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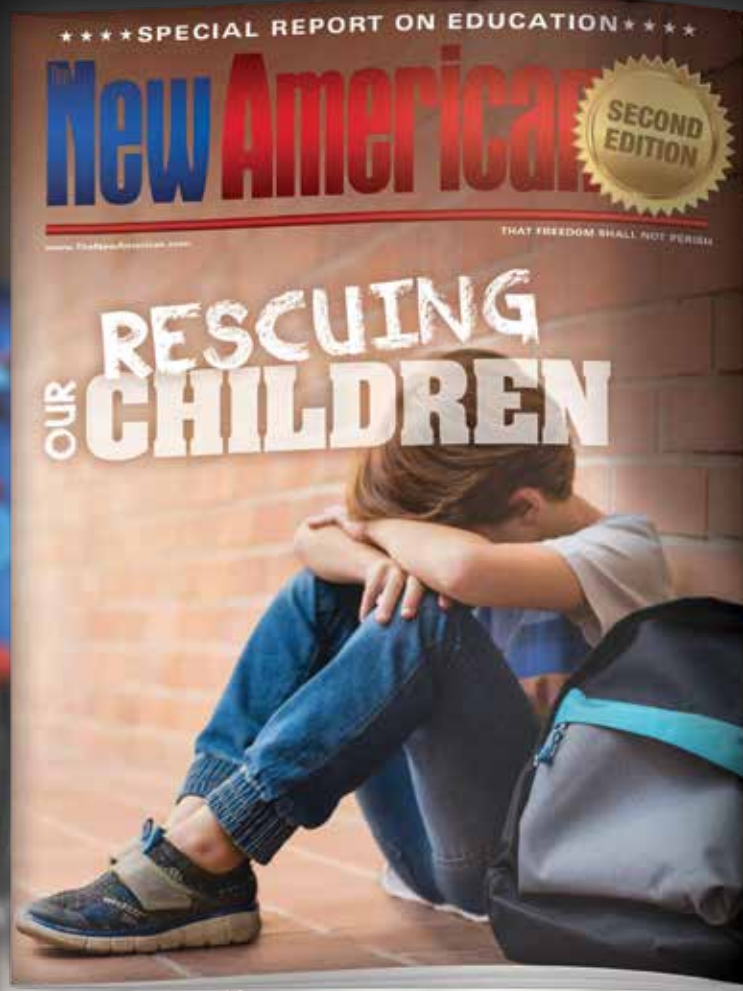
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Amendment III. No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of

life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

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Amendment VII. In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

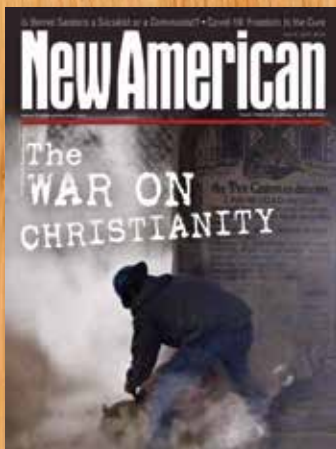
Amendment IX. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.



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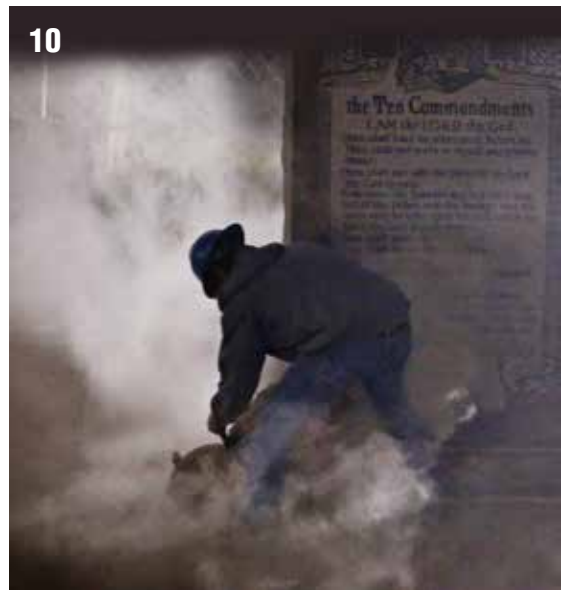
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Climate-change Canards

The articles on climate in the February 3 edition of TNA are interesting and revealing about the political agenda that surrounds climate change. I have looked back at actual environmental conditions from “recent” geological past, and they offer some interesting observations.

Official weather records only go back to the 1880s in America and 1914 in England, but there are numerous other records of weather prior to that time. They were mostly individual observations found in diaries, letters, and unofficial reports. Even though they are not scientific findings, they are clear indicators of climate change that existed in the past.

Both European settlers and indigenous people suffered excess mortality in Maine during the winter of 1607-1608. That same year extreme cold was reported in the Jamestown, Virginia, settlement. In the winter of 1780 New York Harbor froze, allowing people to walk from Manhattan Island to Staten Island.

Now many claim that the natural disasters that we encounter are caused by man’s intervention on the natural world, yet natural disasters have occurred continually in the world.

In April of 1815, the most powerful volcanic eruption in human history occurred on Mount Tambora, in present-day Indonesia. The year following that eruption was known as “the year without a summer.” The ash from the eruption disbursed around the world and lowered the global temperature. There were so many crop failures that famines existed around the globe. Other significant global temperature variations continued for three years.

In 1879, naturalist John Muir determined that Glacier Bay ice had retreated more than 18 miles in a relatively short period of time.

The heavy use of the internal combustion engine couldn’t be blamed for that condition as it had just been invented.

A massive volcanic eruption took place at Krakatoa in 1883, taking more than 36,000 lives and making it one of the deadliest and most destructive eruptions in recorded history. It reduced the worldwide temperatures by 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit for five years! It’s noteworthy that despite that, glaciers continued to retreat.

Climate change does exist. What is not

recognized is that there has never been a time when it hasn’t existed.

BOB LAGASSE
Bristol, Connecticut

Losing Rights to Socialism

Is socialism constitutional? Our Founders established a form of government different from any other in human history. It was based on the concept that humans have natural rights — rights they are automatically deeded. The basic ones listed in the Declaration of Independence are life, liberty, and property.

Socialism does not recognize these rights (it takes away these rights). Instead, it follows vague principles to achieve “the greatest good for the greatest number,” provided “from each according to his ability, to each according to his need.”

When, or if, people understand the nature and history of socialism, we will have a chance for our kids to live in a free country. A good test of a person in favor of socialized medicine is this question: “Are you willing to unconditionally deed ownership of your body to the federal government?”

For me, the answer is no. How about you?

AL SEGALLA
Copperopolis, California

Is It Tomorrow Yet?

The recent article “False Predictions on Catastrophic Climate Change” (February 3 issue) was well-written and incisive.

It reminded me of the climate-alarmist major motion picture *The Day After Tomorrow*, which concerned a U.S. president who refused to confront global warming, resulting in a global calamity: tidal waves, tornados, and Arctic ice covering Manhattan. This was all supposed to happen, “the day after tomorrow” or thereabouts, but the movie was released in 2004! There have been a lot of “tomorrows” in the past 16 years!

DAVID HAMMER
Bronx, New York

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Deporting Illegals Now Almost Impossible, ICE Chief Admits

It appears that illegal aliens present in the United States now and still crossing the border will prevail in their fight to stay in the country.

The reason? Sheer numbers. More than one million illegals have deportation orders but won't be leaving anytime soon, says Matt Albence, acting chief of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ICE is so overwhelmed that removing illegals who jumped the border during the invasion of the last two years will take nearly a century-and-a-half, he told the House Appropriations Committee on March 11.

ICE detains just 1.5 percent of illegal aliens, he said, and, frighteningly enough, his testimony suggests that those with removal orders have nothing to fear.

Albence said that ICE arrested 2,500 noncriminal fugitives last year. "If we do that, based on just the numbers that came in the last two years, it would take us about 140 years to clear up that backlog."

Noting that just 10 percent of asylum claims are approved, which means 90 percent are phony, Albence told the committee that illegals know they won't be detained, a complaint border officials have made for more than a year, particularly during last year's surge. That deluge peaked at more than 140,000 for May.

"So this is not about asylum, this is about the release," Albence

said. "Most of these individuals want to come here because they know regardless if they get a removal order, regardless if they show up to court, if they don't have a detention bed at the time the removal order is issued, the likelihood of them actually being removed from the country is nil."

Apart from President Trump reinstating something akin to President Dwight Eisenhower's Operation Wetback, a mass deportation carried out regardless of lawsuits from the Left and their sympathetic judges, the illegal immigrants will be here forever.



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Tesla CEO Elon Musk: "You Don't Need College to Learn Stuff"

During a question-and-answer portion of the Satellite 2020 conference in Washington on March 9, Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX and CEO of Tesla, said, "You don't need college to learn stuff." He continued, "Everything is available basically for free. You can learn anything you want for free. It is not a question of learning."

Musk described college as a bunch of "annoying homework assignments." "I think colleges are basically for fun and to prove you can do your chores, but they're not for learning," Musk said, receiving applause from an appreciative audience.

Musk stated that he made sure Tesla's recruiting material didn't specify that the company requires a college degree, calling the prerequisite "absurd."

"But there is a requirement of 'evidence of exceptional ability.' I don't consider going to college evidence of exceptional ability," Musk said. "In fact, ideally, you dropped out and did something. If you look at like, you know, [Bill] Gates is a pretty smart guy; he dropped out. [Steve] Jobs, pretty smart — he dropped out. Larry Ellison, smart guy — he dropped out. Like, obviously not needed. Did Shakespeare even go to college? Probably not."

In 1995, Musk commenced work on a Ph.D. in energy physics/materials science at Stanford University in California. However, eager to pursue opportunities in the Internet boom, he dropped out after just two days to launch his first company, Zip2 Corporation.

During his early years in the business world, Musk demonstrated exceptional skill as an entrepreneur, founding the online payment company X.com, which merged with Confinity to become PayPal. This venture made him a billionaire.

However, Musk eventually discovered a more surefire way to business success: lobbyists and government subsidies.

That being said, an August 2019 study conducted by The Harris Poll for TD Ameritrade showed that almost half (49 percent) of young millennials said their college degree was "very or somewhat unimportant" to their current job.



AP Images

Greece Battles Migrant Wave From Turkey With Giant Concrete Blocks

It's not exactly the Battle of Thermopylae. But Greece is again under siege, this time by Mideast migrants given free rein by the Turkish government. The main prize isn't Greece, though, but wealthy, welfare-state nations such as Germany and Sweden. And contrary to immigrationist spin, Voice of Europe noted in March that the migrants aren't desperate Syrian war refugees but are mainly (96 percent) economic opportunists seeking Western handouts.

While people are preoccupied with Wuhan virus sickness, largely ignored is that Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

— who has called Europe a “sick man” — has been trying to make it a bit sicker in his own way. Not only has he been following through on a threat to allow Mideast migrants to flood toward Europe over the EU's supposed failure to pay Turkey a six-billion-euro bribe to keep the migrants in his country, but his troops have actually fired tear gas at Greek police defending their own land. Meanwhile, Greece isn't backing down, but is doubling down and fortifying its border all the more.

“This now includes not just an ongoing militarized response on the Greek side to keep thousands from crossing illegally, but reportedly now erecting huge concrete blocks at key land crossings,” Zero Hedge reported March 15. “The completely shuttered border crossings with Turkey are beginning to resemble war zones akin to WWI trenches and fortifications.”

“For weeks since Erdoğan said he had in an act of retribution aimed at uncooperative EU states ‘opened the gates’ on hundreds of thousands of [supposedly] Syrian refugees from Idlib seeking entry into Europe, the border situation has seen running battles between throngs of migrants and Greek border guards,” the site continued.

The good news is that some in Europe are not just being “woke” but are waking up, as evidenced by Greece's border defense. It's high time, too, because the Wuhan virus won't kill a whole civilization — but demographic jihad certainly can.



COVID-19 Causing Americans to Favor Universal Healthcare, Poll Finds

Proving that crises, whether real or perceived, usually redound to the state's benefit, a new poll finds that over half of Democrats — and a significant number of Republicans — are more inclined to favor universal healthcare as a result of the current coronavirus scare.

The Morning Consult poll, conducted March 12-13, surveyed 2,201 adults across the United States between March 12 and March 13. Among other things, respondents were asked, “Has the coronavirus outbreak made you more or less likely to support universal health care proposals, where all Americans would get their health insurance from the government?”

Over a quarter (26 percent) of those surveyed said they were “much more likely” to support universal healthcare, while 15 percent said they were “somewhat more likely” to favor it. Nearly three-fifths of Democrats said they were either somewhat (20 percent) or much more (39 percent) likely to support it. A full quarter of Republicans said they had become more disposed to national health insurance because of COVID-19, with 14 percent of them claiming to be much more likely to support it than they had been before. Among Americans who approve of the job President Donald Trump is doing, 26 percent said they now view universal healthcare more favorably.

The poll went into great detail about respondents' age, sex, ethnicity, religion, and so on. Few of the results would shock anyone familiar with American politics, though some might be

mildly surprised to learn, for instance, just how many evangelical Christians (35 percent) and self-identified conservatives (23 percent) say COVID-19 has pushed them in the direction of universal healthcare.

Is Americans' newfound faith in universal healthcare justified, particularly as it relates to combating COVID-19? Columnist Matthew Tanous says no. In fact, he noted in a March 13 column for the Mises Wire that countries with free market healthcare have performed much better in fighting the virus than those with government health insurance — and without the alleged need for draconian restrictions on personal liberty. ■



New White House Chief of Staff Lauded by Fellow Congressman

"It's a great move by the president. [The man he appointed] is the best strategist in Washington. He understands the president's electoral coalition and has unique ability to cut through the morass of Washington to get things done."

*President Trump's choice of retiring North Carolina Representative Mark Meadows certainly pleased Representative **Matt Gaetz** (R-Fla.).*

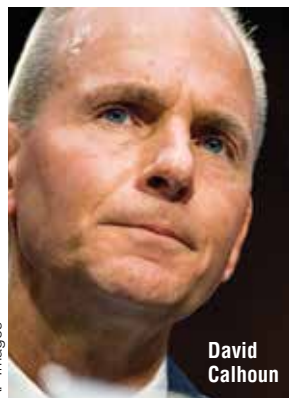


AP Images

Once a Bloomberg Supporter, He Now Hopes Joe Biden Won't Disappoint

"I'm happy to see the country is not inclined toward electing a communist or a socialist. Hopefully, those in the left-wing of the Democratic Party understand that they'll get murdered if they go with a left-wing candidate."

*A billionaire in Virginia who had been supporting Michael Bloomberg until Bloomberg pulled out of the race after his poor showing on Super Tuesday, **Leon Cooperman** warned fellow Democrats not to select the likes of Sanders or Warren to run against Donald Trump, though all the Democratic candidates have socialistic plans.*



AP Images

After Eight Weeks on the Job, New Boeing CEO Finds His Position Daunting

"It's more than I imagined it would be. And it speaks to the weakness of our leadership."

*To get Boeing back on track, CEO **David Calhoun** is working to mend fences with leaders of angry airlines, win back the confidence of international regulators, and appease President Trump — all in addition to getting the grounded 737 Max airplane back in the air.*

Columnist Issues Warning About Rising Clout of Progressives

"If Biden wins the White House but doesn't deliver real benefits for disaffected Trumpians and disillusioned Bernie Bros, then the populist uprisings of 2024 will make the populist uprisings of today look genteel by comparison."

*Inserting "populist" to describe youthful supporters of Bernie Sanders where others would put "progressive" or "outright socialist," columnist **David Brooks** pointed mainly to the growing clout of young voters who favor hard leftist policies.*

The Buttigieg Candidacy Has Likely Opened the Door for Increased Acceptance of the LGBTQ Agenda

"We have a long way to go in the South and with the church. With Mayor Pete, I think down the road we'll see how much of an impact his running will affect us."

*A proponent of LGBTQ privileges and president of the North Carolina NAACP, **Anthony Spearman** was very pleased that Mayor Pete competed in the Democratic race.*

Democratic Voters Are Being Pushed Leftward No Matter Who Wins the Nomination

"If Biden wins the nomination, progressive Democrats will have reason to rejoice. Their party's standard bearer will be someone whose platform skews further to the Left than any major party platform in the past."

*Columnist **Jeff Jacoby** doesn't buy the characterization of Joe Biden as a moderate and isn't at all pleased with the reality he sees.*

Though It's Unlikely He'll Win the Nomination, Sanders Still Offers Advice to Democrats

"I say to the Democratic establishment, in order to win in the future, you need to win the voters who represent the future of our country, and you must speak to the issues of concern to them."

