

Bill Gates: Philanthropist or Scoundrel?

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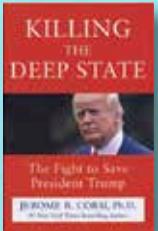
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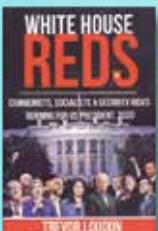
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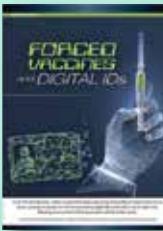
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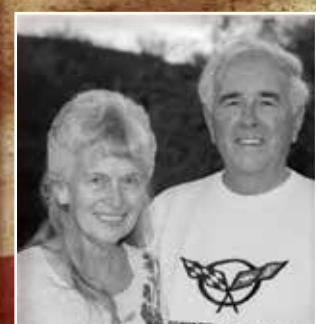
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Joan Brown

★★★★★ July 10, 2017

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Allen Banks

★★★★★ March 30, 2016

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The New American

Vol. 36, No. 12

June 22, 2020

COVER STORY

POLITICS

10 Infecting Election Integrity

by Kurt Hyde — Politicians and activists — mainly Democrats — are using the excuse of avoiding COVID-19 to move to mail-in voting and completely undo election integrity.



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FEATURES

HEALTH

19 Lethal Lockdowns: The WHO-CDC Global Genocide

by William F. Jasper — The COVID “cure” will prove to be far more deadly than the much-hyped, much-feared coronavirus.



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PROFILE

23 Bill Gates: Philanthropist or Scoundrel?

by Alex Newman — It is undeniable that Bill Gates gives lots of his own money to causes around the world, causing many to dub him a philanthropist. But his causes and motives are questionable.



AP Images

CULTURE

31 Lord of the Flies? What Really Happened When Six Boys Were Stranded on a Deserted Island

by Selwyn Duke — The novel *Lord of the Flies* portrays humanity as naturally barbaric, but a test case showed that Christianity can temper the “beast within.”



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HISTORY — PAST AND PERSPECTIVE

35 Third Reich Redux

by Kurt Hyde — The coronavirus emergency set the stage for many decrees by officials — many unconstitutional — telling citizens what to do. Such abuses of power can easily become permanent.



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DEPARTMENTS

5 Letters to the Editor

7 Inside Track

9 QuickQuotes

33 The Goodness of America

40 Exercising the Right

41 Correction, Please!

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Memorial Day

Memorial Day may not mean the same thing to any two people in the United States. It's a day when we honor those who gave their lives to protect our freedoms; when we place flowers on the graves of family members who influenced our lives; a day at the beach or going to a baseball game; having a barbecue with family and friends; the day when sons and daughters bring your grandchildren to visit you at the senior "rest" home.

Whatever your circumstances, it's a day of remembrance.

I, like most of you, honor the fallen servicemen who gave it all to protect us. But more than that, I honor those who were maimed and crippled — those who spent or will spend the rest of their lives living with their disability. War is hell, and we should never ask servicemen to risk death or being crippled for life without a declaration of war that puts our nation on the line with those who pay the price to protect us.

AL KUCHINKA

Sent via e-mail

Our Country

We swear allegiance to this Republic — a democracy is exactly the opposite of a republic. Our Christian Republic has laws that limit what government can do to you; a democracy is the rule of the majority. This country has followed the 10 Commandments and the 10 Amendments, and it protected individual rights. In a democracy the majority can vote to nail you to a cross.

In a democracy, government will order soldiers to do what the majority voted for.

Vote against candidates who want you to "save democracy," as they want unlimited government.

TOM FUSCALDO

Paterson, New Jersey

Time to Tremble?

I tremble for my country.

On the northeast portico of the Jefferson Memorial, there is an engraving of historical significance that today speaks to the current state of affairs within the Washington establishment: "Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just. That his justice cannot sleep forever."

As John Adams noted, "Facts are stubborn things." What is rapidly becoming fact is that a large part of the intelligence services and Justice Department have sought to perpetrate a coup to usurp the office of a duly elected president.

As in 1860s' America, there are two opposing forces afoot in today's America that are exceeding the ability of give-and-take politics to resolve. Unfortunately, it is beginning to appear that there are far too few men of good will within the Washington establishment to achieve a political solution. The respect for, and the memory of, the moral and political maxims bequeathed by the Founders has been misplaced, if not entirely forgotten, by many within the establishment.

Sadly, with the passage of time, the oath of office taken by all who serve the people has become perfunctory and has lost its meaning. Many in Washington seek only to enrich themselves at the expense of the people they swore to serve.

Let us hope and fervently pray that the dispensation of justice will not be in the form of the tragic events that occurred during the period 1861 to 1865, where moral rectitude was rent asunder by the terrible swift sword of civil war. Indeed, I tremble for my country.

ANDREW MAGGARD
Port Haywood, Virginia

Time to Write

I have been an active member of The John Birch Society for over 50 years, and this is the second time I have written a letter to the editor of THE NEW AMERICAN magazine. But I have written thousands upon thousands of letters to the editors of newspapers, to state representatives and state senators, plus to U.S. senators and representatives and other public officials. I am 85 years of age, and I feel like there has never been a more appropriate time to continue this practice than now.

DOUGLAS A. LOGAN
Bossier City, Louisiana

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



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Trump: U.S. Out of WHO; No More Chinese Spies Posing as Students

President Trump announced the end of U.S. membership in the World Health Organization on May 29, and he also suspended the entry into the United States of “students and researchers” from Communist China who have been identified as “potential security risks.”

The move against WHO came 11 days after Trump’s letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, a communist apologist for Communist China who is not a medical doctor.

On May 18, Trump had written a long indictment of WHO and the Communist Chinese, who hid the truth about the Asiatic pathogen that caused a global pandemic, which in turn stampeded U.S. authorities into locking down the U.S. economy.

“We will be today terminating our relationship with the World Health Organization and redirecting those funds to other worldwide and deserving, urgent, global public health needs,” Trump said during a news conference mainly directed at describing Communist China’s global treachery, industrial espionage, and control of WHO.

During the last 10 years, the U.S. contribution to the globalist health agency, a subsidiary of the anti-American United Nations, has ranged from a low of \$212 million in 2014 to a high of \$513 million in 2017.

The strike against WHO was only part of a candid indictment of the Communist Chinese and their campaign to spy on and steal from the United States.

Trump continued, “The People’s Republic of China (PRC) is engaged in a wide-ranging and heavily resourced campaign to acquire sensitive United States technologies and intellectual property, in part to bolster the modernization and capability of its military, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA).”

Trump’s proclamation ends the “unrestricted entry” of those spies.



AP Images

Former CBS Head Admits: Yes, Mainstream Media Is Biased

Van Gordon Sauter, a former president of CBS News, was caustic in an opinion piece that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* on May 25: “The media seems uninterested in … issues of bias.... The news media seems very comfortable with its product and [its] ability to sell it.”

Long gone, says Sauter, is any semblance of fairness or balance: “To many journalists, objectivity, balance and fairness — once the gold standard of reporting — are not mandatory in a divided political era and in a country they believe to be severely flawed.... Much of journalism has become the clarion voice of the ‘resistance,’ dedicated to ousting the president, even though

he was legally elected and, according to the polls, enjoys the support of about 44% of likely 2020 voters.”

How can the media restore its lost credibility? Sauter says it should just admit to its blatant liberal bias instead of trying to hide behind whatever might be left of its former credibility. Remarked Sauter, “It would be delightful if a publisher, an editor, would just say: ‘Yes, I am left of center! I’m proud of it. I think our reporting is accurate. It best serves the public ... and the credibility of the media. So there!’”

Sauter admits to an obvious fact: “The highly influential daily newspapers in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and Boston are ... decidedly liberal.... The three broadcast network divisions ... have their liberal tilt. Two of the three leading cable news sources are unrelentingly liberal in their fear and loathing of President Trump.”

One legacy of President Trump’s first term is that the public has become increasingly aware of that bias. A comprehensive survey by pollster John McLaughlin (reported by the *Washington Times*) revealed the public’s awareness of the bias. When asked, “Regarding the national media’s coverage of President Trump’s handling of the coronavirus emergency, would you say that too many members of the media have been unfair, biased and even disrespectful to the president?” almost half of those polled agreed.



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Pennsylvania Election Judge Admits Stuffing Ballot Box for Democrats

It is a Democratic Party article of faith that little to no election fraud ever occurs in the United States. Because of this, it is not surprising that we have heard little to no public condemnation of the action taken by a Philadelphia election judge in taking thousands of dollars in bribes in order to increase the vote totals for three different candidates for Common Pleas Court judge in 2015. Other Democratic candidates were the beneficiaries of the ballot-box stuffing admitted to by Domenick J. DeMuro, who pleaded guilty of depriving voters of their civil rights with his election fraud scheme.

DeMuro, 73, also admitted that he had violated the Travel Act by using his cellphone to aid him in his illegal activity.

U.S. Attorney William McSwain announced the guilty plea on May 21. “Our election system relies on the honesty and the integrity of its election officials. If they are corrupt, the system is corrupt, which creates opportunities for election fraud and for the counting of fake votes,” McSwain said to reporters in a video-recorded statement.

“DeMuro fraudulently stuffed the ballot box by literally standing in a voting booth and voting over and over, as fast as he could, while he thought the coast was clear,” McSwain added. “This is utterly reprehensible conduct. The charges announced today do not erase what he did, but they do ensure that he is held to account for those actions.”

An unnamed political consultant paid DeMuro between \$300

and \$5,000 for each election, DeMuro admitted, to add votes for Democratic candidates for local judgeships, as well as for candidates running for other offices — local, state, and federal. According to the plea, the consultant took money from the candidates and used part of that money to pay DeMuro, who was an election judge in south Philadelphia.

It is difficult to believe that this is an isolated case, confined to Philadelphia or Pennsylvania.



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Trump Cuts Aid to Big Tech, Citing Bias and Censorship

President Donald Trump issued an executive order on May 28 targeting Big Tech companies for discriminating against conservatives and Christians, vowing to end federal support as well as liability protections for the Deep State-controlled firms if they continue silencing viewpoints their bosses disagree with.

Trump's new policy, known simply as “Executive Order on Preventing Online Censorship,” does not impose any new restrictions or mandates on the companies in question. Instead, it targets federal benefits that have long been offered to the giant Deep State companies. In particular, the order calls on various federal agencies and departments to revisit the broad protections offered for social-media and other tech firms under section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA) exempting them from liability if they act as neutral platforms.

As virtually everybody knows now, the Big Tech companies dropped everything but the pretense of neutrality many years ago. That process accelerated amid and after the 2016 election, with multiple individuals and organizations, such as Alex Jones' Infowars, being completely deplatformed. Instead of neutrality, Trump said, the Big Tech firms were engaged in “inappropriate political activism” and were seeking to rig the upcoming election in favor of Democrats. It would not be the first time the Deep State-controlled firms would try to tip the electoral scales, as top experts in the field such as Dr. Robert Epstein and multiple whistleblowers have pointed out over the years.

“Section 230 was not intended to allow a handful of companies to grow into titans controlling vital avenues for our national discourse under the guise of promoting open forums for debate, and then to provide those behemoths blanket immunity when they use their power to censor content and silence viewpoints that they dislike,” Trump declared in his executive decree. “When an interactive computer service provider removes or restricts access to content and its actions do not meet the criteria of subparagraph (c)(2)(A), it is engaged in editorial conduct,” and therefore acting as a publisher rather than a neutral platform. ■



AP Images

Demonstrations in Hong Kong Can Lead to Serious Break in the China-U.S. Relationship

"The brake pads in the relationship have been worn very thin. And it's hard to see this confrontation going anywhere except escalation."

A former assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific during the Obama administration, Daniel Russel sees trouble ahead if the United States punishes China for ignoring the rules contained in the 1997 British-Chinese agreement that allowed Hong Kong to retain a significant degree of independence from communist rule.



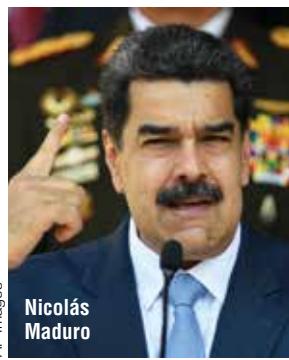
U.S. State Department
Daniel Russel

President Cancels Agreements With Hong Kong in Order to Punish the Beijing Regime

"My announcement today will affect the full range of agreements we have with Hong Kong."

The Communist Chinese government benefits from the special relationship Hong Kong has enjoyed with the United States. Angered by China's crackdown on civil liberties, Chinese influence at the World Health Organization, and the benefits the Beijing regime derives from trade carried out under the U.S.-

Hong Kong agreements, President Donald Trump announced plans to end the arrangements that have benefited the Beijing regime.



AP Images
Nicolás Maduro

Ten Years Ago in Venezuela, Inexpensive Gasoline Was Plentiful; Now It's Costly and Hard to Find

"There won't be a normal fuel supply in Venezuela until we see a new government."

First Hugo Chávez, and more recently Nicolás Maduro, imposed socialism, and the result has been shortages of virtually everything, including gasoline, which once was plentiful and inexpensive. Asdrubal Oliveros, the director of the Caracas-based consultancy known as Ecoanalítica, correctly assessed that Venezuela needs to reverse course and rid itself of socialism.

Hungarian Law Angers Trans Backers by Tying Gender to Sex and Chromosomes at Birth

"This trans law is clearly a backlash, cutting back on the rights that the trans community had in Hungary since the early 2000s."

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has previously targeted Muslim migrants, George Soros, Brussels, foreign universities, and more, and he now seeks to stop people seeking to change their "gender." The measure forbidding such action was signed into law by Hungary's President János Áder. It drew sharp criticism from Tomas Dombos, a board member of the Hatter Society, an LGBTQ advocacy group.

Biden Puts His Foot in His Mouth Again

"If you have a problem figuring out whether you're for me or Trump, you ain't black."

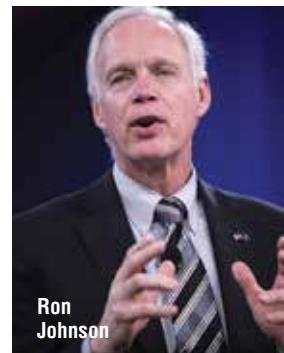
Taking any group's voting preference for granted has always been politically counterproductive. After criticism of his recent outburst during a radio interview with a black host arose, presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden will find that some black voters resent his comment and will either vote for Donald Trump or skip voting altogether.

Senate Panel Plans to Investigate Hunter Biden's Lucrative Dealings With Ukraine

"What is everybody worried about? If there's nothing there, we'll find out there's nothing there. But if there's something there, the American people need to know about it."

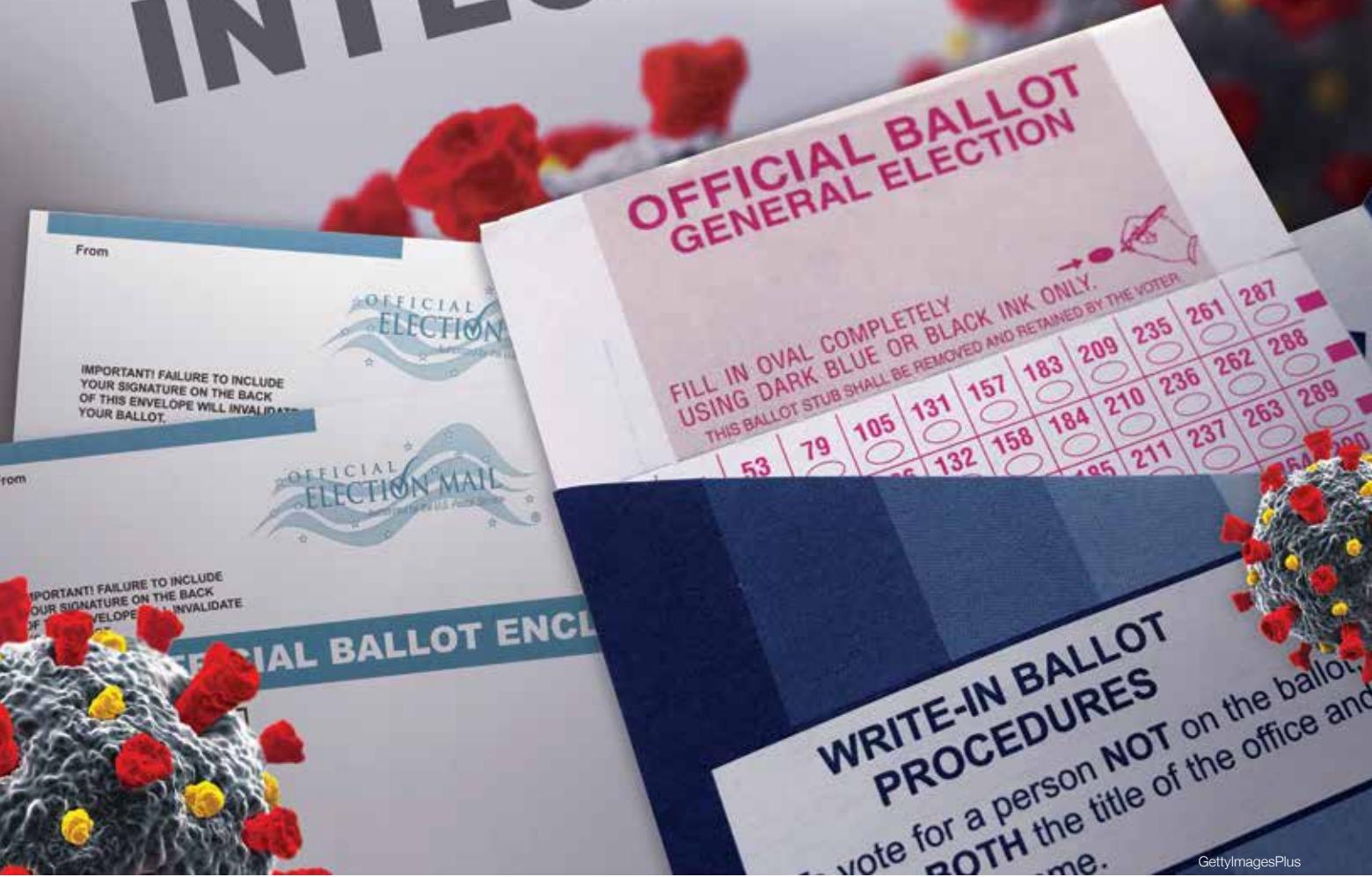
Two months after Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) first indicated his intention to subpoena documents related to Hunter Biden's lucrative relationship with a Ukrainian energy company, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved the request. Democrats claim the move amounts to a "witch hunt"; Republicans want to know why Ukraine paid Hunter Biden handsomely while his father was serving as vice president. ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. McMANUS



AP Images
Ron Johnson

INFECTING ELECTION INTEGRITY



Politicians and activists — mainly Democrats — are using the excuse of avoiding COVID-19 to move to mail-in voting and completely undo election integrity.

