

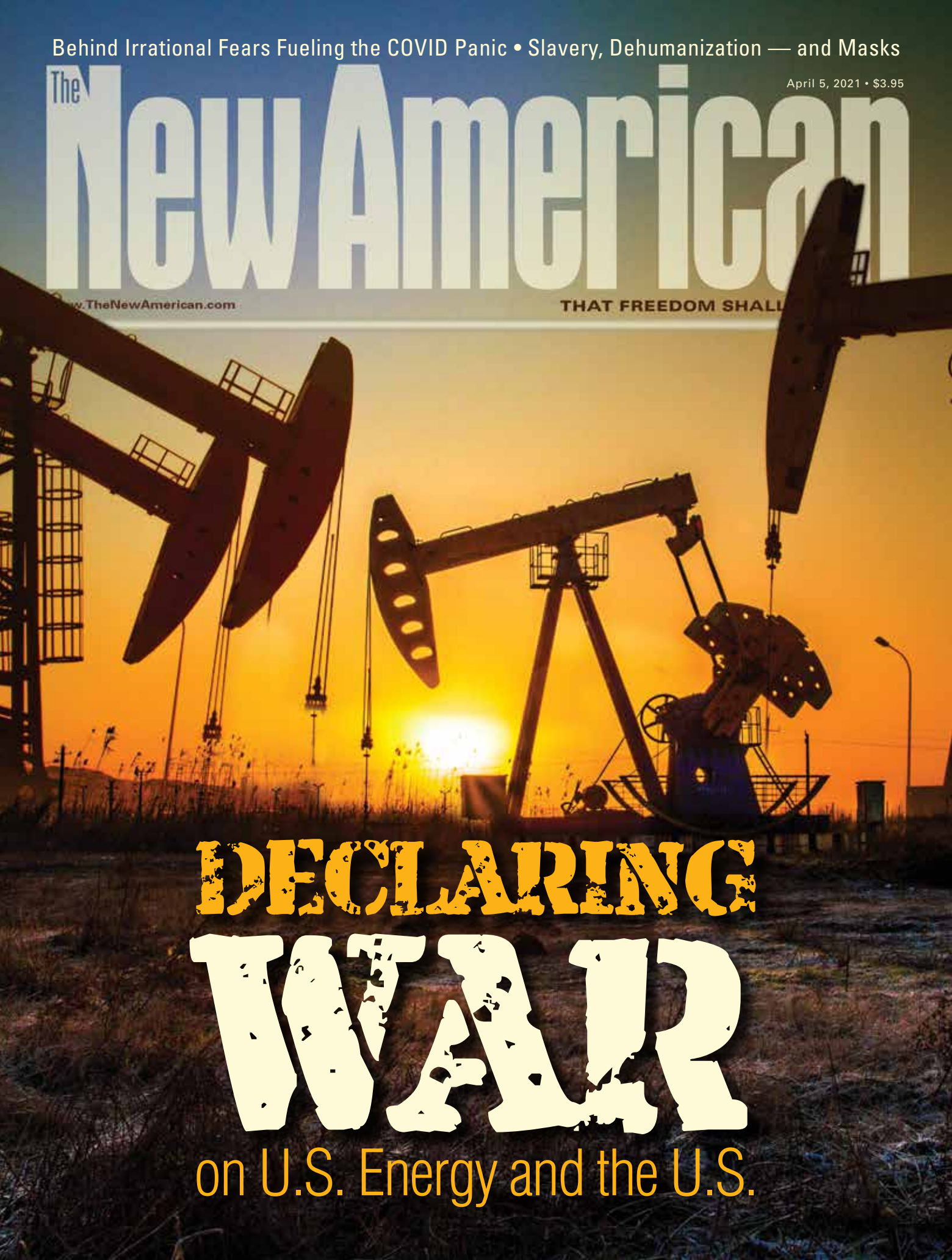
Behind Irrational Fears Fueling the COVID Panic • Slavery, Dehumanization — and Masks

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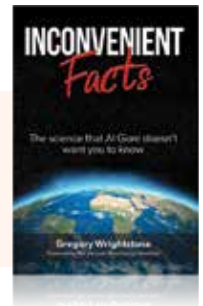
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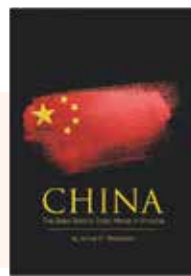
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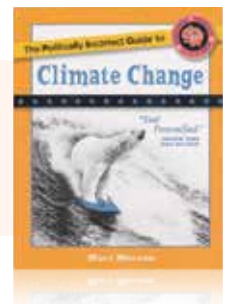
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Photo: chengwaidefeng / iStock / Getty Images Plus

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AP Images



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Roe v Wade RWW media kit



Artwork: Karridi E. Kelly

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## Is There Another Way?

For any one demographic group of people we may consider, it is entirely normal to harbor preconceived ideas and suppositions about them. Not fair and just, but normal.

We cannot possibly know all the members of any one demographic group of people, so we draw conclusions about the entire group based on those members of the group we observe, and those members of the group with whom we have personal dealings. We assume their actions and behaviors are derived from a common cultural group ethos. Group social cohesion depends upon a common unwritten code of behavior (*lex non scripta*), and politically incorrect upstream swimmers sooner or later wind up being social outcasts from the group. So it should come as no surprise when we judge the many on the basis of only a few.

LAWRENCE K. MARSH  
Gaithersburg, Maryland

## American Slaves and Reparations

Keith Richburg was a reporter for the *Washington Post*. As a black American, Richburg traveled to Africa in the early 1990s. He witnessed horrific genocide and other vicious violence on that continent. From that experience, Richburg wrote, “We are told by some supposedly enlightened black leaders that white America owes us something because they brought our ancestors over as slaves. And Africa — Mother Africa — is often held up as a black Valhalla, where the descendants of slaves would be welcomed back and where black men and women can walk in true dignity.” Richburg had been to Africa, and he strenuously objected to this view. He wrote, “Sorry, but I’ve been there.” He continued, “So excuse me if I sound cynical, jaded. I’m beaten down, and I’ll admit it. And it’s Africa that has made me this way.” Richburg concluded, “Thank God my ancestor got out, because, now, I am not one of them” — meaning one of those being eradicated by genocide. With seemingly deep-felt gratitude he wrote, “Thank God that I am an American.” Like boxing champ Muhammad Ali, Richburg was grateful to

be an American because he was able to be the architect of his own destiny. Like Ali, Richburg noted this might not have been the case if his ancestor had not been plucked from the homeland and brought to the New World.

Also, many assume black slaves were exclusively owned by whites. Historian Kenneth Stampp writes, “Not all southern slaves were [blacks], and not all southern masters were whites.” He adds that by the year 1830, the number of free blacks who owned slaves exceeded 3,600. In *Black Masters*, authors Michael Johnson and James Roark narrate the life of William Ellison, a free black who owned slaves. They note Ellison owned over 100 slaves in South Carolina for the express purpose of exploiting and profiting from their labor. In today’s discourse regarding reparations, no one has ever considered how the ancestors of these black slave owners ought to pay reparations to the families of the slaves they exploited.

So should blacks have to pay reparations to themselves? It does not make any sense at all, and is similar in reasoning to forcing innocent whites today to pay reparations to non-existent slaves.

Moreover, hundreds of thousands of whites died in the Civil War that secured freedom for enslaved blacks, a freedom they were not in the position to secure for themselves, and white indentured servants were also plucked from their lands to work side-by-side with black slaves. To wit, the idea of reparations is an entirely political effort to gain votes and fool Americans.

Black Americans, as Keith Richburg concluded, ought to be grateful their ancestors got on that boat headed for the New World. The freedom and security they enjoy today is a product of that sacrifice. To wit, America remains the “City on a Hill” described by John Winthrop in the 17th century, what President Ronald Reagan later referred to as “A Shining City Upon a Hill.”

EDWIN VAZQUEZ  
Cape Coral, Florida

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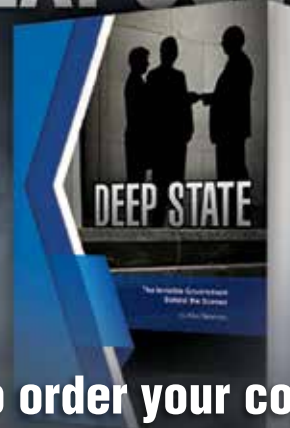


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## Biden Feminizes Our Military; China Aims to “Cultivate Masculinity”

Joe Biden is talking about “maternity flight suits” and changing “the culture and habits that cause women to leave the military.” Meanwhile, our chief geopolitical adversary, China, is choosing a very different route: It’s embracing a program designed to enhance the masculinity of its adolescent boys.

President Biden made comments on International Women’s Day (March 8) emphasizing the goal of making the military more accommodating for females. “We’re making good progress designing body armor that fits women properly, tailoring combat uniforms for women, creating maternity flight suits, updating requirements for their hairstyles,” said Biden. “And some of it’s going to take an intensity of purpose and mission to really change the culture and habits that cause women to leave the military.”

Unsaid: One of those “habits” causing women’s departure is called hanky-panky, with thousands of female sailors on Navy vessels becoming pregnant every year. In fact, women are up to 50 percent more likely than men to leave their positions aboard ships and return to land duty — at great expense to the military. There are even stories of women purposely getting pregnant to avoid deployment.

And as soon as the military prioritizes accommodating women or making them feel more comfortable, it has strayed from its purpose. In fact, if the average woman could ever be too comfortable in the military, it’s a red flag.



hanhanpeggy / iStock Editorial / Getty Images Plus

Meanwhile, according to a February 1 article at the *South China Morning Post*, China has adopted a policy called “Proposal on Preventing the Feminization of Male Adolescents”; it’s designed to cultivate masculinity in teen boys, who are described by a top Chinese political advisor as now being “delicate, cowardly and effeminate.”

Of course, at least China can still identify who the boys are. Too many of us are confused about that and whether “boy” is a real classification or just a personal-identity choice on a sex-status continuum.

## Prominent Conservative Activist Milo Comes Out as “Ex-gay”



AP Images

Prominent conservative activist and writer Milo Yiannopoulos was best known for bleached-blond hair, trolling leftists, appearing at college talks dressed in drag, and, most notably, his unabashed homosexuality. But he’ll soon, apparently, be better known for something that truly brings scorn today: coming out as “ex-gay.”