***Bernie Sanders** is correct in pointing out that future elections will be won by today's youth, and attention to what they expect from government will result in success for those who appeal to the young now. ■*

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



Gage Skidmore

The WAR ON CHRISTIANITY



Even as Christians are given huge fines for acting Christian and are forbidden to practice their faith in the public sphere, complaints of unfairness are met with scorn.

“Are U.S. Christians being persecuted — or just whiny?” asks Larry Eubanks, pastor of First Baptist Church of Frederick, Maryland, in an Ethics Daily op-ed. He contends that many of his fellow believers’ complaints of maltreatment are merely a smoke screen for their inability to take constructive criticism or their stubborn unwillingness to accept those of other creeds. Addressing these “whiners,” Eubanks accuses them of irrationally claiming persecution “when you are criticized, when someone disagrees with you and says so, or when you are prevented from using your religion to discriminate against others.”

“Some Christians equate not getting their own way in the political sphere with brutal and unjust persecution,” opines Adam Lee in *The Guardian*. He mocks American conservatives who cry foul “because they’re not getting their own way on same-sex marriage or the Obamacare contraception mandate,” labeling their claims “ridiculous and embarrassing” when compared to the “genuine persecution” of forced conversion and genocide that minority religious groups in other countries face.

Is this depiction accurate? Are American Christians nothing more than inflexible simpletons, unable to come to terms with a society outgrowing their comfort zone? Do they just need to grow up and learn to live with those who do not share their views? What about the Christian mandate to “love your enemies, and do good to them that hate you”?

These arguments assume that Christians are, as a rule, intolerant of views or lifestyles different from their own. There is truth to that accusation: A moral life presupposes intolerance of

“When you have an immoral society that has blatantly, proudly, violated all of the commandments of God, there is one last virtue they insist upon: tolerance for their immorality.” — D. James Kennedy, Ph.D.

immorality. In the past, this was known as having standards. But the modern definition of intolerance includes a specious insinuation that Christians’ personal morals pose a direct threat to everyone else’s personal freedom. Newfangled “tolerance” demands that Christians not only put up with perversion but also agree with, endorse, and promote it.

“Tolerance is the last virtue of a depraved society,” wrote the late D. James Kennedy, Ph.D., former president of Coral Ridge Ministries in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. “When you have an immoral society that has blatantly, proudly, violated all of

the commandments of God, there is one last virtue they insist upon: tolerance for their immorality.”

This warped tolerance has been festering in our culture for decades. In 1987, Andre Sarano won a taxpayer-funded award for his photograph of a crucifix immersed in urine. Outraged taxpaying Christians were silenced and told they didn’t have to look at it, but they had to respect the artist’s so-called right of self-expression. In 1996, Chris Ofili created a warped image entitled *Holy Virgin Mary* and adorned it with pornographic images and elephant dung. Then-New York Mayor

Rudy Giuliani threatened to pull Brooklyn Museum funding over the exhibit, but a U.S. District Court squelched him, claiming violation of the museum’s First Amendment rights.

Predictably, things have gotten uglier since. Who can forget when A&E suspended Phil Robertson of the hit TV series *Duck Dynasty* in 2013 for expressing his opinion that homosexuality is a sin? Instead of defending Robertson’s right to free speech, the network pandered to outraged activists and only reluctantly reinstated the celebrity after fierce public backlash to the suspension.

Earlier that same year, Aaron and Melissa Klein, who owned a bakery in Oregon called “Sweet Cakes,” refused — based on their religious convictions — to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. The lesbians sued, claiming an astonishing 88 symptoms of emotional distress, including such outlandish ambiguities as “mental rape,” “acute loss of confidence,” “shock,” and the remarkably incongruous trio: “loss of appe-



AP Images

So much for free speech: Television network A&E suspended *Duck Dynasty* star Phil Robertson in 2013 after he dared to call homosexuality a sin.

Rebecca Terrell, a contributor to *The New American* since 2009, is a licensed nurse in Tennessee and holds a master’s degree in marketing.

tite,” “impaired digestion,” and “weight gain.” For their supposed transgressions the Kleins were fined \$135,000, forcing them to shutter the bakery. Today they are still out of business and embroiled in legal appeal battles.

Whiny Christians?

The above cases are a few that have made national headlines, but discrimination against Christian standards is ubiquitous and ongoing. Let’s look at a few representative examples and then decide if these Christians are “whiny.”

Last fall the California state Assembly passed a resolution, ACR 99, pressuring clergy and educators to cease preaching against “lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)” lifestyles and discouraging them from engaging in conversion therapy, a term that refers to biblical counsel for people struggling with same-sex attraction. Though the resolution has no force of law, the next logical step would be for California to enact punitive measures for non-compliance. “It is the goal of ACR 99 to eventually criminalize one’s choice to seek counseling and other services,” reads a Capitol Resource Institute analysis of the bill. More than two dozen doctors, counselors, and pastors also condemned the resolution as a violation of their freedom. “Religious leaders have the constitutionally protected right to teach religious doctrine in accordance with their faith,” reads their open letter, “and politicians have no right to tell clergy what is moral, dictate the content of their sermons, or instruct them in religious counseling.”

Even more disturbing is what’s happening in classrooms across the country since the National Education Association (NEA) partnered with the radical pro-sodomy group “Human Rights Campaign” to create “welcoming schools” and force teachers to play along with their students’ supposed “gender” confusion. Writing for *THE NEW AMERICAN*, Alex Newman relates stories of teachers such as Peter Vlaming at West Point High School in Virginia, who “have already been fired ... for refusing to refer to girls using male pronouns, and vice-versa.” A middle-school physical education teacher in Florida, Rob Oppedisano, nearly lost his job *and teaching certificate* when he resisted school administration for allowing a girl (who

While LGBT is promoted and defended, Christian causes are stifled. Last year administrators at a Florida high school thwarted student attempts to form a pro-life club and even threatened to fire the teachers who had volunteered to serve as faculty advisors.

“identifies” as a boy) to change clothes and shower in the boys’ locker room. District administrators turned a deaf ear when he tried to point out how the situation so obviously set him up, the male students, and the school for accusations and lawsuits, especially in a setting where pedophilia charges run rampant these days.

“I also teach a health class, and they are starting to present the LGBT stuff in a positive manner,” Oppedisano said. “We’re

supposed to call children by the name they prefer, then we are supposed to try to hide it when their parents come in.” He continued, “If you’re a Christian and you stand up for something, you can rest assured ... that’s not going to be tolerated.”

While LGBT is promoted and defended, Christian causes are stifled. Last year administrators at a Florida high school thwarted student attempts to form a pro-life club and even threatened to fire the teachers who had volunteered to serve as faculty advisors. Their reason: The group was too controversial — a pathetic excuse considering the school has 78 approved clubs including the Gay-Straight Alliance, the Animal Rights Club, and Collier Students for Change, an affiliate of the state Democratic Party.

These are only a few cases of government-endorsed discrimination against Christians. We could add Montana’s refusal to allow religious schools access to its state scholarship program; the new law in New York that forces pro-life groups to hire pro-abortion employees; the Virginia realtor persecuted by her state’s Real Estate Board for using Christian references in digital communication; the Pennsylvania National Guard Unit that tried to ban a Christian scouting group from touring its facility; the Florida soup kitchen told to



Censoring conversion therapy: Christian activists gather at the California Capitol, opposing a 2018 bill to criminalize counseling for people struggling with same-sex attraction. The practice is already banned for minors in 14 states.

remove Christian banners and stop giving out Bibles or risk losing USDA funding; two ministers arrested for reading the Bible aloud on the sidewalk outside a Hemet, California, DMV; and the city of San Francisco's recent commercial blacklist of 22 states with strong pro-life laws. And this list is only the tip of the iceberg; many more examples could be added.

Perhaps that explains why the Pew Research Center reported last year that half of U.S. adults agree that evangelical Christians are subject to discrimination, up from 42 percent in 2016. And even though American Christians are not facing the same type of persecution as their fellows in other countries — torture, rape, human trafficking, burning of churches and homes, murder, genocide — those who witness such barbarity have warnings for the United States.

"It wasn't only ISIS who laid waste to the church; our cultural compromises with the government and our divisions against each other brewed for a long time. We are Damascus, the seat of Christianity; what happened to us can happen to you. Be careful." Those are the words of a Syrian missionary quoted by K.A. Ellis in *Christianity Today*. She also cited an underground church leader in the Middle East who warned: "Persecution is easier to understand when it's physical — torture, death, imprisonment. American persecution is like an advanced stage of cancer; it eats away at you, yet you cannot feel it. This is the worst kind of persecution."

"There is a war being waged against the world's Christians and unfortunately American Christians have been lulled or shamed into silence," Dede Laugensen told attendees at last summer's National Religious Broadcasters convention in California. Laugensen is executive director of Save the Persecuted Christians Coalition (SPCC). "More Christians have died for their faith over the last 100 years than in all prior centuries since Jesus' time," she explained, describing Americans as oblivious, asleep in a "carefully constructed bubble of ignorance and distraction," while the media and government maintain vigilant silence about brutalities worldwide.

That silence means most Americans are unaware that Christians are overwhelm-



Just don't pray: The National Education Association rejects prayer in schools while encouraging events such as this Human Rights Campaign book reading in support of transgender and non-binary youth.

ingly the most targeted religious group in the world, with persecution in some areas reaching "genocidal" levels, according to a 2019 report commissioned by the U.K. foreign secretary. The result has been mass exodus from regions of greatest violence. For example, in fewer than 10 years the Syrian Christian population has nosedived from 1.7 million to under 450,000. In Palestine, Christians make up less than 1.5 percent of residents. Yet these are the areas of Christianity's oldest roots.

Frank Gaffney, SPCC president and CEO, told Troy Anderson of THE NEW AMERICAN that persecution of Christians around the world is a "precursor to what can happen closer to home if we're not careful, and if we don't do a better job than we have to date in trying to stop" atrocities worldwide.

Revolutionary Origins

What is the source of this animus? Why is the cross targeted for destruction? "Rest assured, the cake baker here in the United States, the 15-year-old girl being held by jihadists as a slave for life in Nigeria,

and the imprisoned North Korean being slowly starved to death for the crime of being Christian, are casualties of the same brutal war that has been festering for centuries," mourned Laugensen.

"Since its birth in the fires of the French Revolution, the political left has been at war with religion and with the Christian religion in particular," writes *New York Times* bestselling author David Horowitz in his 2019 book *Dark Agenda: The War to Destroy Christian America*. Troy Anderson, who favorably quoted the above passage last year in his own article for TNA on the war against Christianity, says the same hatred has inspired revolutionaries ever since. He paints a frightening past as prologue:

In Russia, socialist revolutionary Karl Marx's followers scrubbed religious teaching from the schools, forbade criticism of atheism, and burned over 10,000 churches. When priests demanded freedom of religion, they were executed. Between 1917 and 1935, 130,000 Russian Or-

thodox priests were arrested, 95,000 of whom were shot by firing squads.

“Karl Marx’s *Communist Manifesto* expended a lot of red ink on the need to eradicate religion and family ties by any means necessary,” explains THE NEW AMERICAN contributor Charles Scaliger. “And communism’s well-known hostility to God and family is shared by all other forms of socialism, although behind a kinder, gentler mask of ‘tolerance.’”

The modern anti-Christian crusade we are witnessing in the United States is a textbook case of cultural Marxism’s “tolerance” in practice. “Radicals in America today don’t have the political power to execute religious people and destroy their houses of worship, yet they openly declare their desire to obliterate religion,” said Horowitz. “They want to save the human race from the social injustice and oppression that religion allegedly inflicts on humanity.”

“Religion must die in order for mankind to live,” proclaimed left-wing commentator Bill Maher in the 2008 documentary *Religulous*. In response, it’s worth asking exactly what is so offensive, unjust, and oppressive about the Christian creed? Among other virtues its principles promote honesty and ethics, outlaw killing

and stealing, and prevent a husband or wife from abandoning spouse and children. People offended by these values are those who claim rights to a warped version of so-called freedom — what they really want is freedom from conscience and a license to practice depravity. It is telling that Christians get into the most trouble with radicals promoting LGBT and pro-abortion agendas.

“According to the Left ... people who oppose abortion and same-sex ‘marriage’ have a kind of mental illness,” warns Horowitz. “Stigmatizing one’s opponents is a classical radical tactic.” Using this typical Marxist trick, leftists label anyone who censures them as homophobes, xenophobes, fill-in-the-blank-phobes. “Calling critics ‘phobic’ is a rationale for denying their First Amendment rights” and silencing them.

Target: The Next Generation

But is it *all* religions, or only Christianity, that must be silenced? What about those who adhere to beliefs such as Hinduism, Buddhism, or Islam — the latter being far more intolerant, bloodthirsty, and misogynistic than the others?

On the contrary, non-Christian religions are coddled and applauded. Schools in Baltimore, Maryland, recently joined

those in New York, Detroit, and other districts throughout the country in closing for so-called holy days on the Muslim calendar, despite the fact that no other religious holidays are recognized. Otherwise scheduled school closings — once known by the Christian names of Christmas and Easter — now go by the insipid titles of winter vacation and spring break.

Buddhism and Hinduism are promoted in a different way. For more than a decade, U.S. public schools have been indoctrinating children with Far East mystical practices, masked under so-called “Mindfulness” programs to supposedly promote stress management. Youngsters are made to sit on classroom floors in the lotus position, eyes closed, hands resting on knees with palms raised, meditating or chanting Hindu mantras. When she exposed the agenda in 2014, Christian activist Debbie Degroff advised, “Chances are that you, like me, had never heard of Mindfulness until today. What other programs, curriculums and practices are you unaware of?”

What about *Teaching Social Activism*, the cornerstone of New York City’s “Civics for All” social studies curriculum? William F. Jasper of THE NEW AMERICAN says this latest un-Christian propaganda scheme not only indoctrinates “K-12 captives in race theory, gender theory, LGBTQ rights, social justice, environmental justice, and a continually evolving potpourri of made-to-order Marxist grievances, but also encourages and directs students to take to the streets to demonstrate their righteous zeal.” Under *Teaching Social Activism*, administrators gave kids a free day off school if they would attend Greta Thunberg’s 2019 Youth Climate Strike. The program hypes such causes as carbon footprints, toxic masculinity, homophobia, white privilege, gun control, economic inequality, and police brutality. They may not be able to read or write, but these students can “spout all the ‘progressive’ tropes about issues that demand their outrage,” says Jasper.

As in New York, educators across the country have been diligent in transforming public schools into anti-American, Marxist boot camps. The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation measured the effectiveness of these efforts in a 2019 poll, which found that an aston-



Christian genocide: At a funeral in Egypt’s minority Christian community, relatives mourn over portraits of their loved ones beheaded by Islamic State militants.

AP Images

ishing 70 percent of millennials (people born in the 1980s and 1990s) are likely to vote for a socialist candidate. Only 57 percent of those surveyed believe the *Declaration of Independence* is a better safeguard of freedom than the *Communist Manifesto*.

No wonder the latter document admits it is the purpose of communism to “rescue education from the influence of the ruling class,” the term “ruling class” being a 19th-century Marxian slur for the Christian society that revolutionaries were fighting to purge from European culture. Addressing their opponents, Marx and Engels opined that education is “determined by the social conditions under which you educate, by the intervention, direct or indirect, of society by means of schools.” They then declared that communists intend “to alter the character of that intervention.”

Thus we have programs such as *Teaching Social Activism*, Mindfulness, and the most nefarious, which encompasses all others, multiculturalism, aimed at teaching American students to respect other cultures and despise their own. In 1982, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education mandated “multicultural education” as an integral part of teacher training and described the philosophy as “treating diverse cultural groups and ways of life as equally legitimate.” Writing for *THE NEW AMERICAN* in 2010, the late education expert Dr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld painted a more realistic description:

Multicultural education ... legitimizes different lifestyles and values systems, thereby legitimizing moral diversity — which is simply moral anarchy. The concept of moral diversity directly contradicts the Biblical concept of moral absolutes based on the Ten Commandments, on which this nation was founded.

Taught not as a separate subject matter but through careful planning and integration into all areas, multiculturalism is spoon-fed to children from their earliest days in school and belittles pride in patriotism and the American culture.

Being American “means accepting the essence of what the Founding Fathers stood for and died for. That essence is



AP Images

Pagan propaganda: In this one-year “Mindful Studies” course at Wilson High School in Portland, Oregon, students are indoctrinated in Far East mystical practices.