GettyImagesPlus

by Kurt Hyde

Vote fraud and manipulating elections are international phenomena. As recently as May 2018, the world learned of the purported reelection of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, who says he won by nearly a three-to-one margin over his closest competitor, even as 10 percent of the country has fled abroad because of government-caused hyperinflation, starvation, and murders. There is no real healthcare to speak of in that country — outside of government or the black market — and fraud and graft are the overriding goals of government officials. The election was so obviously staged that countries around the world denounced it and deemed Maduro an illegitimate president and a dictator.

That election made world news, but other, less-known cases of fraudulent elections happen all of the time. In the United States, vote fraud has historically been kept to a minimum by safeguards built into the system: voting in precincts, an election paper trail showing how each ballot was cast to check vote totals, election monitors provided from multiple parties to prevent cheating, voter ID requirements, and more. Now, however, the United States is on the cusp of literally throwing all the safeguards out the window and declaring vote fraud OK — all in the name of equality and fairness. This movement is mainly being pushed by Democrats, and it has gained momentum with the coronavirus shutdowns.

If efforts to institute mail-in voting, early in-person voting, and more are not stopped in their tracks, we may never again have unrigged elections. At the very least, we could never have confidence again that elections are secure.

Democrats are making a concerted effort to institute the new election procedures, earmarking \$3.6 billion in the latest \$3 trillion coronavirus stimulus bill toward the effort. California Governor Gavin Newsom has gone so far as to already mandate that every voter in his state be sent a mail-in ballot for the upcoming November election.

Kurt Hyde, a member of the National Council of The John Birch Society, is an election-integrity expert who has been warning against vote fraud since 1986.

The United States is on the cusp of literally throwing all the safeguards out the window and declaring vote fraud OK — all in the name of equality and fairness. This movement is mainly being pushed by Democrats, and it has gained momentum with the coronavirus shutdowns.



Election fraud — here, there, everywhere: Despite many nations refusing to recognize the legitimacy of Nicolás Maduro's reelection, Maduro claims he won handily.

Advocates of universal mail-in balloting have mobilized under the banner of public safety, using emotionally charged statements that have frightened many voters and suppressed their involvement in in-person voting. Former president Barack Obama chimed in and became part of the fracas, saying, “Everyone has the right to vote safely,” as part of his criticism of the Wisconsin primaries that were held on April 7. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers had attempted to reschedule the primaries by convening a special session of the legislature and converting the primaries to all-mail ballot elections. The legislature did not agree with the governor’s assessment and, refusing to be a rubber stamp for the governor, promptly adjourned.

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele joined in the scaremongering and was interviewed on WISN TV, where he

said, “If we hold this in-person election, not 90 percent probability, 100 percent. There will be more transmission [of the coronavirus] than there would be otherwise, and probably a lot, and there will be more deaths.”

On April 6, the day before the election, Governor Evers issued an executive order that would have rescheduled the in-person voting until June 9, saying, in part:

WHEREAS, in-person voting on April 7 creates a danger of COVID-19 exposure not only for those who serve as poll workers and in contact with one of those people in the weeks that follow.

Evers’ executive order used the United Nations’ World Health Organization as support, saying, “The World Health Or-

Much to the chagrin of the scaremongers, a study of the effects of the coronavirus following the April 7 elections showed essentially zero effect on the infection rate.



AP Images

Making it possible for mass election fraud: California Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order on May 8 ordering mail-in ballots to be mailed to each entry in California's voter-registration database.

ganization declared COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.” Fortunately, the governor’s executive order was ruled unconstitutional by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, something that should have been done by state supreme courts in numerous other states.

Much to the chagrin of the scaremongers, a study of the effects of the coronavirus following the April 7 elections showed essentially zero effect on the infection rate. The study was conducted by two physicians, Andrew C. Berry, D.O., and Bruce B. Berry, M.D., and a mathematician, Madhuri S. Mulekar, Ph.D.

The published report concluded:

There was no increase in COVID-19 new case daily rates observed for

Wisconsin or its 3 largest counties following the election on April 7, 2020, as compared to the US, during the post-incubation interval period.

Yet advocates for mail-in balloting are still moving full speed ahead, using fear-laden emotional arguments to file lawsuits to implement nationwide mail-in balloting in this year’s elections.

While the Wisconsin Legislature and Supreme Court were able to force the governor to comply, at least in part, with the U.S. and Wisconsin constitutions, the rule of law hasn’t fared well in most other states, such as Texas, where Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation on March 20 changing the primary runoff date from May 26 to July 14. He had had

two full months in which to call a special session of the Texas Legislature as provided in Article 4, Section 8 of the Texas Constitution:

CONVENING LEGISLATURE ON EXTRAORDINARY OCCASIONS.

(a) The Governor may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the Legislature at the seat of Government, or at a different place, in case that should be in possession of the public enemy or in case of the prevalence of disease threat.

Despite the Texas Constitution having a provision for the possibility of a disease threat, Governor Abbott issued an edict in the form of a proclamation.

In case legislators were afraid of catching COVID-19 while at work, they could have followed the model of the U.S. Congress, which has a protocol for voting where roll-call votes can be conducted by letting a few members at a time into the chamber. So there was no need for the Texas legislators to cower in fright at the specter of participating in a special session.

The edict issued by Governor Abbott, officially a Republican but definitely not from the conservative wing of the GOP, is going to greatly hurt Republican chances in Texas in November because this unconstitutional stroke of his pen may make it impossible to do any meaningful cleanup of the Texas voter registration lists, something that is sorely needed. A little-known provision in the grossly unconstitutional National Voter Registration Act of 1993, aka Motor Voter, says:

A State shall complete, not later than 90 days prior to the date of a primary or general election for Federal office, any program the purpose of which is to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters.

Election Integrity advocates in Texas had been hoping to get some voter registration cleanup after the runoff elections in May. They would have had two full months to try, albeit with expectations of numerous lawsuits as obstacles. But Governor Abbott threw a monkey wrench into

that by rescheduling the primary runoff elections to July 14. That leaves less than a month's time between the runoff election and the first week of August, which marks the start of when the Motor Voter law makes it illegal to clean up voter registration lists.

Problems With Absentee Ballots

The edicts by governors and the federal government, which change voting methods almost literally at a whim, also just as quickly eliminate safeguards against vote fraud. Since a main push in the changes being proposed calls for absentee ballots being sent either to all voters or, at least, to anyone who asks for one, it is important to understand how the process is likely to be abused if it is not protected from the proposed changes.

Chain of custody: The first problem with absentee ballots is the chain of custody. The ballots disappear from public view for days or even weeks. What happens to them then?

Many Wisconsin residents are asking themselves the same question after the recent primary election in Wisconsin. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on April 8 that many absentee ballots were not delivered to the voters, saying, "Three tubs of them were discovered in a mail processing center and the Milwaukee Election Commission called for an investigation into a separate set of undelivered ballots."

The article went on to report that the election officials in the Village of Fox Point, Wisconsin, reported finding 100 or more ballots per day being returned as undelivered during the final week before the election.

Baskets full of ballots could have been intercepted and filled out for those who requested them, or ballots could have been screened. For instance, those ballots headed for active members of the Democratic Party might make it to their destinations, while other ballots won't.

And that's just some of the problems with delivery. Opportunities for fraud are abundant when the ballots are sent back, as well.

John Fund, in his book *Stealing Elections*, described a chain-of-custody problem discovered by Melody Rose, a professor at Oregon State University:

Rose herself once stopped by a library after hours to deposit her ballot, only to find an overflowing bin of ballots in the lobby. She could have taken all of them to her car and done some creative pruning based on where people lived or their gender.

In truth, Professor Rose could have done a lot more than just a little creative pruning. She could have stuffed the ballot box. If she had access to blank ballots, she could have done a re-vote for every person in the pile. And she was not the only person with such access. Anybody with a key to the building could have stuffed the ballot box with hundreds or even thousands of hastily prepared additional absentee ballots, if necessary, to swing an election. How many people have keys to the public buildings where ballots sit idly in bins in states that have similar forms of mail-in balloting? That's how many people have the after-hours access and opportunity to stuff the ballot box. And add to that the many people who have access to drop boxes that are placed in public and semi-public places.

In fact, similar shenanigans were apparently a common occurrence in Chicago. Former Chicago alderman James J. Lasky, Jr., author of *My Fall From Grace — City Hall to Prison Walls* described what he observed by some precinct captains who picked up absentee ballots and brought them to the Board of Elections. They opened the absentee ballot envelopes to see how the voters voted and altered the ballots if the voters voted wrong:

There was an art to opening absentee ballots. In most cases, steam would be the way to go, because nobody could tell that the envelope had been tampered with after it had been resealed. Another method was to carefully use a letter opener, which required patience and skill to separate the flap from the glue and the rest of the envelope.

Lasky emphasized that not all precinct captains engaged in such operations, but the point is that it is possible and that it has been done. And probably most important-



Scared for nothing: Despite a barrage of scaremongering, Wisconsin held its primary elections as scheduled by law on April 7. A study afterward showed no increase in COVID-19 new-case daily rates in Wisconsin compared to the United States as a whole.

ly, the dishonest precinct captains usually acted with complete impunity, with their dirty deeds unpunished. We never would have known about this if not for Lasky's book. And the mail-in process allows for such fraud to be done in spades, and the public would not learn of it unless a whistleblower such as Lasky stepped forward.

This type of security weakness could be exploited in any close election contest to add however many votes might be necessary to change the outcome. This is especially true in states where absentee ballots are allowed to arrive after election day. All that's needed is the list of voters who haven't voted, something available to anyone with access to the computerized voter-registration list, and a box full of blank ballots.

Voter misrepresentation: A second problem with absentee ballots, in many instances, happens when constituents are allowed to request mail-in ballots: People could request ballots for someone other than themselves. For example, the October 26, 2002 edition of the *Washington Times* reported that a former government employee was arrested and charged in an absentee balloting scheme:

Larry Gray, former sanitation director for the city of Helena, was charged

with submitting more than 25 absentee ballots for the May 21 primary election in Phillips County, where there is a history of voter fraud.

But authorities say Mr. Gray falsely applied for 200 absentee ballots, and submitted at least 98 ballots in the Democratic primary for state Senate, state House and sheriff.

Making the situation worse, because mail-in ballots usually do not need an ID card (in some states, such as Wisconsin, when a ballot is requested, the voter is asked to electronically submit a photo ID), it's an effective way for someone to cast ballots using the names of dead people, people who have moved out of the voting district, or even people who've never existed except as entries on voter registration lists, referred to as phantom voters.

Also ramping up the fraud is the fact that voter registration lists are notoriously inaccurate, so fraudsters face little chance of being caught voting multiple times when an extra ballot or two arrive at an address. Adding to the irony, some of the loudest voices advocating for switching to all mail-in ballots are some of the same people who oppose voter-registration cleanup attempts.

A related area in which fraud can sneak through is signature verification on ballots that require signatures — or to be more accurate, substandard signature verification if the signatures are actually checked. Even if they are checked, there are reliability problems in signature verification. People's signatures vary from day to day, the people checking the signatures aren't experts, and the checkers sometimes don't have good vision.

This author knows they are checked in Denton County, Texas, because he has seen it done and even participated in the process, but it is beyond reasonable doubt that signatures are not checked everywhere, especially in areas where one political party dominates and the absentee vote counts are closed to the public.

There is another problem on the horizon with signature verification of mail-in ballots: As some government schools have stopped teaching cursive handwriting, there are now high-school graduates who can't sign their own names, only print them, making signatures less identifiable.

Fraudulent vote counts: Even when the ballots make it unblemished to their final destinations, the fraud goes on, often via purposely inaccurate vote counting. American elections have historically tried to build in safeguards against fraud at the ballot place through having witnesses to the vote count — either an impartial witness or witnesses from opposing parties — to deter cheating. But such safeguards are often overridden in the case of mail-in voting, typically through backroom vote counts.

This writer, on assignment for THE NEW AMERICAN in 2012, found out how easy it is for fraudsters to manage the deal. I attempted to learn where Ohio's absentee and provisional ballots from the general election would be counted, without success. I related my efforts in an online article entitled "Ohio Starts Counting Absentee and Provisional Ballots — But Where, When, and Who's Counting?" dated November 19, 2012:



AP Images

Texas will get more fraud: Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation changing the primary runoff date from May 26 to July 14, eliminating much of the time needed for election-integrity advocates to clean up Texas voter-registration lists. He did this despite the fact that fraud is already happening there. In Harris County, with over 150 candidates on the ballot, an investigation found 30 identically marked ballots — which is statistically impossible unless the same person marked them.

Election officials in Ohio were scheduled to begin counting absentee ballots and provisional ballots on Saturday, November 17, 2012. Despite numerous requests, THE NEW

AMERICAN was unable to learn of even one exact location, date, and time of when and where these ballots were to be counted.

This writer, as part of the same assignment for THE NEW AMERICAN, also attempted to learn where the absentee ballots in Philadelphia would be counted, and experienced similar results.

Moreover, most mail-in ballots are processed either solely or predominantly by government employees, and since whoever is in power hires the people who control the vote-counting process, and most of their work is done behind closed doors, deciding who gets such positions is now a major concern of the political parties. (Note that controlling those positions is only a major concern if a party wants to either sway elections, or keep them from being swayed. Which of those two choices seems to make more sense as to why the positions are coveted?)

The August 16, 2006 issue of *USA Today* had a front-page article entitled “Top vote counter becomes prize job — Democrats focus on key state post.” As the article said, “The political battle for control of the federal government has opened up a new front: the obscure but vital state offices that determine who votes and how those votes are counted.” The article detailed a number of PACs that were focusing their expenditures to have the most possible impact on secretaries of state or other chief election officials for states.

And politicians and government bureaucrats themselves aren’t immune from committing fraud. A grand jury that investigated the massive frauds in the 1908 Democratic Primary in Chicago found that many of the culprits were political people or government employees who owed their jobs to the politicians currently in office. The grand jury report said:

Almost universally we found the persons immediately responsible for many of said election frauds to be men holding elective offices and men holding responsible subordinate positions in the service of elected or appointed County Officials and of course paid by the taxpayers. Out of such facts grow the creation and

AP Images



Time to cheat: Mail-in ballots by the box load, with little or no monitoring by the public, sit idly in post offices or in bins before and after being filled out by voters, leaving the ballots to be altered or stolen. In Nevada, mail-in ballots were found in large stacks outside apartment buildings.

continuance of offices serving no other purpose than to draw salaries from the taxpayers for assumed public services, but in fact being used to pay for venal services rendered to party bosses.

The grand jury recommended that the people who had a conflict of interest in the outcome of the election be removed from the electoral process and be replaced with ordinary citizens selected at random, such as how a jury is selected.

Ballot harvesting: Another means of vote fraud is done via ballot harvesting, which usually refers to the collecting of absentee ballots by someone, who then brings the completed ballots back to the local elections department. In some states where it’s legal, it is also legal to volunteer to help people mark their ballots, even though the “helper” may not be able to take the completed ballots back to the county or municipal elections department. In some states, it is illegal to engage in any part of the ballot-harvesting process. There are typically exemptions for family members and caregivers.

Ballot harvesting opens avenues to

commit most of the aforementioned methods of fraud, as well as a few others.

Even when ostensibly operating within the law, the process is often abused. There have been cases where ballot harvesters have mailed in absentee ballot request forms for unsuspecting voters, marking on the request that the voter is disabled, when the voter isn’t disabled. Ballot harvesters have been known to steal absentee ballots from people’s mailboxes or get them at the source before they are sent. Ballot harvesters have been known to use connections in government, sometimes an incumbent politician or political operative who has hired them, to learn when the absentee ballots are being mailed, enabling them to arrive at the voters’ homes on the day the ballots are delivered — either to steal the ballots or put pressure on the voters to vote a certain way — or intercept the ballots before they are sent or while en route.

Breitbart News reported on March 7, 2017 that U.S. Postal Service employee Noe Abdon Olvera pleaded guilty to charges that he accepted \$1,000 in exchange for names and addresses of the people on his postal route for whom he was delivering

absentee ballots. Olvera was paid to give those names and addresses to Yolanda Perez Hidrogo, a ballot harvester, or *politiquera* as she would be called in the Spanish-speaking sector. Upon being caught, Hidrogo explained that she worked for the reelection campaign for Mayor Norberto Salinas in Mission, Texas: "My job was to handle the mail-in ballots by meeting with the people who received them," Hidrogo wrote. "I would encourage them to choose Mayor Salinas, and they would."