Describing himself thus and as “sodomy free,” Yiannopoulos is now more fully embracing the Catholic faith in which he was raised; in fact, he’s even leading a daily online consecration to St. Joseph.

“When I used to kid that I only became gay to torment my

mother, I wasn’t entirely joking,” Yiannopoulos said in a LifeSite interview published March 9. “Of course, I was never wholly at home in the gay lifestyle — Who is? Who could be? — and only leaned heavily into it in public because it drove liberals crazy to see a handsome, charismatic, intelligent gay man riotously celebrating conservative principles.”

That Yiannopoulos went straight to Jesus isn’t surprising, either. Even while living a life contrary to Catholic teaching, he would sometimes trumpet the faith (he did so at a college event once). And his faith, now flowering, was expressed well in the LifeSite interview.

While Yiannopoulos is now flexing his theological muscle, he still displays the brashness that got him exiled from Twitter (in 2016) even before Big Tech went cancel-culture crazy. For example, “Trannies are demonic,” he also told LifeSite, after mentioning the “Terror of transsexuals.” “They are the Galli, the castrated priests of Cybele, the Magna mater, whom Augustine saw dancing in the streets of Carthage dressed like women.”

Speaking of the Sexual Devolution brings us to Yiannopoulos’ future plans. “Over the next decade, I would like to help rehabilitate what the media calls ‘conversion therapy’” (which is designed to help people eliminate unwanted same-sex attraction or feelings of sexual-identity confusion), he told LifeSite. “It does work, albeit not for everybody.”

Yiannopoulos also stated that he plans to devote himself to combating abortion even more robustly than he did previously.

## Majority of Americans Support Ban on Trans Athletes in Female Sports

Support for banning biological males from competing against biological females in women's athletics remains high, even according to a new poll by *Politico* — a generally left-leaning publication — proving once again that Democratic politicians pushing “trans rights” care more about an agenda than the will of the American people.

“Former President Donald Trump railed against transgender athletes in female sports in his CPAC speech a few weeks ago. Other prominent voices on the right have joined in, calling it an example of political correctness having a real-world impact. Our latest POLITICO/Morning Consult poll shows broad support for the GOP position, extending across gender, age and, to a lesser degree, party,” *Politico* reported on May 10. “Overall, 53% of registered voters support banning transgender athletes from competing in women's sports, versus a third who oppose such a ban.”

The poll was conducted between March 6 and March 8 among a survey of 1,990 registered voters who were asked more than 60 questions, including this one: “As you may know, Mississippi is moving towards banning transgender athletes from participating on women's sports teams at the state's high schools and universities. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose banning transgender athletes from competing on women's sports teams?”

*Politico* reported that 56 percent of men support such a ban, while 29 percent of men oppose it, while 46 percent of women support a ban, and 34 percent oppose one. Seventy-four percent

of Republicans, 40 percent of Democrats, and 49 percent of Independents support a ban, as do 56 percent of millennials and 50 percent of baby boomers.

Last week, a Harvard/Harris poll showed 55 percent of respondents disapproved of President Joe Biden's executive order to allow “transgender” athletes to participate in sports that align with their gender identity rather than their biological sex, with 45 percent in approval.

Results from a Rasmussen Reports survey, published March 2, found even larger margins, with 54 percent opposing male participation in female sports and 32 percent supporting it.



Terry/JStock/Getty Images Plus

## Spokesman Defends Duterte's Order to “Kill, Kill, Kill” Communists

On March 8, the spokesman for Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said his boss' order from the previous week, in which he called on the military and police to kill “all” armed communist terrorist forces in the country, is “legal” — amid outcry from the Left.

“The president's ‘kill, kill, kill’ order is legal because he directed ... [it] at the rebels holding weapons,” said Duterte spokesman Harry Roque during a March 8 press briefing.



AP Images

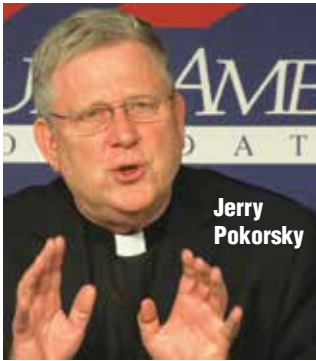
“Under the IHL [International Humanitarian Law], the president's ‘kill, kill, kill’ order is right because if there is an armed conflict, when your enemy has a gun and can kill you, you wouldn't wait to get shot and killed,” he told journalists, adding, “It is not against the law, the international humanitarian law, when a soldier shoots an armed NPA fighter and kills the NPA fighter,” in reference to the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The Philippine government officially recognizes the NPA as a terrorist organization, as do the United States and United Nations. The Philippines has been fighting the communists' violent insurgency in the countryside for decades. Over 30,000 lives have reportedly been claimed in the conflict.

“I've told the military and the police, that if they find themselves in an armed encounter with the communist rebels, kill them, make sure you really kill them, and finish them off if they are alive,” Duterte said March 5 while addressing the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), a task force he created to bring an end to the insurgency by the end of his presidency in 2022.

Telling security forces to “just make sure to return their bodies to their respective families,” Duterte added, “Forget about human rights. That's my order. I'm willing to go to jail, that's not a problem.” The Philippine president has called communist rebels the “number one threat” to national security. ■





### Catholic Priest Decries President Biden's Claim of Being a "Devout Catholic"

"Joe Biden has magnified and institutionalized countless major violations of the Ten Commandments. The hypocrisy rivals that of the chief priests and Pharisees and is worthy of the same condemnation. Indeed, Biden is the most aggressively anti-Catholic President in history."

*Based in Virginia, Father Jerry Pokorsky is a Catholic priest and a director of Human Life International. In an essay he wrote and distributed widely, he urged the media, clergy, and Catholics everywhere to cease ignoring the president's blatant disregard of Catholic moral teaching and practice.*

### GOP House Leader Sharply Criticizes the \$1.9 Trillion COVID Relief Bill

"The amount of money from this bill that actually goes to defeating the virus is less than nine percent. Don't call it a rescue bill. Don't call it a relief bill. For the American people, it's a loser."

*House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy angrily characterized the measure as an indication that "the swamp is back."*

### Romney Expects Trump to Win GOP Nomination in 2024, Still Won't Vote for Him

"I look at the polls and they show that, among the names being floated as potential candidates in 2024, Trump wins in a landslide. Again, I would not be voting for Mr. Trump. I would probably be getting behind somebody who I thought more represented the tiny wing of the Republican Party that I represent."

*It's no surprise that Senator Mitt Romney would not back Donald Trump in any future election. What is surprising to see is that he admits to being part of only a "tiny wing" of the GOP.*



Wikimedia Commons / Gage Skidmore

### China's Dictator Bares His Thoughts to His Country's Communist Followers

"The biggest source of chaos in the present-day world is the United States. It is also the biggest threat to our country's development and security. The East is rising and the West is declining."

*Speaking to a closed-door gathering of Communist Party leaders in northwest China, Xi Jinping, the nation's top communist, put aside his facade of friendliness toward Americans.*

### Evangelical Leaders Feel Betrayed, Send Letter to President Biden

"We are very disappointed about the Covid-19 relief package's exclusion of the Hyde Amendment, a longstanding bipartisan policy that prevents taxpayer funding for abortion [around the world].... The Biden team wanted to talk to us during the campaign to gain our support, and we gave it on the condition there would be active dialogue and common ground solutions on the issue of abortion. There has been no dialogue since the campaign."

*The letter sent to President Biden was signed by Dr. Richard Mouw, president emeritus of Fuller Seminary, and Ronald J. Sider, president emeritus of Evangelicals for Social Action.*



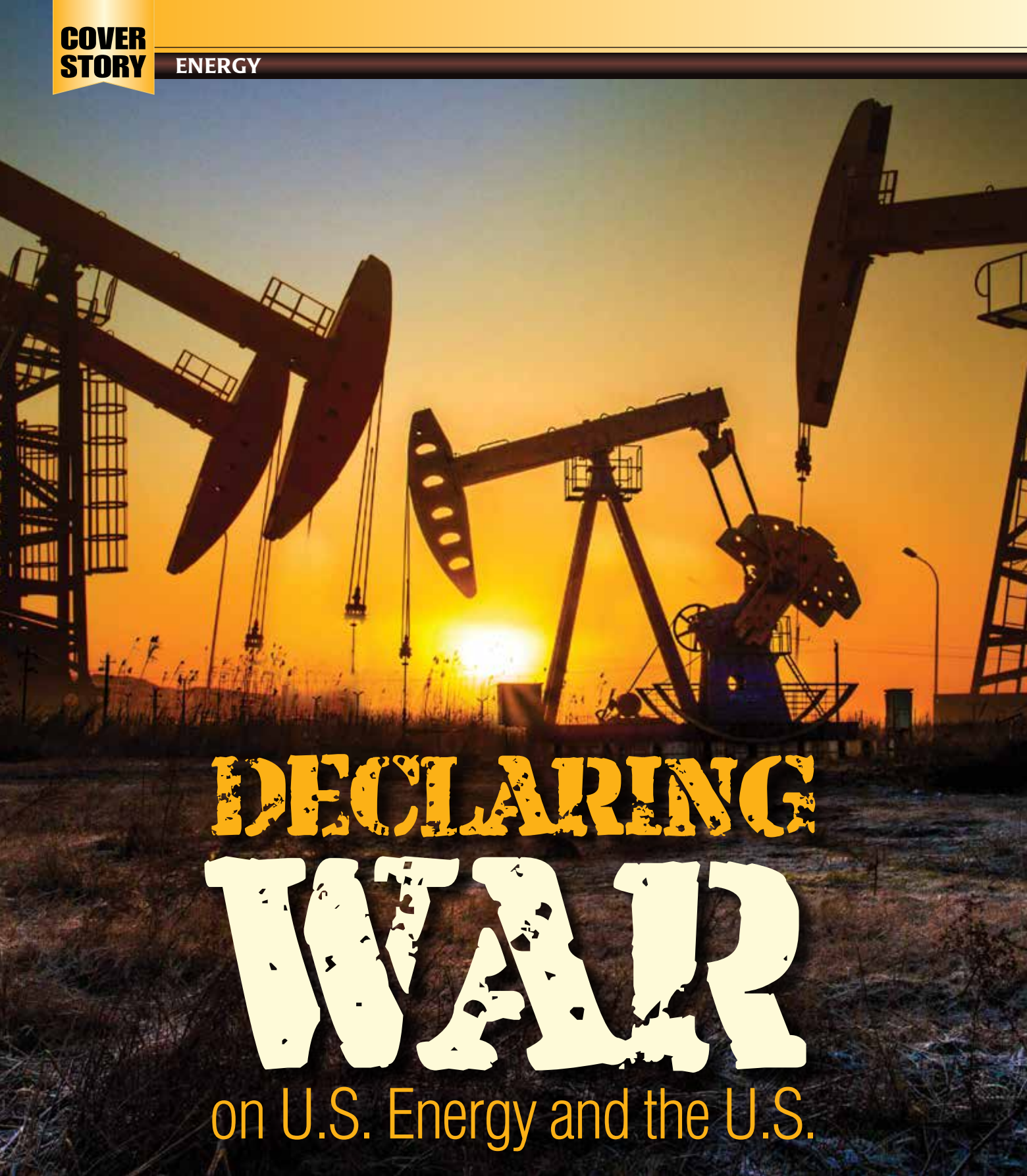
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### Trump Announces His Plan to Rid the GOP of RINOs (Republicans in Name Only)

"The RINOs that we're surrounded with will destroy the Republican Party and the American worker, and will destroy our country itself. I will be actively working to elect strong, tough, and smart Republican leaders."

