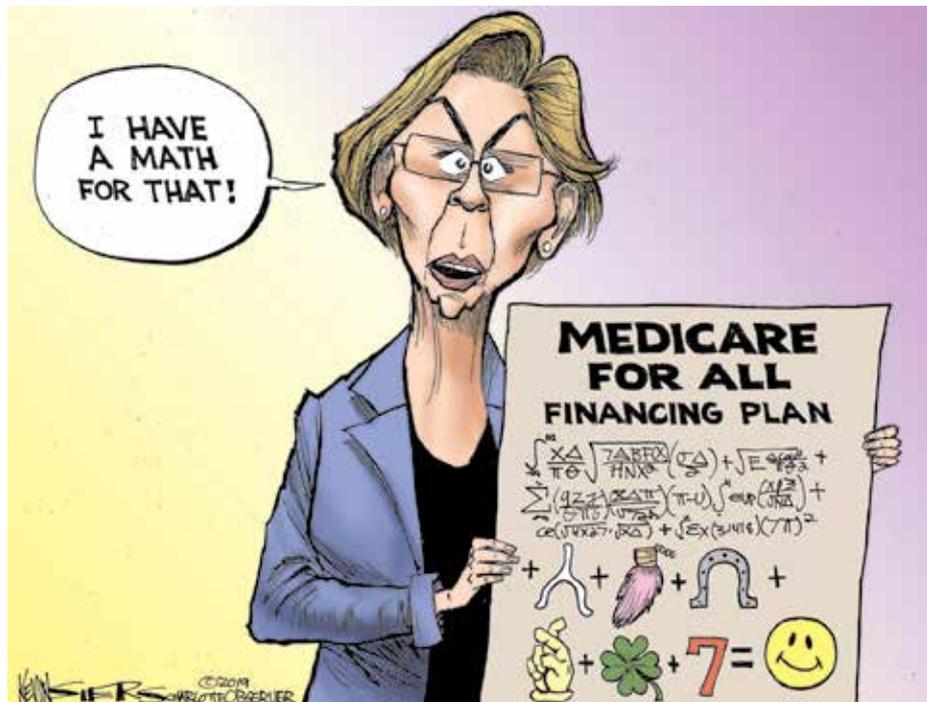
There’s plenty more, but you get the idea. The editorial’s title says it all: “The Middle Class Always Pays.”

Sanders’ planned totals are also horrendous. Even Larry Summers — who was the chief White House economic adviser for Barack Obama and Bill Clinton’s treasury secretary — appears agog over the sums. According to Summers’ calculations, the Vermont socialist has already proposed spending increases that are about 15 times larger than Obama ran on in 2008 and around 30 times the amounts put forward by Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, in examining what Bernie has planned for us, concludes: “We are literally talking about increases in government spending that would double the size of government as a share of gross domestic product.” MacGuineas also has commented — in an analysis carried by CNN — that there are not enough “resources that you can credibly collect to pay for spending of that size [from the rich]. When you are talking about a doubling in the size of the government, you are talking about significant tax increases on the middle class.”

At the same time of the campaign to socialize the U.S. economy more completely, with those in the middle class playing the fall guys, there is another operation in play. It is run by so-called progressives and their media soul mates. This effort disguises and demeans how much those in the middle- and lower-income sectors have already benefited from the president’s tax cuts and stand to gain over time. This is a defensive move for the Democrats. After all, it’s not easy to run against the message: President Trump cut your taxes, Democrats will raise yours.

An interesting piece on such taxes appeared in the *New York Times* in mid-April 2019 (near IRS filing-deadline time) — one that could be characterized as an argument against self-interest for that left-wing paper. Or perhaps it was bragging. The *Times* cited an independent analysis that acknowledged that about 65 percent of Americans had in fact paid less under the new Trump-driven law and that just six





AP Images

Work at the truth: Here business and government leaders discuss a new Siemens manufacturing facility in Florida. Though Democrats say Trump is hurting the poor in the country, good jobs are plentiful.

percent had paid more. (The others experienced little change.) Yet surveys showed that most Americans felt they had not received a tax cut, said the paper. And a large minority thought their taxes had actually risen (though not even one in 10 households really had their taxes increased).