The *politiquera* also explained that electioneering was being done by Olvera while he was being paid by the taxpayers to deliver mail:

Noe rode with me a few times to go talk to people. He was making promises to a lot of people. He told one lady that he was going to help her get her citizenship papers in return for her vote for Mayor Salinas.

Offering to help her become a citizen in exchange for her vote? It's illegal in Texas for a non-citizen to vote. Yet a ballot harvester and a U.S. Postal Service employee knowingly helped an ineligible person to vote.

Hidrogo also explained how she would sometimes follow Olvera while he was delivering mail, and he would call her with the name and address whenever he delivered an absentee ballot.

Hidrogo noted that her conscience wouldn't let her harvest the vote of a probable Alzheimer's-afflicted voter. Hidrogo decided not to harvest this lady's ballot. The lady's daughter thanked Hidrogo for not helping her mother vote, but Hidrogo also learned that another ballot harvester had subsequently harvested the old lady's ballot.

Noted Election Integrity advocate J. Christian Adams, while referring to a similar case, was quoted saying, "All under the honorable guise of 'voter assistance,' local political bosses accessed and leveraged absentee votes to score electoral victories."

And this is how some people want to elect our next Congress, president, and vice president.

Ballot harvesters often fill out, then sign (if necessary) the ballot. The forged signatures are obviously good matches in cases where the ballot harvester requests the ballot illegally in the first place.

There have been voters in Texas who

have shown up on election day hoping to vote, only to learn that someone else already voted for them via absentee ballot. Ballot harvesters are suspected, but with absentee ballots, there frequently isn't enough evidence to catch them. Consequently, the honest voter is disenfranchised.

Some ballot harvesters take advantage of the elderly in nursing homes. Many nursing-home residents have poor eyesight, poor hearing, or poor memories. The ballot harvester, in this case, can easily mark the ballot the way he chooses rather than as the voter instructs. Too, some residents of nursing homes are old and lonely, and they don't care what the ballot harvester does with their ballots so long as they get a friendly visit. Middle-aged women can be very effective at this form of ballot harvesting. They often establish rapport with seniors quite easily. Sometimes the ballot harvester pays money to a key staff person or two at the nursing home to make sure he or she is the only ballot harvester with access to that nursing home during the ballot harvest.

Ballot harvesting has also become a way for non-citizens who entered this country illegally to exert their political influence. The *Los Angeles Times* of January 1, 2019 had an article entitled "How Young Immigrant 'Dreamers' Made Flipping Control of the House a Personal Quest." The article told the story of a young Dreamer, who was brought into this country illegally when she was one year old. She can't vote because she is not a citizen, but she is politically active. It related how she found a man named Ronald Silva who had been sent an absentee ballot, but hadn't voted. "Half an hour later, she was helping Silva look up candidates as he filled out his ballot by the light of her phone." The article went on to describe her as "part of a new wave of immigrant activists who mobilized this year to return control of the House to Democrats."

Invalid Voter Registrations: The Pew Center on the States released a report in 2012 with its findings that voter registration lists were plagued with errors. They noted:

Approximately 24 million — one of every eight — active voter regis-



AP Images

Elder abuse: Ballot harvesters target nursing homes, where they frequently find lonely residents eager for a visit. Even though many nursing-home residents are in high-risk demographic groups for COVID-19, mail-in balloting will likely increase visits by ballot harvesters.



AP Images

Federally aiding fraud: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wants unconstitutional federal legislation that would mandate mail-in balloting in all states, despite the fact that voter rolls contain millions of people who are ineligible to vote or are dead (Los Angeles County has 12 percent more voters registered in the county than there are people who can legally vote). Such legislation would increase the risk of stolen elections.

trations in the United States are no longer valid or are significantly inaccurate.

More than 1.8 million deceased individuals are listed as active voters.

Approximately 2.75 million people have active registrations in more than one state.

All forms of voting are adversely affected by inaccurate or invalid voter registrations, but with absentee voting, it is even more critical. And if America adopts universal mail-in ballots with an active ballot mailed to each registered voter, how many of the 24 million invalid or inaccurate ballots will be delivered incorrectly and just find themselves available to anyone who wants to pick them up and cast them? How many of them will find their way into the hands of eager ballot harvesters?

Universal mail-in balloting is too risky to be tried even if the voter registration databases get cleaned up, and certainly even worse in the condition the databases are now.

Real or Hypothetical Danger?

Activists are using the fact that many Americans are fearful of catching the coronavirus when voting at polling stations to

initiate changes to voting laws — changes that actually make voting more prone to election fraud, a situation that every honest American should abhor. The reason that Deep State power elites want the changes is because, as Americans become aware of their machinations and begin to fight back at election time, the elites can block grassroots efforts to blunt globalism, and they benefit by making elections less honest and easier to manipulate. This is not a hypothetical danger; it's real.

While the original intent of America's absentee-ballot laws was to provide voting opportunities to people who were sick, now because of the quarantines, activists want to apply those rules to people who are not sick, but who may just not want to travel to the polls for one reason or another. If the activists are successful, this may lead to potential court precedents greatly expanding the concept of absentee balloting and may open the floodgates for universal, no-excuse absentee voting.

And the lawsuits to gain such an end

have already begun. The *Dallas Morning News* reported in its April 7 issue that the Texas Democratic Party has filed two lawsuits in Texas, one in a state court and one in a federal court. The coronavirus and shelter-in-place orders are central to both lawsuits, which are backed by a propaganda campaign to influence decision-makers. Michele Obama is active in promoting mail-in balloting. The Daily Signal quoted her as saying, "Americans should never have to choose between making their voices heard and keeping themselves and their families safe. Expanding access to vote-by-mail, online voter registration and early voting are critical steps for this moment — and they're long overdue."

How is this good for us? Supposedly, present voting laws discourage the sick, the disabled, and poor people — mainly minorities — from taking part in the electoral process, and "every vote should count." However, while it's a nice slogan, such election changes will absolutely ensure not only that many Americans' votes will not count at all, but that a few people will have a large say in our elections through electoral fraud.

And following the creed of never letting a crisis go to waste, the first stimulus bill, H.R. 748, already contained a \$400 million appropriation for "Election Security Grants" to "prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle."

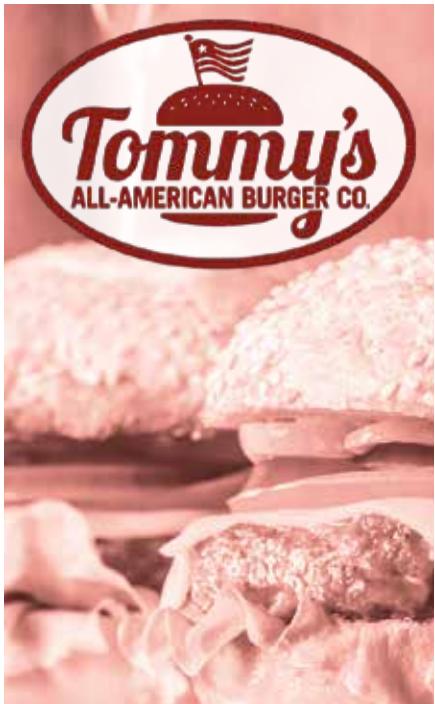
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is advocating for even more robust federal funding for voting by mail-in ballots in this year's general elections. On April 2, she tweeted, "Vote-by-mail is essential to protecting the future of our democracy as we confront this public health crisis."

As of now, the trend is toward more and more of the electoral process being done where the public can't observe the procedures. That must not only be stopped, it must be reversed. ■



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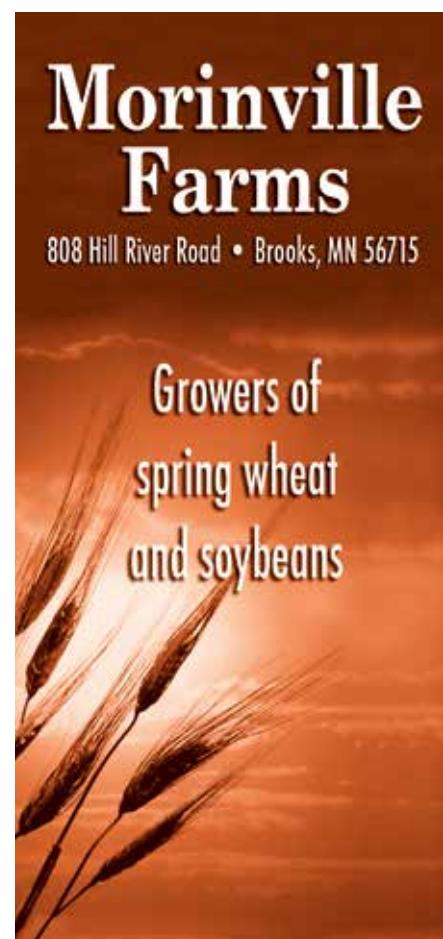


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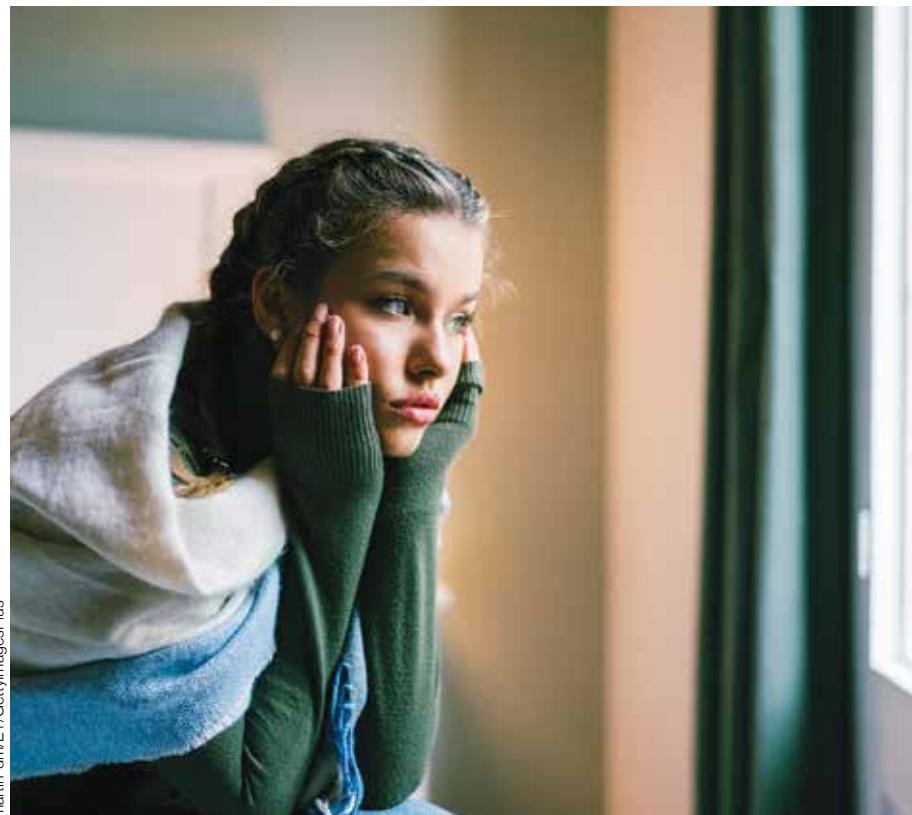
*"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free ...
It expects what never was and never will be."
— Thomas Jefferson*



LETHAL LOCKDOWNS

The WHO-CDC Global Genocide

The COVID “cure” will prove to be far more deadly than the much-hyped, much-feared coronavirus.



martin-dm/E+/GettyimagesPlus

by William F. Jasper

“How do I kill thee? Let me count the ways.” Well, let’s see. Dr. Fauci’s dictatorial lockdowns were instituted (so we are told) to save lives from the dreaded COVID “pandemic.” But the lockdowns have very likely already taken more lives globally than the virus ever would have, as we will show below. And here’s the most

important point: The COVID “cure” will keep on killing for many years to come.

The full extent of COVID *cure-related* deaths is only beginning to be revealed, even as the CDC finally admits that its earlier death-rate estimates for the virus were *way* overblown. Yes, the wild estimates that were used by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and the media to create panic and justify totalitarian edicts are now thoroughly discredited — while the far-greater death tolls from the lockdowns and the socio-economic havoc they are causing are only beginning to be tabulated. And

the fatality numbers from the “cure” that are coming into view are horrific. As a result of the COVID lockdowns and mandates, many *millions* more people worldwide will die of famine, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, cancer, heart failure, kidney failure, stroke, diabetes, tuberculosis, pneumonia, depression, loneliness, and other conditions.

Hundreds of Doctors Warn

On May 19, Simone Gold, M.D., and more than 500 physicians from across the country signed a letter to President Donald Trump urgently requesting that he end the national shutdown. Dr. Gold, an emergency medicine specialist in Los Angeles with 31 years of medical experience, and her distinguished list of co-signers sketch the very stark reality concerning the deadly impact of the shutdowns that they are already seeing in their medical practices.

“We write to you today to express our alarm over the exponentially growing negative health consequences of the national shutdown,” the doctors’ letter says. “In medical terms, the shutdown was a mass casualty incident.” The doctors explain that in any mass casualty incident the standard medical practice is to triage the victims into three priority categories based on the levels of immediate care needed to maximize survivability. The red group (severe, but survivable, injuries) receives highest priority. The next priority is to ensure that the next two groups — yellow and green — do not deteriorate a level.

“Millions of Americans are already at triage level red,” the doctors warn. “These include 150,000 Americans per month who would have had a new cancer detected through routine screening that hasn’t happened, millions who have missed rou-

William F. Jasper is senior editor of THE NEW AMERICAN.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, April saw the sharpest increase in grocery-store prices in nearly 50 years. Even more sobering is the fact that a great many family farms, like so many other family businesses, are being plowed under and will never recover.



AP Images

Driven to drink: With COVID lockdowns destroying jobs and businesses, alcohol sales have skyrocketed — along with alcohol abuse, depression, suicide, and other social pathologies.

tine dental care to fix problems strongly linked to heart disease/death, and preventable cases of stroke, heart attack, and child abuse. Suicide hotline phone calls have increased 600%.”

The doctors’ letter continues: “Tens of millions are at triage level yellow. Liquor sales have increased 300-600%, cigarette sales have increased, rent has gone unpaid, family relationships have become frayed, and millions of well-child check-ups have been missed.”

“An Order of Magnitude Error”

It gets worse. “Hundreds of millions are at triage level green,” the doctors warn.

“These are people who currently are solvent, but at risk should economic conditions worsen. Poverty and financial uncertainty is closely linked to poor health. A continued shutdown means hundreds of millions of Americans will downgrade a level.”

Dr. Gold and her colleagues then personalize these mind-numbing statistics with examples of actual cases from their practices that illustrate the consequences of the shutdown in real terms for real people. “We are alarmed,” they write, “at what appears to be the lack of consideration for the future health of our patients. The downstream health effects of deteriorio-

rating a level are being massively underestimated and under-reported. This is an order of magnitude error.”

“It is impossible to overstate the short, medium, and long-term harm to people’s health with a continued shutdown,” the doctors warn. “Losing a job is one of life’s most stressful events, and the effect on a person’s health is not lessened because it also has happened to 30 million other people.”

The doctors’ letter concludes: “The millions of casualties of a continued shutdown will be hiding in plain sight, but they will be called alcoholism, homelessness, suicide, heart attack, stroke, or kidney failure. In youths it will be called financial instability, unemployment, despair, drug addiction, unplanned pregnancies, poverty, and abuse. Because the harm is diffuse, there are those who hold that it does not exist. We, the undersigned, know otherwise.”

A search of news articles, including even those from the hysteria-minded mainstream media, reveals many stories from physicians echoing the alarm expressed by Dr. Gold and her associates. Take, for example, Dr. Bruce Lowell, an internist in Great Neck, New York, who told the *New York Times*, “People are still having heart attacks, people are still having strokes.” He added, “I feel as if there is no awareness of anything other than Covid.” Like many other physicians, Dr. Lowell has had patients die due to the COVID lockdowns. “I’m a primary care doctor,” Dr. Lowell said. “I’m totally hogtied trying to take care of people. It’s sad. It brings tears. We’re all on the front line.”

But when it comes to the real death toll from the COVID “cure,” we are likely facing two or three orders of magnitude error, in terms of undercounting the victims who have died as a result of the lockdowns versus the overcounting of those who died from the virus. That’s right, deaths from government COVID mandates could end up being 100 to 1,000 times greater than deaths from the virus itself. This is especially the case if the lockdowns continue and the Dr. Fauci of the world and their panic propagandists succeed in stampeding governments into a second wave of controls that are even more totalitarian than those already visited upon us.

The biggest killer will likely be the

looming COVID-induced famines that are already taking countless lives and further destabilizing already rickety governments. David Beasley, executive director of the United Nations World Food Program, says a “hunger pandemic” and famines of “biblical proportions” will soon be upon us, thanks to the worldwide implementation of edicts of the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) that have locked down farms and food processing and distribution centers.

“In a worst-case scenario, we could be looking at famine in about three dozen countries,” Beasley warned in an April 21 address to the United Nations Security Council. There’s “a real danger that more people could potentially die from the economic impact of COVID-19 than from the virus itself,” he stated, averring that the world could face “multiple famines of biblical proportions within a few short months.”

“We can expect more global deaths due to secondary impacts of COVID-19 than the virus itself,” says Ian Bradbury, CEO of the Canada-based humanitarian organization 1st NAEF. Bradbury notes that the

World Food Program “currently estimates that 265 million will be on the brink of starvation by the end of the year.”