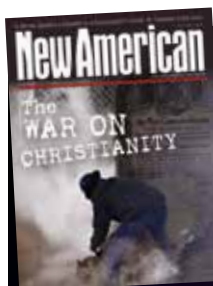
founded on Biblical principles which include the concept of moral absolutes,” said Blumenfeld. “To deprive school children of that knowledge is to rob them of their common American heritage.”

The point of this indoctrination is to steer young Americans away from patriotism, toward “a world socialist government in which American national sovereignty will be surrendered for the greater good of ‘world peace and brotherhood.’” Blumenfeld cautions parents of their tremendous responsibility to safeguard their children from such “socialist brainwashing,” to teach them that “this nation was created with God’s help and blessings,” and that “without Him we will be consigned to the same tyranny and misery that now afflicts the millions of people who live under paganism, atheism and communism.”

We are already there, under the foul tyranny of neo-paganism, having enthroned licentiousness and debauchery in every imaginable way. We have legitimized sodomy with same-sex “marriage,” justified willful murder by calling it “abortion,” and subverted marriage — the sacred institution cre-

ated by God for the propagation of the human race and the rearing of children — with the abolition of children to the point of depopulation and the proliferation of cohabitation and divorce. The sacrilege of desecrated Sundays is universal, as are blasphemies against God. Impurity permeates our culture in immodest clothing and heinous themes in music and entertainment. Our government oppresses the poor through a corrupt welfare system and defrauds workers through a Marxist graduated income tax.

What is the solution? Jesus Christ warned His apostles that it wouldn’t be easy: “If the world hate you, know ye that it hated me before you. . . . If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you,” reads the 15th chapter of the New Testament’s Book of Saint John. No matter the cost, Americans must once again permeate civil society with Christian principles, or society will not be civil. ■



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EDUCATION

THE SOLUTION TO SOCIETY'S WOES

THE NEW AMERICAN interviews John Birch Society CEO Arthur Thompson about remedying our country's cultural and political problems.

*An interview with Arthur R. Thompson
by Rebecca Terrell*

In light of our culture's war on Christian morals, THE NEW AMERICAN asked Arthur Thompson, chief executive officer of The John Birch Society (JBS), for practical solutions to renew our society.

THE NEW AMERICAN: John Birch Society founder Robert Welch often said the most serious threat facing America was moral decline. Is that still true today?

Arthur R. Thompson: There are various threats facing America, including moral decline. But Robert Welch gave us the solution, too, and that is education. The problem today is that people are ignorant of history. They don't know what good government really is, nor are they aware of the principles upon which this country was founded. When they gain an understanding of these things, the problems will solve themselves, because an educated electorate will vote correctly. We need to build an electorate that understands the principles of Americanism.

TNA: What is Americanism?

Thompson: The term "Americanism" refers to the principles upon which our nation was founded — the moral background. It means that rights come from God, and that government has no legitimacy in abrogating those rights. Americans are assured of this liberty and have inherited a system of government unique in history. No one has ever replicated it. It is embodied in our Constitution.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "In questions of power, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution." To balance that, the Founders gave us the Ninth and 10th Amendments to the Constitution, which effectively bind the hands of the government, protecting our freedoms. This is the essence of Americanism.

TNA: How is it possible to educate people?

Thompson: We do it through pains taken by an organized group



Arthur R.
Thompson

that sets out in a concerted manner to educate, acting nationwide but on a local level to oppose governmental tyranny. That organization is The John Birch Society, and we have demonstrated success of the education tactic time and time again. But there is a nasty little four-letter word that turns most people off: work. Most people don't want to put in the effort it takes.

It's not going to take millions of people. All we need are a few hundred thousand "pulling at the oars." Think about this: During the American Revolution, only three percent of the population was either for or against American independence. The rest didn't care. Similarly in communist countries, it was only about three to five percent of people who got involved in the Communist Party and took over the countries.

As a general rule, only five percent of people get involved in anything outside their own employment and church. If we can get a majority of that five percent involved in education, we've won!

TNA: How does the JBS accomplish its goals?

Thompson: The JBS doesn't spend time and energy on PR, but on programs. That's why our activity sometimes seems invisible. We get the right information to the electorate on a national scale, in a concerted and coordinated effort, working locally on the same agenda items. This makes our combined efforts far more effective than if each individual member were completely on his or her own, working separately. Put simply, through The John Birch Society, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. This is the value of organization, and I'm not just talking about chat rooms or gripe sessions, but boots on the ground. It's also a mistake to believe that victory on one single issue can save this country. You have to have an agenda that is all encompassing, and JBS provides that.

TNA: How does one join JBS?

Thompson: Join online at www.jbs.org, or call us at 1-800-JBS-USA1. ■



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SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

WHAT DID THE FOUNDERS INTEND?

Ironically, the Establishment Clause in the Constitution, which was meant to ensure a practicing Christian populace in this country, has been perverted to punish Christians.

by **Rebecca Terrell**

September 17 is Constitution Day, commemorating the adoption of the United States' founding document as supreme law of the land. It is an important date in Boston, which played such a pivotal role during the Colonial period and the U.S. Revolutionary War that it earned the moniker "Cradle of Liberty." The city gave our nation eight of its Founding Fa-

thers. Home of the Boston Tea Party, seat of the Colonial government, and center of trade and commerce in New England, Boston witnessed the onset of the war on its outskirts at Lexington and Concord. It is also the birthplace of one of the oldest existing warships: the USS *Constitution*.

An impressive 305-foot long, wooden-hulled, triple-masted frigate, "Old Ironsides," as she is known, docks in Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston's Na-

Hypocrisy unfurled: The transgender flag flies at Boston City Hall, where the mayor said it will continue until everyone in his state is equal under the law. He bans the Christian flag, however.

tional Historical Park, surrounded by wartime reminiscences such as Paul Revere's house, Bunker Hill, and the Old North Church. On Constitution Day, amid tours, re-enactments, and historic exhibi-

tions, her rigging is lined with brightly colored pennants, waving gaily in brisk Atlantic gusts. Across the Charles River, where patriots rally on the steps of City Hall to commemorate our nation's founding, American flags flutter in the same breeze, but one banner remains curiously censored: the Christian Flag.

"The flag sends an overt religious message, and could reasonably be construed to be an endorsement of Christianity by the City, which would be a violation of the Establishment Clause," wrote Mayor Martin Walsh in a statement explaining why Boston has refused a civic group's repeated requests to fly the Christian flag during their one-hour rally each Constitution Day. Harold Shurtleff and his Camp Constitution organization filed suit, but a U.S. District Court upheld the city's ban in February.

Boston makes one of its city hall flagpoles available as a "public forum" open to all, according to its application form. Any organization can petition the city to fly its flag for a particular event. Since 2005, around 300 flags have been approved, representing official, cultural, and historical interests. Causes such as the LGBTQ lobby and the transgender movement are welcome. Flags of foreign countries are often seen, including those of the communist governments of China and Cuba, and others which contain religious symbolism. On more than a dozen occasions, the Islamic star and crescent of the Turkish flag have flown over Boston. Yet, Walsh claims, the city has "never" raised a religious flag at City Hall. In a 2019 interview, Shurtleff told *THE NEW AMERICAN* that Boston claims to have an "unwritten policy" that excludes the display of "non-secular flags," pointing to the U.S. Constitution's Establishment Clause as its primary argument.

What does the Establishment Clause say about this situation? And what would the Founding Fathers who wrote it have to say about Boston's ban of the Christian flag?

Congress Shall Make No Law...

The Establishment Clause is part of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This clause, remarkable in its clarity and simplicity, plainly states that *Congress* cannot set up a government-sponsored religion, nor can it prevent people from establishing and practicing their own. It is worth repeating that the law binds the U.S. Congress — not any other entity or person. That point alone reveals the absurdity of a city such as Boston blaming baseless prohibitions on the federal Establishment Clause.

Nor can Beantown look to the Founders for justification. Debate over the Establishment Clause in the first session of Congress that formulated the Bill of

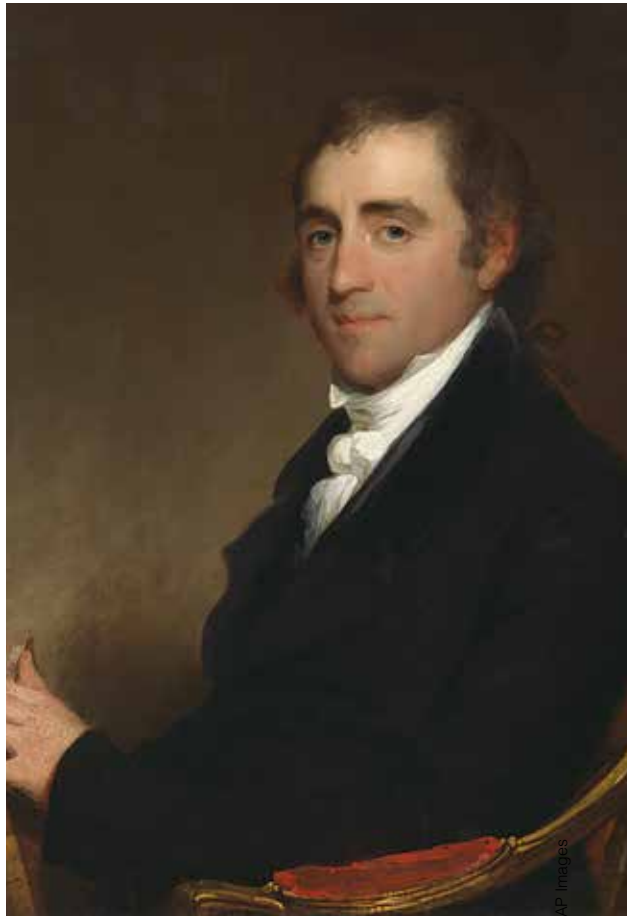
Rights was intense and protracted, covering three months in the summer of 1789. It reveals the indisputable intent of the Founders to protect and promote — not prevent — public exercise of Christianity.

James Madison of Virginia, hailed as the "Father of the Constitution" for his role as one of its primary architects, proposed a rather wordy original draft of the First Amendment:

The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext, infringed.

But delegates worried that this would discourage rather than foster morality; libertines could take advantage of the wording, claiming religious freedom to excuse any form of licentious behavior. Various revisions ensued, to be met with such objections as that of Connecticut's Benjamin Huntington: "The words might be taken in such latitude as to be extremely hurtful to the cause of religion." He went on to suggest that "the amendment be made in such a way as to secure the rights of religion, but not to patronize those who professed no religion at all."

Like Huntington, all representatives made it clear that they wanted to defend religious standards. Do their references to "religion" indicate that they supported all creeds indiscriminately? On the contrary, they employed the umbrella term to refer exclusively to Christian denominations. "[None] could hold [Christianity] in more reverence than the framers of the Constitution," wrote Harvard Law School founder Joseph Story, who was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1811 by Founding Father-turned-U.S. President James Madison. In his work *A Familiar Exposition of the Constitution of the United States*, Story declared: "The real object of the First Amendment was not to countenance, much less



Federalist faith: Massachusetts' Fisher Ames penned the First Amendment, and was an outspoken advocate of the Bible's importance in education, stating, "Reverence for the sacred book that is thus early impressed lasts long."



Svetlana Mirkovic

to advance Mohammedanism, or Judaism, or infidelity, by prostrating Christianity, but to exclude all rivalry among Christian sects and to prevent any national ecclesiastical patronage of the national government.” In other words, the Founders intended their nation to adhere to Christian principles without any one particular denomination running things.

In the end, it was one of Massachusetts’ sons, Fisher Ames, who provided the final wording of the First Amendment. Did he mean it to prevent Christians from expressing their beliefs in the public forum? Not at all. In fact, Ames was an outspoken advocate of the Bible as essential to education. In an article published in 1789 in *Palladium* magazine he complained, “We are spending less time in the classroom on the Bible, which should be the principal text in our schools.”

Ames was referring to all schools, not just religious institutions. Though public schools were the exception to the norm until well into the 19th century, public education had been around since 1635, Boston being home to the first public school in the Colonies. Still operating today fewer than five miles from the Old North Church, the Boston Latin School brags on its website of its founders’ “belief that the only good things are the goods of the soul.” In the founding era, the Bible was its primary text; among

its famous graduates are John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, and Samuel Adams. The latter is known as the “Father of the American Revolution” and later became governor of Massachusetts. In that office he proclaimed a public day of fast in 1797, asking his constituents to humbly beg God that the kingdom “of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be everywhere established, and the people willingly bow to the scepter of Him who is the Prince of Peace.” (Boston’s current Mayor Walsh may well see that as “an endorsement of Christianity” by a former governor of his state. Would he therefore ban the governor’s words as he did the Christian flag?)

Unlike today, Christianity permeated society at the birth of our nation. After 1776, all 13 American Colonies required religious oaths as prerequisites for holding public office, and most required that officeholders be Christian. One of the first acts of the U.S. Congress was a bill designating resources to be used “for civilizing the Indians and promoting Christianity.” Through 1807, Congress made several treaties with various Indian tribes, including provisions from the federal treasury for either Catholic or Protestant missionaries to them.

Christian verbiage also filled civil documents of the day. Samuel Adams opened his Last Will and Testament with the

Golden Rule days: The Boston Latin School, a public institution, was founded in 1635 on the “belief that the only good things are the goods of the soul,” with the Bible as its primary text.

words: “Principally, and first of all, I resign my soul to the Almighty Being who gave it, and my body I commit to the dust, relying on the merits of Jesus Christ for the pardon of my sins.” George Mason, known as the “Father of the Bill of Rights” for his insistence that amendments be added to the Constitution to curb federal power, wrote in his will, “My soul, I resign into the hands of my Almighty Creator ... humbly hoping from His unbounded mercy and benevolence, through the merits of my blessed Savior, a remission of my sins.”

That the new country promoted Christian morals was also evident in its public laws. For example, despite its modern institutionalization, “Sodomy was a criminal offense at common law and was forbidden by the laws of the original 13 states when they ratified the Bill of Rights,” wrote Chief Justice Warren Burger in 1986. “In fact, until 1961, all 50 states outlawed sodomy... provid[ing] criminal penalties for sodomy performed in private and between consenting adults.”

Cohabitation offers another illustration. The Sexual Revolution of the 1960s legitimized this practice — once consid-

In an 1889 Supreme Court case condemning polygamy, Justice Stephen Field also warned that, should a man and woman live together outside of marriage, “swift punishment would follow ... and no heed would be given to the pretense that [they] could be protected” by the Constitution.



Franklin's legacy: At the 1787 Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin quoted the Bible, “Except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it,” calling for prayers to open each day of Congress, a practice that continues today.

ered a reprehensible vice. In an 1889 Supreme Court case condemning polygamy, Justice Stephen Field also warned that, should a man and woman live together outside of marriage, “swift punishment would follow ... and no heed would be given to the pretense that [they] could be protected” by the Constitution. He noted that freedom “shall not be construed to excuse acts of licentiousness.”

Yet even in 19th-century America there was pushback against legislating morality. In 1854, the House Judiciary Committee cautioned against licentious behavior, noting that Christianity “must be considered as the foundation on which the whole structure [of the United States] rests.... There can be no substitute for Christian-

ity.... That was the religion of the founders of the republic, and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendants. There is a great and very prevalent error on this subject in the opinion that those who organized this Government did not legislate on religion.”

Fewer than 100 years later, that error went on the offensive by way of an unprecedented Supreme Court ruling that redefined the Establishment Clause and bound states under it for the first time in history. The 1947 case *Everson v. Board of Education* introduced the novel concept: “The First Amendment has erected ‘a wall of separation between church and state.’ That wall must be kept high and impregnable.”

The court took its referenced quote out

of context from an obscure letter written by President Thomas Jefferson in 1801 to the Danbury Baptist Association in Connecticut, answering their concerns about a rumor that Congress was preparing to establish the Congregationalist denomination as a national religion. Jefferson wrote back with assurances that churches were protected from government control by the First Amendment, and offered the metaphor of “a wall of separation between church and state.” Absolutely nothing in Jefferson’s message conveyed hostility toward religion, or that states should be bound by the Establishment Clause. But that is exactly how the Court applied his wording. Thus, from a simple missive with no force of law sprang the nefarious phrase which, from that point, courts began to cite so often that in 1958, New York Supreme Court Judge Elbert T. Gallagher complained that people were going to think it was part of the Constitution. Associate Justice William Rehnquist further protested in 1985, “The establishment clause had been expressly freighted with Jefferson’s misleading metaphor for nearly forty years.... There is simply no historical foundation for the proposition that the framers intended to build a wall of separation.... Recent court decisions are in no way based on either the language or intent of the framers.”