*Speaking at the annual CPAC gathering (now held in Orlando, Florida), former President Donald Trump minced no words as he explained his determination to rid the Republican Party of those who support Democratic measures and goals. ■*

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



# DECLARING WAR on U.S. Energy and the U.S.

Photo: chengwaidefeng / iStock / Getty Images Plus

As President Biden works to handicap both American energy production and usage, in the name of fighting global warming, he is destroying jobs, prosperity, and freedom.



by Alex Newman

On January 20, 2021, the booming town of Midland, South Dakota, became practically a “ghost town” in an instant. In the morning, every single room at the rustic Stroppe Hotel was occupied by highly paid workers toiling away on the Keystone XL pipeline and associated operations. By evening, there was nobody left. “Our whole world turned upside down with the stroke of a pen,” explained Laurie Cox, who bought the hotel six months ago with her husband, Wally, with the understanding that the pipeline would be bringing in large numbers of guests and patrons for the foreseeable future.

Now, thanks to Joe Biden’s executive decree canceling the pipeline, the Cox family’s future is uncertain at best. “Our real money was in renting the rooms — that’s where the pipeliners came in and really helped sustain us,” Cox told *THE NEW AMERICAN* magazine in a phone interview from her hotel. “We had a significant amount of people in the hotel, working on the pipeline and supporting them. Now, that’s done. We’re a small community, we don’t have a lot of opportunity. This was our once-in-a-lifetime chance and now it’s gone.”

Weeks into the devastation, the situation is already a tragedy. “I’ll be honest, we’re going to struggle month to month to pay the bills, whereas before we had plenty of money coming in to re-invest and improve the hotel and even hire people,” Cox said, reading off a list of other people in the region whose lives were similarly turned upside down. “I don’t even take a wage — everything we’ve got now we’re putting back into this hotel. I had hired somebody to help us run the place, but there is just no more money to have an employee anymore.”

There is still hope thanks to the hotel’s mineral bath. “Being a small hotel in the middle of nowhere, we do have our mineral waters that bring people in, even though right now we’re not bringing in enough to keep going,” she said. “We had been planning on having the workers for at least quite a long time. And our main money would have come when the main line kicked in. But now we’re going to have to try to pull in more people for going

With a few strokes of his pen on a flurry of executive decrees, Joe Biden managed to directly torpedo over 50,000 high-paying jobs on just his first day in office, according to estimates based on government figures.



Photos Courtesy of Cox family

**Biden brings economic harm:** The Cox family bought their hotel with the understanding that the Keystone XL pipeline would be built, but with the flick of his pen, Biden destroyed their hopes and dreams.

into our mineral waters — which are really special, by the way, healing.”

Still, Cox, sounding devastated but displaying traditional American spirit and perseverance, vowed not to give up. “This hotel is part of our little community, and when we bought it in September, we became part of this community. The hotel is a resource that this town has had since 1939, for generations, and we’re going to keep trying to make it work,” Cox continued. “We’re going to do everything we can to preserve this resource that God has given us.” But it will be hard, she added.

### Keystone XL & National Pain

Of course, the Cox family is just the tip of the iceberg of destruction as Biden’s unconstitutional executive orders and his

war on U.S. energy destroy thousands of lives and wreak havoc on countless families nationwide. According to data from the companies involved in just this one project, the Keystone XL pipeline was supposed to directly create almost 11,000 jobs — most of them “union” jobs, too, supposedly Biden’s favorite type of jobs.

Many of the unions that backed Biden are now expressing outrage. “The Biden administration’s decision to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline permit on day one of his presidency is both insulting and disappointing to the thousands of hard-working LIUNA members who will lose good-paying, middle class family-supporting jobs,” said the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA), which previously endorsed Biden’s candi-

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Biden's actions will be a boon to Middle Eastern tyrants, Russia, Venezuela, and other regimes awash in oil. But the costs will be devastating to America, and to some of its most vulnerable communities.



AP Images

**American independence gets hosed:** The Keystone XL pipeline, which was going to bring Canadian oil to the United States, was creating thousands of jobs while reducing U.S. reliance on oil from dictatorships, but Biden squashed it.

dacy. “By blocking this 100 percent union project, and pandering to environmental extremists, a thousand union jobs will immediately vanish and 10,000 additional jobs will be foregone.”

But it gets worse. With a few strokes of Biden's pen on a flurry of executive decrees, he managed to directly torpedo over 50,000 high-paying jobs on just his *first day* in office, according to estimates based on government figures. Some estimates suggest the real number may be as high as 70,000. Countless more will be lost in the years ahead as energy prices soar and firms seek out greener pastures to create wealth and manufacture products in places such as China.

While the Kremlin and dictators across the Middle East and beyond were thrilled with the killing of the Keystone XL pipe-

line, even America's liberal friends and allies to the north were furious. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, for instance, blasted Biden's executive order as a “gut punch to the Alberta and Canadian economies” and “an insult.” Despite being a fellow “green” fanatic, the far-left prime minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, expressed “disappointment” in Biden's move.

American lawmakers were outraged, too. “President Biden's executive order will rob both American and Canadian workers of good-paying jobs,” said Senator John Barrasso (Wyo.), who is the top Republican on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. “President Biden's actions will not end our need for oil from our strongest ally, Canada. Instead, it will cost jobs, result in more shipments of oil by rail and make America even more vul-

nerable to OPEC and foreign adversaries, like Russia.”

Fact checkers promptly sprang into action to silence critics of Biden's killing of the pipeline. Their primary line of attack was the notion that, while it was true that Biden was destroying tens of thousands of high-paying jobs, he planned to create even more jobs in “green” energy at some point in the future. Basically, all those laid-off oil and gas workers could simply learn how to make solar panels, batteries, and those giant wind turbines strewn across large swaths of Texas and the American plains.

In other words, oil workers are being asked to give up high-paying jobs in exchange for jobs that usually pay less, in technical fields that can't absorb the numbers of workers being shed by the oil patch, and that usually require retraining and that will mainly end after the big wind and solar projects are installed. Perhaps Biden could “create jobs” by borrowing money from China to pay people to smash big rocks into little rocks, too. At least it would not be as destructive.

Then mid-February's bone-chilling cold hit. The very same wind turbines that were supposed to save humanity from alleged man-made global warming ended up freezing amid devastatingly cold temperatures, contributing to plunging millions into electrical blackouts as temperatures dropped below zero. (It's noteworthy that there is a record of such cold snaps occurring in Texas since the 1890s.) The irony was not lost on the people of Texas — America's largest energy producer — as some five million victims of government “green energy” schemes wondered if they might freeze to death before power returned. A number of people died, including an 11-year-old boy.

### Other Assaults on U.S. Energy & Jobs

The war on American energy — and America itself — goes far beyond just the Keystone XL pipeline. Under President Trump, in 2019, America became “energy independent” for the first time in more than six decades. With his pen and phone, however, following in the footsteps of Barack Obama before him, Biden reversed much of that progress in just a matter of weeks. Biden's actions will be a boon to Middle Eastern tyrants, Rus-



sia, Venezuela, and other regimes awash in oil. But the costs will be devastating to America, and to some of its most vulnerable communities.

It is not just energy and transportation that depend on “fossil fuels” and hydrocarbons. According to the U.S. Department of Energy’s own website, oil and natural gas are needed in the manufacturing of over 6,000 everyday products and high-tech devices. These include tires, heart valves, toothbrushes, helmets, laptops, phones, wind-turbine blades, hearing aids, life jackets, and countless other essential goods without which modern life would come to a screeching halt. Producing these goods in the United States under the sort of regime envisioned by Biden would become difficult, if not impossible.

One of Biden’s major changes was an indefinite freeze on drilling and exploration for energy on federal lands. In just the state of New Mexico — one of the nation’s poorest states — Biden’s executive order halting oil and gas leases and drilling on federal lands is set to cost over 60,000 jobs, representing almost seven percent of the state’s entire workforce. New Mexico, a Democratic state, is also expected to lose more than \$1 billion in tax revenue in the

first year, an economic impact study by the American Petroleum Institute (API) suggests. Because half of New Mexico’s energy extraction happens on federal lands, and the feds own more than a third of the state’s land, that state will be particularly hard hit.

Other states set to be devastated by Biden’s decrees include Wyoming, North Dakota, Colorado, Oklahoma, and more. In Louisiana, API data suggest, the state’s Gulf Coast region could lose 50,000 jobs and almost \$100 million in tax revenue just by next year as a result of Biden’s imperial decrees against American energy production. It could get worse, too, as the offshore drilling industry in Louisiana supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and contributes almost \$7 billion to the state’s tax revenues each year.

“It’s devastatingly simple,” explained Representative Yvette Herrell (R-N.M.) and House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) in an op-ed for Fox News. “When Washington radicals ban drilling on federal lands, Americans lose their jobs, investment flows overseas, and communities across America lose a primary source of revenue for schools, health care, and conservation efforts.... Our friends and neighbors rely upon these jobs to pay rent, put

food on the table, and keep the lights on.”