Get that? *Hundreds of millions.* Granted, experience has shown it’s always hazardous to accept as true any statistic, prediction, warning, or alleged statement of fact from *any* UN official or their designated spokesmen. But in this case, the evidence supports Beasley’s grim forecast. The shutdowns and lockdowns mandated by WHO, CDC, and other “health authorities” have disrupted planting, harvesting, processing, transportation, and distribution of foodstuffs globally, with the deadliest effects falling on the world’s poorest and most vulnerable. As a result, tens of millions to hundreds of millions — and, conceivably even *billions* — of our fellow human beings might die, many suffering horrible death by starvation.

“I’m Starving Now”

A May 6 CBS News story by correspondent Debora Patta reported on the unfolding tragedy in the South African township of Diepsloot. As one example, she cited

the experience of 39-year-old Thandi Lebho. “She and her husband and three children have been waiting for food donations for three weeks,” Patta reported. “They haven’t been able to get what they need since South Africa’s lockdown began.... When she manages to get to the food distribution truck, it’s already run out of supplies.”

“The kids are not going to school and education is going low,” Mrs. Lebho related. “We are struggling to get money because I’m working for myself. I’m self-employed — so my business is in my house — so I’m not earning anything now. I’m starving now. I don’t have anything.”

The Lebho family’s plight can be multiplied millions of times across Africa. Beyond the immediate impact of starvation, there is also the inevitable social and political destabilization that will follow, as political and tribal competitors jockey for power. Crime, banditry, riots, civil wars, border wars, and refugees will increase.

Destroying U.S. Agriculture

Thanks to the lockdowns, many American farmers face ruin and American consumers face scarcity and sky-high food prices. The prospects for the average American may be less dire than for the average African, but the U.S. food picture is looking very grim. With schools, cafeterias, and restaurants closed down and travel restrictions impeding harvests and transport of farm goods, U.S. farmers are being forced to dump billions of pounds of fruits, vegetables, grains, milk, and eggs, and to kill millions of chickens, cows, and pigs.

Americans may not face the same level of hunger that is befalling the developing regions of the world, but food availability and food prices will present challenges unlike anything seen in this country since the Great Depression. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, April saw the sharpest increase in grocery-store prices in nearly 50 years. Even more sobering is the fact that a great many family farms, like so many other family businesses, are being plowed under and will never recover. At the same time, America’s food production and distribution are being cartelized, with globalist corporations — many of which



AP Images

Killing agriculture: The lockdowns have forced farmers to destroy crops and livestock. Stuck with excess milk due to lockdowns, dairy farmers are feeding milk to the cows they haven’t killed.

are in bed with Communist China — swallowing up the family farms.

Loneliness Kills

“Social isolation has been associated with a significantly increased risk of premature mortality from all causes,” states a new 2020 report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS). That’s right, social isolation increases death “from all causes.” The 317-page report, *Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults*, shines a light on another huge category of under-reported collateral damage from the draconian COVID directives. The NAS study brings together the extensive research showing that loneliness poses serious health risks, including, for example:

- A nearly 300-percent increase in risk of death from heart failure;
- A 68-percent increased risk of hospitalization due to heart condition;
- A 57-percent increased risk of cardiac-related emergency department visits;
- A 29-percent increased risk of incident coronary heart disease;

- A 32-percent increased risk of stroke;
- A 25-percent increased risk for cancer mortality;
- A 59-percent increased risk of functional decline;
- A 45-percent increased risk of death.

Loneliness also takes a devastating toll on mental health. The NAS study reports that “social isolation has been associated with an approximately 50 percent increased risk of developing dementia.” And further, it noted, “Loneliness has been associated with higher rates of clinically significant depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.”

Douglas Nemecek, M.D., chief medical officer for health insurer Cigna, noted in the mammoth 2018 Cigna-Ipsos study on the “loneliness epidemic” that “loneliness has the same impact on mortality as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, making it even more dangerous than obesity.”

Dr. Carla Perissinotto, associate chief for geriatrics programs at the University of California, San Francisco, and a contributor to the NAS report, says: “The health effects of loneliness are astound-

ing. At any point across the life span, the things we’re most worried about is [sic] losing our independence, losing our minds, and heart attack, and these are all affected by loneliness independent of other risk factors.”

Even if one is willing to still consider, at this late juncture, that WHO’s Dr. Tedros, CDC’s Dr. Fauci, and the rest of the power-drunk politicians, bureaucrats, and medical dictators were misguided but well-intentioned when they initiated their global lockdowns, there is no justification for continuing to give them the benefit of the doubt. Take your pick — famine, medical and healthcare denial, unemployment, economic havoc, business destruction, depression, loneliness — their policies are killing on a global scale that might rival the mass-murders of Stalin, Mao, Hitler, and Pol Pot. Tedros, Fauci, et al. are either obstinately blind to these facts, or they are intentionally pursuing “democide,” the term coined by the late professor/author R.J. Rummel for intentional mass-murder by governments of their own peoples. ■



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BILL GATES:

Philanthropist or Scoundrel?

It is undeniable that Bill Gates gives lots of his own money to causes around the world, causing many to dub him a philanthropist. But his causes and motives are questionable.

by Alex Newman

He has already subjected America's children to educational quackery as the main sponsor of Common Core, and he has gathered more data on you and every American than you could imagine. Now, as this article will show, one of the world's leading population-control zealots wants to inject you, your whole family, and every single person on the entire planet with an as-yet undeveloped and untested vaccine — supposedly to protect against coronavirus. Then he wants to track you using technology that sounds like it comes out of a science fiction movie. And unless and until everybody on Earth submits to his vaccination demands, the technocratic globalist has declared repeatedly, society cannot and will not return to normal. That man, of course, is Microsoft founder Bill Gates — perhaps one of the most controversial people in the world right now, despite media adulation.

With all Gates' connections, media ap-

AP Images

pearances, and demands, one might be forgiven for thinking that he was emperor of the world. And if humanity is not careful, the agenda Gates represents may well succeed — potentially in the near term. That means liberty, health freedom, the family, self-government, much of the population, and the economy are in mortal danger.

Simply put, Bill Gates is potentially dangerous because he has great wealth and great influence, both of which he uses to try to make the world follow his dictates. Gates is so powerful that he was able — almost single-handedly — to impose the national education standards known as Common Core on almost the entire nation. (Elite pri-

vate schools such as those his children attended proudly rejected it.) Gates put more than \$2 billion of his own money into the scheme, backed by the Obama administration. Pointedly, he pushed the installation of Common Core though there were indications that it would lead to reduced educational quality. In fact, Common Core's Validation Committee refused to sign off on the plans because they were so bad. And Gates himself claimed to be unsure about its success. "It would be great if our education stuff worked, but that we won't know for probably a decade," the tycoon admitted in 2014. Since then, multiple studies of U.S. students have confirmed that the standards

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



Gates is so powerful that he was able — almost single-handedly — to impose the national education standards known as Common Core on almost the entire nation. (Elite private schools such as those his children attended proudly rejected it.)

and benevolent “philanthropist” simply working to “save” and “help” humanity. The reality, though, as this article will show, is much different. Gates, afflicted with the same messianic complex so common among the global elites, is pushing an agenda of globalism, technocracy (rule by scientific elites instead of self-government), forced vaccines, dangerous indoctrination, and totalitarianism. And one does not need to dig deep to find the abundant evidence.

What Does Bill Gates Believe?

Perhaps the issue that has defined Gates’ giving and efforts more than any other is population control — in particular, the Malthusian idea that there are too many people on the planet for “Mother Earth” to sustain. In his public statements and in his “charity,” Gates and his wife, Melinda, have focused on “overpopulation.”

It appears this passion was instilled in him by his father, Planned Parenthood bigwig Bill Gates, Sr., a prominent former attorney. Gates, Sr. still advises Junior, despite being in his mid-90s.

“When I was growing up, my parents were always involved in various volunteer things,” Gates, Jr. said in a 2003 interview with Bill Moyers on PBS. “My dad was head of Planned Parenthood. And it was very controversial to be involved with that. And so it’s fascinating; at the dinner table my parents are very good at sharing the things that they were doing, and almost treating us like adults, talking about that.” In short, Gates, Sr. was a eugenicist.

Like father, like son — the younger Gates has picked up where his father left off, showering hundreds of millions on abortion behemoth Planned Parenthood and other abortionist groups. At a 2017 “Global Family Planning Summit” in London, Gates’ wife announced that the Gates Foundation would be spending almost \$400 million on population-control schemes through 2020 — much of which has and will, at least indirectly, finance the killing of pre-born babies. She also called for sex education to begin “very, very early.” Gates has also been a major donor to the UN Population Fund, the pro-abortion UN agency that specializes in reducing the human population and has been exposed in Congress working with the Communist Chinese government on forced abortions and forced sterilizations.



AP Images

Recklessly experimenting on millions of children: Gates put over \$2 billion into the Common Core standards after signing a deal with the UN on globalizing education, but said it would take a decade to know whether it was effective.

led to scores cratering across the board, making American children less educated than ever before.

Despite Common Core’s failures, with help from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Gates’ educational vision is going global. In 2004, Gates was in Paris to sign an agreement with UNESCO on behalf of Microsoft to work on global standards, guidelines, curriculum, and technology. The UN agency had already been working on centralizing control over education for decades. And the UN’s educational goals don’t seem to be about making children into critical thinkers; among other schemes, it peddled the World Core Curriculum. Written by Assistant UN Secretary-General Robert Muller, the scheme was based on the teachings of Lucifer Publishing Company founder Alice

Bailey, an advocate of world government and a one-world religion merging many of the world’s religions together under one banner.

On the global health front, Gates’ activities are as ill-advised and harmful as his education schemes — perhaps more harmful. Now that Trump has put on hold U.S. contributions to the World Health Organization, Gates is the world’s largest single donor to WHO — an outfit literally run by a Communist Chinese-backed Politburo member of an ethno-Marxist terror organization from Ethiopia. He is the world’s largest single financier of vaccines, too, vaccines that are notorious for their harmful side effects.

Most of the major media fawn over Bill Gates, portraying him as some sort of nerdy, self-made business genius turned selfless

Gates also thinks contraception should be ubiquitous, if not mandatory. In 1997, Gates and his wife started pouring money into various forms of birth control. And Gates-funded contraception hasn't only meant fewer babies, it has also led to other dangers and deaths. For instance, Gates funded and peddled the contraceptive Depo Provera — especially to Third World women. Aside from preventing pregnancy, sometimes by inducing abortion, it was blamed by experts for causing or at least contributing to cervical cancer, breast cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis, stroke, heart attack, sterility, and miscarriages. It also encouraged the spread of HIV/AIDS, chlamydia, and other debilitating and deadly venereal diseases. The Gates Foundation spent \$2.6 billion buying and giving this drug to 100 million African women.

On politics, while Gates normally remains quiet, he has spoken out against President Donald Trump and has come down firmly on the side of Democrats and the establishment for years. During the 2016 election, he funded three Democrat campaigns for Congress. In 2012, the tech billionaire hosted a fundraising dinner for Barack Obama's campaign, charging attendees almost \$13,000 per plate.

He has also been outspoken about his desire to see a more powerful federal gov-

ernment and president. "Right now it feels like I wish there was slightly more power in the presidency to avoid some of these deadlocks," Gates was quoted as saying, adding that he wished America had a system more like the United Kingdom. "So I think what [Obama] wants to do and what he's actually able to do, the gap is so big there that it's hard to know in some ways." More on Gates' wishes for more command and control later.

Patrick Wood, author of two key books exposing the global elites' push for technocracy, blasted the Microsoft founder and highlighted his crucial role in the push for global governance by experts and technocrats. "Bill Gates exhibits the mind of a Technocrat in three key areas: education, vaccines and population control and data," said Wood, who worked with the late Antony Sutton to expose the Trilateral Commission. "Every single initiative that he is involved in today is central to the implementation of Technocracy on a global scale, including the drive for a permanent ID for every human on planet earth."

Vaccines for Population Control?

Despite being highly counter-intuitive at first glance, even Gates' obsession with vaccines fits into his population-control agenda. Indeed, Gates, the world's largest financier of vaccines, is notorious for

peddling the idea that vaccines will be a crucial tool in reducing the population.

During a 2010 "TED Talk," for example, Gates made clear his belief that a lower population was necessary to save the planet. After he told the audience that human emissions of carbon dioxide would have to go down to zero to avoid killing the planet, he totaled up emissions from each person and said, "Probably one of these numbers is going to have to get pretty near to zero." He added, "The world today has about six billion people. That's headed up to about nine billion. Now, if we do a really great job on new vaccines, healthcare, and reproductive health services [contraception and abortion], we could lower that by perhaps 10 or 15 percent."

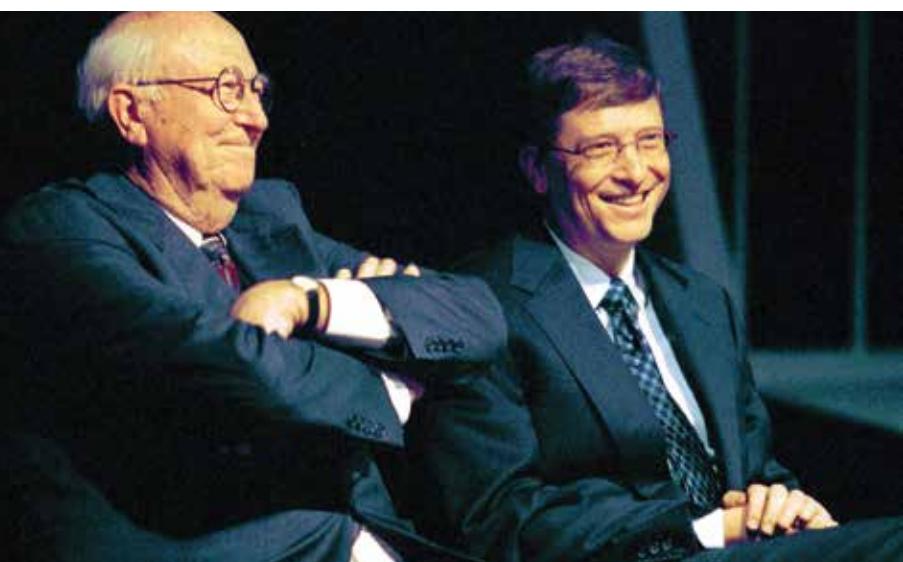
Did you catch that? *Vaccines*, "healthcare," abortion, and contraception are all part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the number of people on Earth.

The next year, he was singing the same tune. In a 2011 interview, he told CNN's Sanjay Gupta that he was hoping for "unbelievable progress in both inventing new vaccines and making sure they get out to all the children who need them." "We only need about six or seven more — and then you would have all the tools to reduce childhood death, *reduce population growth*, and everything — the stability, the environment — benefits from that," he continued. (Emphasis added.) Again, notice that Gates ties vaccines to *reducing* the population, and says that fewer people will be good for "stability" and the "environment."

Now, apologists for Bill Gates argue that what he *really* means is that by vaccinating everyone, more parents will choose to have fewer children. Gates himself has suggested that this is what he meant with his cryptic comments about using vaccines to reduce the population. "A surprising but critical fact we learned was that reducing the number of deaths actually reduces population growth," he claimed. But the track record of Gates' vaccination programs suggests that in reality, the vaccines themselves will be used to thin the population — and not by encouraging parents to have fewer children.

Gates' Vaccine Programs

Consider a 2014 "tetanus" vaccination campaign in Kenya targeting women and girls by the UN's WHO and UNICEF



AP Images

Like father, like son: Bill Gates, Sr. (left) was on the board of Planned Parenthood, instilling in his son an obsession with reducing the population of the planet.

that was financed in large part by Gates — this in a nation that had recently been targeted by the UN Population Fund in a report for drastic population-control efforts. Concerned about the vaccines, the Kenya Catholic Doctors Association obtained multiple samples of the vials and sent them to independent labs for testing. They found that the vaccines were laced with beta human chorionic gonadotropin immunogen, which causes the body to stop a pregnancy from coming to term. Women become infertile because their own immune systems attack the critical hormone hCG. WHO discovered in 1976 this “birth-control” vaccine and injected the substance into women in other nations, including Mexico, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and beyond.

“This proved right our worst fears; that this WHO campaign is not about eradicating neonatal tetanus but [is] a well-coordinated forceful population control mass sterilization exercise using a proven

fertility regulating vaccine,” explained Dr. Wahome Ngare, spokesman for the Kenya Catholic Doctors Association. “The unfortunate truth is that the vaccine was laced with hCG [immunogen] just like the one used in the South American cases. Further, none of the girls and women given the vaccination were informed of its contraceptive effect.” Shortly after this, the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops released a statement signed by every Catholic bishop in Kenya warning people to avoid the vaccines, saying, “We are convinced that it is indeed a disguised population control program.” This incident was one of several highlighted recently on the floor of the Italian Parliament, with MP Sara Cuinal criticizing Gates for sterilizing large numbers of African women and calling for him to be prosecuted for crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, WHO was exposed by THE NEW AMERICAN in January of 2019 training medical professionals to lie about the

safety and efficacy of vaccines. Declaring that “vaccine hesitancy” was one of the greatest threats to “global health,” the Gates-funded UN agency created a training guide for health workers. It gives strategies for convincing parents to comply with vaccination programs that include using manipulation and even providing misleading or downright false answers to possible questions parents might ask. “Can vaccines cause harmful side effects, illness and even death?” a hypothetical hesitant parent in the program asks the doctor. “No, vaccines are very safe,” the health worker is instructed to say, even though that is demonstrably false. Every vaccine maker in the world acknowledges that vaccines can cause harmful side effects, illness, and even death — that is why they successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress for a total exemption from all liability, forcing U.S. taxpayers to pay billions of dollars in damages to victims of vaccines.