Today, “separation of church and state” is routinely used as an excuse to rob America of its godly heritage, and a once-beneficent government is now fanatically hostile to the religion of its Founders. It is forbidden to pray in schools, to display the 10 Commandments in public buildings, and even to fly the Christian flag at city hall on Constitution Day. What would the Founders say about all this? The Father of this Country and our first president, George Washington, wrote an effective reply to that question in a letter dated March 11, 1792:

I am sure that never was a people, who had more reason to acknowledge a Divine interposition in their affairs, than those of 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. ■



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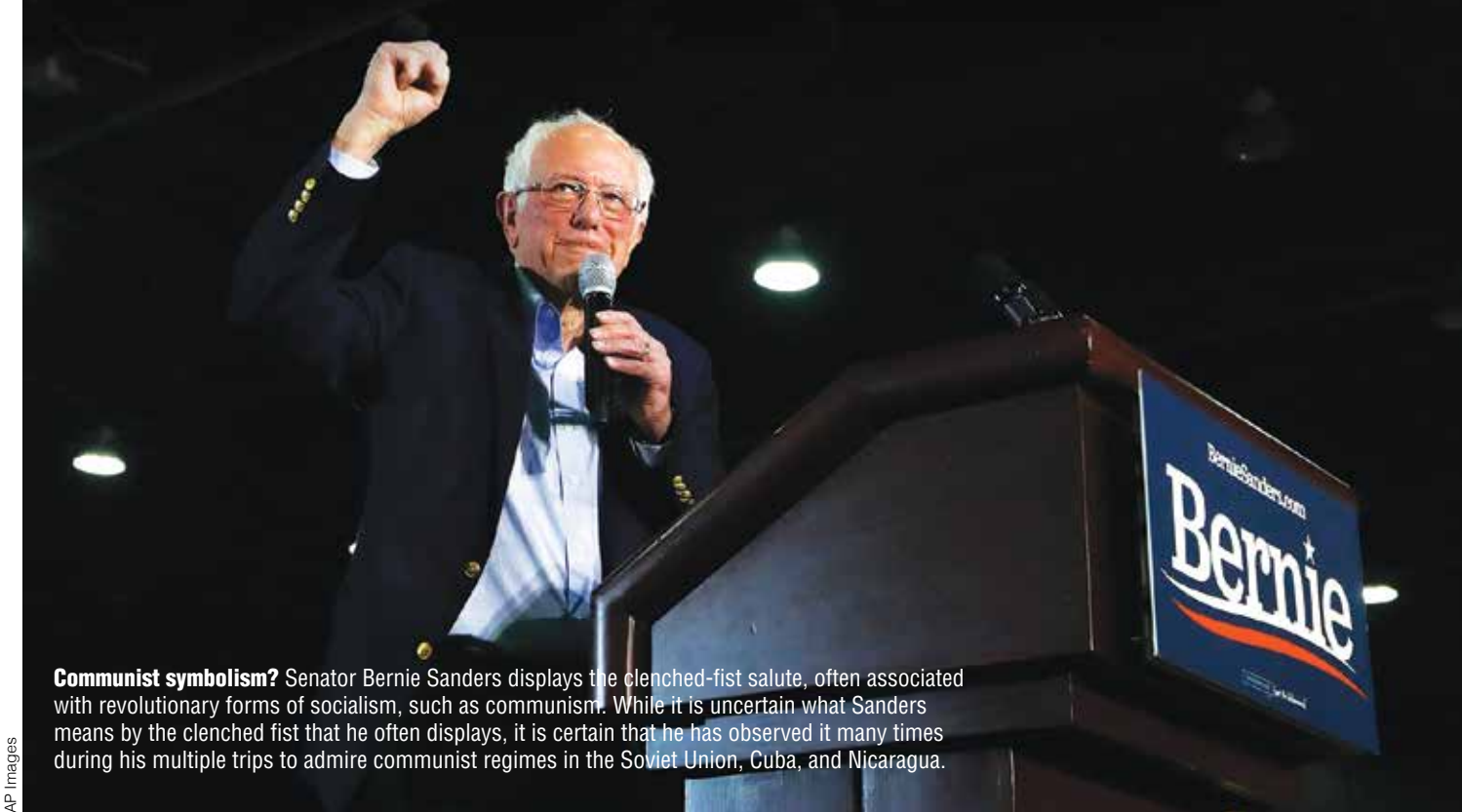
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Is Bernie Sanders A SOCIALIST OR A COMMUNIST?



Communist symbolism? Senator Bernie Sanders displays the clenched-fist salute, often associated with revolutionary forms of socialism, such as communism. While it is uncertain what Sanders means by the clenched fist that he often displays, it is certain that he has observed it many times during his multiple trips to admire communist regimes in the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

AP Images

Some claim Bernie Sanders isn't a socialist at all, let alone a communist, while others claim the opposite. But based on Sanders' own claims, he is a would-be totalitarian.

by Steve Byas

It is almost certain that Vermont's Senator Bernie Sanders has never joined the U.S. Communist Party. But despite his protestations that his socialism is *democratic* socialism, his repeated praise for communist dictators around the world has justifiably raised the question as to whether Sanders is actually a communist in his heart.

First, while Sanders is campaigning

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to win the nomination of the *Democratic* Party, he has never joined that party, either.

Sanders' recent remarks on CBS' *60 Minutes* program have certainly raised eyebrows. Appearing on that program in late February, Sanders conceded that Communist Cuba was of an "authoritarian nature" but, "When [communist dictator] Fidel Castro came into office, you know what he did? He had a massive literacy program. Is that a bad thing? Even though Fidel Castro did it?"

Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) quipped in a tweet, "It really makes a difference when those you murder at the firing squad can read and write." Cruz's

father, Rafael Cruz, is one of hundreds of thousands of former Cuban citizens now residing in the United States who despise the communist regime that Castro brought to power in the late 1950s. Others have died trying to escape communism in Cuba, such as a woman who died in the waters of the Caribbean in 2000. Her six-year-old son, Elián Gonzalez, survived by floating on an inner tube until rescued by a fisherman off the Florida coast. Unfortunately for little Elián, President Bill Clinton's administration ruthlessly turned the boy back over to Cuba — consigning him to a life under communist tyranny.

But Sanders' most recent comment praising Castro is really nothing new. While he insists that he is a "democratic socialist," rather than a communist like Castro, Sanders has a long history of praising outright communist dictatorships, such as those found in Cuba, the old Soviet Union, and Nicaragua under the Ortega brothers in the 1980s.

In a speech at the University of Vermont in 1986, Sanders praised the socialist policies of Castro's Cuba, and even condemned the efforts of both Democrats and Republicans who opposed the spread of communism throughout Latin America by the Castro regime. He said that in the 1960 presidential debates when then-Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy criticized the Eisenhower administration for not doing enough to stop Castro, it made him want to "puke."

While Sanders rightly characterized the rule of communist Fidel Castro as "authoritarian," the facts are that it was much more than that. It was, and continues to be, *totalitarian*. *Authoritarian* dictatorships do not allow the general public any substantive voice in the personnel and policies of the government, but otherwise leave the people alone to run their lives and their businesses. *Totalitarian* regimes, on the other hand, likewise do not allow the people any voice in the running of the government, but also attempt to run the total lives of their people.

The Cuban people felt the full weight of life under a brutal communist dictatorship. Soon after coming to power, Castro announced the need for gun registration, ostensibly to fight gangsterism. Nine months later, he simply rounded up the guns (using the registration lists), assert-

ing that there was no longer any need for an individual citizen to own a gun.

Amando Lago, a Harvard-trained economist, has estimated that almost 78,000 people may have died trying to flee Cuba since the imposition of communism there. Lago, writing in *The Black Book of Communism*, was able to document nearly 100,000 killed by the Castro regime, either by firing squads, assassinations, deaths in prisons, or by attempts to flee the island through the treacherous waters between Cuba and Florida, 90 miles away.

Of course, the exact numbers of Castro's killings cannot be known with certainty, but it's a lot. And Sanders praises this totalitarian country for a literacy program?

Then, of course, there is the reduction in living standards under the command economy of communism. Before Castro, the Cuban economy was ranked the second-highest in Latin America. The World Economic Database of the International Monetary Fund does not presently rank Cuba, as no data is available.

Old-time Marxist

Sanders' love affair with totalitarian communist dictatorships goes back to his childhood. During his speech at the University of Vermont in 1986, Sanders said, "I remember, for some reason or another, being very excited when Fidel Castro made the revolution in Cuba. I was a kid ... and it just seemed right and appropriate that poor people were rising up against rather ugly rich people." Perhaps the reason was, in Sanders' mind, that the Cubans felt they had "nothing to lose but their chains," as Karl Marx put it in *The Communist Manifesto*.

Rather than moderate his effusive praise for Cuban Communism because of its atrocities, Sanders opted to include Communist China as a place he admired, saying, "The facts are clear, that they have taken more people out of extreme poverty than any country in history." Actually, the Communist Chinese destroyed the Chinese economy under Mao Tse-tung. For decades, while Chinese who had escaped to Taiwan prospered, Chinese people on the mainland often starved due to the policies of the Communist Party. China only finally prospered because it allowed some



AP Images

Castro acolyte: Sanders raised more than a few eyebrows recently when he lavished praise on the "literacy program" of communist dictator Fidel Castro. Senator Ted Cruz — whose father is among the hundreds of thousands of one-time Cuban citizens — responded, "It really makes a difference when those you murder at the firing squad can read and write."



AP Images

capitalism in that country and invited in Western businesses, promising them access to the world's largest population. Then, China stole Western technology as Western elites implemented policies giving trade advantages to China. As a rule, countries prosper to the extent that they protect property rights and allow free market activity. While it is true that millions of Chinese have been lifted from deep poverty in recent years — a poverty greatly contributed to by communist ideology — many others have been killed or imprisoned. It is not a point of contention that the Chinese Communists have essentially murdered millions of their own people since taking over by brute force in 1949. Even today, it is estimated that around one million Chinese citizens languish in re-education camps.

In the 1980s, Sanders traveled to Central America and was a featured speaker at a celebration of the Marxist Sandinista government in Nicaragua. One might recall that Nicaragua was hardly a northern European “democratic socialist” country. Daniel Ortega, the dictator there, promised that Nicaragua’s revolution was “without frontiers” and that he would make every

effort to foment revolution in neighboring El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. In his speech to his fellow socialists, Sanders praised the Marxist dictatorship of Nicaragua and encouraged them to keep fighting for victory.

One cannot recall Denmark making any effort to spread its governmental and economic system to its neighbors.

In his college days, Sanders was a member of the Young People’s Socialist League, and later, while mayor of Burlington, Vermont, he got married. He and his new bride (who shares his leftist views) opted to honeymoon not in Hawaii, London, the Virgin Islands, Niagara Falls, or some other such spot, but instead in the Cold War Soviet Union of the 1980s!

While there, the newlyweds joined several others in a sauna, in which all the participants were naked. After exiting the sauna, Sanders and his Russian friends sat around a table, still naked (but with towels), drank vodka, and joined in singing some Russian folk songs. Sanders and the other Americans responded with their own American folk song, “This Land Is Your Land,” written by

I pledge not to follow the Constitution:

Sanders launched his political career as mayor of Burlington, Vermont. As such, he took an oath to the Constitution of the United States. He has subsequently repeated that oath as a U.S. senator, which raises the question — does Sanders understand (or care) that socialism and the Constitution are antithetical?

Woody Guthrie. Even Guthrie’s sympathetic biographer, Joe Klein, said that Guthrie wrote the song in an angry and Marxist response to Irving Berlin’s “God Bless America.”

An early version of Guthrie’s 1940 song contained two additional verses not ordinarily sung today. One verse specifically attacked the very concept of private property. The omitted verse went, “Was a big high wall there that tried to stop me, A sign was painted said: Private Property, But on the back side, it didn’t say nothing — this land was made for you and me.”

A few years ago, the Smithsonian Institution honored Guthrie, and in its exhibit wrote, “The Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA) attracted those disaffected citizens with its egalitarian platform. For Woody the Communists could be related to the Robin Hood outlaws he had been singing about for over a decade.”

Sanders' choice of a Guthrie song to sing inside the Soviet Union was probably no accident. When the Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939, Guthrie wrote in one of his many columns for an official Communist Party newspaper that Stalin had only acted to help Polish workers and farmers. Guthrie even carried around a pocket-sized "Constitution of the Soviet Union," and said that the "best thing" he had ever done was "to sign up with the Communist Party."

Interestingly, as radio commentator Mark Levin said recently, Sanders' platform looks like it was pulled from Joseph Stalin's "Bill of Rights," found in the 1936 Soviet Constitution.

After returning from the Soviet Union, Sanders told Burlington reporters that housing was cheaper in the Soviet Union. The next year, he traveled to Cuba, and

upon his return told the *Burlington Free-Press*, "Under Castro, enormous progress has been made in improving the lives of poor people.... I did not see a hungry child. I did not see any homeless people." He was particularly impressed by the "free health care."

It is quite obvious that self-proclaimed "democratic socialist" Bernie Sanders has high regard for communist dictatorships. But is he a communist?

The men who imposed the world's first openly communist dictatorship in Russia — Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and Joseph Stalin — also did not call themselves communists, but rather they were *Bolsheviks*, or one faction within Russia's *Social Democratic Party*. Their differences with their fellow socialists within that party — the *Mensheviks* — were not over the goal of a socialist society, but rather the

method of achieving that goal. The *Mensheviks* were good Marxist revolutionaries, as well. But Lenin believed Marx was wrong on one score. Marx had predicted that the communist revolution would be a spontaneous uprising of oppressed workers. Lenin modified Marxism to what is now called Marxism-Leninism, believing that the poor workers and peasants would ever rise up without hard-core leadership from dedicated revolutionaries.

When the Bolsheviks finally did seize power in Russia, they changed the name of the country not to the Union of Soviet *Communist* Republics, but rather to the Union of Soviet *Socialist* Republics. The communists considered themselves socialists, too. For that matter, Adolf Hitler's totalitarian dictatorship was run by the National *Socialist* German Workers Party.

In his 1932 book *Toward Soviet America*, American Communist Party boss William Z. Foster said that the guiding principle of socialism was, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need." These words were once written by Karl Marx himself, but they could be mistaken for part of a Bernie Sanders stump speech.

Said Foster, once capitalism is overthrown, one "cannot simply leap to a complete communist system," but there must be a transition period of socialism. The goal, Foster explained, is a "classless Socialist Society." Socialism is merely the period of re-education before communism is finally established.

Foster, citing Lenin, said that it was necessary to have "a whole series of restrictions on liberty," and various social programs first. For example, Foster said, "To free the woman from the enslavement of the perpetual care of her children is also a major object of *socialism*," and because of that he advocated the establishment of kindergarten and other pre-school systems. (Emphasis added.)

Furthermore, religion had to be opposed by the socialists. Foster complained of those "superstitious dolts who will satisfy themselves with a promise of paradise after death as a substitute for a decent life here on earth." He added that superstition (his name for the Christian religion) and ignorance would vanish in the "realm of science." When President Donald Trump nominated a Christian to a post in the Of-



AP Images

Tyrannical idols: Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin were the first two dictators of the Soviet Union. Millions of people perished for opposing communist rule. However, before they took power, they did not publicly call themselves communists. They called themselves the Bolshevik wing of the Social Democratic Party. Today, Sanders calls himself a democratic socialist, and he has praised communist dictatorships such as Cuba and the Soviet Union.

fice of Management and Budget, Senator Sanders was quite blunt that he would not vote for him because of the nominee's religious belief that only believers in Jesus Christ are going to Heaven. (Why Bernie cared is curious because although he is "Jewish," he is only a *secular*, not a religious, Jew and presumably thinks belief in Heaven is just, well, *superstition*.)

A national Department of Health would take over the healthcare industry, and the "people will be *taught* how to live correctly," with mass instruction on proper diet.

Finally, American communists would work for free trade and world government.

Listening to Bernie Sanders, it is hard to differentiate between his breed of socialism and that of American communists. Sanders has said, "We have a grotesque and immoral distribution of wealth and income." Why? "We have a racist society from top to bottom, impacting health care, housing, criminal justice, education, you name it."

"You name it" pretty much sums up the Sanders platform.