“The Biden administration is attacking their livelihoods and jeopardizing America’s energy security,” the two lawmakers continued, adding that America is a global leader in producing and using energy in a clean, environmentally responsible manner while the regimes that will benefit do not adhere to proper environmental standards. “President Biden either doesn’t understand the damage he is doing to our communities or he doesn’t care.”

Perhaps even more significant than the economic damage inflicted on Americans is the national-security threat these decrees pose. “When the United States became the single largest oil and gas producer in the world, we were protected from market manipulation by OPEC and rogue actors,” the representatives said. “By undermining our energy dominance, Biden once again puts us at the mercy of foreign regimes, many of whom use those new-found billions of dollars against America and our allies.”

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey was fuming over what he described as Biden’s “destructive” policies. “What we’re seeing in the first week of the Biden administration is that the president is really taking a wrecking ball to many of the states that have oil, gas, coal, manufacturing jobs — that’s gonna have a real detrimental impact, especially as the American economy is coming out of COVID-19, a pandemic,” he declared, noting that Biden was going even further than Obama in his “green” scheming. “I think he’s really kicking the American people when they’re down economically and it’s not a message of unity that he’s been talking about.”

Producers, too, are sounding the alarm, even as apologists try to soothe concerns. Speaking of the drilling “moratorium,” Dan Naatz with the Independent Petroleum Association of America suggested this was likely to be significant and long-term. “Do not be fooled, this is a ban,” he explained. “The Biden administration’s plan to obliterate the jobs of American oil and gas explorers and producers has been on clear display.” Experts such as investment legend Felix Zulauf are predicting almost a doubling in the price of oil during Biden’s first term due to the anti-energy policies being pursued.



H-Hakim / E+ / Getty Images Plus

**Gunning Americans down:** Using executive orders, Biden has destroyed untold numbers of high-paying jobs producing energy domestically and made America more dependent on hostile foreigners.

Producing just one single electric-car battery requires digging up and processing over 250 tons of earth. Producing one wind farm, meanwhile, requires 30,000 tons of iron ore and 50,000 tons of concrete — not to mention nearly 1,000 tons of plastic.



**And they call America dirty?** As Biden kills production and jobs in America under the guise of “climate change,” much of that industry will move to Communist China, where real pollution is a real problem.

### Green Energy Is a Fraud!

The notion that America can simply replace all of its lost energy from hydrocarbons with windmills and solar panels is plainly preposterous. Perhaps nobody explained it more beautifully and succinctly than Mark Mills, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, in a powerful five-minute video for PragerU exposing the “wind and solar” racket being used to dupe Americans into destroying their energy production.

Consider, among the countless problems, that the technology is simply not capable of supplying the power needed for

an advanced civilization. After decades of governments showering billions of dollars in subsidies on their cronies behind the “green” wind and solar interests — think the scandal-plagued, Obama-backed solar panel company Solyndra, for instance, which flushed half-a-billion tax dollars down the drain when it declared bankruptcy — wind and solar power accounts for less than three percent of the world’s energy supply.

Aside from the economic absurdity of it all, the environmental devastation that would result from more widespread use of wind, solar, and battery power is

hard to fathom. “Like all machines, they are built from non-renewable materials,” explained Mills. For instance, producing just one single electric-car battery requires digging up and processing over 250 tons of earth. Producing one wind farm, meanwhile, requires 30,000 tons of iron ore and 50,000 tons of concrete — not to mention nearly 1,000 tons of plastic. To get the same amount of power from solar would take 150 percent more resources.

In short, to continue pursuing the tax-funded solar and wind fantasies of central planners will require digging up millions of acres of pristine areas. All of that mining will consume an unfathomable amount of hydrocarbon energy, too, as will the industrial processes needed to refine the materials. And if that “green” power is stored in batteries, it will cost orders of magnitude more than traditional sources of electricity.

Those enormous numbers do not even factor in the massive mining operations that would be needed to get the rare-earth metals necessary to produce the batteries, wind turbines, and solar panels. For a number of reasons, almost none of that mining is taking place in America now, and it will not in the future either — especially as the Biden administration and the federal government frantically work to destroy U.S. mining operations. Instead, much of the mining will take place in China and Russia and other hostile nations. Ironically, a great deal of it is being mined by children in some of the areas environmentalists say they most want to protect — in Central Africa and the Amazon region of South America.

As Mills also points out, the life of wind and solar equipment is typically half the lifespan of conventional energy machines such as gas turbines. The International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that by 2050, solar-panel waste in need of disposal will be double the tonnage of the plastic waste produced today. And that does not include worn-out batteries or wind turbines. Adding insult to injury, storing one barrel of oil costs about 50 cents, while storing the equivalent amount of energy generated by wind turbines in batteries will take \$200 of batteries, Mills explained.

In short, the true cost of all this “green” energy scheming — both economic and environmental — is astronomical.



## Green New Deal & Sustainable Development

But there is a method to the madness. Indeed, it is all part of a broader and more destructive plan. Even before winning the dubious 2020 election, which was marred by countless credible allegations of voter fraud, Biden was quietly but firmly peddling the Green New Deal. “Biden believes the Green New Deal is a crucial framework for meeting the climate challenges we face,” explained the Biden-Harris campaign website outlining a “plan for a clean energy revolution and environmental justice.”

On January 27, just one week into his presidency, following dozens of executive decrees, Biden held a press conference at the White House to unveil what sounded suspiciously like the Green New Deal floated by extremists and socialists in Congress in recent years. In his Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, signed amid the con-fab, Biden even called for “conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.” In other words, almost one-third of all the land and water in America would be made virtually off-limits to man. Also in the order was a new “Civilian Climate Corps.”

Adding insult to injury, he promised to “create jobs” by finishing off the energy-extraction infrastructure. “We’re also going to create more than a quarter million jobs to do things like plug the millions of abandoned oil and gas wells that pose an ongoing threat to the health and safety of our communities,” he said before parroting the UN-created slogan about “building our economy back better,” a derivative of the UN slogan “Build Back Better” that Biden ripped off for his campaign. “It’s a whole-of-government approach to put climate change at the center of our domestic, national security, and foreign policy.”

The public first got a taste of the “Green New Deal” agenda in 2019, when H.R. 109 was introduced in Congress by a coalition of 67 radical communist and socialist Democrats led by U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.). Among other absurdities, the effort would seek to eliminate air travel, the eating of steaks, the use of hydrocarbons, and more. It would aim to completely end all emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> — an essential gas exhaled by every living person and



**One-man wrecking crew:** Joe Biden has been using his pen and phone to squash hundreds of thousands of jobs that produce real wealth. So far, he has done little environmental engineering through the legislative process, although it would still be unconstitutional if he tried to go that route.

required by plants — over the coming decade. An FAQ released with the bill even touted “paying people who are unwilling to work.” Seriously.

But even serious environmentalists ridiculed the Green New Deal. Calling it a “recipe for mass suicide” and the “most ridiculous scenario I ever heard,” in an interview with *THE NEW AMERICAN*, Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore blasted the “deal” as “completely preposterous.” He warned that if the scheme were actually implemented, people could be forced to turn to cannibalism to avoid starvation — and they still would not survive. All the trees on Earth would be chopped down, too, as people scrambled for energy to cook and warm their families with, he said.

That horrifying scenario would seem to fit quite nicely with the plans of the Club of Rome, an establishment powerhouse bringing together a diverse group of totalitarian characters from around the world, ranging from climate guru Al Gore to Bill Gates, George Soros, and Bill Clinton, to the late New World Order kingpin David Rockefeller and former Soviet dictator Mikhail Gorbachev. In its 1991 report, this group of powerful billionaires and policymakers indicated that with the Cold War officially in the rear-view mirror, a new target was needed to justify globalism and Big Government.

“The common enemy of humanity is man,” the club said in its report, *The First Global Revolution*. “In searching for a new enemy to unite us, we came up with the idea that pollution, the threat of global warming, water shortages, famine and the like would fit the bill. All these dangers are caused by human intervention, and it is only through changed attitudes and behavior that they can be overcome. The real enemy then, is humanity itself.” In short, you and your family are the enemy — and your ability to sustain yourself, especially the energy needed to sustain life and civilization, is now officially in the cross hairs.

### War on the United States, and Fighting Back

The war on America’s energy is actually a war on America itself, and the American people, by enemies foreign and domestic. As to the involvement of foreign interests, while most critics have seen the benefits to the Kremlin and other regimes as an unintended consequence, there is actually more to the story. As *THE NEW AMERICAN* magazine has been reporting for years, members of Congress discovered that Russian-government energy interests were funding U.S. “green” groups through a shell corporation in Bermuda called Klein Ltd. It was sending money to the Sea Change



AP Images

**Ideological soulmates:** Obama and Communist Chinese dictator Xi Jinping worked closely together to “save” the climate by shutting down U.S. industry and shipping it to China.

Foundation. From there, the money was distributed to a broad network of extremist “environmental” organizations such as the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters, and the Climate Action Network that are all seeking to destroy America’s energy industry.

Also, not only were Communist China’s agents deeply involved in promoting the Obama administration’s “green” policies, but China is a major beneficiary of Biden’s policies (see article on page 17). As American companies become uncompetitive due to surging energy prices, and Communist China continues building coal-fired power plants, America’s productive capacity and its jobs will be quickly shipped off to China. And all those “green energy” jobs and technologies? They will be in Beijing’s interest, too.

“What they’re talking about is exchanging [our former] dependence on the Middle East and OPEC, which was at one point close to 50% of our energy, for almost total dependence or twice as much dependency on China,” American Energy Alliance Senior Vice President Dan Kish explained regarding the expected hard

shift into wind and solar power, pointing to Communist China’s dominance in the “green” energy sector. “I’ve got friends who are geologists who are saying, ‘Why are we doing this? This is crazy.’”

There are also powerful domestic forces hostile to American interests who are pushing for — and profiting from — the misery they are imposing on America. In 2014, the tip of the iceberg surfaced when the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee dropped its bombshell report headlined “The Chain of Environmental Command: How a Club of Billionaires and Their Foundations Control the Environmental Movement and Obama’s EPA.”