Even WHO admitted last year that most of the polio paralysis around the world was actually caused by the Gates-funded polio vaccination campaigns in Africa and Asia. According to an Associated Press report published on November 25, 2019, “Global health numbers show there are now more children being paralyzed by viruses originating in vaccines than in the wild.” The WHO-created “Independent Monitoring Board” also warned in a report that month that the vaccine-derived polio virus was “spreading uncontrolled in West Africa.” And it described the attitude of WHO and its “partners” to this news as “relaxed.”

In India, Gates is also blamed for unleashing hell on the population under the guise of “vaccination” programs. Writing in the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, Indian doctors Neetu Vashisht and Jacob Puliye blamed the WHO/Gates polio vaccination programs for causing almost 50,000 additional cases of paralysis in children in just *one* year. Almost half a million cases of paralysis attributed to the vaccines occurred between 2000 and 2017, according to doctors cited by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and other prominent vaccine skeptics. Indian authorities eventually got involved and worked to stamp out Gates’ influence, but the damage was done. Gates-backed trials of HPV vaccines, given to tribal children in rural India without parental consent, also killed

Gates, the world’s largest financier of vaccines, is notorious for peddling the idea that vaccines will be a crucial tool in reducing the population.



AP Images

Health savior? Gates-funded vaccination campaigns have come under fire around the world for sterilizing women, paralyzing and killing children, and even causing most of the polio on the planet today.

and injured many victims, according to media reports of lawsuits that went all the way to that nation's Supreme Court. The scandal eventually concluded with the government being forced to make drastic changes to its vaccine permissions, including restrictions on foreign groups; however, Indian law had no provisions to penalize ethical and legal violations in trials. In addition, an all-party parliamentary investigation accused Gates' operatives of unethical practices in a bid to make profits for Big Pharma, an allegation the Gates-funded group behind the schemes denied.

Now, Gates wants to vaccinate the world against coronavirus. "The thing that will get us back to the world that we had before coronavirus is the vaccine and getting that out to seven billion people," Gates said in one of many similar public statements, echoing propaganda being pumped out by the enormous network of think tanks, propagandists, pharmaceutical companies, and organizations that he funds. "Once you have a safe and effective vaccine and get that out to almost all of the people on the planet ... we will go back to normal, and economies will recover."

On April 30, Gates claimed on his blog that the idea of using drugs to treat COVID-19 was unrealistic and said that the only way to "go back to the way things were" will be to make sure that "almost every person on the planet has been vaccinated against coronavirus." "Humankind has never had a more urgent task than creating broad immunity for coronavirus," he claimed, adding that it should be given to newborns. "Realistically, if we're going to return to normal, we need to develop a safe, effective vaccine. We need to make billions of doses, we need to get them out to every part of the world, and we need all of this to happen as quickly as possible." The WHO will need to give its "approval," he added, painting the UN outfit as a sort of global health ministry.

Global Tracking and Tyranny

But Gates really isn't offering his vaccines as much as he is demanding people get them: Gates has been calling for everyone to receive a "digital certificate" proving that he or she has been vaccinated. In March, Gates said on his blog that the "question of which businesses should keep going is tricky," but eventually "we will



Telling you what to do with your body: Gates is exploiting the coronavirus pandemic to promote mandatory vaccines, as well as Orwellian tracking tools and ID schemes.

have some digital certificates to show who has recovered or been tested recently or when we have a vaccine who has received it." Fauci at National Institutes of Health has echoed Gates' rhetoric on having "coronavirus immunity cards" for everyone, and he was quoted in *Politico* saying this was "being discussed."

This idea is hardly new. For years, Gates and other globalist billionaires, including multiple Rockefeller foundations, have been peddling the "ID2020" scheme. According to the effort's website, the plot seeks to mandate that everyone on Earth have a "digital identity" that would follow them from birth to death. It would keep track of all sorts of data, including health and vaccine information, enabling governments and globalists to keep people everywhere under control. This has been a major focus of Gates' work: Everyone must be identified, vaccinated, and tracked. A Gates-backed biometric ID for 1.2 billion Indians was the test run.

Starting in 2016, Gates funded research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to develop "a novel way to record a patient's vaccination history: storing the data in a pattern of dye, invisible to the naked eye, that is delivered under the skin at the same time as the vaccine." In a press release about the scheme released late last

year, MIT said the technology "consists of nanocrystals called quantum dots." This tattoo-type scheme would "remain under the skin where it emits near-infrared light that can be detected by a specially equipped smartphone."

More recently, Microsoft published a patent for a "cryptocurrency system using body activity data," which is now registered with the UN World Intellectual Property Organization. With the war on cash accelerating, this technology to obtain currency with a piece of technology embedded in the body could be used to implement a digital currency regime that would end privacy and put every individual at the mercy of the powers that be. The patent number on it is WO-2020-060606-A1. The numbers 2020 and 060606 (666) have been widely picked up online, fueling endless speculation and theories about their possible significance.

Much the same has happened regarding Gates' funding of NIH research into the use of luciferase and luciferin, bioluminescent compounds, in medical applications. In fairness to Gates, those two terms, which were invented before he was born, are used in biotechnology for their scientific meanings, not in reference to the prince of darkness.

"Contact tracing" schemes to track

everyone under the guise of stopping the coronavirus, which are being rolled out worldwide, are also being funded by Gates, along with George Soros. Everything from hiring an “army” of contact tracers to using smartphones as tracking devices is now under way. According to top local, state, and even WHO officials, the tracing schemes will also be used for splitting up families if a member of the family is suspected of having been exposed to COVID-19.

Former U.S. Congressman Ron Paul, a medical doctor, has been highly critical of these coronavirus efforts, making a good case that these are totalitarian actions. “If government can force individuals to receive medical treatment against their will, then there is no reason why government cannot force individuals to buy medical insurance, prohibit them from owning firearms, dictate their terms of employment, and prevent them from taking arguably harmful actions like smoking marijuana or drinking raw milk,” he said. “Similarly, if government can override parents’ wishes regarding medical treatment for their children, then there is no reason why government cannot usurp parental authority in other areas, such as education.”

He added that Americans should “reject this ‘deal.’ Instead, they should demand an

immediate end to the lockdowns and the restoration of individual responsibility for deciding how best to protect their health.”

Preparing Well — or a Little Too Well?

Propagandists in the establishment media have been fawning over Gates and his supposed foresight, noting that the billionaire technocrat has been warning about a looming pandemic for many years. And it’s true — he has been. In fact, the preparations and statements he has made over the years were so eerily similar to the way things played out under COVID-19 that they have more than a few critics crying foul. Clearly, Gates and his allies at the globalist World Economic Forum (WEF) were getting ready to use a pandemic to remake the world to suit their technocratic vision.

In October 2019, Gates and the WEF put on Event 201 at the “Bloomberg School of Public Health” at Johns Hopkins University. The program simulated an “outbreak of a novel zoonotic coronavirus transmitted from bats to pigs to people that eventually becomes efficiently transmissible from person to person, leading to a severe pandemic.” The pathogen and disease “are modeled largely on SARS, but it is more transmissible in the community setting by people with mild symptoms.” Key figures from Big Government (including China’s),

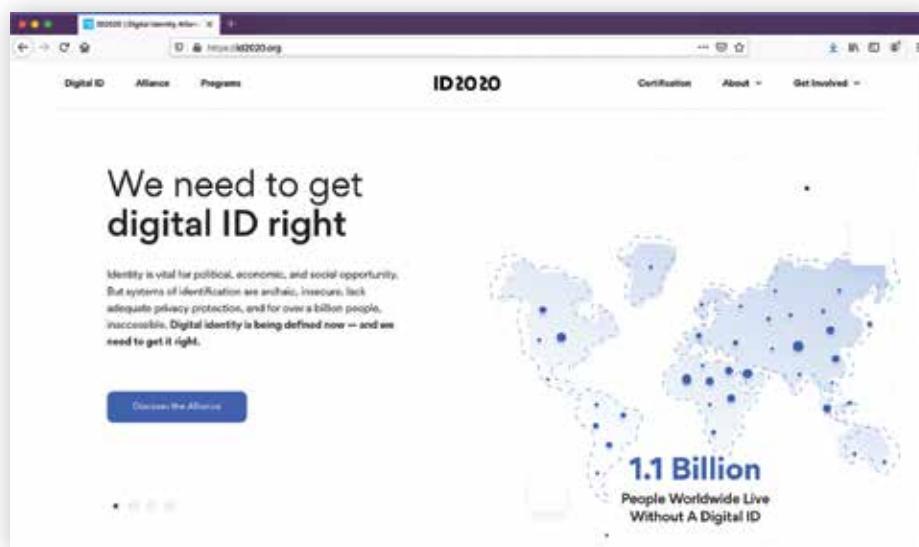
Big Business, and Big Pharma all participated. In the scenario the nightmare only ends when a vaccine comes along. And naturally, tyranny is the preferred response — everything from censoring social media to autocratic control over the public were celebrated as necessary.

Such planning isn’t anything new, though. A decade earlier, the Rockefeller Foundation issued a report headlined “Scenarios for the Future of Technology and International Development.” The report featured four scenarios that could help pave the road toward the world order envisioned by globalists. One was a future pandemic scenario, dubbed “LOCK STEP,” in which the United States suffers huge losses from an outbreak due to a lack of tyranny, while Communist China fares much better due to its ruthless totalitarian system with no constraints on government power.

The Rockefeller Foundation’s LOCK STEP scenario goes on to outline the expected results of this pandemic. Citizens everywhere will demand “top-down direction and oversight” over whole nations and economies. The scenario also touts, among other policies to supposedly deal with the outbreak, “biometric ID for all citizens,” “tighter regulation of key industries,” “a suite of new regulations and agreements,” and other power grabs allegedly needed to “restore order and, importantly, economic growth.” In fact, reading the decade-old report feels very much like reading the news today, with the very same “solutions” being advanced that all tend to erode liberty.

Speaking with CNN’s Fareed Zakaria, Gates praised China’s response to the coronavirus, while attacking the United States. “China did a lot of things right at the beginning,” Gates claimed, one of countless pro-China statements made by the billionaire over the years. “Some countries did respond very quickly and get their testing in place and they avoided the incredible economic pain, and it’s sad that even the U.S., that you would have expected to do this well, did it particularly poorly.” Meanwhile, Gates blasted criticisms of Beijing’s response, including the fact that its regime covered up the outbreak, as a “distraction.”

Interestingly, Gates was also a chief financier of the two outfits that provided the projections of mass death that panicked gov-



Giving globalists all your personal info: Gates and other globalist billionaires want everyone on the planet to have a digital biometric ID, part of a plan called ID2020 backed by the Rockefellers and others.

ernments around the world into pursuing the policies that Gates was peddling. The first was the Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation at the University of Washington in Seattle, which was launched with a \$100 million grant from Gates. The other was the Imperial College of London, which normally specializes in producing climate-change hysteria and sustainable-development propaganda. Both organizations warned of millions of coronavirus deaths, with the Imperial College even projecting a potential 2.2 million deaths just in the United States under one scenario. Both organizations eventually acknowledged that their numbers were wildly out of touch with reality, though policymakers apparently never got the memo. And both organizations were heavily funded by Gates, as were companies all over the world that received investments by Gates to find vaccines for the coronavirus.

Troubling Associations and Connections

Gates' affinity for totalitarianism is also evidenced by his close ties to globalists and totalitarian leaders.

Indeed, in 2017, he joined the "elite" Chinese Academy of Engineering, an organ of the State Council of the People's Republic of China headed by Communist Chinese "Premier" Li Kequiang.

Recently, Gates wrote a letter to Chinese dictator Xi Jinping — whose government has a well-documented history of imprisoning and murdering political dissidents, even going so far as to harvest their organs and put them up for sale — about the coronavirus. In the letter, which was reported by Communist Chinese propaganda organs, Gates boasted that his foundation "has committed up to 100 million U.S. dollars in emergency funding, much of which will help China bolster epidemiological research, emergency intervention, and the research and development of drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics," reported the state-controlled China Global Television Network.

Xi responded to Gates with a fawning letter of his own. "I support your cooperation with relevant Chinese institutions, and look forward to enhanced coordination and concerted efforts in the international community for the sake of [the] health and well-being of all," he said.

Gates' choice of associates demon-

AP Images



Is this a case of "birds of a feather"? Gates, who opposes Trump, has close ties to the mass-murdering communist regime enslaving China, which he praises and communicates with regularly.

strates that, to him, the ends justify the means — no matter what — and that any association that can forward the cause is therefore a suitable one. Case in point: Gates' very close links to Jeffrey Epstein, the infamous child-trafficking pedophile who supposedly killed himself in prison. According to the *New York Times*, Gates repeatedly visited Epstein's home and even flew on one of his private jets — one of which was known as the "Lolita Express" owing to the perversion and child rape known to have been ubiquitous on board. To the point, unlike other associates of Epstein, such as Bill Clinton, Gates only began his relationship with Epstein *after* the pervert was convicted on child-prostitution charges in Florida that forced him to register as a sex offender. Gates' employees also regularly visited Epstein's mansion. And Gates' former science advisor, Boris Nikolic, was listed as a back-up executor for Epstein's will, according to media reports.

As for globalist associations, while Gates himself is not listed as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Microsoft Corporation is listed on its website as a corporate member. In 2003, the Gates Foundation also gave a grant to the group to establish a "Senior Fellowship" in "Global Health and Foreign Policy."

Then-CFR boss Leslie Gelb explained the purpose like this: "Global health issues must be integrated, in study and in practice, into U.S. foreign policymaking. This will be the chief mission of the new Senior Fellow in Global Health Policy Studies."

It worked. Just a few years later, the Obama administration launched the "Global Health Initiative," showering billions of U.S. tax dollars on contraception and \$63 billion on "improving global health." Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who said publicly that the CFR tells her "what we should be doing, and how we should think about the future," was crucial in the scheme, too. If globalist billionaires funding "senior fellowships" at the CFR can hijack U.S. policy so easily — and they can — just imagine how easy it is for them to control bankrupt and corrupt Third World kleptocracies to advance a New World Order.

Gates also wrote an article in the CFR mouthpiece *Foreign Affairs* promoting "gene editing" technology to engineer organisms, bio-tech developments that will be important in his coronavirus vaccine schemes. Before that, Gates' wife gave a speech there in 2008 praising the CFR for the "indispensable work you do." "Your work benefits every American," she claimed about the organization, which has been instrumental in surrendering U.S.



AP Images

What Gates considers “good”: Late globalist billionaire David Rockefeller, who boasted of “conspiring” with a “secret cabal” for a one-world order, worked closely with Gates on “philanthropy” in the “Good Club.”

sovereignty and eroding constitutional government. Melinda also said, “I would like to acknowledge a special debt to the Council,” adding that the “success of our efforts” depends on “informed decisions by policymakers” whom the CFR influences.

Gates has also been an attendee at the infamous Bilderberg summits, the semi-secret group of about 120 to 150 extremely influential (mostly) Americans, Canadians, and Europeans that meets once per year behind heavy security. The shadowy group, whose members have admitted to plotting global policy and working toward world government, has started releasing lists of attendees. On at least one occasion, Gates was not listed but was spotted sneaking in by reporters outside. Critics have suggested that American participants — business tycoons, politicians, officials, bankers, and more — ought to be prosecuted under the Logan Act, which prohibits Americans from working on policy with foreign governments without having official authorization to do so.

Another Gates group with less-than-noble aims is known as the “Good Club.” In 2009, the *Times* of London reported on a secret meeting of top globalist billionaires

aimed at reducing the population. The article, headlined “Billionaire club in bid to curb overpopulation,” reported that “some of America’s leading billionaires have met secretly to consider how their wealth could be used to slow the growth of the world’s population.” The summit was “convened on the initiative of Bill Gates,” the report said, and the billionaires “discussed joining forces to overcome political and religious obstacles to change.”

Others in attendance included New World Order architect David Rockefeller, who boasted in his memoirs of “conspiring” “against the interests” of his own country with a “secret cabal” to create “a more integrated global political and economic structure — One World, if you will.” Also among the “Good Club” are Warren Buffett, George Soros, Michael Bloomberg, Ted Turner, and Oprah Winfrey. Aside from their fervent desire to reduce the population, all of the members seem to have an infatuation with Chinese dictator Xi and a vitriolic hatred of President Trump.

Can He and His Cronies Be Stopped?

On the bright side, the public appears to be waking up. All over America, protest-

ers showed up at state capitols to demand a restoration of liberty and an end to the lockdowns. Outrage against Gates and his agenda is boiling over too. A petition on the White House website calling for investigations into the Gates Foundation, “for medical malpractice and crimes against humanity,” gathered 500,000 signatures in just three weeks — more than five times the number of signatories needed to get a formal response from the president.

“As we look at events surrounding the ‘COVID-19 pandemic,’ various questions remain unanswered,” the petition reads. “On Oct. 18th of 2019, only weeks prior to ground zero being declared in Wuhan, China, two major events took place. One is ‘Event 201,’ the other is the ‘Military World Games,’ held in none other than Wuhan. Since then a worldwide push for vaccines & biometric tracking has been initiated. At the forefront of this is Bill Gates, who has publicly stated his interest in ‘reducing population growth’ by 10-15%, by means of vaccination. Gates, UNICEF & WHO have already been credibly accused of intentionally sterilizing Kenyan children through the use of a hidden HCG antigen in tetanus vaccines. Congress & all other governing bodies are derelict in duty until a thorough and public inquiry is complete.”

A thorough congressional investigation of Gates and his foundation, along the lines of the 1952 Select Committee to Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations and Comparable Organizations, is long overdue. The Senate Environment Committee scratched the surface with its 2014 report on the “Billionaires Club” behind the “green” movement. But the Gates, Rockefeller, Ford, Soros, Bloomberg, and other foundations are clearly up to no good — and they are using their oftentimes ill-gotten wealth to hijack government and undermine freedom.