In his book *1984*, George Orwell described a society that began with democratic socialism and degenerated into a totalitarian society. It still called itself socialist — Ingsoc, or English Socialism — in fact, but the people had no say in either the policies or the personnel of government. But "socialism" is a word that appeals to many who see it as providing a something-for-nothing society. As W. Cleon Skousen wrote in his classic book *The Naked Communist*, "The economics of communism are primarily for propaganda purposes. The idea of sharing the wealth appeals to the masses." But in practice, communism has always been about controlling the wealth, not sharing the wealth.

In a free market economy, sellers and buyers make choices. In a socialist economy, one supported by Sanders and others of like mind, those choices no longer exist. Under a "Medicare for All" program, as advocated by Sanders, individuals would no longer choose much of anything, as the government would make all of the choices.

As John Goodman of the Independent Institute wrote, "Under socialism, the government does more than set prices. It determines what will be produced, how it will be produced, where it will be produced and under what circumstances people will be able to consume what is produced. Since prices are not allowed to clear markets, inevitably there is rationing by waiting for food, clothing, housing, medical care and other necessities."

In short, the biggest difference between a Bernie Sanders in 2020 and a Fidel Castro in 1960 is that, right now, Sanders is not in a position of power to implement his program. We cannot be sure what Sanders would do were he given the opportunity to exercise the reins of power. Given his admiration of totalitarian communist dictators from Mao to Castro to Ortega, it is not a pleasant thought.

Is Sanders a democratic socialist, or would he attempt to follow the path of communist dictators he so clearly admires? Personally, I would prefer not to find out. ■



THE GLOBALISTS' TRADE AGENDA IT'S A LOCK, NOT A KEY.

Globalists promised 28 formerly independent European nations free trade. The nations got a repressive European Union supranational government. We're promised free trade with Mexico and Canada. What do you think we'll get? (Hint: world government)

JUDGES COURTING CONDEMNATION

When judges act as legislators and literally create laws, it is no wonder that people with opposing viewpoints disagree. Judges are almost inviting threats.

Doing the Schumer shuffle: No amount of spinning could help New York's senior senator avoid condemnation after threatening two SCOTUS justices. He may escape censure, however, as GOP senators have that problem called NATO — No Action; Talk Only.

words, too. But they're both surreal and sanctimonious given modern courts' usurpative disposition.

A justice's "job" is to rule based on the Constitution, without favor toward party, power, or political position. Yet for at least a century, "activist" judges have been imposing their biases from the bench — without consequence.

To illustrate the point, consider that the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to hear a faux (same-sex) marriage case in 1972 already. While the justices back then likely thought the notion absurd, they voiced no such sentiment but simply declined to take the issue up, citing "want of a substantial federal question."

Fast-forward 43 years and the SCOTUS delivered the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision, in 2015, which imposed faux marriage nationwide. Dissenting in the case, late Justice Antonin Scalia condemned the opinion as "lacking even a thin veneer of law," while fellow dissenter Justice Roberts lamented that the decision had "nothing to do" at all with the Constitution.

Scalia and Roberts were responding to justifications in the majority opinion, penned by now-retired justice Anthony Kennedy. He wrote, for example, that without "marriage," homosexuals' "children suffer the stigma of knowing their families are somehow lesser. They also suffer the significant material costs of being raised by unmarried parents.... The marriage laws at issue here thus harm and humiliate the children of same-sex couples." Some could respond that just being raised by a same-sex couple harms and humiliates children or that perhaps the above is an argument for criminalizing divorce, as it leads to children having "unmarried parents." But that's not the point. It is, rather, that the *Obergefell* decision concerned nothing more than five lawyers' judgment that, as Roberts also wrote, "same-sex marriage is a good idea."



AP Images

by Selwyn Duke

With his mouth misfiring worse than any gun he's ever railed against, leftist Senator Chuck Schumer made headlines and hell for himself March 4 when he leveled threats against High Court justices. "I want to tell you, Gorsuch! I want to tell you, Kavanaugh! You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price!" he shouted, rabble-rousing and promoting abortion (better termed prenatal infanticide) from the Supreme Court steps before a cheering crowd. "You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions!"

Well, what hit Schumer was criticism from all sides. Liberal *Washington*

Post writer Ruth Marcus labeled the New York Democrat's words "particularly egregious," for example, while left-wing Harvard Law professor Laurence Tribe called them "inexcusable." But that didn't stop the excuses. Schumer said he used the wrong "words," even though he was reading prepared remarks (though he did look away from his paper during the offending statement, so perhaps he was ad-libbing). He also claimed he was actually speaking of "consequences for President Trump and Senate Republicans." Yet he didn't name Trump — and *senators* Gorsuch and Kavanaugh were unavailable for comment.

But certainly available was Chief Justice John Roberts. "Justices know that criticism comes with the territory, but threatening statements of this sort from the highest levels of government are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous," he said, issuing a rare rebuke of a legislator. "All members of the court will continue to do their job, without fear or favor, from whatever quarter." These are nice

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Now, if state legislators had promulgated Kennedy's argument in legislating in faux marriage's favor, they could be called wrong in goal but not in role. For it is *legislators'* job to consider what is or isn't a "good idea" when legislating. Moreover, if while making law they also make tragic mistakes, we'd expect them to endure scorn, criticism, and condemnation. After all, if people don't like "the bearer of bad news," imagine how much more they'll hate what an errant lawmaker is: the creator of bad news.

So when Schumer claimed he was actually speaking of "consequences" for Republican legislators, it was a lie that gets at a truth: When justices start acting as legislators, is it surprising when they're treated like legislators? It's the result of ceasing to be just the bad-news bearers — e.g., "The Constitution doesn't allow this" — and becoming bad-news makers.

To add perspective, analogize this situation to baseball, with the players and fans being the people, the rule makers the legislature, and the umpires the judges. Imagine that some umpires, calling themselves "pragmatists," assumed the rule-maker's role and, let's say, stated, "We're going to allow four strikes here because three are

too few" or "Now a foul after two strikes will be considered a strike!" If the losing team's fans might be mad if an ump misses a call, imagine their rage when one changes rules and thus orchestrates their team's defeat. Worse still, if that ump couldn't be fired, a vigilante spirit might arise.

This is relevant because Schumer's anti-justice rant *smacked of vigilantism*. Our rogue-ump judges have brought hostility upon themselves by abusing their lifetime-tenure protection and usurping powers falling far outside the clearly defined boundaries of the Constitution — very much including the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision. And when the "law" behaves lawlessly, vigilantism becomes a recourse. This said, the problem is not with the law itself but with those entrusted to make and enforce it. In fact, the *law* actually provides remedies for reining in rogue judges.

First, the Constitution's Article I allows Congress to impeach judges, with Article III stating that they shall only "hold their Offices during good Behaviour." Though the common view is that errant rulings shouldn't justify impeachment ("Who's to say what's 'errant'!" shouts the relativist), missed is that judges' conjuring up a rationalization, "pragmatism," to justify

their ignoring of the law and failure to do their job is the worst of behavior.

Congress can also use Article III to limit the SCOTUS's appellate jurisdiction, meaning, its power to hear appeals from lower courts. For instance, Congress could prohibit the SCOTUS from hearing prenatal-infanticide or marriage cases on appeal from lower courts. Congress could even abolish lower federal courts, since such courts were created by Congress in the first place. This has happened, too, notably under the Thomas Jefferson administration.

So the legislature could have prevented the SCOTUS from hearing faux marriage appeals and then essentially told the lower federal courts, "You want to rule on marriage, a state issue? Okay, you're gone." Knowing that ignoring their jobs may mean their jobs could tame judges' adventurist spirit.

Yet the flaw here is that the above requires action by politicians, who'd rather pretend they're powerless against the courts than take controversial stands and court electoral defeat. Thankfully, though, there is another card to play here. It's what Jefferson called the "rightful remedy" for all federal usurpation and, I'll add, what should be the executive response to all unconstitutional judicial opinions: nullification. After all, if courts place themselves above the law, why shouldn't state officials, who like their federal counterparts also take an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution, place themselves *with the law* and above the courts? Note that judicial supremacy (the theory that Supreme Court decisions become "the law of the land," superior to and supplanting properly instituted laws) is *not granted* by the Constitution and is instead a standard that Jefferson said would make our founding document a *felo de se* — an act of suicide.

But it's assisted suicide, with sins-of-omission legislators providing the brew, sins-of-commission judges spiking it, and too many of us drinking the Kool-Aid. So it's time the courts were reminded, as Justice Scalia put it in his *Obergefell* dissent, of their "impotence." Let them reap the whirlwind, for sure — not the ill wind the world's Schumers disgorge with every demagogic breath, but the long-overdue wind of an informed populace demanding that their state and federal elected officials no longer tolerate judicial tyranny. ■



Judges are not dictators: That judges essentially nullify constitutional provisions drives home why chief executives should nullify court decisions. Only power negates power, and judicial overreach won't be remedied until, rediscovering Andrew Jackson's spirit, we say, "The courts have made their decision — now let them enforce it."



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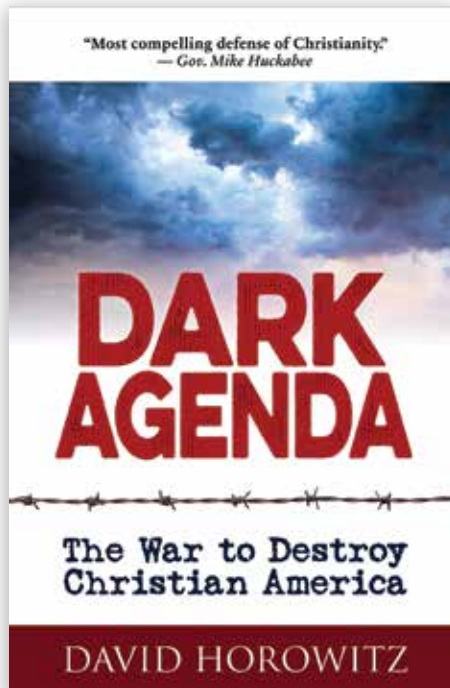
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ANTI-CHRISTIAN AGENDA

In this book, an agnostic Jewish author explains how Christianity is being subverted by the political Left, and how that subversion is destroying all that is good about the country.



by Brian Farmer

Dark Agenda: The War to Destroy Christian America, by David Horowitz, West Palm Beach, Florida, Humanix Books, 2019, 224 pages, hardcover.

Dark Agenda has received high praise from a number of prominent personages:

- “One of the most intellectually compelling and rational defenses of Christianity’s role in America. A delightfully readable explanation of how Christian principles were the bedrock of the American Revolution, and how the anti-American left has targeted Christians because of that.” — Mike Huckabee, former Arkansas governor and presidential candidate

- “An eye-popping account of the left’s

Brian Farmer is a longtime writer for The New American who served as research associate for the John Birch Society.

60-year war against America’s Christian foundations. If you want to understand the political crisis our country is facing, read this book.” — Gary Bauer, under secretary of education during the Reagan administration

- “David Horowitz has succinctly and wisely laid out the plans of the left to move our country away from the God-given right of freedom to practice our faith as our founders envisioned.” — Tom Coburn, former U.S. senator from Oklahoma.

More than a few readers may find it ironic that this book, a defense of Christian America, was written by a Jewish agnostic, not a Christian. Perhaps even more ironic is that David Horowitz, now a prolific and best-selling conservative writer, started out life in 1939 as a “red diaper baby” in a communist community in Sunnyside, a neighborhood in the New York City borough of Queens. Both his father’s and his mother’s families had emigrated from Russia, and during the years of labor organizing and the Great Depression, Horowitz’s parents were long-standing members of the American Communist Party and strong supporters of Joseph Stalin.

Horowitz received a bachelor’s degree from Columbia University, majoring in English, and a master’s degree in English literature from the University of California at Berkeley, a notorious hotbed of left-wing extremism. After completing his graduate degree, Horowitz lived in London for a time during the late 1960s and worked for the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, identifying as a Marxist intellectual. Horowitz returned to the United States in 1968 and settled in northern California, where he became co-editor of the New Left magazine *Ramparts*.

During the early 1970s, Horowitz developed a close friendship with Huey Newton, founder of the Black Panther Party. In 1974, as part of their work together, Horowitz helped to raise money for and helped to

start a school for poor children in Oakland. He recommended that Newton hire Betty Van Patter, who was working for *Ramparts* at the time, as the school’s bookkeeper. In *Dark Agenda*, Horowitz explains what happened shortly thereafter:

Later that year, Betty told a few people she had discovered that the Black Panthers had doctored the books. Some reports have said that she was planning to expose the Panthers’ financial improprieties. But Betty believed in her leftist ideology. I think she wanted to protect the Panthers, not expose them. But the Panthers viewed her as a white woman who knew too much and couldn’t be trusted with their secrets.

On Friday night, December 13, 1974, Betty was at her favorite neighborhood bar, The Berkeley Square, when someone came in and handed her a note. She left with the messenger a short time later and was never seen alive again. Her body was found weeks later in San Francisco Bay. She had been raped and tortured and beaten to death.

I pursued the truth of her murder and discovered that the Black Panther Party was a criminal gang engaging in extortion, arson, drug racketeering, and several murders. The Panthers conducted these crimes while enjoying the support of the leaders and institutions of the American left. The people who had murdered Betty and engaged in criminal activities were not my political enemies. They were my progressive comrades.

Betty had tried to help the Panthers because she believed in their cause. She was just one individual whose life paled into insignificance alongside the cause that mattered to her comrades on the left. So the left’s reaction to her

murder was ... silence. That murder — and that silence — shattered my faith in everything I had believed in until then.

In the course of his inquiry into Betty Van Patter's death, Horowitz had a type of epiphany, as he recognized the destructive nature of the radical movement that he had been part of for so long. Horowitz began to re-examine everything that he and his comrades had believed about the system that they had wanted to destroy, and came to the realization that it was a system that needed to be defended. As a result, over the ensuing decades, Horowitz has written numerous books on topics ranging from the political to the philosophical to the autobiographical. In *Dark Agenda*, he explains how and why America's Founding Fathers made religious liberty the foundation of all of our other liberties.

What inspired Horowitz to write *Dark Agenda* was the realization that the Left's hatred of Christianity is closely connected to its hatred for America, because to bring down America, its Christian foundation must be undermined. In Chapter 4, Horowitz gives some examples of how this is being done. In December of 2008, the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center opened, to serve as a museum and information center for visitors to our nation's capital. However, all references to God in our heritage were edited out of its displays:

- An enlarged image of the U.S. Constitution was photo-shopped to remove the words "In the Year of Our Lord" above the signatures of the signers.

- The official motto of the United States was presented as *E Pluribus Unum* ("Out of Many, One"), but it is actually "In God We Trust."

- A replica of the speaker's rostrum in the House of Representatives omitted the gold-lettered inscription "In God We Trust" above the chair. Photos of the actual speaker's rostrum were cropped, in order to hide the inscription.

In 1986, a study of 60 textbooks used by 87 percent of public-school students noted that "the Pilgrims are described entirely without any reference to religion. Thus, the textbooks describe how at the end of their first year they 'wanted to give thanks for all they had,' which was

the first Thanksgiving. But no mention is made of the fact that it was God they were thanking." The study sums up its findings in these words: "There is not one story or article in all these books, in approximately 9-10 thousand pages, in which the central motivation or major content derives from Christianity or Judaism." Horowitz asks, "If you don't know where you come from, how do you know where you are going?"

That is why the atheists, secular humanists, progressives, and their ilk have targeted our educational establishment. As secular humanist writer John Dunphy stated in the January-February 1983 issue of *The Humanist* magazine, "The battle for mankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new — the rotting corpse of Christianity and the new faith of humanism." As if that were not alarming enough, Dr. Chester Pearce, professor of education and psychiatry at Harvard University, has expressed the situation even more bluntly: "Every child in America entering school at the age of five is mentally ill because he comes to school with certain allegiances to our Founding Fathers, toward our elected officials, toward his parents, toward a belief in a supernatural being."

Progressives, liberals, and social-justice zealots like to blame society for the bad outcomes that some people experience, rather than hold those individuals accountable for

their own decisions and actions. Why? As Horowitz explains it, they are adherents of the worldview promoted by the fourth-century monk Pelagius, who believed that people are born good, and that it is society that makes them bad. Hence, if people will just be true to their nature, we can achieve a world of perfect equality, justice, and peace.

Christians view the world differently. They believe that human beings are inherently flawed, and that the societies that humans create will thus be flawed. Christians believe that human nature is corrupt. Hence, humans will corrupt any attempt to build a utopia. That is why the followers of the Pelagian heresy are at war with Christian America.