This shadowy network identified as the “Billionaires Club” was exposed showering huge amounts of funds on the environmentalist “green movement.” And with all that money, the billionaires had come to dominate policy making, fleece taxpayers, and more — often in violation of federal laws. Numerous billionaires involved in the Club of Rome, such as the late David Rockefeller and Bill Gates, were key players.

This war on energy inspired by hostile foreign powers and anti-American bil-

lionaires in bed with Beijing has known consequences — and those responsible have openly admitted it. As Obama put it in 2008, under his plan, “electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.” And when power prices skyrocket, businesses will rocket out of the United States and into other countries — China, for example. In countries where power prices are not skyrocketing and where companies need not even worry about pollution, there’s the extra benefit of slave labor. Biden and his handlers are not fools. Like Obama, they fully understand the consequences of their actions. And that is the point.

But from the flyover country and state capitols to the halls of Congress, opposition is growing quickly. And effective ways to resist are already being explored. Consider the example set by Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt. Noting that Biden’s decrees targeting energy are “in contravention of Article II Section 2 and the 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution,” in addition to the threat they pose to his state, the Republican governor ordered state agencies to resist.

Specifically, Stitt directed that state officials “utilize all civil methods and lawful powers to protect [Oklahoma’s] 10th Amendment powers and challenge any actions by the federal government that would seek to diminish or destroy Oklahoma’s ability to encourage job growth and the responsible development of our natural resources within the energy industry.” Other governors may follow suit.

Every state in the union can use the power of nullification. For the last four years, Democrats used it unconstitutionally to block immigration laws and constitutional Trump policies. By contrast, Republicans at the state and local level can and should use it, constitutionally, to stop federal overreach into the energy sector, where the government has no constitutional authority.

America’s Founding Fathers viewed nullification as “the rightful remedy” to lawless usurpation of power by the feds. When there’s a case such as Biden’s, wherein an apparently almost-senile puppet is carrying out the instructions of power-mad billionaires and hostile foreign powers to reduce the United States to poverty and despotic rule, it is not just the right of the states and the people under the Constitution to resist — it is their duty. ■



# KILLING U.S.,

## Boosting China, to “Save Climate”

Biden’s plan to supposedly mitigate global warming will hand huge economic and military advantages to China, at the expense of the United States.



AP Images

**Can you say, “No way”?** While Biden promises to replace the jobs he is killing with “green” jobs, Communist Chinese slave labor already dominates the solar and wind industries.

by Alex Newman

There appears to be more and more truth to the “China owns Biden” quip — and it is not just about Hunter Biden, Joe Biden’s crack-smoking, underage-girl-chasing son who infamously went into “business” with top Communist Party of China bigwigs. Indeed, since taking the reins of the presidency, Joe “Big Guy” Biden would have been hard-pressed to help Beijing more if he was an actual CCP agent. On his very first day in office, he gave gift after gift to the mass-murdering regime ruling Communist China. But perhaps none of those assists were as significant as the decision to reverse President Donald Trump’s with-

drawal from the discredited United Nations Paris Agreement on climate change.

“We are going to combat climate change in a way we have not done so far,” Biden said before signing the short decree purporting to shackle the United States to the UN scheme.

Under the illegitimate agreement, which has not been ratified by (or even submitted to) the U.S. Senate as required for all treaties, Barack Obama and now Biden promised to handicap what remains of America’s productive economy under the guise of helping to stop alleged global warming. Beijing, by contrast, promised to keep building coal-fired power plants and continue increasing the Chinese people’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions until at least 2030. So under

the Paris accord China essentially agreed to do nothing about lowering emissions: A U.S. government study estimated that even without the Paris accord, China would hit its peak energy production by 2030. By that point, much of America’s remaining productive capacity will have been shipped over to China. And the climate will keep doing what it has always done — change.

The benefits for Beijing only get better. The handicapping of the U.S. economy will be a tremendous boon for Communist China as U.S. companies flee to freer nations without the self-inflicted wounds, surging taxes, and crushing regulations facing America under Biden and the Democratic Congress. But there are other key reasons China will benefit, too.

“Not only does China lead the world in the manufacture of solar panels and wind turbines, the Chinese control an estimated 80% of the rare-earth minerals crucial to the production of lithium batteries, electric vehicles, and solar and wind equipment,” reported Valerie Richardson in the *Washington Times* on October 27, 2020. That means that as America shifts toward the windmills, electric cars, and solar panels demanded by Democrats and Biden, she will become ever-more dependent on the most murderous dictatorship in history.

Numerous critics pointed out this reality. “It should be called the Paris-China agreement because China is the largest beneficiary,” explained James Taylor, president of the free-market Heartland Institute. “China is not bound to make any carbon dioxide emissions reductions, nor is it bound to cap its emissions.” Perhaps even more outrageous, Communist China — as a “Developing Nation” under the Paris scheme — will be eligible for U.S. taxpayer-funded grants under the UN’s “Green Climate [Slush]

Fund” to bribe Third World regimes into jumping on the climate bandwagon.

There are important military and national-security implications to this, too. “Like the Soviets before them, Chinese communists seek to use international agreements and treaties as a conduit for constraining American military and economic power,” explained Bonner Cohen, a senior fellow with the National Center for Public Policy Research who has studied the issue extensively. “The Paris Climate Agreement heavily restricts U.S. energy development, which is what Beijing wants. This has both national security and economic implications.”

Aside from the economic devastation that is already being felt by Americans, the national-security threat posed by crushing America’s economy cannot be overstated. Without a solid economy to fund the military and keep ahead of adversaries’ tech-

nological innovation, the U.S. government’s ability to defend America against hostile foreign powers such as China will be severely diminished. Already, the U.S. government would struggle to keep its military aircraft in the sky or its ships on the seas without Chinese components, experts say. And this is likely just the beginning — all under the guise of saving the climate from what many scientists call the gas of life, or carbon dioxide.

Note that the Paris accord would do virtually nothing to affect the climate. Ironically, the UN itself has explained repeatedly that the Paris Agreement will not do what it is supposedly intended to do — save the climate — based on their own numbers, models, and data. “As things stand, even full implementation of current unconditional and conditional Nationally Determined Contributions makes a temperature increase of at least 3 [degrees

Celsius] by 2100 very likely — meaning that governments need to deliver much stronger pledges when they are revised in 2020,” a 2017 press release from the UN declared, peddling even more draconian controls on Western economies to supposedly stop “global warming.”

The UN, which is dominated by Chinese Communist Party members and supporters, was thrilled with Biden’s decision. “I warmly welcome President Biden’s steps to re-enter the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and join the growing coalition of governments, cities, states, businesses and people taking ambitious action to confront the climate crisis,” said UN boss António Guterres, the former chief of the Socialist International alliance of communist and socialist parties. Playing along with the notion that Biden can unilaterally commit America to the Paris scheme, Guterres could barely contain his glee.

“We look forward to the leadership of United States in accelerating global efforts towards net zero [human emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>], including by bringing forward a new nationally determined contribution with ambitious 2030 targets and climate finance in advance of COP26 in Glasgow later this year,” the UN boss continued, saying the

Without a solid economy to fund the military and keep ahead of adversaries’ technological innovation, the U.S. government’s ability to defend America against hostile foreign powers such as China will be severely diminished.



**Immense use of natural resources:** The amount of environmental destruction required to make unreliable wind turbines and solar panels is absolutely staggering, experts say.



“climate emergency” would be tackled by the UN’s “global road map.” “With all countries fully engaged, we have a real opportunity to prevent climate catastrophe & embark on transformative Climate Action.”

### The Paris Agreement

Biden used an executive decree to purportedly shackle the United States to the UN agreement created in 2015 in Paris, which was first signed by President Obama. “I, Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America, having seen and considered the Paris Agreement, done at Paris on December 12, 2015, do hereby accept the said Agreement and every article and clause thereof on behalf of the United States of America,” he wrote in an order signed on January 20, with no reference to what authority he believed authorized the move. The U.S. reentry date was February 19.

The UN, in its summary of how the agreement works, says: “Implementation of the Paris Agreement requires economic and social transformation, based on the best available science,” which is a blatant falsehood.

Though under the deal each government in the scheme must ostensibly submit a Nationally Determined Contribution to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the agreement is really just a collection of countries’ promises to do *something*. As *City Journal* writer Oren Cass, who has studied the accord, noted in an interview with John Stossel in 2018, countries didn’t even have to mention CO<sub>2</sub> in their promises. He added that the promises are mainly bogus to boot: “What you find is they either pledge to do what they were already going to do anyway, or they pledge even less than that.” India “made no pledge to limit their emissions at all; they pledged only to become more efficient.” Pakistan pledged “to reach a peak at some point, after which [it plans] to begin reducing emissions.” Ironically, countries were applauded for agreeing to do nothing.

Meanwhile many developed nations, which have allowed people to climb out of poverty and misery, agreed to slash CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and redistribute the wealth of their taxpayers to Third World regimes that have kept their people in poverty.

Obama, for instance, promised under the scheme to slash U.S. emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>



**His reason to smile:** UN boss António Guterres, the former leader of the Socialist International, is cheerleading the imposition of global socialist policies masquerading as environmentalism.

by over 25 percent from 2005 levels by 2025, while pouring billions of U.S. tax dollars extracted from the middle class into the schemes.

According to Biden’s campaign promises, U.S. government schemes to help fulfill the Paris pledges include spending trillions of dollars to reshape America’s energy landscape. The plan also calls for a massive “green jobs” program to supposedly manufacture batteries, solar panels, windmills, and other “green” technologies that are already made more cheaply in Communist China. Biden’s plan also calls for creating an “Environmental and Climate Justice Division” within the Justice Department in charge of terrorizing all those whose CO<sub>2</sub> emissions do not conform to the new decrees. The goal: make America “carbon-free” by 2035. Since people are carbon-based lifeforms who exhale CO<sub>2</sub>, it was an odd choice of words.

Another key element of the Paris scheme is the UN Green Climate Fund (GCF), a giant slush fund intended to fleece Western taxpayers to bribe Third World kleptocrats into playing along with the “climate crisis” hysteria. In flagrant violation of federal laws prohibiting U.S. funding of organizations that include the “State of Palestine” as a member, Obama funneled a billion U.S. dollars to the dictator-dominated “GCF” before Trump stopped it all. When asked

by THE NEW AMERICAN magazine about the violation of federal law, the U.S. State Department responded that the UN GCF was an “independent entity,” not an “international organization,” and therefore was not subject to the prohibition.