Even more alarming is that he is not done yet. Not only has he claimed that we cannot get back to normal until there is a new coronavirus vaccine, but he is also assuming that the current coronavirus pandemic will not be the only one. “No one who lives through Pandemic 1 will ever forget it,” he warned. How Americans respond to “Pandemic 2” may well determine whether freedom and self-government survive. ■

LORD OF THE FLIES?

What *Really* Happened When Six Boys Were Stranded on a Deserted Island

The novel *Lord of the Flies* portrays humanity as naturally barbaric, but a test case showed that Christianity can temper the “beast within.”

KieselUhdStein/Stock/GettyImagesPlus



by Selwyn Duke

If you've attended school during the last half century, you likely know the story: Supposedly civilized schoolboys are stranded on an uninhabited island, organize and make plans to survive, but soon descend into barbarity, warfare, and murder as the “beast” within asserts its primal influence.

That's the fictional tale presented in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* (1954), anyway, considered by many to be one of the 20th century's great novels. But the real story of what happened when a group of boys was stranded on a deserted island, just 11 years after the book's publication, is quite different. It's an amazing, touching story of not just survival, but also faith, kindness, resolve, and discipline. In fact, it can make you wonder whether *Lord of the Flies* (*LOTF*)

had as much “to do with Golding's twisted psyche,” as *American Thinker*'s Andrea Widburg put it, as with anything reflecting man's nature or modern civilization.

As Widburg wrote in May, “Golding's book is in the news again because an article in *The Guardian* looks at ‘The real *Lord of the Flies*: what happened when six boys were shipwrecked for 15 months.’ It turns out that nice boys, raised in a traditional Christian environment, survive surprisingly well.”

“The article's author, Rutger Bregman, had read Golding's book as a teen, and wondered, as everyone does, whether we all have a bit of Nazi hiding within us,” Widburg continued. “After all, Golding himself confessed, ‘I have always understood the Nazis because I am of that sort by nature.’ For most Westerners, the book was a ‘We have met the enemy, and he is us’ sort of read.”

So Bregman wanted to learn if Golding's thesis had ever been put to the test in real life. He was shocked to find it had, in 1965, when six Catholic schoolboys from Tonga found themselves drifting

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helplessly in the Pacific Ocean in a boat disabled during a storm.

Bregman was able to track down and interview at least two of the people involved: Australian sea captain Peter Warner, who stumbled upon the boys' island and rescued them; and Mano Totau, who was one of the shipwrecked lads. As Bregman relates:

“We drifted for eight days,” Mano told me. “Without food. Without water.” The boys tried catching fish. They managed to collect some rainwater in hollowed-out coconut shells and shared it equally between them, each taking a sip in the morning and another in the evening.

When they finally spotted land, it turned out to be just a little speck in the Pacific named ‘Ata. As Bregman also tells us, “These days, ‘Ata is considered uninhabitable. But ‘by the time we arrived,’ Captain Warner wrote in his memoirs, ‘the boys had set up a small commune with food garden, hollowed-out tree trunks to store rainwater, a gymnasium with curious weights, a badminton court, chicken pens and a permanent fire, all from handiwork, an old knife blade and much determination.’”

The character and discipline necessary to create the above little society were also illustrated by Bregman:

The kids agreed to work in teams of two, drawing up a strict roster for garden, kitchen and guard duty. Sometimes they quarrelled, but whenever that happened they solved it by imposing a time-out. Their days began and ended with song and prayer. Kolo fashioned a makeshift guitar from a piece of driftwood, half a coconut shell and six steel wires salvaged from their wrecked boat — an instrument Peter has kept all these years — and played it to help lift their spirits. And their spirits needed lifting. All summer long it hardly rained, driving the boys fran-



involves lads 12 and under, while the Tongans ranged in age from 13 to 16; moreover, the latter were half a dozen in number, while the *LOTF* (though specificity isn't provided) involved perhaps a couple dozen or more boys.

Another major difference is that the Tongans were boys of faith, as evidenced by their twice-daily songs and prayers. And as someone close to me once put it, "People are barbarians without God."

The truth is that man is capable of brutality and beauty, vice and virtue, heinousness and holiness. The Tongan event is reality; the *LOTF* is realistic.

This said, that doesn't mean it should be taught in schools. Oh, my issue isn't so much with the book itself; from what I remember, it's a well-written, captivating work. But the question is: What do kids actually learn from it?

LOTF is much like *The Catcher in the Rye* or *The Little Prince*: a trendy work that entered curricula because it became akin to a fad. As an ex-Ivy League academic who grew up reading *The Catcher in the Rye* when it was still fresh in the '50s told me, "We all wanted to be Holden Caulfield" (a caustic teenager and the book's main character).

So the kids back then thought it was cool and, grew up but not wise, and those who became educators started teaching it. It's much like a *Hunger Games* fan becoming a teacher and putting that work in the curriculum.

The issue is that none of these books effectively teach what must be instilled in all people, those things that would be on the ingredients label if morality came in a jar: virtues. These were taught many years ago — when virtue was still recognized and valued (before we started talking only about "values") — via poems such as "Casabianca" or Rudyard Kipling's "If."

But in those days, people could believe in the reflections of Truth called "virtues" because they believed in Truth. Today, awash in relativism, they exchange the true for the trendy, the eternal for the ephemeral.

Experiencing can be believing, though (with virtues as with anything else). A good start might be to, instead of teaching *Lord of the Flies*, have kids read about some Tongan boys who worshipped the Lord. After all, whom would we rather they copy? ■

A walk on the wild side: In this scene from the original *LOTF* film adaptation (1963), the supposedly civilized British schoolboys' descent into savagery is portrayed. But the self-confessed "beast" within the book's author, William Golding, perhaps blinded him to how man can not only be enslaved by dark angels, but can also obey his better ones.

"Further revelations are equally grotesque and disturbing," she wrote. "Golding, a schoolteacher, also confessed that he enjoyed dividing his students in gangs and encouraging them to attack each other."

tic with thirst. They tried constructing a raft in order to leave the island, but it fell apart in the crashing surf.

Worst of all, Stephen slipped one day, fell off a cliff and broke his leg. The other boys picked their way down after him and then helped him back up to the top. They set his leg using sticks and leaves. "Don't worry," Sione joked. "We'll do your work, while you lie there like King Taufa 'ahau Tupou himself!"

They survived initially on fish, coconuts, tame birds (they drank the blood as well as eating the meat); seabird eggs were sucked dry. Later, when they got to the top of the island, they found an ancient volcanic crater, where people had lived a century before. There the boys discovered wild taro, bananas and chickens (which had been reproducing for the 100 years since the last Tongans had left).

By the time Warner found the kids, they'd been given up for dead and funerals had been held for them. But as much as their rescue was joyous, their story is uplifting, belying the dark portrayal of man's nature in *LOTF*.

That dark view isn't surprising, though, coming from Golding. Widburg points out how Golding admitted in private papers that he tried to rape a 15-year-old girl when he was 18.

"Further revelations are equally grotesque and disturbing," she wrote. "Golding, a schoolteacher, also confessed that he enjoyed dividing his students in gangs and encouraging them to attack each other."

"His vaunted novel reflected him," Widburg concluded, "not the still-civilized parts of the Western world."

In fairness, I suspect the truth lies somewhere in the middle. First, there are differences between the Tongan boys' and Golding's stories. The *LOTF*



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Debts Cleared Through Anonymous Donation

Multiple anonymous donors have made dreams come true for more than 400 California college students, who learned their student debts had been paid off.

A collective donation of \$8 million to Students Rising Above (SRA), a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization for low-income college students, has cleared the debts of hundreds of students, with debts ranging from several thousand dollars to \$300,000, KPIX reported.

According to SRA, approximately 62 percent of SRA students are living below the federal poverty line, and the average SRA graduate leaves school with \$8,000 in debt, MSN reports.

"With student loans increasingly becoming a financial burden, SRA is grateful for the opportunity to facilitate relief to our hardworking alumni who have become highly productive members of the workforce nationwide," said SRA CEO Elizabeth Devaney, who informed the grads of their relieved debts in a May Zoom call.

Students can be seen on the call crying, laughing, and dancing in response to the incredible announcement.

SRA's head of programs, Lorna Contreras-Townsend, said some of the students had been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, either having lost their jobs or being unable to find work as a result of the pandemic.

Kimberly Armstrong is one of the students who benefited from the donation. She owed \$300,000 in law-school debts and said of the surprise, "It's a shock; it's amazing; it's a relief, though.... Literally, it's a weight lifted."

Dr. Zachary Tabb was ecstatic to learn his \$160,000 in medical school debt had been cleared.

"It's life-changing. I've had debt ... really my entire adult life. And so it's just something that — everywhere you go — it follows you," he told reporters. "It's really a generational impact. To completely unburden myself and all of them ... has a real multiplicative effect ... not only on [my fellow SRA scholars'] lives, but on the contributions they can make to society."

And while the donors wish to remain anonymous, the students want to express their gratitude. "God bless you," said Armstrong.

"Thank you to the donors," adds software developer Alsidneio Bell, who had \$55,000 in student loans paid off.

Burglary Inspires Kindness

According to WFAA, thieves hit several local businesses in Texas, but were largely unsuccessful. Surveillance from security cameras revealed the burglars were clearly amateurs.

After Marco's Pizza shop in The Colony, Texas, was burglarized on April 19, the restaurant's owner responded in the most unexpected way.

Chamal Kahanawita owns the Marco's pizza location there. He viewed the robbery attempt as an indication that times continue to be hard for some people, and responded with compassion rather than anger.

"The people who came and robbed me could have asked for food and would have got more value than what they were able to steal," he said.

Kahanawita took to Facebook with a message for the burglars and others who may find themselves in difficult financial positions:

In the coming months, if you find yourself in situation unable to put food on the table, please stop by our store. There is no need to be shy or embarrassed. Just speak with the manager and quietly let us know you've seen this post.

We will make sure your family gets a meal. We are here because of our community and these are very challenging times for all of us. We will do our best to help for as long as we can.

Gift of Art

Ten-year-old Chelsea Phaire of Danbury, Connecticut, has managed to provide art supplies to more than 1,500 children in foster care and homeless shelters during

the coronavirus shutdowns through her organization, Chelsea's Charity — a nonprofit created in August 2019 to donate art kits to high-risk youth.

"Since she was seven, she was begging me and her dad to start a charity," Chelsea's mom, Candace Phaire, told CNN. "She was so persistent, every couple of months she would ask, 'Are we starting Chelsea's Charity yet?' When she was turning 10, she asked us again, and we decided it was time to go for it."

Chelsea's Charity donates art kits to children in need. The kits include items such as crayons, markers, paper, coloring books, etc., and are sent to schools and shelters across the country.

The first art supplies she donated through her charity were collected in lieu of birthday presents on her 10th birthday, at her request. After that, Chelsea began collecting supplies through her charity's Amazon wishlist.

Before the start of the coronavirus crisis, Chelsea had managed to donate nearly 1,000 kits to women's shelters, schools, homeless shelters, and foster homes.

But during this public health crisis, when children have virtually been forced indoors, unable to socialize or travel, kids without families or homes are unlikely to have many toys and art supplies to help pass the time and keep them mentally and emotionally healthy.

Thanks to Chelsea, 1,500 vulnerable children in 12 states have received art kits since the start of the quarantine.

Stacy DeWitt, executive director at James Storehouse — a nonprofit organization in California that serves children in foster care — said the kits have proven to be wonderful for children who are going through traumatic situations. "When a child or youth enters foster care, they usually have no belongings of their own," DeWitt told CNN. "It's been a great addition to be able to offer the art kits, so the children and youth have a creative outlet to process their emotions during this traumatic time in their lives." ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH



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Third Reich Redux

The coronavirus emergency set the stage for many decrees by officials — many unconstitutional — telling citizens what to do. Such abuses of power can easily become permanent.



AP Images

Hitler had help: A crowd greets Adolf Hitler in 1929. Hitler's preceding chancellors began a series of emergency decrees bypassing the German legislature, paving the way for Hitler's totalitarian decrees starting in 1933.

by Kurt Hyde

The *Dallas Observer* attempted to shame people into obeying government stay-at-home mandates in an article entitled “The Coronavirus Challenge: Don’t Be Selfish or Stupid. Stay Home.” The article asserted about the non-followers of the mandates:

Refusing to stay put while bragging that you’re unafraid is not heroic. It’s villainous. You’re volunteering to host a deadly virus that might kill someone else. That’s like offering Ted Bundy shelter for the night because you don’t fit his victim profile, when you have a house full of sorority girls.

Major media, government agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health, and

politicians have pressured Americans to follow onerous lockdown orders put out by governors, such as ones from Michigan that both “prohibit in-person work that is not necessary to sustain or protect life” yet allow liquor stores to remain open. Michigan’s Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued edicts seemingly as whims struck her: allowing hardware stores to open yet not allowing large department stores to sell hardware supplies, allowing kayaking while not allowing boating in motorized boats, and encouraging food delivery but not allowing furniture delivery.

For the most part, those on the ideological left have strongly supported the mandates — in words, at least, if not always in deeds — while those on the right supported precautions so that people could make up their own minds about how to respond to the disease and railed against

mandatory lockdowns wherein government chose workplace winners and losers.

The Right often has labeled the government mandates totalitarian, while the Left dubbed the Right callous and selfish.

But history suggests that the Right has been right. Not only have the coronavirus lockdowns been shown to not work any better at preventing deaths than not locking down, the decrees issued by government in America today are frighteningly similar to the emergency decrees of the early 1930s in Germany. Those decrees led the German people, in many cases acting out of misguided patriotism coupled with naïve faith in the honesty of their political leaders, into blindly obeying as their country abandoned the rule of law (laws passed by their legislature) and sank into a dictatorship by decree. Once Germany began rule by decree, instead of representative government, it went down the slippery slope to dictatorship in only about three years.

Germany’s Slide to Dictatorship

The German people’s path to dictatorship began in the aftermath of WWI, having suffered economically from the unjust reparations of the Versailles Treaty that ended the war, the hyperinflation of the early 1920s, and the worldwide hard times brought about by the Great Depression. During this period, Germans suffered even further from an unstable political environment.

Then a subtle seed of dictatorship was sown in Germany on March 30, 1930 when Heinrich Brüning was named chancellor, a position he held for a little over two years. Chancellor Brüning’s time in office was a constitutional disaster for Germany. Brüning took advantage of Article 48 of the German constitution, which granted temporary emergency powers, of course to be used only if public safety was seriously threatened. Sound familiar? The



been planted in Germany by Chancellor Brüning and others to bear bitter fruits.

Once in power, Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi) were very skillful in the use of crises as steppingstones for implementing more governmental authority over the people. Another way of saying this is that the Nazis never let a crisis go to waste. Among the "crises" the Nazis capitalized on were the following:

- The Reichstag fire on February 27, 1933 — The Reichstag, the building where the German legislature met, was set ablaze by "someone," and the government acted. William F. Jasper wrote in THE NEW AMERICAN of September 16, 1996:

Although it has never been definitively settled whether the fire was set by a communist *saboteur* or by a Nazi *agent provocateur*, it is beyond debate that the Nazis capitalized on the event with a vengeance. Insisting that the Reichstag fire prefigured a communist onslaught against the German state, Hitler persuaded President Hindenburg to sign an emergency decree "for the Protection of the People and the State," suspending constitutional liberties and allowing the state to exercise extraordinary powers in the name of "public safety."

The Reichstag Fire Decree was issued the very next day, on February 28, 1933. The timing raises additional suspicions that the Reichstag fire was set by the Nazis. It's hard to believe the Reichstag Fire Decree was conceived and composed in less than a day.

The Enabling Act of March 23, 1933 came on the heels of the Fire Decree, ostensibly also put in place to safeguard the people. This bill gave the chancellor's cabinet supposedly temporary legislative power — essentially making it an oligarchy with the powers of the Reichstag. Because the bill was essentially a constitutional amendment, it needed a two-thirds majority vote, as well as a two-thirds quorum in attendance to pass. With plenty of political maneuvering, plus a little intimidation from Nazi Brownshirts who were present at the vote, the Enabling Act passed with the necessary two-thirds vote, with the only opposition being from the SDP (Social Democrats). The Communist

For short-term emergencies only? Heinrich Brüning frequently issued emergency decrees bypassing the German legislature. His use of emergency decrees paved the way for future chancellors, including Adolf Hitler, to rule by decree. Brüning escaped the consequences of his actions by leaving Germany. During WWII he was safely in the United States teaching at Harvard.

Reichstag (the German legislature) had to be informed immediately of all measures taken under emergency decrees, and the Reichstag was supposed to be the ultimate authority over them. Brüning issued no fewer than five emergency decrees in 1930, and at least 40 such decrees in 1931. The decrees covered many areas: A decree outlawed possession of firearms at political rallies, and on January 15, 1932, Brüning suspended the capitalist system.

Under Brüning the German people accepted emergency decrees as a legitimate means of government. Why not? The German people did not have a long history of constitutional government; each decree was accompanied by a statement justifying it; and the decrees were supposed to be temporary — supposedly only in force as long as deemed necessary. Soon, the German people became accustomed to rule by decree, rather than by rule of law.

The next two chancellors after Brüning, Franz von Papen and Kurt von Schleicher, were in office for very short terms, the latter lasting in office for only 56 days. Papen ruled by decree, even decreeing himself the head of Prussia, the largest state of the German Reich, and Kurt von Schleicher worked behind the scenes to institute a

military dictatorship under President Paul von Hindenburg.