As the *Times* piece conceded, “The gap between perception and reality on the tax cuts appears to flow from a sustained — and misleading — effort by liberal opponents of the law to brand it as a broad middle-class tax increase.” The mass media certainly played an important part.

Counterfeit “centrist” Joe Biden has been saying that “workers are delivering more, and they’re getting a lot less,” as well as expounding on the need to eliminate those “god-awful tax cuts that were given to the very wealthy.”

The facts say otherwise. Columnist Deroy Murdock, in a recent piece called “Wages Soar Fastest Among Those With the Least,” panned such “liberal lies.” He pointed to how data released by the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank’s monthly Wage Growth Tracker demonstrate “that Americans are making more money, particularly those who have been forgotten for decades.” Murdock summarized:

Between November 2018 and No-

vember 2019, overall median wage growth climbed 3.6 percent, a healthy pace that should lift spirits, too. Those in the bottom 25 percent saw wages advance 4.5 percent, while the top 25 percent lagged, with pay rising just 2.9 percent. This is the 180-degree exact opposite of what Democrats relentlessly bellow. They have equal access to the Atlanta Fed’s website. This confirms their rank dishonesty.

Economist Stephen Moore, who assisted in the design of the Trump tax cuts, has also pointed to those data. In addition, he has blasted the CBS account (cited above) that misconstrued “the surge in middle class incomes since President Trump took office and his tax cuts took effect, with middle class incomes increasing at least five times faster than under President Obama.”

CBS, he said, mangled what was “universally good news” to come up with the “opposite conclusion.” There was, Moore wrote, a “classic head fake” in this account. As he explained, the

middle class is “falling behind” only relative to the gains of the wealthiest 1 percent. Even though the middle class has had a bigger income boost under Trump than any time in 20 years, the

middle class is allegedly now suffering a decline since the rich saw even faster gains. This appears to be an intentional distortion of economic reality.

Moore also has noted (in a recent letter) that the “historic surplus in job openings, about seven million today, has allowed low- and middle-income workers to bid up their wages and salaries.” And the “income gains from the median-income household since President Trump took over and as measured by the Census Bureau are close to \$5,000. That’s almost \$100 a week of added take-home pay for working-class families.... This was the objective of tax reform, and so far it is working like a charm for all income groups.”

There is plenty of good news that you don’t hear on the network news accounts — which shouldn’t be a surprise because it might reflect positively on the president. Still, there has been more balanced coverage elsewhere. The *Wall Street Journal* did report in late December that the “wages for rank-and-file workers are rising at the quickest pace in more than a decade, even faster than for bosses.”

How about dreaded “income inequality?” Of course, the Left points that finger of blame on Trump. The “income inequality” trope is not what many would have us believe. Consider recent findings by the White House’s Council of Economic Advisers (CEA): During the current administration, the “net worth for the bottom 50 percent of households has increased at an annual rate 15 times higher than the average growth seen under the three prior administrations’ expansion periods.” Since Donald Trump’s election, according to the CEA, “the working class has seen the largest growth: Net worth held by the bottom 50 percent of households has increased by 47 percent, more than three times the rate of increase for the top 1 percent of households.”

On the other hand, there is the doomster view of, say, Joe Biden, who has been bemoaning about the “god-awful tax cuts that were given to the very wealthy.” You can always tell who is a pessimist: When he smells flowers, he looks around for the funeral. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

The GOP Should Welcome **More Impeachment Witnesses**

As this is being written, the question of whether the Senate will call in more witnesses to build on the testimonies given during the House's impeachment inquiry is center stage.