### The Coming Pain: Breaking YOU!

The pain inflicted on Americans by re-entering the Paris accord will be massive. According to a Heritage Foundation analysis of the Paris Agreement’s expected economic effects, the regulations needed to comply with the terms would destroy nearly half a million jobs by the year 2035. Most of those jobs will be in manufacturing — the very same jobs that create the wealth that enables the federal government to spend trillions on “climate” schemes. But of course, those jobs will not disappear off the face of the Earth. Instead, the companies laying off all those workers will simply build new factories in China and other nations with less-strict controls, meaning the supposedly “dangerous” CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (along with real pollution) will continue being spewed into the atmosphere.

In addition to the jobs lost, the average American family of four should expect to lose about \$20,000 by 2035 through the massive job and wealth destruction, the Heritage Foundation analysis found. Ba-

The UN, in its summary of how the agreement works, says: “Implementation of the Paris Agreement requires economic and social transformation, based on the best available science,” which is a blatant falsehood.



YouTube / Alpine Helicopter De-Icing

**In need of a thaw:** Many of the wind turbines in Texas that were supposed to help save humanity from alleged man-made global warming were frozen in record cold, leaving millions without power.

sically, the pie will be a lot smaller. The broader U.S. economy will suffer big time, too, with the Paris deal shaving an aggregate \$2.5 trillion off America’s Gross Domestic Product. And that is just under the first round of commitments. “The Paris Agreement requires ever-increasing targets as time goes on, which would further increase the cost of compliance,” observed Heritage economist and fellow Nicolas Loris in the analysis. The next round of commitments was supposed to come about in 2020, but the UN summit was canceled — officially because of COVID, but more likely because Trump was in office and the U.S. government was not going to go along with the charade.

Incredibly, leading officials appear to be gleeful about the pain they are preparing to inflict on Americans. For example, Massachusetts climate “czar” David Ismay, who serves under RINO Governor Charlie Baker, vowed to “break” the will

of citizens — especially senior citizens — in pursuit of his emission-free “climate” dystopia.

“One thing that we found through our analysis was that 60 percent of our emissions come from you and me, ... residential heating and passenger vehicles,” he said on a January 25 webinar to the Vermont Climate Council. “Let me say that again: 60 percent of our emissions that need to be reduced come from you, the senior on fixed income. There is no bad guy left — at least in Massachusetts — to point the finger at to turn the screws on and, you know, break their will so they stop emitting. That’s you. We have to break your will. I can’t even say that publicly.”

There are plenty of RINO “Republicans” on board with the agenda to wipe out America’s economy and prosperity in the war against the “gas of life,” including more than a dozen in the U.S. House who joined the “Climate Solutions Caucus.”

## Putting Globalists & China in the Driver’s Seat

Also alarming is that hostile foreign governments could challenge America’s energy policies under the UN Paris regime. In a U.S. State Department document obtained under open-records laws and released by a public-interest law group before the election, it was revealed that disputes under the UN scheme would be referred to a “conciliation commission.” This international body would then issue “recommendations.”

“Now we are reminded that the U.S. can also expect a forum for antagonistic nations to bring their complaints about U.S. policy and claims of non-compliance with Paris’ required ‘Net Zero’ agenda for resolution,” explained Chris Horner with the nonprofit group Government Accountability and Oversight.

Self-proclaimed environmental groups praised the Biden administration for its decision to rejoin the UN deal. Interestingly but not surprisingly, the major “environmental” outfits peddling the Paris regime and other anti-energy policies in the United States are linked to Communist China. In a piece by Kevin Mooney headlined “China’s Green Offensive,” published by the investigative think tank Capital Research Center, the connections — many of them running right through the Rockefeller dynasty — become clear.

The U.S. State Department documents highlighted by Mooney revealed that those same environmental activists with close ties to the murderous regime in China were advising the Obama administration on how to bypass the Constitution to shackle America under the Paris Agreement. “Public records indicate the Obama State Department leapt to assist World Resource Institute’s [WRI] effort to aid the Chinese government, even after being told precisely what the group had been asked to do and for whom,” explained Erin Amsberry with the Institute for Energy Research in announcing a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit in 2018.

Specifically, Amsberry pointed out that documents show Beijing’s “National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation” was using U.S. environmental groups such as WRI, which it had reached out to for help, to push the Chinese regime’s policies on America under Obama.



Multiple lawmakers have even publicly suggested that these groups are probably required to register under the Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA) for serving foreign interests — especially Beijing's. One of the groups eventually did register as a foreign agent.

### **The Resistance: Federal and State**

Even though pro-Paris Agreement Democrats control Congress and the White House, resistance to the scheme is growing at the state and the federal level. And because the UN deal is so blatantly unconstitutional — and has never been ratified — there is a real chance that it could be stopped. Indeed, Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution only gives the president power “by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur.”

One of the most outspoken critics in Washington has been Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas). Noting that the UN deal was a treaty by definition, and that treaties require Senate ratification to be considered valid, Cruz had previously urged the out-

going Trump administration to submit it to the Senate as a way to prevent Biden from rejoining. Unfortunately for critics of the scheme, Trump did not do that. However, Cruz is not giving up on his crusade to stop the UN scheme, which the UN continues to describe as “a legally binding international treaty on climate change.”

Even Communist China's rubber-stamp “legislature” had to ratify the Paris Agreement as a treaty, while in the United States, Biden (and Obama before him) acts as if Senate approval is not needed.

“If the Biden administration believes that rejoining the agreement is something the American people should support, then he should submit the Paris Climate Agreement to the Senate as a treaty and let the people decide through their elected representatives,” Cruz explained in a statement slamming the UN agreement. “But he knows that it would fail. So like his Democratic predecessor, President Biden is governing by executive fiat.... Rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement will do little to affect the climate, and will harm the livelihoods of everyday Americans all across the country. I'll continue working with my colleagues to

fight for blue-collar workers and to defend America's energy independence.”

Senator Cruz blasted Biden's order, saying it indicates that Biden is “more interested in the views of the citizens of Paris than in the jobs of the citizens of Pittsburgh.” Cruz also ridiculed the notion that Biden's decision was about “re-storing America's leadership abroad” or “solving the climate crisis.” Instead, it is the administration's effort to “destroy jobs they don't like — including thousands of manufacturing jobs — and cede control of our energy future to other countries.” The Paris deal will be used by Biden to govern by executive fiat and “burden American families, manufacturers, and businesses with higher energy costs at a time when they are already struggling,” Cruz added.

Other U.S. senators are pursuing similar efforts, and even going beyond simply speaking out. Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.), for instance, submitted a resolution to the Senate demanding that the Biden administration submit the Paris scheme to the U.S. Senate for ratification as a treaty, which is required under the “Supreme Law of the Land.” That resolution has already secured support from five other Republican Senators so far: John Barrasso (Wy.), Jerry Moran (Kan.), Roger Marshall (Kan.), Cynthia Lummis (Wy.), and Mike Crapo (Idaho).

Among other concerns, Senator Daines blasted the Paris scheme as “a poorly negotiated, fatally flawed treaty that represents a bad deal for American families everywhere.” Noting that it would put America at a competitive disadvantage and would lead to higher energy prices and job losses “for minimal benefit,” Daines demanded in statements and in his resolution that Biden submit the treaty to the U.S. Senate for consideration, as required under the U.S. Constitution. Numerous other Republican lawmakers have publicly condemned Biden's move and promised to fight it as well.

In the House of Representatives, where Republicans have almost reclaimed a majority and are expected to do well in 2022 if vote fraud can be kept in check, similar efforts are under way. Representative Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), for instance, promptly filed a bill prohibiting any funding for the UN “climate” scheme unless and until it is ratified by the U.S. Senate. “Joe Biden took an oath to uphold the U.S.



**Taking Biden to task over the treaty:** Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) is one of the lawmakers demanding that Biden submit the unconstitutional Paris Agreement to the Senate for ratification, as required by the Constitution.

AP Images

Constitution,” she declared. “If he wants to keep it, he must transmit the job-killing Paris Agreement to the U.S. Senate for ratification.” Of course, Congress is unlikely to pass this bill, considering the current Democratic control of both houses. But until that changes, much can be accomplished on the state level via nullification.

At the state level, policymakers are already fighting back and exploring their options. Oklahoma’s Republican governor signed an executive order rejecting Biden’s lawless decrees and ordering state agencies to resist (see article on page 10). And a coalition of at least half a dozen state attorneys general, including the highly influential Ken Paxton of Texas, also signed a letter promising to sue Biden and the feds over any overreach or unconstitutional policies. Lawmakers are working on nullification bills nationwide. Numerous analysts also expect lawsuits by Republicans in Congress or the states to result in a Supreme Court decision striking down U.S. government submission to the UN scheme.

### Climate Claims

As if the lawlessness and destructiveness of the Paris scheme were not enough, it is important to remember that the deal does nothing for the climate — and it appears that its leading promoters understand that very well. Consider, as exhibit A, Biden’s new “climate czar,” John Kerry. Aside from having a carbon footprint the size of an African country by himself, the former secretary of state literally flew to Iceland on a private jet to receive his “climate leadership” award in 2019, defending the move by saying a gas-guzzling private jet is “the only choice for someone like me.”

Of course, if the establishment truly believed the propaganda about CO<sub>2</sub> being “pollution” driving “climate change,” it would make no sense to shift production to CO<sub>2</sub>-heavy China, either. Even France, the nation that hosted the UN summit where the deal was cooked up under Beijing’s leadership, has failed to live up to the agreement, as determined by its own court system in early February. On February 4, a French court ruled against the French government in a suit brought by environmental groups alleging that it had not upheld its commitments. Specifically, America and some other Western nations will suffer the most under the Paris policies.



**For thee, not me:** Biden’s “climate czar” John Kerry (left), who went to collect his “climate leadership” award in a private jet, is making global deals to subdue America under the UN Paris scheme.

AP Images

Even if one believes the pseudo-science behind the man-made global-warming alarmism amid the record cold being experienced by parts of the country, as then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo explained, U.S. net “greenhouse gas emissions” dropped almost 15 percent between 2005 and 2017 even as the economy grew by nearly 20 percent. Meanwhile, emissions of air pollutants that actually affect human health and the environment declined by 75 percent between 1970 and 2018, Pompeo explained, citing official data.