While von Schleicher was a politically ambitious man, he did at least one act as chancellor that could be described as benevolent. The *Evening Star*, a Washington, D.C., publication of that era, wrote in its December 20, 1932 issue:

Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher today made public a political decree abolishing emergency courts, easing press restrictions and tending generally to give the German people an opportunity to show they can behave without police vigilance.

Von Schleicher was murdered by the Nazis on June 30, 1934 during the infamous Night of the Long Knives — two days of extrajudicial executions of people Adolf Hitler and his SS considered rivals or threats. Von Schleicher was a political schemer and was frequently allied with Ernst Röhm, whom Hitler viewed as a rival. Political power is a dangerous game.

Adolf Hitler, the new chancellor when von Schleicher left office in January of 1933, used the seeds of dictatorship brought about by "government by decree" that had

Party (KPD) was not allowed in the Reichstag, and they didn't vote.

The shenanigans did not end there. The Enabling Act was supposed to be temporary, scheduled to expire on April 1, 1937, but was extended in 1937 and extended again in 1941. The evidence is clear that the Nazis never intended for this "temporary" act to expire.

- Treason — Hitler and his SS felt threatened by the Brownshirts — a paramilitary wing of the Nazi Party that Hitler had used for a decade to protect Nazi rallies and intimidate and attack opponents — and other political rivals. So beginning on June 30, 1934, Hitler called for an assassination blitzkrieg in which his SS and other followers wiped out Hitler's old friend Ernst Roehm and other top leadership of the Brownshirts.

But a plausible pretext for the purge was needed. No problem: A coup "plot" by Roehm was fabricated that served the purpose of providing justification for legalized government terror. Hitler passed a one-paragraph law that read: "The measures taken on June 30 and July 1 and 2 to strike down the treasonous attacks are justifiable acts of self-defense by the state."

Many more equally fraudulent "justifiable acts of self-defense" would follow.

- Terrorism — Again, from THE NEW AMERICAN of September 16, 1996:

On November 7, 1938, a Jewish refugee from Germany, Herschel Grynszpan, shot and killed a German diplomat in Paris. This was exactly the incident the Nazi regime needed to fully unleash its attack on the Jews. On the night of November 9, 1938, Nazi-orchestrated mobs "spontaneously" rioted in retaliation, destroying Jewish shops and synagogues, beating and killing Jewish residents. It is remembered as the "Night of Shattered Glass," or *Kristallnacht*, and thereafter all opponents of the Nazis would be demonized as Jewish sympathizers and related "criminal elements." Firearms ownership laws were already onerous, but the Nazis immediately disarmed all Jewish people in Germany, issuing the following order ... on November 10, 1938 by SS Reichsführer Heinrich Him-

Once in power, Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi) were very skillful in the use of crises as steppingstones for implementing more governmental authority.

mller: "Persons who, according to the Nürnberg Law, are regarded as Jews, are forbidden to possess any weapon. Violators will be condemned to a concentration camp and imprisoned for a period of up to 20 years." Nothing like taking away the ability of innocent victims to defend themselves right when they need it most.

But Adolf Hitler also picked on the Christian churches. And though there was some opposition from the clergy, such as Popes Pius XI and Pius XII on the Catholic side and a few Lutheran ministers, such as Martin Niemöller, Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

and Karl Barth, many German pastors chose compliance with the Nazis.

Hitler implemented his strategy in segments. A quote attributed to Martin Niemöller sums up the process well: "First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out — because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me."

And so step by step the imposition of the nightmare of dictatorship happened in Nazi Germany, mainly through so-called temporary decrees. The decrees were usually ex-



Smiling face of fascism: The Nazi movement was a conspiratorial political movement. While Hitler displayed his smiling face, other facets of the Nazi conspiracy were planning wars, concentration camps, death camps, and electoral frauds.

tended or replaced by additional temporary decrees that were as bad or worse.

The only way they could be said to be temporary is because the entire Nazi empire, emergency decrees and all, collapsed on May 8, 1945, also known as V-E Day, the day Nazi Germany surrendered and WWII ended in Europe.

Manipulating Elections

But there was a second way that the Nazis gained and maintained control over the German people: rigging elections. Sometimes they beguiled the people, and sometimes they committed massive electoral fraud.

The Nazis held no fewer than seven major elections during their short reign, and by seizing power over the electoral process, they frequently won their elections with 90 to 99 percent of the vote.

The Nazis, like many other dictatorial regimes, actually enjoyed holding elections — as long as they were in a position to rig them. As the Nazis took control over the German people they also silently moved behind the scenes to take control over the electoral process. One of their electoral control mechanisms was the power of the ruler to set the dates of elections and to change them on a whim, rather than have election dates set by a legislature. Another tool of the dictator was to assume the power to alter the rules and procedures for elections — again, at the ruler's whim and not by the legislature. Sound familiar?

A prime example of Hitler's skill in manipulating election dates and election procedures can be seen in how he rigged the infamous Anschluss Election of April 10, 1938, to annex Austria. First, Hitler was able to coerce Austrian Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg, while on a visit to Berchtesgaden in Germany, to agree to terms of cooperation with Germany, which Schuschnigg knew were going to mean Hitler would rule Austria.

But Schuschnigg had been observing Hitler's use of referendum elections to generate the appearance of consent by the governed, and he decided to try to outfox Hitler at his own game. Once safely back in Austria, Schuschnigg suddenly scheduled a surprise election, a referendum on Austrian independence. His announcement, made on March 9, 1938, was for the election to be held only four days later, on March 13.



AP Images

Hitler's use of mobs: Oranienburgerstrasse Synagogue, once a major Jewish house of prayer, was gutted during *Kristallnacht*, the Night of Broken Glass, when the Nazis condoned acts of vandalism against Jewish property, using anti-Jewish sentiment to bind other Germans together.

He even had the ballot designed to make it easier to vote "yes" for independence than to vote "no." Given that he issued his own decree with such short notice, Schuschnigg hoped he would have had the plebiscite completed before Hitler could react and that that would remove Hitler's chances of using a pretense that the people of Austria wanted to be ruled by Germany. The *New York Times* of March 10, 1938 estimated Schuschnigg's "yes" votes would probably be between 60 and 80 percent.

However, Hitler surprised the world by reacting very quickly. The German army invaded Austria on March 12, with few, if any, shots fired. Some Austrians actually were in favor of unification with Germany. Those not in favor of Hitler knew Austrian military resistance to the German Army was futile. So the Austrian military, under orders not to resist, let the Germans in.

Hitler immediately announced that the March 13 referendum election would be

rescheduled. Within a few days, Hitler started making changes to the electoral procedures. Instead of an election about independence, he renamed it the Anschluss (annexation) Election. (It's a competitive advantage to make the favored action a "yes" vote.) Hitler then issued the Anschluss Decree, which set the date for the Anschluss election as Sunday, April 10. Hitler, after having scathingly criticized Schuschnigg for his electoral shenanigans, pontificated that the Anschluss Election would be free and use the secret ballot. He added that further details of how the election would be run would be in forthcoming decrees.

Of course, the Anschluss Election was a typical Hitler-manipulated election. The Nazi propaganda machine was turned on. The ballot itself was designed to make it obvious that *ja* (German for yes) was the desired vote, as it was above the larger circle centered under the question, while *nein*

(German for no) was above a smaller circle off to the side. The wording of the ballot also favored the affirmative vote. The two-part question on the ballot (translated into English) was:

Do you agree with the reunification of Austria with the German Reich on 13 March, 1938 and do you vote for the ticket of our leader Adolf Hitler?

During the voting, Nazi election officials violated the secret ballot by cutting away sides of the voter privacy booths, allowing the election officials to observe the ballots as they were being marked. In the end, Adolf Hitler won with over 99 percent of the vote.

The Here and Now

Both of the aforementioned tactics — rule by decree and rigged elections — are being attempted in America today. Governors and other leaders, even unelected bureaucrats, are issuing decrees, and the American people are blindly obeying them, not questioning their constitutionality.

And using the coronavirus as an excuse, elections are being scheduled and rescheduled with little or no notice, to certain parties' advantage. And the method of the elections is being tampered with

— moving to mail-in balloting and vote harvesting — to allow dubious influence over our elections. And amazingly, just as the Jews were targeted in response to “crises,” scaremongering is used to justify interfering with freedom of religion, whether it be Christians trying to celebrate Easter or Jewish people mourning the passing of Rabbi Chaim Mertz in New York.

The German people protested the decrees, especially the damage the decrees did to the German economy. This is happening in America today, as people are protesting governmental overreactions to the coronavirus that are instituting shutdowns.

And while the German people undoubtedly felt the relief when Chancellor von Schleicher issued a decree in December of 1932 that eased the restrictions on freedom of the press and the police controls, and many Americans have felt relieved as President Donald Trump has pushed governors to end lockdowns, the solution to the problem of overbearing government is not to be found in searching for a benevolent ruler.

Only an uprising by the mass of the people would have worked, and will work, to restore individual rights and freedoms. Germans should have worked toward restoring

constitutional government and removed Article 48 from the Weimar Constitution — the article that allowed emergency decrees. In America today an organized movement to restore constitutional government and keep government from being overbearing is needed or we, too, could experience a constitutional roller coaster that ends in despotism.

If state constitutions allow emergency decrees today, the state constitutions must be changed. If the state constitutions did not authorize the emergency decrees of 2020, then we must get to work to impress upon people how critical it is to enforce the constitutions of the states as well as the U.S. Constitution.

We need more than just a movement to reopen America for the sake of the economy. Restoring the economy is a good thing, but we also need a full restoration of constitutional government. Perhaps the worst thing that could happen now would be for the country to reopen for business, but do so “safely,” where safely is a code word meaning constitutionally protected rights are just privileges subject to decrees by governors or other officials, some elected and some unelected. In Germany it took only about three years to degenerate from the chancellorship of Heinrich Brüning to the chancellorship of Adolf Hitler. There is absolutely no reason the same thing could not happen here — and that's just what “progressives” and globalists are counting on. ■



Tampering with the electoral process: Supporters of Austrian Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg in 1938 witnessed the Austrian independence vote get rescheduled by Adolf Hitler and the ballot redesigned to favor a pro-Hitler vote.



Racer Involved in a "Clear Case of Self-Defense"

Autoweek.com reported on April 27 about a self-defense shooting in Las Vegas that involved a well-known driver in the world of motorsports. B.J. Baldwin made a name for himself competing in SCORE (Southern California Off Road Enthusiasts) desert racing and has also found success as a trophy truck driver, but he recently made news when he was involved in a parking-lot shootout.

The incident occurred on April 22 at 2 a.m., when Baldwin and his girlfriend were standing outside their car eating a late-night meal in the parking lot of an In-N-Out Burger in southwest Las Vegas. Baldwin posted a video, produced in conjunction with the NRA, to his Instagram where he explained what transpired that night. In the video, Baldwin explains that two men wearing hoodies approached the vehicle, and one of the two men had a gun drawn. Baldwin said that he was in an unfair fight that night: "When I say I was in an unfair fight, it wasn't unfair to me — it was unfair to him."

Baldwin regularly carries concealed and practices self-defensive shooting. In a 2019 interview with LetsGoShooting.org, Baldwin explained his passion for shooting, saying he initially picked it up from his father, who was a professional gambler in a time when that profession was very dangerous. His father regularly carried a gun for self-defense because, as Baldwin explained, "People were constantly trying to rob you and kidnap you or kidnap family members and stuff like that, so he always had a pistol on him."

The LetsGoShooting.org article further explained that Baldwin "focuses most of his shooting energy at close range, combining speed with accuracy in defensive scenarios." Baldwin added that he regularly dry fires his gun at home to practice effectively drawing his gun in a defensive scenario in order to build up muscle memory. "Ninety percent of my skills set and honing that skills set I've done in my living room with an empty gun.... When I'm so busy I can't go to the range for a couple of months, when I show up, it's like

I never left. You don't have to be shooting every single day to make yourself better every single day.... People are out there trying to get better or they can't afford to fire 5,000 rounds though their gun a month. You can always get better through dry-firing practice."

Returning to that fateful night, Baldwin explained in the Instagram video that the armed assailant pointed his gun at Baldwin before turning it to aim at his girlfriend. The man opened fire. "He took two shots at [my girlfriend], six shots at me — he didn't get a single hit on either one of his targets because I got all of my hits, all 10, nine in the chest, one in the central nervous system, and that's what it took to neutralize the threat and save both of our lives so that we could make it home to our families." The wounded suspect collapsed at the scene, where he was later pronounced dead. Baldwin explained that the accomplice fled from the scene as soon as he saw Baldwin was armed.

Baldwin further explained why he carries and trains so vigorously:

No matter what gets in my way, I'm going to make sure that I'm there to walk my daughter down the aisle.... To make sure that I'm there at my son's graduation. I don't care who gets in the way or who puts me in danger. I will fight to the death to make sure that I make it home and that I am there for my family, no matter what cost. And that's why I put so much effort into my training so that if I'm ever in danger and somebody ever tries to put us in harm's way, it's an unfair fight in my favor.

He added, "Thankfully I had my firearm. Thankfully I had a concealed carry permit and thankfully I was trained.... It is my belief that had I not ... had my firearm with me, this person would have put a bullet in my girlfriend's head just to see the look on my face and probably killed me as well."

The video ended with Baldwin calling out gun-control politicians by name and supporting the National Rifle Association. "Joe Biden and Beto O'Rourke are totally comfortable with my girlfriend and I lay-

ing face down dead in that parking lot as long as it doesn't interfere with their gun-control agenda. The simple fact is, a good citizen with the ability to defend their lives and to defend the lives of their families, they are a tremendous asset to society. Criminals are not interested in getting in gunfights, they're interested in preying on the weak and defenseless, and that's what this person thought I was, and he was definitely surprised to find out I wasn't. Use my story as an example of how important it is to continue to fight for our rights. It's more important now than ever to join the fight to preserve our rights so that we may ensure the safety of ourselves, the safety of our family, and preserve the right to do so."

The *Las-Vegas Review Journal* reported on May 4 that Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson did a full review of the shooting and explained that it was "a clear case of self-defense."

The police report showed that the girlfriend of the deceased suspect came to the scene before police did and took the criminal's gun and hid it. She later confessed to hiding it.

The deceased suspect's brother, Kevin Smith, told investigators that his brother started the shootout, and went so far as to admit that Baldwin had acted in self-defense in the shooting and should not face any charges. These developments made it crystal clear that Baldwin acted lawfully and what transpired was definitely a justifiable homicide, but imagine if the girlfriend had been successful in hiding the gun and the brother never told the truth. It's not unrealistic to think the media and left-wing agitators might rewrite what actually happened to portray Baldwin in a negative light. As we have seen many times before, even if the forensics analysis of the crime scene eventually corroborated that the suspect was armed and Baldwin's actions were justified, a biased media working closely with left-wing activists could have created a false narrative on social media that would have unfairly vilified Baldwin. We should all be grateful that Baldwin acted heroically and then was proactive in getting his story out. ■

— PATRICK KREY

Correction, Please!



Liberals Seem Surprised When Incentives Against Work Hurt Economic Recovery

ITEM: *The Washington Post*, in a May 22 front-page article entitled “GOP fights new aid as joblessness skyrockets,” decried: “The Trump administration, top Republicans and powerful corporate lobbyists mounted fresh opposition Thursday to extended enhanced benefits to the growing number of Americans who are out of work, raising the prospect of significant cuts to their weekly checks unless lawmakers act by the end of July.”

The paper went into details about the extent of the job losses and then noted: “Over the span of nine weeks, more than 38 million Americans have filed unemployment claims across the country because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.”

Further down in the article and continuing on page 15, the Post said: “Some White House officials and Republicans say the extra payments [\$600 weekly, per a law passed by the Congress in March] are creating a disincentive for people to return to the workforce, potentially holding back the economic recovery.”

ITEM: There are multiple endeavors in play that would give the government even more control of the U.S. economy. A *Washington Post* column on April 11 highlighted one; it was headlined, “Once seen as a fringe theory, universal basic income is now picking up steam.”

*And, on May 9, the Capitol Hill-based *The Hill* newspaper reported: “Democrats are rallying behind a plan to give most Americans monthly \$2,000 relief checks during the coronavirus crisis.” Somewhat similar versions are supported by Democrats in the House and Senate. One almost made it into the follow-on \$3 trillion relief bill that Speaker Nancy Pelosi eventually pushed through the House. Sponsored by Progressive Caucus Co-Chair Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), it would, noted *The Hill*, “give every American \$2,000 a month for the duration of the crisis, and \$1,000 a month for an entire year after the crisis ends.”*



Disincentive to work: Since the virus stimulus checks give most unemployed workers more money than they would make if they were working, they have strong incentive to not look for work.

Though that particular effort fell short, for now, other bills lie in wait.

ITEM: Radical New York Times columnist Paul Krugman blasted “America’s rush to reopen the economy” in one of his several pieces in mid-May. This one (in the print edition for May 19) carries the not-so-subtle headline, “We Should Help Workers, Not Kill Them.” He calls federal government’s enhanced unemployment benefits “an unheralded success story.”

He praises “the \$2 trillion disaster relief bill enacted in late March,” that “greatly expanded both eligibility for unemployment benefits and the generosity of those benefits.” These “expanded benefits,” in his view, are “increasingly doing what needs to be done.” Yet, according to Krugman, the “expanded unemployment benefits that are doing so much good are set to expire on July 31. That should scare you.”

Krugman maintains that “Republicans are totally opposed to extending benefits.” Indeed, he contends, Republicans “want to force Americans to go to work even if it kills them.”

CORRECTION: When the government says it is giving you something for free, those with good sense and experience protect their wallets and purses — because promised statist paradises tend to come with large price tags.