Democrats have been insistent that they want to bring in administration officials they were unable to hear from in the House, most prominently former National Security Adviser John Bolton and acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) cited new witness testimonies in the Senate trial as one of the chief motives behind her decision to hold the articles of impeachment from proceeding to the upper chamber for nearly a month. "We wanted the public to see the need for witnesses, witnesses with firsthand knowledge of what happened," Pelosi told *This Week*.

After spouting off a *Washington Post*/ABC News poll that claims 70 percent of Americans think the president should allow his top aides to testify, Pelosi added: "So, again, it's about a fair trial. And we think that would be with witnesses and documentation. So, that dynamic has — now the ball is in their court to either do that, or pay a price for not doing it."

Republicans, on the other hand, have long argued that the House has had its opportunity to conduct an investigation and it is now the domain of the Senate to merely try the facts and evidence presented by the lower chamber. "It's not the Senate's job to do the House's job," said Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), echoing the sentiments of many in his party.

The suspicion from the Right has been that Democrats, knowing that the case laid out in the House lacks any real teeth, essentially want to go on a fishing expedition in the Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) initially blasted the notion of calling witnesses, accusing Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) of looking "to make [House Intelligence Committee] Chairman Schiff's sloppy work more persuasive."

"The Senate is meant to act as judge and jury, to hear a trial, not to re-run the entire fact-finding investigation because angry partisans rushed sloppily through it," McConnell said on the Senate floor.

The Kentuckian isn't wrong about the opposition's intentions. Despite Democrats' rhetoric about the "somberness" surrounding the impeachment of the 45th American president and his supposed threat to our Republic, the actual articles of impeachment are lightweight — free of the high crimes or misdemeanors one



Mitch McConnell

AP Images

would expect given the Constitution's stipulations for impeaching a president.

One article is for abuse of power and the other is for obstruction of Congress. Where's the bribery charge? After all, President Trump's alleged attempt to bribe Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Hunter and Joe Biden is what started all this in the first place.

It's no surprise, then, that Democrats are so eager to hear from John Bolton, who claims in his new book that the president told him directly that he paused the famously

withheld Ukrainian military aid to force the Biden investigation.

Bolton, a longtime neoconservative war hawk and Republican establishment insider, appears to be the savior pro-impeachment Democrats have been praying for.

They may get their wish. Bolton's story is juicy enough to give President Trump's familiar Republican critics grounds for siding with Democrats in a vote on witnesses.

Senator Mitt Romney (R-Utah) said it's "increasingly likely" for more Republicans to join the calls for Bolton's testimony following the accusations. Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) said Bolton's account will "strengthen the case" for witnesses. And Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) affirmed she's "still curious" about what Bolton can potentially tell the lawmakers. Democrats need at least four Republicans to join with them in order to bring in new witnesses.

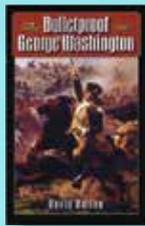
Is it game over for Team Trump, then? On the contrary, this may be just what the doctor ordered.

The men and women who make up red America know the impeachment charges are bogus. And the senators who represent these men and women know they know it. While some lawmakers may grandstand about "fair trials" and "hearing the full story" right now, they're ultimately unwilling to commit political kamikaze on behalf of their Democratic friends. They will vote for the witnesses, but not to convict the president.

Rather than resist the new witnesses, President Trump's supporters — and truth seekers in general — should welcome the opportunity to do a witness exchange with Democrats. "You get John Bolton but we get to put Hunter Biden and his suspicious international business activities center stage," the Republicans should say.

The younger Biden has reportedly been prepping for the possibility of being called before the Senate. It would certainly be a shame to let all that preparation go to waste. ■

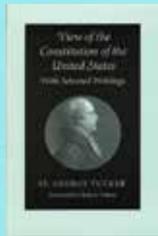
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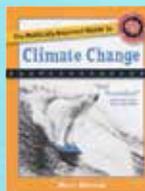
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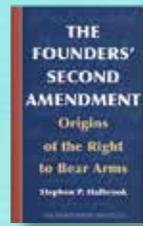
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