“We stand amongst industrialized nations as a beacon, and we did it not through state-driven, forced rule sets, but rather through creativity and innovation and good governance,” Pompeo explained while on a trip to the Maldives, an island nation that fearmongers have long claimed was going to sink beneath the waves due to “climate change.”

At a UN climate summit in Copenhagen, THE NEW AMERICAN asked the Maldives’ then-President Mohamed Nasheed about his claims that climate change would mean his islands being submerged, compared with the actual sea-level data compiled by former UN IPCC sea-level reviewer

Nils-Axel Möner showing there was no sea-level rise taking place that threatened his nation. Nasheed refused to discuss it. “His attacks are not even worthy of a response,” Nasheed told this writer before rambling on about the pope supposedly killing Galileo. That sort of response is typical of climate alarmists.

While Biden and the rest of the climate cabal claim the time for debate is over, the reality is that Americans are not convinced, and the evidence keeps stacking up against the climate hysteria. The absurdity of the climate alarmism was illustrated perfectly when Texas wind turbines created to stop global warming literally froze up due to record cold, leaving millions without power in sub-zero temperatures, after decades of UN warmists arguing that snow and cold winters were a thing of the past. Reality will not be going away anytime soon. For the sake of truth, liberty, prosperity, and the rule of law, the fight against the UN Paris scheme and the lies that underpin it must go on. ■



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# BEHIND

## Irrational Fears Fueling the Panic

The coronavirus can cause death, but the fear of the virus is not due to the deadliness of the disease (the dangers are played up). The fear is being stoked for political aims.



JJ Gouin / iStock / Getty Images Plus

by **Annalisa Pesek**

*“We cannot let the cure be worse than the problem itself.”*  
— Donald J. Trump

After a year of lockdowns for a treatable virus with a 99-percent survivability rate, America is slowly starting to reopen. Leading the liberation are the red states of Florida, South Dakota, Texas, Mississippi, and Iowa, among others, lifting all COVID-19 regulations as of March 2021.

President Joe Biden has chastised these states’ decisions, calling the resolutions “a big mistake” led by “Neanderthal thinking.” Agreeing with Biden, many Americans are resolutely following restrictive

mask mandates and six feet of social distancing, while millions of others, those relegated to the “primitive” class, question not only the effectiveness of shutdowns but also the real damage done by draconian regulations that have fueled widespread fear of infection and death.

Like Biden, others in the pro-mask and -lockdown crowd resort to mocking taunts to make the opposition cower. Outspoken Hollywood leftist Michael Moore expressed his sentiments about reopening in a diatribe recently posted at the Daily Wire: “I have two words for MAGA Nation: Don’t Die. Your love of and loyalty to Trump isn’t worth your life. With 73 million of you refusing to wear a mask and to social distance, there’ll be no way to eradicate this disease. And a lot of you are going to die.”

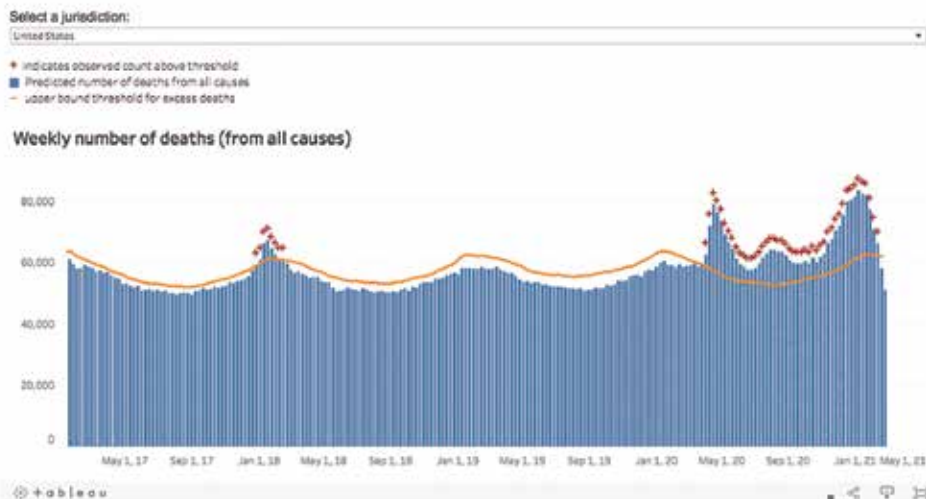
While such fearmongering may, in fact, successfully reduce open opposition, the

hysteria — which is sustained by leftists such as Moore, the biased mainstream media, and left-wing lawmakers — is an indication the panic is not really about controlling the virus at all. Instead, it’s about fomenting fears to achieve power and political ends. In this instance, like so many others, fear is being used to fasten increasingly coercive and tyrannical government on us.

Consider the current claim that more than 500,000 Americans died *from* COVID-19, even as the CDC reports the mildest flu season on U.S. record and an average of 2.6 “co-morbidities or other conditions listed on death certificates in 94 percent of all COVID-19 deaths.” Then consider early predictions from the now-infamous Imperial College London study that forecast that from March 2020 to October 2020, “2.2. million” Americans would die if governments failed to act decisively. The report also claimed that COVID-19 was the “most serious respiratory virus since the 1918 H1N1 influenza” — also known as the Spanish Flu. However, unlike that disease, or any truly lethal virus, the coronavirus doesn’t impact children and middle-age populations severely.

As former *New York Times* journalist Alex Berenson noted in his series *Unreported Truths About COVID-19 and Lockdowns: Part 1; Introductions and Death Counts and Estimates*, the Imperial College report, which “spurred worldwide lockdowns, extensive social distancing practices, and school closures,” also demonstrated that the coronavirus was “more than 100 times as likely to kill people over 80 than under 50. People under 30 were at very low risk.” Certainly not a minor detail, yet this data seems to have been conveniently withheld from the general public. Instead of reporting on these facts, the mainstream media and

The most recent and profound example of that fearmongering is the claim that more than 500,000 Americans have died of COVID.



**Statistically significant:** A CDC graph of purported “excess deaths” shows areas experiencing higher-than-normal mortality rates, yet the data remain incomplete, making it impossible to know the “real” COVID death rate.

government officials have done well to perpetuate doom and gloom, spouting scientifically unproven data. Watching CNN and the COVID-19 “death ticker,” aptly named by Fox News’ Tucker Carlson, viewers may easily give in to the widespread belief that COVID-19 has indeed claimed half a million American lives. And that fear — what writer S.G. Cheah terms a wave of “mass insanity,” a delusional psychosis induced by an irrational fear of the virus — is sparking a real crisis.

Despite the Imperial College study’s hugely disparate claims, it became the catalyst for national policy that led states to take unprecedented measures to quarantine the healthy and, in some areas, issue guidelines that killed the elderly. As of this writing, embattled New York Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo is still evading responsibility for nursing-home policies that killed more than 14,000 seniors, according to an investigative report by New

York Attorney General Letitia James.

Tragically, death *is* an effect of the virus, but even as virus deaths have been trumpeted from governmental and media venues, the number of deaths spurred by COVID lockdowns has been left in the shadows. Skyrocketing suicide and depression rates among America’s youth are well documented, but little reported. Undoubtedly, young people have been adversely impacted by isolation caused by yearlong public-school and university closures. According to Selwyn Duke’s article “Ex-Medical Examiner: The ‘500,000 COVID Deaths’ Number Is a Lie,” at [TheNewAmerican.com](http://TheNewAmerican.com), 2020 saw a rise in “suicides and overdose deaths; in fact, the latter number, 81,000, was our nation’s highest ever.”

Giving a testament to claims of adverse psychological effects of lockdowns on young people is California-based clinical psychologist Mark Baker. In a conversation with Pastor Rob McCoy on the pod-

cast Vintage McCoy, Baker explained the exponential growth of new psych patients over the past year. “Children are unable to connect with others.... [They] feel utterly without a way. It was [supposed to be] two weeks to flatten the curve, then two months, now a year. There’s no end in sight; it pushes people over the edge to do things they wouldn’t otherwise do.” Remarkably, irrational behaviors prompted by fear of the coronavirus are commonplace in today’s society — think rampant mask-shaming and entire families being thrown off planes because their noncompliant toddler refuses to don a face covering.

For months Americans have been plagued with blatant fearmongering and panic-mongering from both the activist media and the leftist/globalist government.

The most recent and profound example of that fearmongering is the claim that more than 500,000 Americans have died of COVID. If the United States had really experienced a half-million excess deaths because of COVID-19, data should make this plain, as governments have kept meticulous records of total deaths for decades, and so we should see the country’s death rate substantially rise. But we don’t see this in the numbers.

As of March 2021, data sourced from the United Nations *World Population Prospects* do illustrate a continuous climb in U.S. mortality rates over the past several years, from 2019 (8.782) to 2020 (8.880) to 2021 (8.977), but there’s a catch: The United States has seen consistent increases in the overall mortality rate since 2012. Prior to that time, back to 1950, the country’s death rate either dropped or held fairly level, largely owing to growing numbers of youths and improving hygiene. However, the country’s swelling population and expanding elderly cohort have combined to reverse that trend.

Another source, USA Facts, “a nonpartisan, not-for-profit civic initiative without a political agenda,” makes the half million number even more suspect. In a January 2021 report, the organization stated that “3,187,086 people died from all causes between January 1 and December 26, 2020.” In 2019, “2,852,609” people died, so that’s 334,477 additional deaths in 2020 possibly owing to coronavirus, a number that would rise by the tens of thousands in January-February 2021. Still, that’s far



short of a half-million excess deaths. It's significant, too, that large jumps in the U.S. death total are not only common as the country ages, but expected: In 2015, the United States had 2,712,630 total deaths, and by 2017, the U.S. was already experiencing 2,813,503 deaths per year.

And there's a further problem. This study did not account for the increased 2020 U.S. population, which would have shown an estimated 0.59 percent growth, or roughly two million people, leading to a higher-than expected death total as compared to the previous year, without COVID's influence.

Also making the COVID-19 death count problematic is that while fatalities attributed to the virus were increasing throughout the country, caused by a viral respiratory illness, the CDC would have us believe that flu deaths, also caused by a viral respiratory illness, virtually ceased to exist in 2020.