Big Government advocates have admitted that they see the coronavirus and its disastrous impact as a marvelous opening to impose socialism. With this in mind, they are distributing goodly amounts of greenbacks, along with a seemingly perpetual shutdown, in exchange for the livelihoods of millions of Americans. Moreover, and not so incidentally, the plan envisages that leftist leaders wind up with more power.

Let’s take a look at the federal payment of \$600 (each week) that Congress approved for the unemployed; this is in addition to state unemployment benefits, which differ according to state. The average state benefit is \$463, making the total benefit of \$1,063 (this lasts until the end of July, at least as of now). This is the monetary equivalent of a job paying around \$26 an hour, or more than \$55,000 a year. The recipient gets the payout without having to brave the workplace.

As Washington, D.C., lawyer Han Bader has written, some employees have actually been “asking to be laid off, because being unemployed pays better than working.” That is ironic, as Bader said in a piece published this spring by the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE),

because the coronavirus relief legislation was supposed to prevent lay-



correction, Please!

offs. In fact, it earmarked \$350 billion for loans to small businesses, to enable them to keep their employees on the payroll. The loans can be forgiven if an employer keeps its workers and uses at least 75 percent of the loan for payroll costs.

So the federal government is simultaneously encouraging both employment and unemployment.

That's your tax dollars at work.

For now, distributing enhanced unemployment benefits is a temporary situation. Yet, if the proponents of guaranteed universal income or other giveaways get their way, one can only guess at the outcome.

Yes, incentives (and disincentives) do matter. *Reason*'s John Stossel recounts the experience of the CEO of an Arkansas sawmill who has been offering jobs that pay \$800 dollars a week. In Arkansas, however, the combined state and pandemic federal payments can reach \$1,051 a week. "We have not seen an application in weeks," according to Steve Anthony, the CEO of Anthony Timberlands.

Higher unemployment is exactly what Democrats (led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi) in Congress want. The HEROES (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emer-

gency Solutions) Act, which passed the House (though it faces considerable GOP opposition in the Senate), would extend the current \$600 weekly bonus through January 2021. By then, they hope, there will be a new president — largely because the economy was effectively sabotaged.

Over a nine-week period during the height of the coronavirus crisis, more than 38 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits. Usually, unemployment benefits replace perhaps a third or a half of a worker's prior earnings. This time, Washington threw much more at the problem. And the added federal monetary disincentive (at least in the short run) does not bode well for an economic recovery.

A new working paper from economists at the University of Chicago finds that about two-thirds of American recipients are making more while unemployed than when they worked. That study was cited by the *Wall Street Journal* on May 21, noting,

One in five unemployed workers will make twice as much not working while the bottom 10% — generally part-timers — will collect three times more.

The economists also examined benefit differences by state and in-

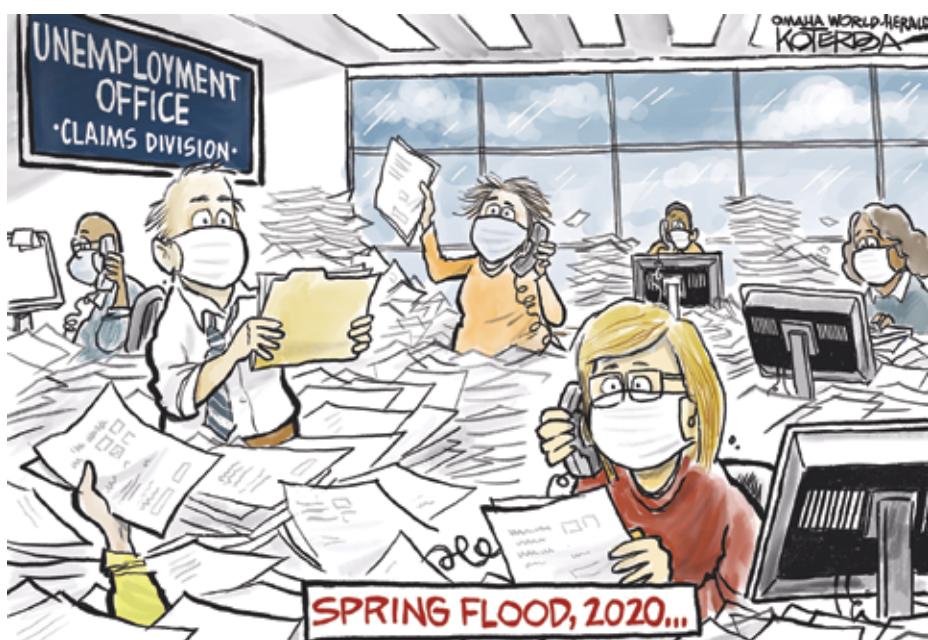
dustry. They estimate that the median laid-off retail worker now makes 42% more unemployed. "Janitors working at businesses that remain open do not necessarily receive any hazard pay, while unemployed janitors who worked at businesses that shut down can collect 158% of their prior wage," they note.

Little wonder that Representative Kevin Brady of Texas, the top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, has said that continuing such bonus benefits from the aid bill that was approved in March would "handcuff" such workers and discourage them from going back to work. And Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said bluntly: "It was a mistake to make it so high to begin with. It would be a mistake to extend it."

The slow reopening of the American economy has exposed stark differences between those favoring freedom and going back to work and those apparently satisfied with authorities locking the nation down until every suggestion of risk disappears. The greater part of the mainstream media is in the latter camp. Accordingly, we see Paul Krugman (usually touted as a "Nobel Prize-winning economist" to validate his latest twaddle) telling his left-wing audience in mid-May that the "basic position" of President Trump and the Republicans "is that thousands of Americans must die for the Dow."

Here is what someone who nearly died for his country thinks of such claims. In a recent column, Representative Dan Crenshaw (R-Texas) — a former U.S. Navy SEAL officer — pointed out that it is "easy to 'prioritize public health' when you work comfortably from home," as do many of the "liberal-leaning college-educated." The "far left," as the congressman said, is "treating the lockdowns and the consequent economic devastation as an opportunity to 'restructure' America into a socialist utopia. So they're in no rush."

The federal unemployment bonus of \$600 per week is just one of the generous presents liberal lawmakers have dreamed up — with those payments coming out of our pockets. Below are some details about





that found that extending unemployment benefits during that recession produced

a prolonged increase in unemployment, with 4.6 million more people unemployed in 2010 and 3.3 million more unemployed in 2011. And those consequences came with unemployment benefits averaging less than \$400 per week as opposed to nearly \$1,000 a week today.

Indeed, according to the estimates of Greszler (along with a colleague at the Heritage Foundation), the congressional provision of the \$600 pandemic bonus through July of this year “could increase unemployment by up to 13.9 million and reduce output by \$955 billion and \$1.49 trillion between May and September. An additional six- to nine-month extension would significantly exacerbate lost jobs and economic output.”

Big numbers may be hard to digest. What does that mean to you? As Greszler explains, “If unemployment averages 10%, these additional benefits could cost every household in America an extra \$3,300 to \$4,000 in taxes.”

This is just a hint of what we could expect with a Democrat-controlled Congress and Democratic president nodding at whatever heads down Pennsylvania Avenue from Capitol Hill. Pelosi’s so-called HEROES Act may not make it through this year — but it should serve as a forewarning.

It augurs expensive pain. The act, with its huge scope and cost, is an attempt (in the words of the *Wall Street Journal* on May 15) to “replace the private economy crushed by the shutdown with government programs — old, new and expanded. It uses the economic damage caused by the government shutdowns as an opening for a huge expansion of the welfare state that would keep millions of Americans on the government payroll into 2021 and make the private recovery that much slower.”

Should this occur, when you look at the coming tax bill, you’ll never call them “cheap politicians” again. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

Killing through kindness: Senators Kamala Harris and Bernie Sanders want to continue the coronavirus largess and send large checks to most Americans for months. However, that would cause taxes and inflation to skyrocket, ending up hurting the poor.

the proposed Monthly Economic Crisis Support Act — itself a potential expansion of the \$1,200 checks that were handed out to Americans in March as part of the huge coronavirus response bill.

This legislation, as noted above, is a lavish brainstorm emanating from the offices of Senators Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), and Ed Markey (D-Mass.). As summarized by the left-leaning *Politico*, the bill would

send a monthly \$2,000 check to people who make less than \$120,000. It would expand to \$4,000 to married couples who file taxes jointly and also provide \$2,000 for each child up to three. Harris said the bill is a reflection that Congress’s efforts so far were not “nearly enough to meet the needs of this historic crisis” and Markey called the massive cash infusion “the most direct and efficient mechanism for delivering economic relief to those most vulnerable.”

“Congress has a responsibility to make sure that every working-class household in America receives a \$2,000 emergency payment a month for each family member,” Sanders said.

The payments would be retroactive to March and last until three

months after the Health and Human Services Department has declared the public health emergency over. The legislation would also bar debt collectors from taking the payments, and would deliver them regardless of whether people have a Social Security number or filed taxes last year.

The point of the last part is to make sure illegal aliens also get the giveaways. This became an issue, especially to Democrats, when some Americans married to illegal aliens apparently didn’t get a \$1,200 “stimulus” check earlier this spring. This Senate plan is similar to a provision included in the recent House-passed legislation — one that drew derision from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Mockingly, McConnell remarked in mid-May: “Can you believe it? We forgot to have the Treasury Department send money to people who are here illegally! My goodness. What an oversight.”

If we want the economy to recover, paying people not to work is hardly the way to go. In fact, there is evidence to that effect about the somewhat similar situation during the Great Recession. Rachel Greszler, writing in Nebraska’s *Lincoln Journal Star* in mid-May, cited a study from researchers at the New York Federal Reserve

BY RAVEN CLABOUGH

Democratic Hypocrisy: COVID Lockdown Protests Bad; Riots Good

While Democratic mayors and governors have been unbending on lockdown orders and social-distancing guidelines during the coronavirus outbreak, they've proven their hypocrisy in response to the mass demonstrations and riots over the in-custody death of George Floyd.

In Minneapolis, where Floyd died in police custody, Mayor Jacob Frey responded to claims that his coronavirus lockdown orders violated the First Amendment by claiming in-person worship services could spell a "public-health disaster." But while Minneapolis has been burning for days as a result of riots and demonstrations over the death of Floyd, Frey's response is to hand out masks to rioters and allow public gatherings of more than 10 so that "protesters" can burn buildings.

"The city encourages everyone to exercise caution to stay safe while participating in demonstrations, including wearing masks and physical distancing as much as possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19," a news release read. "The city has made hundreds of masks available to protesters this week."

In other words, it is justifiable to burn a police station, but you better not cough without a mask when you do so.

Fox News recalls New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's intolerance of protesters who demanded an end to the coronavirus lockdowns last month. Cuomo declared at a news conference, "You have no right to jeopardize my health ... and my children's health and your children's health," and has fined business owners who have attempted to reopen.

But for Cuomo, the protests against George Floyd are another story. Cuomo said on May 29 he "stands" with those who defy stay-at-home orders to demonstrate against the death of Floyd.

"Nobody is sanctioning the arson, and the thuggery and the burglaries, but the protesters and the anger and the fear and the frustration? Yes. Yes, and the demand is for justice."

What about the anger and fear and frustration of individuals who are fed up with the state's response to the coronavirus and the lockdown orders, scared that their businesses will never be able to recover, and angry that they have lost their rights? And what right does the governor have to determine which laws are okay to break and by whom?

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said on May 31 that



AP Images

he supports the "non-violent protests" over Floyd's death, a very different tune from April, when he told the Jewish community after a funeral gathering violated the social-distancing guidelines that "the time for warnings has passed."

"I want to just say anyone who wants to protest, we're going to protect your right to protest, but please also respect [that] the cop in front of you did not create the problem," de Blasio told listeners on the *Brian Lehrer Show* on WNYC radio.

The *New York Post* reports the protesters in New York City have "largely flouted social distancing rules," but this

prompted no criticism from de Blasio, who said in May that large gatherings "spread the disease and help kill people."

Just last month, de Blasio declared that public protests over advocating for reopening the city were prohibited. "We're not allowing any kind of gathering, period," the mayor said at a press briefing.

"I don't care if it's 20 people or a hundred people or a thousand people, it's not going to be allowed. So the point is, if you gather, NYPD is coming there to give you a summons and if you resist, to arrest you, period, across all communities."

The rules have changed dramatically, however, when it comes to the Floyd rallies, even as they, unlike the coronavirus protests, have devolved into full-fledged riots with violence and looting.

What's more, de Blasio has asked police to respond to the violent and destructive protests with "a light touch" because the protesters are "undeniably angry for a reason."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti threatened to cut power and water to businesses that reopened during the stay-at-home orders and vowed to stop "irresponsible and selfish" behavior during the so-called public health crisis. But mass gatherings are suddenly acceptable as protesters violently demonstrate against "racism." "I will always protect Angelenos' right to make their voices heard," Garcetti said.

In Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser threatened violators of coronavirus stay-at-home orders with jail time and fines of up to \$5,000, but Bowser's stance on social distancing and lockdowns has changed in response to the mass demonstrations over Floyd's death.

"We are grieving hundreds of years of institutional racism.... People are tired, sad, angry and desperate for change," the Democrat said. Never mind the fact that the rioters attacked a news crew or injured dozens of Secret Service agents.

Americans are waking up to the double standard, however. ■

Spreading the Word



Infecting Election Integrity

Using the COVID-19 scare, activists are trying to remake how U.S. elections are done, completely undoing election integrity in order to more easily rig elections.

(June 22, 2020, 48pp)

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Trimming Big Government

Donald Trump was elected on promises to streamline and cut costs in government. While the streamlining may be happening, the cutting is not. (March 23, 2020, 48pp) **TNA200323**

Next Step to World Government: Atlantic Union

Trade agreements between countries across the Atlantic sound like smart propositions to boost economic growth, but the Atlantic Union that is on the way would completely remake America's governance system — and make us a subordinate to unelected groups. (March 9, 2020, 48pp) **TNA200309**

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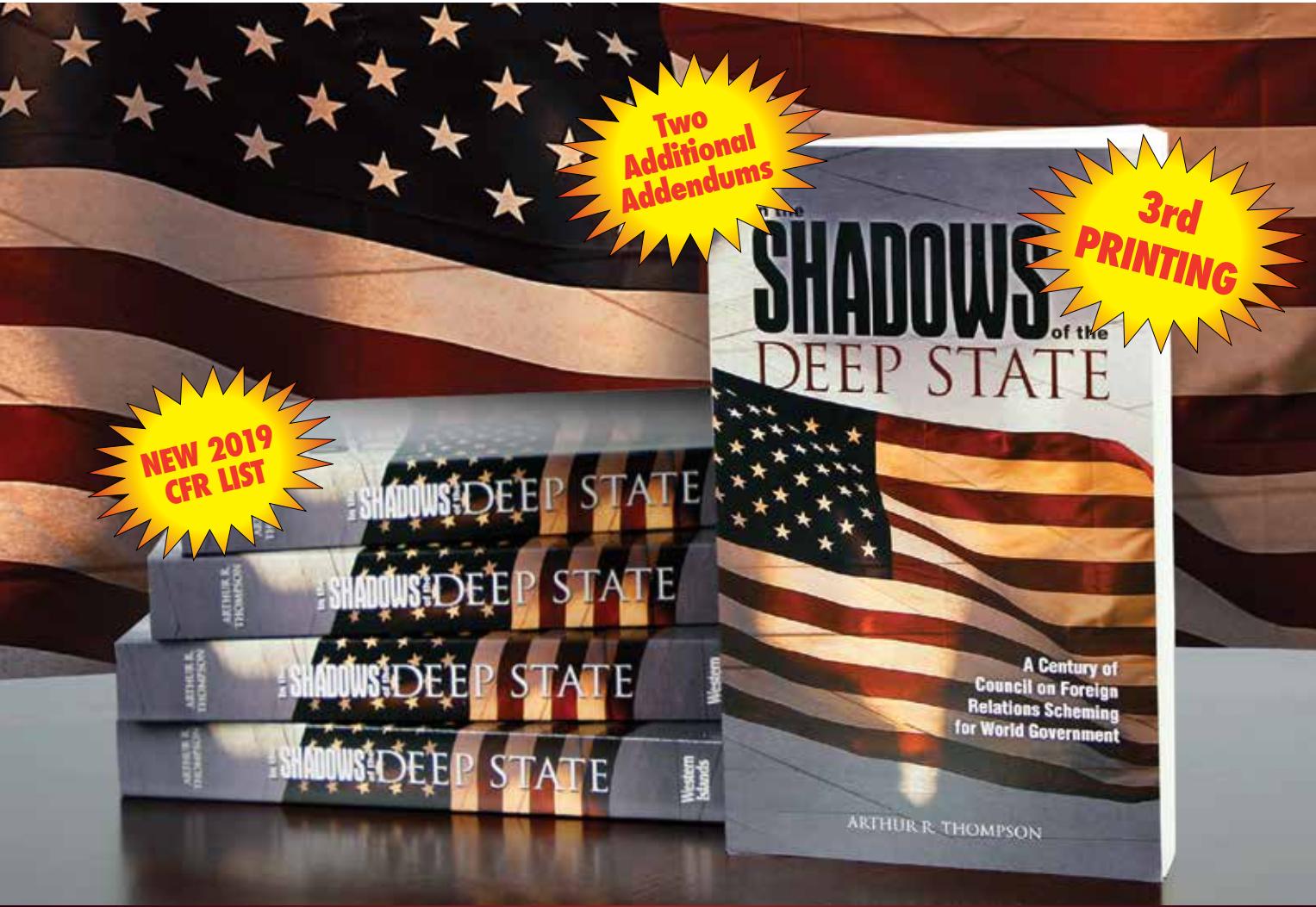


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