President Obama vowed to "fundamentally transform America." That included an escalation of the assault on Christian America. Horowitz offers up a timeline of hostile actions taken by the Obama administration. Here is a partial list:

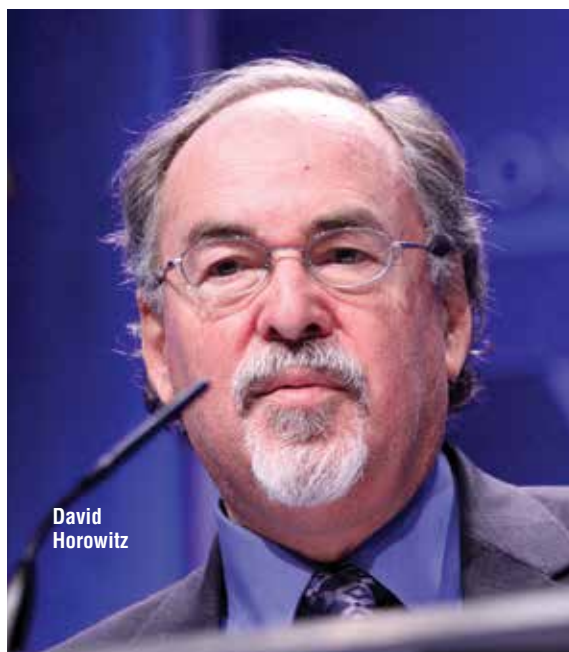
- April 2009: When speaking at Georgetown University, Obama orders that a monogram symbolizing Jesus' name be covered when he is making his speech.

- October 2010: Obama begins deliberately omitting the phrase about "the Creator" when quoting the Declaration of Independence, an omission that he will make on seven occasions.

- February 2012: The Obama administration forgives student loans in exchange for public service, but announces that it will no longer forgive student loans if the public service is related to religion.

- January 2013: Pastor Louie Giglio is pressured to remove himself from praying at the inauguration after it is discovered that he once preached a sermon supporting the biblical definition of marriage.

Dark Agenda is a call to action, because all it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to sit back and do nothing. If you haven't already, consider joining The John Birch Society. If you have children, consider getting involved with FreedomProject Academy. Of course, David Horowitz would love to have you join his Freedom Center. And Alliance Defending Freedom is another organization fighting on the front lines of this war on Christian America. ■



David Horowitz

Gage Skidmore



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Care to Dance?

Eight-year-old Avery Cox of Van Buren, Arkansas, had hoped to attend the school's February 10 daddy-daughter dance with her father. His passing in December not only broke her heart, but also dashed her hopes of going to the dance — that is, until her school's resource officer stepped in.

Van Buren Middle School resource officer Corporal Nick Harvey came up with the idea of asking his fellow officers to volunteer to escort students without fathers to the dance.

Harvey reached out to Avery's mother to request permission to escort Avery to the dance. He then asked Avery himself. "The last thing I wanted was to get rejected by a second-grader," Harvey joked to KFSM-TV.

Avery excitedly agreed, and the two even wore color-coordinated outfits for the dance — they both wore red. They even rode in a limo and grabbed pizza before the event.

Harvey contends he may have embarrassed Avery with his inexperienced dance moves, but for Avery, that was her favorite part of the evening. After the dance, the fathers/daughters went out for ice cream. Harvey then escorted Avery home in a police car.

For Avery, it was a night she would never forget. "It meant a lot because I got to go and see all my friends there and then I got to go with them and have a lot of fun," she said.

Harvey says he intends to take Avery to the dance every year, if she lets him.

Stranger Saves Baby's Life

Josh Railey was at the right place at the right time in Peoria, Illinois, and because of that, the life of a baby girl was saved.

Railey was leaving a birthday dinner on February 28 when he noticed a vehicle was on fire, prompting two men to jump out of the car and a woman to kick open a back door. "Just happened to see a car on fire, and it was dripping gasoline and filled with smoke," Railey recalled to CNN affiliate WMBD.

The woman then began to scream about her baby in the car. Hearing this, Railey

jumped out of his car to help. "You can't really see in the car because there's so much smoke," Railey said, but he was able to determine the airbags had been deployed. Once he sliced them, he was able to find the baby girl wedged between the driver's and passenger's seat.

Railey grabbed the baby and ran. Within seconds, the entire car was engulfed in flames.

Peoria Fire Battalion Chief Nate Rice later said the baby would have died were it not for Railey's intervention. "We certainly don't want anybody to get hurt, but that might be their nature to make that choice to possibly save a life or help another person," Rice said. "Had it not been for the individuals that stopped and helped these patients, it could have been a much worse situation."

Tennessee Strong

At least 25 people died when a tornado ripped through Putnam County, Tennessee, on March 3, but locals and Americans across the country are doing their best to help the people ravaged by the devastation.

Bobby and Leanne Kidd knew what the families were going through in the wake of the tornado and wanted to offer their assistance, according to AL.com. They, too, had lost someone when a tornado ripped through their hometown of Beauregard, Alabama, a year prior, on March 3, 2019. Their six-year-old grandson was one of 23 people killed.

"I don't think there's any other way we could honor our grandson's name. A.J. would have wanted us to do this," Leanne Kidd said. The couple packed up a trailer full of supplies and headed to Middle Tennessee to offer their services.

NFL.com reported that several professional sports teams also did their part by collecting items to be delivered to those in need. Players from the Tennessee Titans football team and their coaches volunteered to load and unload trucks of supplies just days after the tornado struck. The *Tennessean* reported they assisted in cleanup efforts and distributed lunch and supplies at Lee Chapel. Pastor Harold

Love said the people were moved by the players' show of support.

"It's a blessing because the Titans mean so much to Nashville and Tennessee," he told the *Tennessean*. "To see them here says to the residents that they're concerned about them, and that they're willing to come down and lend a hand like everybody else and help them get their lives back together. You cannot put a measure on how significant that was today."

The Titans' AFC South division rivals stepped up to help, too. The Houston Texans, Indianapolis Colts, and Jacksonville Jaguars teamed up to donate \$100,000 to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee to help with recovery efforts.

The Atlanta Braves also set up a collection station at Truist Park for people to donate necessities such as baby food and formula, clothing, hygienic items, batteries, trash bags, etc., MSN reported.

The Cookeville Regional Medical Center, where victims of the tornado were treated for injuries, has announced it will waive all individual payments for the hospital treatments, ABC News reported.

"We will not bill patients for the remaining portion after insurance," hospital spokeswoman Melahn Finley said in a statement. "If they don't have insurance, they will not be charged."

Singer and songwriter Taylor Swift has pledged to donate \$1 million to help the victims in her hometown of Nashville.

On Instagram in March, Swift wrote, "Nashville is my home. The fact that so many people have lost their homes and so much more in Middle Tennessee is devastating to me."

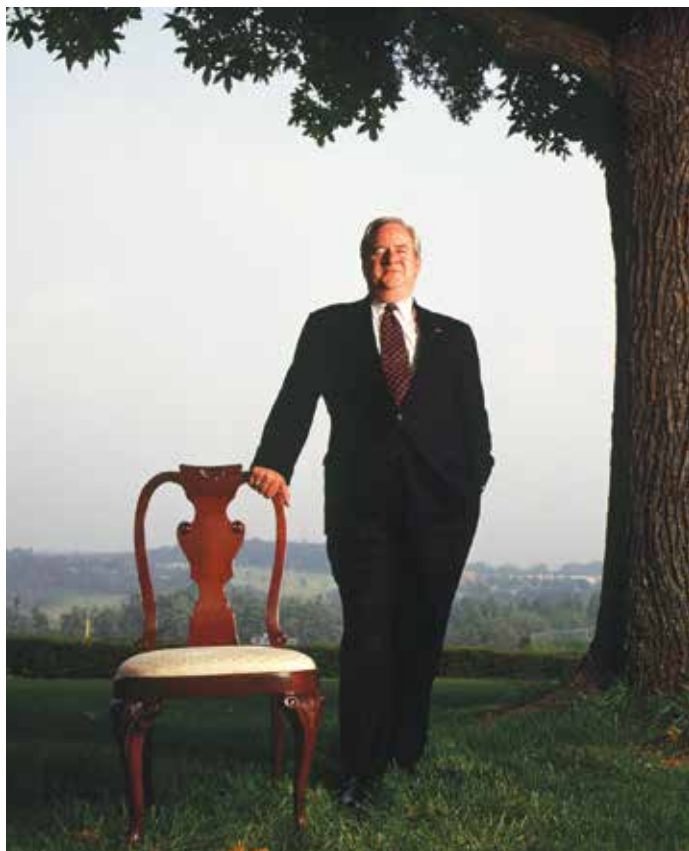
Gary LeBlanc, the founder and president of Mercy Chefs, a Virginia, faith-based disaster-relief and humanitarian aid organization whose volunteers serve professionally prepared meals to first responders and victims of natural disasters, told MSN the group sent crews from Virginia and Oklahoma to the devastated region in Tennessee and brought a mobile kitchen to feed as many people as they could.

These are just a handful of the uplifting stories coming out of an otherwise horrible situation. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

FALWELL AND THE POLITICAL AWAKENING OF AMERICAN CHRISTIANS

The Reverend Jerry Falwell, like many other evangelical Christians, once spurned political activity, but the *Roe v. Wade* decision changed all that.



AP Images

by Steve Byas

In the months after the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision of January 22, 1973, Baptist minister Jerry Falwell had endured a tortured struggle on how to respond. He had always opposed abortion. But before *Roe*, abortionists faced prison time and fines in his state of Virginia. In 1967, the state Supreme Court had upheld the five-year sentence of

a doctor who had performed an abortion on an 18-year-old college student. Because of this, there was little reason for Falwell to become *politically* involved on the issue. He could, and did, condemn the practice, but he did not see any need for political action in his state.

With *Roe*, however, the U.S. Supreme Court had decreed that states could not stop the practice. Despite their angst at the decision, fundamentalists such as Falwell had always chosen not to get involved in political issues. Falwell himself had preached against such secular involvement.

Then there was the time element. Not only was Falwell the pastor of a church with 15,000 members, he had a television and radio ministry, and he was writing books, teaching classes, and administering both a private Christian school and a growing Christian college. He was also in high demand as a speaker across the country.

He also felt inadequately prepared to speak on political issues, knowing that he would have to immerse himself in the issue if he was going to play a positive role in fighting abortion. Additionally, he was concerned that getting involved in politics — even on a moral issue such as abortion — could divide his congregation.

Finally, he sat down with his family to discuss the problem. “I confessed my own growing need to do more than preach against the Court’s decision,” Falwell recalled in his 1987 autobiography, *Strength for the Journey*. After summarizing the horrific results of the Court’s ruling, he told his children that it was doubtful they would live in a free America when they reached his age.

At this, Falwell’s seven-year-old son, Jonathan, walked toward him and looked directly into his father’s eyes — eyes filled with tears. “Daddy,” he said, “why don’t you do something about it?”

“A little child shall lead them,” were the words of Jesus, Falwell thought. “In that brief moving moment of consensus, our family began a brand-new journey together. Jonathan was absolutely right.”

The Clout of the Moral Majority

The decision to get politically involved in fighting against abortion eventually led to the creation of the “Moral Majority,” which proved to be a highly effective organization. Pollster Lou Harris credited Falwell’s Moral Majority (MM) with the victory of Ronald Reagan in the 1980 presi-

dential election, and the defeat of several liberal Democratic senators. While this may be debated, it is clear that MM greatly impacted the magnitude of Reagan's 44-state landslide. After a majority of evangelical Christians had supported Jimmy Carter in 1976 (who had openly appealed to evangelicals by saying he had been "born again"), evangelicals supported Reagan in 1980 over Carter by a margin of 56 to 34 percent.

MM altered not only elections, but also public opinion. Falwell and MM joined the fight against the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), along with Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum and the constitutionalist John Birch Society. Millions of evangelical and fundamentalist Christians who had often not even bothered to vote shook off decades of political lethargy and entered the political battlefield. But the Moral Majority was larger than just evangelical and fundamentalist Christians. Through Falwell's leadership, Roman Catholics (almost one-third of the membership of MM), conservative Jews, Mormons, and even non-religious persons concerned about the decline of morality joined MM as well. By 1984, MM had over six million members, plus many more who were in sympathy with, and were influenced by, Falwell's organization.

In his autobiography, Falwell admitted that he struggled with forming a coalition with those of different faiths, or even no faith at all. "I was faced with a terrific problem: my own personal psychological barrier. All of my background from Baptist Bible College and other places and persons providing my religious training made it difficult for me to consider such a prospect." And yet he realized it was necessary "to turn back the flood tide of moral permissiveness, family breakdown, and general capitulation to evil and to foreign philosophies such as Marxism-Leninism."

He found help in the writings of Christian philosopher Francis Schaeffer, who spoke of "co-belligerents" in the fight for morality. Schaeffer argued that there was no biblical prohibition against evangelical Christians joining hands with others for political and social causes, just as long as there is no compromise of theological beliefs. This would allow Baptists to align with Catholics, and Jews with Presbyterians (for example) to advance common causes.

The decision to get politically involved in fighting against abortion eventually led to the creation of the "Moral Majority," which proved to be a highly effective organization.



Moral movement: The Moral Majority is credited with helping Ronald Reagan achieve a 44-state landslide victory over Jimmy Carter in 1980. After a majority of American evangelicals backed Carter in 1976, he could only manage 34 percent in 1980.

All of this was no small achievement. Millions of Christians, including Falwell, had opposed such direct political involvement prior to *Roe v. Wade*. Many did not even vote.

The Opposition of Fundamentalists and Evangelicals to Political Action

To understand Falwell's initial reluctance to involve himself so directly in secular politics, one must have a proper understanding of fundamentalism. Unfortunately, the term conjures up images of Islamic terrorism, or wild-eyed, book-burning, backwoods preachers. Christian fundamentalism has more to do with beliefs than such behavior. It was a rejection of theological liberalism, and comes from *The Fundamentals: A Testimony to the Truth*, published in the early 20th century, written by Christian intellectuals such as B.B. Warfield, Cyrus Scofield, and G. Camp-

bell Morgan. For these fundamentalists, the key issue was the accuracy of Scripture. They were not country bumpkins, but renowned scholars. To these men, fundamentalism had little to do with dress and hairstyles, but instead stressed the inerrancy of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the virgin birth of Christ, the substitutionary atonement of Christ's death for all sin, the literal resurrection of Christ, and the second coming of Christ.

While fundamentalists are often cast as intolerant, it was the liberals who ran the fundamentalists out of many of the colleges and the seminaries. Fundamentalists became more intensely focused on sharing the gospel and preparing for eternity, rather than wallowing in the nasty here and now.

It was in this separatist tradition that Jerry Falwell came of age. He was an unlikely candidate to lead any sort of Christian

In the Wikipedia article about Falwell, it is asserted that his Lynchburg Christian Academy was opened in 1967 as a segregation academy, but this is not true. No “whites only” policy existed. Only white students applied during the first two years, but in 1969 the first black child was enrolled.



Standing up for women: Falwell stands with Eagle Forum leader Phyllis Schlafly, during an “I Love America” rally in Springfield, Illinois, in 1980. Along with the work of the constitutionalist John Birch Society, they are credited with defeating the dangerous Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

movement as a youth. His father was an agnostic and a bootlegger. By his own admission, he was quite worldly until his conversion in his college days. He started a Baptist church on Thomas Road in an abandoned Donald Duck bottling company in Lynchburg, Virginia, with only about three dozen members. Within a month, the church had grown to a hundred. In a year, the church’s membership was approaching a thousand.

For several years, Falwell concentrated on his preaching at Thomas Road Baptist Church and his radio and television ministries, dubbed “the Old-Time Gospel Hour.” During these years, he never interjected politics into his sermons, explaining that, at that time, he figured “the country could take care of itself.”

Like most white Southerners at the time, he believed in the segregation of the races, although blacks sometimes visited his church. In 1965, he preached a sermon, “Ministers and Marches,” in which he opposed preachers getting involved in civil rights and politics. “We have a message of redeeming grace through a crucified and risen Lord. Nowhere are we told to reform the externals. We are not told to wage wars against bootleggers, liquor stores, gamblers, murderers, prostitutes, racketeers, prejudiced persons or institutions, or any other existing evil as such. The gospel does not clean up the outside but rather regenerates the inside.” He insisted that it was not his place to use the pulpit to inveigh against communism or to participate in civil rights reforms.

Falwell’s opposition to integration changed, and he decided he had been wrong on the issue. By 1968, blacks were allowed to not only visit, but join Thomas Road. Before that, there was no rule against blacks joining the church, but none had asked to join, and Falwell admitted, regretfully, “we had not asked” them, either. By 1983, Thomas Road had 400 black members.

By the 1970s, Thomas Road and its pastor were quite well known across America. A former seminary student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, told me a story that his evangelism professor, Dr. Roy Fish, had told the class about Falwell. Fish traveled to Lynchburg, dressed up in old clothes, with a bottle in a sack as if he were imbibing alcohol, and sat on the front steps of

AP Images



Anti-Christian crowd: Two Falwell supporters pass by a crowd of liberal protesters on their way into hearing Jerry Falwell speak at his Old Time Gospel Hour in 1982. Falwell came to national prominence as pastor of the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, which he founded with about 30 members, growing it to a membership of thousands.

AP Images

the church. Fish wanted to know how the church would respond. He was pleasantly surprised when several members asked him on their way into the building if they could help him in some way. Finally, Fish was ready to leave when he felt a presence behind him — it was Falwell. Falwell also asked Fish what he or the church could do for him. Fish concluded that both the preacher and his church were the real deal when it came to Christian concern for such men as he was pretending to be.

It is quite clear that Falwell had a “full plate” pastoring a church of 15,000 members, running TV and radio ministries, opening a private school, and launching Liberty Baptist University. While he advocated tuition tax credits for Christian schools, supported prayer in the public schools, and asked for less government intrusion in the affairs of the churches, he most likely would have lived out the rest of his days at Thomas Road Baptist Church if not for *Roe v. Wade*.

The Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* Decision of 1973

Then came the Supreme Court's 7-2 decision — a decision denounced by one of the dissenting justices, Byron White, as an exercise in “raw judicial power” — which

somehow “found” a “right” to abortion in the U.S. Constitution, declaring the laws of those states making the practice illegal to be “unconstitutional.”

Falwell immediately began to denounce the decision — publicly, and from the pulpit. Noting that abortion had been illegal in the United States for 193 years, Falwell thundered, “It was a crime to kill an unborn baby. Suddenly, by a 7-2 vote you decide that little unborn babies are not human beings and therefore have no human rights. Strange that in 1857, by the same 7-2 vote, you [the Supreme Court] held that black people were not human beings.... You were wrong then and you are wrong this time.”

Falwell expressed regret that Protestant ministers, including himself, had been largely silent on the issue, while the Catholics “stood alone and fought the abortion issue.... It is their moment of glory and our moment of shame. But we have good news for them. We are not going to be silent any longer. We have joined the fight.”

As Falwell entered the political fray, some seasoned conservative political activists such as Paul Weyrich and Howard Phillips took notice. They asked for a meeting, a meeting that led to the creation of the Moral Majority in 1979. At first, Falwell was reluctant to head such

a movement. “I was hoping that someone else would do it,” Falwell explained later in his autobiography.

Paraphrasing a radical slogan from the '60s, Phillips looked at Falwell, and asked, “If not now, when? If not Jerry Falwell, who?” The charter of MM called for a strengthened American military; opposition to abortion, drugs, and promiscuity; and support for the family unit in society. Along with Falwell, the board members would include Charles Stanley pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta; evangelist Tim LaHaye; Greg Dixon of the Indianapolis Baptist Temple; and James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Florida.

“I don't want a theocracy,” Falwell explained at the launch of MM, drawing upon the strong Baptist tradition against using the government to advance the work of the church.

As Dinesh D'Souza explained in his book *Falwell: Before the Millennium*, “They [the fundamentalist Christians such as Falwell] were not initially interested in politics, but the politicians became interested in them.” The late conservative political commentator Joseph Sobran said at the time, “The separation of religion and politics ended when the state started trying to redefine right and wrong.”

Possibly reflecting Falwell's dispensational theological views, MM was going to be supportive of the state of Israel, and of Jewish people everywhere.

Attacks on Falwell and His Moral Majority

Oddly, despite Falwell's clear support of Jews as a people and for the nation of Israel, detractors of him and his Moral Majority quickly denounced both as anti-Jewish. Liberal TV producer Norman Lear accused Falwell of anti-Semitism. A reelection TV ad for President Jimmy Carter even claimed that Falwell had said that God does not hear the prayers of Jews. This falsehood was repeated often over the years, despite the fact that it was actually said by another Baptist preacher in Oklahoma, and was disputed by Falwell.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler of the United Hebrew Congregation accused Falwell's MM of being the “most serious attack of anti-Semitism since the era of World War II.” Leftist activist Julian

Bond said, “Television preachers like Jerry Falwell of the Moral Majority feel free to drop racist comments about Jews.” The *Atlanta Constitution* opined, “Falwell doesn’t much like Jews.”

Of course, there were the typical assertions that MM wanted to pry into the personal lives of millions of Americans. And almost mirroring the contemporary attacks from the Left, an Associated Press story reported, “Moral Majority, conceding that a good public servant doesn’t have to be a church-going teetotaler, says it will ignore the personal lives of Reagan Administration officials as long as they are true believers in political issues the fundamentalist group considers important.”

As with many AP stories today, there were several false assertions in the story, including calling MM “fundamentalist,” despite its including Catholics, Mor-

mons, Jews, and non-religious people in its membership.

The attacks continued as the Moral Majority increased in political clout, receiving caustic criticism from Jane Fonda, Ed Asner, George McGovern, Ted Kennedy, and Jimmy Carter. Falwell was compared to Jim Jones, who led the People’s Temple group to mass suicide by drinking poison-laced Kool-Aid. (Of course, Jones was actually an atheistic leftist who was praised — before the suicide — by fellow left-wingers such as Jane Fonda!) Others found similarities between Falwell and the Ayatollah Khomeini. Some even tried to make something out of the name of the town where Falwell’s church was located — Lynchburg — implying it had a particularly odious history of racial hatred toward blacks. But the town was named after a man named Lynch. During Colonial days, some in the town would hang

Tories (Colonists who supported the British, rather than the Patriot cause), by their thumbs, dubbing it “lynching.”

Despite Falwell having died in 2007, the falsehoods keep coming. In the Wikipedia article about him, it is asserted that his Lynchburg Christian Academy was opened in 1967 as a segregation academy, but this is not true. No “whites only” policy existed. Only white students applied during the first two years, but in 1969 the first black child was enrolled. The school was launched to provide a Christian education, not as a segregation academy.

But this assertion — that Falwell had opened a “segregation academy” — is instructive for those wishing to use Internet sites such as Wikipedia. The author of the article on Falwell cited Seth Dowland and Max Blumenthal for the accusation that Falwell ran a segregation academy. When one examines these two men — used as the source for the slur — we find that Dowland is a strong opponent of the pro-life movement, arguing in his book *Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right* that opposition to abortion is just a cover for men who want women confined to the roles of wife and mother.

Blumenthal, on the other hand, is a frequent critic of Israel, even writing for *Al Jazeera*. It is not surprising that Blumenthal would not like Falwell — who was a vocal supporter of both Jews and Israel. When Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel died in 2016, Blumenthal even objected to his being honored. He undoubtedly did not like Falwell’s other conservative views either, if Blumenthal’s praise of Venezuelan socialist dictator Nicolás Maduro is any indication.

Attacks From the Right on Falwell and the Moral Majority

Some of the attacks did not come from the Left. Senator Barry Goldwater, long a conservative icon, even denounced Falwell, saying, “Every good American ought to kick Falwell in the a**.” The cause of Goldwater’s caustic remarks about Falwell is unclear, but it is believed that the libertarian-leaning Goldwater misunderstood Falwell, thinking the Baptist preacher wanted the government to impose religious values on individuals by law. (This was despite Falwell’s insistence that he did not want a theocracy in America.)

The cause of Goldwater's caustic remarks about Falwell is unclear, but it is believed that the libertarian-leaning Goldwater misunderstood Falwell, thinking the Baptist preacher wanted the government to impose religious values on individuals by law.



Idawriter

Germ of ideas: Thousands of students have passed through Liberty University, founded by Jerry Falwell. He hoped to provide a counter to the liberal indoctrination that is unfortunately so common at most of America’s colleges and universities. Today, Liberty trains young men and women in a curriculum saturated with Christian and conservative values.



AP Images

His influence: When Falwell died on May 15, 2007, thousands filled the auditorium of Thomas Road Baptist Church to honor his memory. He had awakened millions of American Christians from their political slumber to fight the breakdown of morality, often instigated by our own government.

While Falwell largely brushed off attacks from left-wingers such as Fonda, the attack from Goldwater greatly bothered him, as did the attack from fellow fundamentalist Bob Jones. Jones cited famed 19th-century preacher Dwight Moody, who considered political action as similar to “polishing the brass on a sinking ship.” Jones argued that Christians should focus on individual salvation, not societal improvement.

Falwell acknowledged that he had shared Jones’ aversion to politics, until recently. But Falwell said the devil (“the first liberal”) had politicized everything. “Separation of church and state is intended to restrict the power of the state, not of the church. It is meant to protect the church from the state,” Falwell opined.

Falwell added, “We have been irresponsible as Christian citizens. For too many years we sat back, as if waiting for apostasy to take over at any moment, and nearly let our country destroy itself because of inward decay.”

One can certainly understand the views of Christians (and others) who simply want the government to just leave them alone. But all persons must interact with the government, so it is prudent to have an influence over that government. In the early

years of Christianity, the churches could wield little clout with the government of the Roman Empire. The Apostle Paul, who was clearly focused on the gospel message, not on politics, understood that Christians had to recognize the government could be an obstacle to the churches. In I Timothy 2:1-2, he urges his fellow believers to pray for every person, including “kings and all those who are in authority.” While this is usually interpreted today as important so as to pray for God to grant government officials “wisdom” (and there is certainly nothing wrong with that), a closer reading of the text will demonstrate an important reason for Christians to pray for those in positions of authority is “so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life.”

In other words, Paul was urging prayers for government officials to leave the Christians alone — a prayer that should be in line with all of us who believe in the concept of limited government. While in his letter to the church in Rome Paul urges Christians to “submit to the governing authorities,” Paul also gives the reason for government: “For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad” — in other words, any legitimate government should punish those who inflict harm on their fel-

low neighbors. Thomas Jefferson, in his first inaugural address, said that the “sum of good government” was to “keep men from injuring one another,” but to otherwise leave people alone. While Jefferson said some things that Bible-believing Christians would argue with, this should not be one of them.

Paul also asserted his rights as a Roman citizen. In the Book of Acts, chapter 16, we read that Paul is going to be released from jail after being unjustly beaten by Roman authorities. Rather than simply being content with being released, Paul responds, in verse 37, “They beat us in public without a trial, although we are Roman citizens, and threw us in jail.”

This complaint brought a hasty apology from the local Roman officials who had violated Roman law by beating and jailing them without a trial. The lesson here is that while Christian citizens should not make themselves a problem for the governing authorities, Christians are free to assert their rights as American citizens, the same as non-Christians. This would include, of course, rights such as freedom of speech, press and religion, and the right to keep and bear arms. Following the example of Paul, it is not un-Christian for a Christian to assert his or her rights, either in the court system or through the political process.

In some cases, Christians must refuse to obey the government. Examples abound in Scripture of times when God’s people chose to obey God, rather than men. As Falwell once said, “Silent pulpits bear in part” responsibility for the persecution of the Jews in Germany. Similarly, the pulpit and the pew have a responsibility to challenge the abortion holocaust in our own country, which Falwell rightly called “a slaughter.”

Falwell was not perfect, but no person is. But he should certainly be remembered — and praised — for his courageous efforts in awakening the sleeping giant of fundamentalists, evangelicals, Catholics, conservative Jews, and others who value morality and limited government.

By the end of Ronald Reagan’s tenure, it probably appeared to many that Falwell’s goals had been accomplished, leading to a dramatic fall-off in donations and fervor for the cause. Alas, such optimism was premature, as the past three decades have demonstrated. ■



EXERCISING THE RIGHT

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

Redrawing State Lines?

This column has previously reported on how Democratic control of Virginia is causing some supporters of the Second Amendment to look into redrawing state boundaries to protect rural communities from the urban-controlled state government that is hostile to gun rights. CNN reported on February 18 that this idea is now spreading to other parts of the country, as evidenced by the growth in the movement for a "Greater Idaho." CNN reported that the movement, which is referred to as "Move Oregon's Border for a Greater Idaho," is striving to get the proposal on the ballot in the state of Oregon. Such a move is a long shot, as it would require not only the passage of a ballot initiative, but also approval from the state legislature. Such a thing is unlikely, considering the legislature is controlled by Democrats, and they have no incentive to voluntarily cede political control. Obviously, Idaho would have to agree to the proposal, as well.

The main activist behind the movement, Mike McCarter, explained that the impetus behind the movement is to show that the rural counties in Oregon are upset with the utter disdain that their urban-controlled legislature has for them and their beliefs. "Rural counties have become increasingly outraged by laws coming out of the Oregon Legislature that threaten our livelihoods, our industries, our wallet, our gun rights, and our values," McCarter wrote on his website, which promotes the Greater Idaho movement. "We tried voting those legislators out, but rural Oregon is outnumbered and our voices are now ignored. This is our last resort," McCarter explained.

Conservative lawmakers from Oregon's rural region support the movement. Senator Herman Baertschiger, the Republican leader in the state Senate, replied by e-mail to CNN when asked for his comments, and he explained that "Oregon is largely controlled by one party that does not represent the entire state effectively, making the urban and rural divide striking.... Democrats should be paying attention to how unhappy these Oregonians are with the current regime

to seek secession from Oregon. I would welcome the idea to serve on the Greater Idaho legislature!"

The movement is not just limited to two states. A proposed map for the new state of Greater Idaho also included counties in northern California.

The movement is only in its infancy stage, and while the odds are long, there's no telling what the future holds. As the activists behind the movement are quick to explain, there are definitely economic advantages for counties willing to join a state with a more pro-business disposition, and the rural residents are getting fed up with attacks on their religious liberty, as well as infringements on their Second Amendment rights.

Not All Bad News

It might seem like we're inundated with nearly constant bad news about how politicians with a vendetta against the Second Amendment are relentlessly on the march, but we have good news to report out of Nashville, Tennessee. WKRN reported on February 27 that Tennessee Governor Bill Lee introduced legislation that is popularly referred to as "Constitutional Carry." The law would allow gun owners to carry without any requirement of a state permit. Lee explained that this would apply to both open carry and concealed carry. "The Second Amendment is clear and concise and secures the freedoms of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.... I am pleased to announce Constitutional Carry legislation today that will protect the Second Amendment rights of Tennesseans, while also stiffening penalties on criminals who steal or illegally possess firearms," Lee said in his public remarks.

Republican Tennessee House Majority Leader William Lamberth echoed Lee's comments and added that an armed citizenry will assist in dealing with violent criminals. "This absolutely makes us safer as a state to have more law abiding citizens who are hopefully taking advantage of opportunities to train with their weapons to make sure that [if] any criminal endangers them or their fellow

citizens, that they can respond appropriately," Lamberth told reporters shortly after the governor's announcement.

Virginia Democrats Look to Punish Dissent

Breitbart News reported on March 2 that county sheriffs in Virginia have been threatened with repercussions for their pro-Second Amendment stances. At CPAC 2020, Culpeper County Sheriff Scott Jenkins was interviewed by Breitbart's Second Amendment columnist, AWR Hawkins. He told Hawkins about threatened retaliation by Virginia Democrats against sheriffs who aren't toeing the party line. "In early December I came out against the newly proposed legislation to restrict everything from 'assault weapons,' so-called 'assault weapons,' to 'high capacity magazines' ... and said that if we're going to take away weapons from law-abiding citizens I intend to swear in thousands of citizens as reserve deputy sheriffs so they can keep those weapons and be able to protect themselves and use them." Jenkins said that the Democrats responded to those comments and similar pro-Second Amendment sentiments by other sheriffs with threats to have the sheriffs' insurance coverage revoked. Jenkins also told Hawkins that Democrats used not only the stick but also the carrot, and offered incentives for compliance. Jenkins was quoted as saying that he and other sheriffs were offered a \$10,000 pay raise "if we would tuck tail and follow [the Democrats'] lead and stop the push-back."

Jenkins said that State Senator Janet Howell has a plan to hit sheriffs where it hurts by going after their retirement funds. He talked about how Senator Howell "introduced a bill for next session where she could remove the pension of sheriffs ... next year for ... saying that we won't follow unconstitutional laws or that I would use my lawful powers as sheriff to swear in thousands of people as deputies." These threats don't seem to be working, as Virginia sheriffs such as Jenkins continue to stand tall for the Second Amendment. ■

— PATRICK KREY



How Socialist Is Bernie Sanders? Very!

ITEM: A front-page article in the Washington Post for March 3 attempted to draw parallels between the “populist pair” Bernie Sanders, a “democratic socialist” who is running for president, and President Donald Trump. They are both, said the paper, “reframing” American politics (while acknowledging that their “goals” do differ). The emphasis of the article was on Sanders.

Said the left-wing Post: “For Sanders, whose movement is based in economic inequality, the culprits are the financial elite, billionaires and chief executives who have succeeded while workers have either been laid off or watched their wages stagnate in an economy where costs are otherwise rising.... The tenets of the Sanders platform follow suit: enacting a Medicare-for-all government healthcare system, steep new taxes on ‘the billionaire class,’ free college for all Americans and sharp cutbacks in U.S. military interventions overseas — a fundamental expansion of the role of government in the United States.”

ITEM: Writing in the New York Times for February 13, radical economist Paul Krugman penned a piece called “Bernie Sanders Isn’t a Socialist.” He began with a shot at the Right, saying: “Republicans have a long, disreputable history of conflating any attempt to improve American lives with the evils of ‘socialism.’”

Then he stepped up the duplicity: “The thing is, Bernie Sanders isn’t actually a socialist in any normal sense of the term. He doesn’t want to nationalize our major industries and replace markets with central planning; he has expressed admiration, not for Venezuela, but for Denmark. He’s basically what Europeans would call a social democrat.” Krugman made it clear: “If Sanders is indeed the nominee, the Democratic Party should give him its wholehearted support.”

ITEM: The Washington Post for March 3 carried an article about Sanders called “The Reagan of the left.” The piece by Sam Tanenhaus was a stretch in many regards — saying both Bernie Sanders and Ronald



Populists: While both Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders could rightly be called populists, that’s where their similarities end. Trump appeals to patriotic Americans, whereas Sanders appeals to anti-Americans.

Reagan had been considered “fringe” figures who “shrugged off their detractors.”

ITEM: “How Socialist Is Bernie Sanders?” is the title of a piece in the New Yorker magazine dated March 2. In it Michael Kazin, a professor of history at Georgetown University and a co-editor of the socialist magazine Dissent, says Sanders channels FDR, “saying he’s going to complete the New Deal.” In a sense, Sanders is “going along with the social democratic tinge of the New Deal and arguing [that Franklin] Roosevelt would be supporting Medicare for All, free college, the Green New Deal.”

CORRECTION: A whole lot of sleight of hand has been employed in an attempt to fuzz over Bernie Sanders’ ultimate aims. It was most obvious when Sanders appeared to be the favorite for the nomination.

But he is not another Trump or Reagan or even an FDR. When a dedicated admirer of totalitarian Cuba and Nicaragua (among other dictatorships) says he wants a political revolution, he’s not kidding. And many of those portraying Sanders as a moderate “Scandinavian-style” social democrat have underlying political motives.

(History rewriters generally ignore that it was candidate Roosevelt who blasted his predecessor Herbert Hoover for “reckless and extravagant” spending and for believing “that we ought to center control

of everything in Washington as rapidly as possible.” And, then, when in office, FDR did his utmost to do just that. Critics often called FDR a socialist, even if he did not so self-identify. Reagan was opposed to socialism outright. In his words, “Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don’t need it, and hell where they already have it.”)

Whether Sanders has a real shot at the Democratic Party’s nomination is still uncertain as we write. Regardless, the Vermont senator has driven the Democrats far to the left. Back in June 2019, even *Time* magazine (in a cover story “Building a Better Bernie”) recognized that “much of the Sanders program has become de rigueur for progressives and centrist Democrats alike.”

Fiscal estimates about the costs of Sanders’ potential programs reel the brain. The totals vary depending on methods and what is being measured — with all being overwhelming. Economist columnist Robert Samuelson (*Washington Post*) rounded down the spending to \$50 trillion over a decade (with the overall level of taxation potentially doubling). Cornerstone Macro, an investment firm, has pegged the promises at \$67 trillion (*Wall Street Journal*). The *Atlantic* included a number of breakdowns in a piece called the “The Sixty Trillion Dollar Man,” including one that dwarfs the



Correction, Please!

spending in FDR's New Deal (in terms of federal expenditures as a share of GDP) and another that projects the tax surge needed as "about as large as the [13-point] tax increases enacted to finance World War II."

Across the pond, the London-based *Economist* (which is decidedly not a conservative publication) says Sanders' programs put those of Jeremy Corbyn, Britain's failed Labour Party leader, "to shame."

Ryan Bourne, writing in CapX (a British online news website), rightly observes that it is "grossly misleading" to suggest that Sanders' ambitions "stop at a Scandinavian-style welfare state." The senator also "proposes massive new market interventions, including the Green New Deal, a federal jobs guarantee, expansive price and wage controls, overhauling labor and corporate governance laws, and enforced mutualization of companies."

By way of comparison, Bourne assesses the Labour Party's manifesto in 2019 and the Sanders' economic platform. "Doing so," he concludes, "makes clear that Bernie is more radical than Corbyn on economics, both in absolute terms and relative to their countries' respective politics." Take, for example, the size of government. As Bourne writes,

The Manhattan Institute's Brian Riedl calculates that Sanders' promises would add \$97.5 trillion to spending over a decade, taking total annual US government spending to around 70 percent of GDP and more than doubling the size of the federal government. Even if climate investments prove a one-off, spending would settle at a massive 64 percent of GDP. That's far higher than Labour's planned 44 percent and even France's current 57 percent (itself the highest in the OECD [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development]).

Veronique de Rugy, a senior research fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, points out that Sanders does have a list of about \$23 trillion in new taxes that could be used (in part) for "his \$97 trillion in spending — but at least he admits that new taxes on the middle class would be required."

There's plenty to cover. Here's another one: Sanders' job guarantee. This would be a program to offer everyone in the United States a job guaranteed at \$15 per hour, with full benefits. No European country does this. "If implemented," says Bourne,

"the federal government would become the largest global employer by far."

Here's yet another. Americans would get to hand over to foreign countries lots of greenbacks as part of the green eco-cause. Bernie said, in a questionnaire from the Council on Foreign Relations, that should he become president, he would "orchestrate a multilateral campaign — a Green New Deal for the World — to coordinate investment in green technology and make that technology widely available through long-term financing for the poor countries that currently depend on coal and other fossil fuels."

The U.S. government under Sanders would "invest" \$200 billion in the Green Climate Fund," according to his campaign website. As observed by Marc Theissen of the American Enterprise Institute, when you compare this to other Sanders massive plans, it might seem "like a drop in the bucket." It is not, as the columnist explains:

The entire US foreign aid budget is less than \$50 billion annually — spending \$200 billion over 10 years would represent a roughly 40 percent increase in foreign aid.

There is apparently no end to how generous socialist Sanders is willing to be with other people's money.

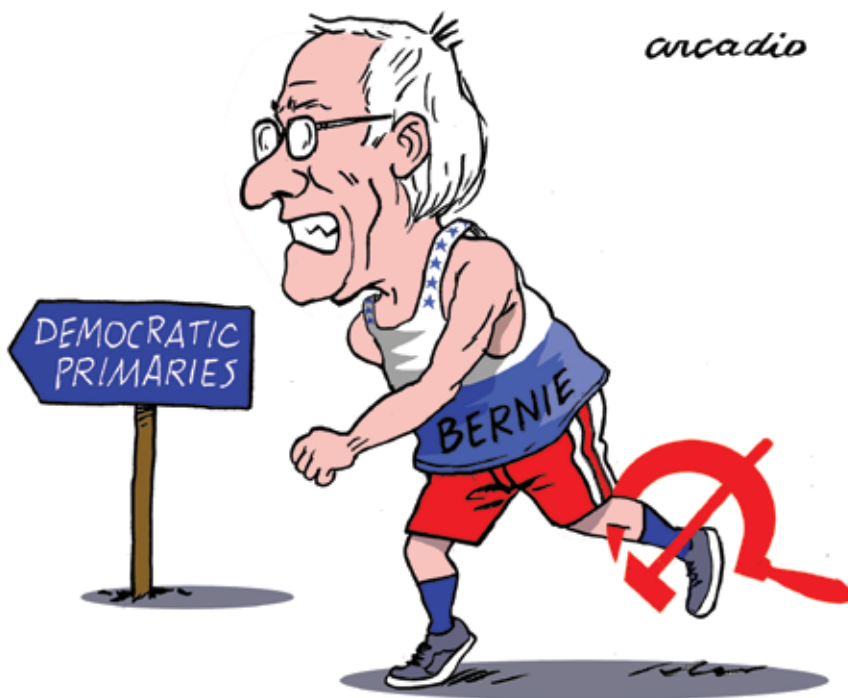
Such mammoth amounts of money can be difficult to comprehend. But consider just one aspect of Sanders' package — the Green New Deal — and how it might affect a typical American family. A study released not long ago took a look at how this would affect the nation's economy — in terms of increased electricity costs, new vehicles, buildings, and shipping. Food costs would rise as a result and a carbon tax would be imposed on farmers.

"The Green New Deal would drive middle-class families into poverty by imposing staggering annual costs of more than \$40,000 per household," according to the research director for the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, as quoted by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* in late February. According to the study, the Green New Deal could cost an average household more than \$75,000 in the first year of implemen-



Government will tell you what to do: Bernie Sanders has plans to have government control every aspect of life — from health to housing to climate to education to sexuality.

AP Images



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tation and more than \$40,000 for each year thereafter. (The study analyzed Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.)

And the study found that Wisconsin's dairy industry would be hit with \$2.5 billion in payments to meet the additional environmental standards. When it comes to moola, it adds up to \$2,000 per cow.

Here are some more macro-figures on what Sanders could cost us if his proposals were to be instituted — as calculated by Casey Mulligan, a professor of economics at the University of Chicago. Mulligan served as chief economist of the White House Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) from 2018 to 2019. He discussed his findings in *City Journal*, a publication of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.

The professor, who used data from CEA's Economic Reports of the President, evaluated the impact of Bernie's socialist policies within five to 10 years of implementation. Among other findings, said Mulligan, "the Sanders agenda would reduce real GDP and consumption by 24 percent, assuming that its taxation was efficient and prudent (focusing on labor and consumption taxes, rather than taxes on

wealth, for example). Real wages would fall more than 50 percent after taxes, and employment and hours worked would fall a combined 16 percent."

All this free stuff, it seems, is very expensive. Naturally, Bernie has that covered in his rather selective philosophy. Millionaire Sanders, in fact, has insisted that, in his words, "billionaires should not exist." The purported cure is heavy taxes. As it happens, however, the supposed socialist models in Scandinavia are not as described by Sanders. Indeed, as pointed out by Mark Perry, a professor of economics and finance at the University of Michigan's Flint campus, Sweden and Norway have many more billionaires per capita than in the United States. There are 56 percent more in Norway (2.8 vs. 1.8 per million) and 81 percent more in Sweden (3.25 vs. 1.8 per million).

Moreover, as acknowledged by CNN's Fareed Zakaria in a *Washington Post* op-ed, those "billionaires are able to pass on their wealth to their children tax-free. Inheritance taxes in Sweden and Norway are zero, and in Denmark 15 percent. The United States, by contrast, has the fourth-highest estate taxes in the industrialized world at 40 percent."

When facing criticism over his praise

of Castroite Cuba, Sanders recently maintained, "I'm not looking at Cuba. I'm looking at countries like Denmark and Sweden." Yet, even the former prime minister of Denmark acknowledged not long ago: "Some in the U.S. associate the Nordic model with some sort of socialism.... Denmark is a market economy."

Sanders may be stuck in the 1970s, when Sweden, for example, was mired deeply into socialism (from which it has been escaping). Last year, the *Wall Street Journal* interviewed Swedish author and historian Johan Norberg on this subject. For 20 years, pointed out Norberg, "from 1960 to 1980, we doubled the size of the government spending as a percentage of GDP. That's the aberration in Swedish history."

As noted by the *Journal's* Adam O'Neal on August 23, 2019,

American leftists, even those who shy away from the "socialist" label, generally call for higher taxes on "the rich" to support an expanded welfare and entitlement state. That, too, misapprehends the Swedish example. "We have much higher taxes on the poor and the middle classes than you do," Mr. Norberg says. "And this is the dirty little secret that no one in the American left wants to talk about." Nonprogressive taxes on consumption, social security and payroll are 27% of Swedish gross domestic product, 16 points higher than in the U.S.

There are many features that Bernie and his Sanderistas don't trumpet when promoting gigantic government programs.

Upton Sinclair, the well-known author and political activist who unsuccessfully ran for Congress decades ago for the Socialist Party, wrote about this in 1951 to Norman Thomas, the six-time presidential candidate for the Socialist Party of America. As Sinclair put it in his letter: "The American People will take Socialism, but they won't take the label."

This inclination is what Biden is betting upon and what Sanders is trying to overcome. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

Freedom Is the Cure

In recent days many have commented on the run on toilet paper. This unassuming commodity has been in short supply ever since Americans have rushed, en masse, to Costco and Walmart to stock up for the apocalypse. But, why is this happening?

The obvious answer is the wrong answer. Most people think that the reason for the run on TP is because of the spread of the coronavirus. But that's not correct. The reason for the run on toilet paper, and on other commodities, is because of the fear that government will stop people from moving around and accessing the products and services they need. The fear is that scarcity will come not from natural disaster, but from bureaucratic disaster.

Make no mistake, the coronavirus is a real problem. It's not so much because of its deadliness. Plenty of other viruses and bacteria are also deadly, in many cases much more so than SARS-CoV2, the virus causing COVID-19. Malaria, for example, kills nearly a half-million people every year according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Yellow fever also remains deadly. Again, according to WHO, it is estimated that up to 60,000 people die annually from this mosquito-borne virus. While these diseases and others are at least as deadly, if not more so, than COVID-19, the problem with the new coronavirus is its apparent speed of spread. Because it can be contracted so easily, even a relatively small percentage of those infected having a severe reaction can strain or overwhelm hospitals.

To fight this it is necessary to do two things: stop the spread of the disease and increase the resources needed to fight the disease. Unfortunately, the actions taken by governments tend to enforce the first to the massive detriment of the latter. Ultimately, the result will be far more damage than needed.

The situation is ironically analogous to what happens in the bodies of those with the most severe reactions to the virus itself. In those cases the viral infection causes an improperly advanced response by the immune system called a cytokine storm that compounds the harm done by the virus. According to Randy Cron, M.D., professor of pediatrics and medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, cytokine storm syndrome (CSS) "is an overly exuberant immune response to a triggering event, frequently certain viral infections" that appears to have been present in "many of the severely ill coronavirus infected patients." CSS, Dr. Cron notes, "is frequently fatal."

In the current response to the coronavirus pandemic, govern-



AP Images

ments are at risk of inflicting their own regulatory cytokine storm on their citizens, societies, and economies. In fact, we see the early signs. Symptoms of CSS in the human body include fever, delirium, confusion and hallucinations. Does this not adequately describe Wall Street in recent days?

These symptoms are signs that the system that produces and delivers badly needed goods and services is breaking down. Under normal circumstances an army of specialists and experts is at work to develop, produce, market, and distribute the goods and

services we take for granted. They do this work in order to pursue their own self-interest. In doing so, though they have no strategy to benefit the society as a whole, pursuing their own benefit results in enriching everyone. As if by an invisible hand, to use a phrase famously coined by economist Adam Smith, order and prosperity emerge from the infinite multitude of individual actions taken in the marketplace.

By spreading unreasonable fear and instituting unreasonable lockdowns, government is destroying the producing capacity of the market as a result of its irresponsible curtailment of liberty. This will have predictable results. People will not be able to work. They will not produce goods and services. They will have lowered incomes and reduced ability to purchase commodities they need. Initially, shortages will be rare. Over an extended period, shortages will become more acute, and people more impoverished.

If this goes on for many months, there may not be a recovery. Many Americans have no savings to speak of and live paycheck to paycheck. They may have a week or two of supplies. What happens when those are gone and there is no more money to buy more? What happens when government says that even if you have money, you may not leave your house or neighborhood because of the virus?

Writing for the American Enterprise Institute on the government's totalitarian impulses, economist Robert E. Wright observed, "It's high time that Americans stop pretending that government can protect everyone, in every possible way, all the time.... Americans are not children and bureaucrats are not parents, not even bad ones; they are people with more power, especially during ostensible public health emergencies, than the Founders intended."

Government cannot stop the coronavirus. Like a cytokine storm, its totalitarian impulses can only make a health crisis that is dangerous to a few into a crisis that is deadly for many. ■



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Saving the Second Amendment

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