Note in the table below that at the time of this writing in March only an estimated 183 people have died of the flu so far this year, while a whopping 67,222 have succumbed to fatalities involving the coronavirus and pneumonia. In a typical flu season, between 30,000 and 60,000 Americans are believed to die from the flu. A *WebMD* article from 2005 entitled "What Is a Pandemic?" noted that in that year "flu reached epidemic levels in the U.S. for 10 weeks in a row during the 2004-2005 sea-

son. CDC records show that during the week ending March 5, 2005, 8.9% of all deaths reported in 122 U.S. cities were due to influenza and pneumonia (a common complication of the flu)."

Are we really to believe that flu is nearly nonexistent this year, or should we conclude that flu deaths are being added to COVID-19 deaths?

To the latter question, former seasoned medical examiner Dennis McGowan would answer with a resounding "yes." According to McGowan, as asserted in a recent *American Thinker* article, the coronavirus death tolls are a "big lie." On death investigations, he writes, "Death certificates are pretty uniform in their structure, and they call for strict accuracy in listing the relevant details." He goes on to say that "If COVID is on the Immediate Cause line, it is clearly a COVID death. If it is on the first Due To line, it might be a COVID death in a person with a significant comorbidity. If it is on the second or third Due To line, it may or may not have a role in the death, but if it appears in the Other Significant Conditions line, it is not a COVID death, yet it is being counted as one. An example is the fellow who crashed his motorcycle and tested positive for COVID. This is fraud masquerading as science."

Unquestionably, the COVID death count is greatly exaggerated, but one could hardly tell that by examining government data.

Attempts to navigate government data on the topic of excess deaths — i.e., "the number of deaths exceeding the normal average total of deaths in recent years" — unfortunately results in only skewed numbers and convoluted medical jargon cascading down page after page of the CDC website. Different definitions and varying estimates of both excess deaths and excess deaths related to COVID-19, presented side-by-side, make it nearly impossible to decipher an accurate correlation between overall year-by-year fatality rates and virus lethality cause and effect.

A CDC graph of purported "excess deaths" shows that from February 2020 to July 2020, there were "areas [in the United States] experiencing statistically significantly higher than normal mortality," yet the mortality data remains incomplete, with "completeness varying by jurisdiction" (e.g., "Data for New York excludes New York City"). Thus, the "bigger picture" of the statistics for increased overall U.S. deaths over time is, at this stage, unachievable.

Further down the CDC page is this incomprehensible explanation: "The estimates of excess deaths reported here [i.e., the graph above] may not be due to COVID-19, either directly or indirectly. The pandemic may have changed mortality patterns for other causes of death." Yet the CDC only includes examples of "other causes" as "health care shortages

Table 1. Deaths involving coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), pneumonia, and influenza reported to NCHS by time-period and jurisdiction of occurrence.							Data as of: 3/9/2021
State United States						Year All	
Year in which death occurred	All Deaths involving COVID-19 [1]	Deaths from All Causes	Percent of Expected Deaths [2]	Deaths involving Pneumonia [3]	Deaths involving COVID-19 and Pneumonia [3]	All Deaths involving Influenza [4]	Deaths involving Pneumonia, Influenza, or COVID-19 [5]
2021	126,708	520,044	18	87,101	67,222	183	146,692
2020	378,095	3,361,063	118	347,757	176,909	8,773	556,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>504,803</b>	<b>3,881,107</b>		<b>434,858</b>	<b>244,131</b>	<b>8,956</b>	<b>703,262</b>

**COVID has killed the common flu:** Shockingly, an astronomically low number of people have died of the flu so far this year, while tens of thousands have purportedly succumbed to fatalities involving the coronavirus and pneumonia.



BartekSzewczyk / iStock / Getty Images Plus

**Blood on their hands:** Data show that drugs such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin have cut COVID deaths in half, yet government and many medical experts continue to deny Americans these vital, life-saving treatments.

due to COVID-19.” No mention of “other causes” owing to lockdowns, school closures, depression and suicides, drug overdoses, fear of being alone in a hospital, etc.

Yes, the virus is real, but, again, there’s almost no chance that more than 500,000 Americans died from this illness. And the CDC and mainstream media are working very hard to keep information about excess deaths and deaths with comorbidities inaccessible, misleading, and confusing.

As posted on the CDC website, the most common conditions present with COVID-19 at the time of death include influenza and pneumonia (44.7 percent; 203,395 deaths); hypertension (19.9 percent; 90,511 deaths); diabetes (15.8 percent; 72,050 deaths); and Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias (14.5 percent; 65,846 deaths). Factoring these figures into the death counts attributed solely to the virus prompts questions of accuracy.

Upon further evaluation of the CDC report, it is questionable whether any deaths can be attributed exclusively to the coronavirus. As the CDC acknowledges, “The six percent of death certificates in which COVID-19 was the only condition listed was likely related to a lack of detail listed about other conditions present at the time of death.” Unfortunately, scant reporting of such critical information only sustains

the belief that the coronavirus is a disease that inevitably kills.

Again, this is not to say that the coronavirus is not dangerous or lethal, especially for those with high-risk underlying conditions. However, the media’s substantial failure to draw the distinction between dying *with* COVID, as opposed to dying *from* COVID, continues to shield the public from the truth, effectively keeping many Americans in a perpetual state of fear.

Also a sign of political manipulation is the lack of information available about, and lack of access to, safe and effective treatments for COVID, treatments that would have saved numerous lives. Even as anecdotal and research evidence piled up about effective medications, it remained difficult to get the medications. For instance, the Ford Clinic released data showing that the use of hydroxychloroquine on hospitalized COVID patients reduced deaths by 50 percent, but government refused to sanction the drug’s use by non-hospitalized sufferers. Note, this is a drug that is commonly prescribed for non-life threatening diseases such as arthritis, has a decades-long track record, and is prescribed millions of times a year worldwide. Ivermectin has a similar safety profile and works even better, but it was not accessible either. Meanwhile, multiple doctors’ groups complained that every

time they put info about treatments online, they were deplatformed.

Referring to hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin, commentator Dennis Prager writes, “These drugs (along with zinc), which are as safe as any medicines humanity has taken in the last half-century, should have been almost universally used to treat COVID-19 patients as soon as those patients showed symptoms or tested positive — and even as a prophylactic to prevent or minimize the effects of the illness in the first place. If they had been, it is likely that tens, maybe hundreds, of thousands of those who died of the virus would have lived.” (From “How Many Americans Has the American Medical Establishment Killed?”)

One day the American medical establishment will have to account for the tens of thousands of lives that could have been saved were it not for Americans being denied vital information and life-saving treatments.

The incessant campaign of fearmongering by government, major media, and social media, despite the evidence that this is a very treatable disease, reveals that Big Government and Big Tech have been pushing the fear buttons for political gains.

Obviously, the gambit has been succeeding. And many Americans remain afraid of the virus because of the panic perpetuated by an all-controlling, coercive government rather than the lethality of the virus itself.

Dr. Joseph Mercola, in his article “The World Is Suffering From Mass Delusional Psychosis,” examines the work of psychiatrist and medical legal expert Dr. Mark McDonald, who argues that many people anxious about the coronavirus “believe that they are going to die — no matter what age, no matter what state of health they’re in.... That’s delusional psychosis. It’s false, it’s wrong, it’s not backed up by evidence. And many, many Americans are living that and believing that.”

To resist such dangerous political machinations, Americans will have to begin to live their lives not necessarily risk-free but courageously. Perhaps we do this by rising above the lies and staying true to the tenets of liberty and freedom upon which this great nation was built. Perhaps by refusing to believe that this pervasive chaos is unending and hopeless, society can turn around and truly be great again. ■



# The Untold Story of *Roe v. Wade*

A new film offers a first-of-its-kind look into how the U.S. Supreme Court decided the case that would change American history forever.

by Annalisa Pesek

Forty-eight years after the U.S. Supreme Court voted 7-2 in favor of legalizing abortion “on demand” in America comes the new movie *Roe v. Wade*. A first of its kind, the film uncovers the untold story of the infamous decision, as conceived by filmmakers Cathy Allyn (*The Experiment*) and Nicholas Loeb (*Primary Colors*).

This powerful chronicle of the Supreme Court decision tackles themes of redemption, as well as greed, manipulation, and corruption, in a thought-provoking, carefully paced work that weaves the history of the unprecedented ruling with the complex portrait of a man swept up in the zeitgeist of 1960s and 1970s America.

As a whole, the movie accomplishes what it sets out to do — to present all the facts, allowing viewers to decide on which side of the abortion issue they fall.

The film’s co-writer, co-director, and co-producer, Nick Loeb, who also stars as the movie’s main character, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, spoke to THE NEW AMERICAN in a recent video interview to discuss some of the more intriguing details of the film.

One haunting question that opens and closes the film is whether an aborted fetus is really a human being. For Nathanson, who in real life presided over more than 60,000 abortions throughout his career, the certainty that there is life in the womb was always there. So why, years later and after tens of thousands of deaths, did he experience a change of heart and advocate for the unborn?

Loeb suggested, “If Nathanson always knew the aborted fetus was a life, was there really a conversion?” Though it’s difficult to say for sure, the emotional scene in which Nathanson breaks down weeping upon viewing an ultrasound capturing a baby’s heartbeat is the moment of



**Fighting for life:** In the film, Professor Robert Byrn (Joey Lawrence) and Dr. Mildred Jefferson (Stacey Dash) react to the news that *Roe v. Wade* will be reargued in the high court, creating an opportunity for a pro-life victory.

his epiphany that society’s normalization of murder, something he helped create, was not acceptable.

Yet, reportedly, after denouncing abortion as wrong, Nathanson still (for a time) performed abortions in cases of medical emergencies. To *New York Magazine*, in the late 1980s, he acknowledged, “On a gut, emotional level, I still favored abortion. It represented all the things we had fought for and won. It seemed eminently more civilized than the carnage that had gone on before.”

“No matter what people decide about having an abortion or not, there’s a baby there, and there’s a life, and life begins at conception,” said Loeb. And that’s the message with which viewers will contend. In the opening scene, set in March 1985, Nathanson is giving an interview to an obviously bewildered *Washington*

*Post* reporter, who questions what seem to be contradictory statements from the doctor:

**Reporter:** [Referring to the aborted children] “When you take them out, you don’t see anything?”

**Nathanson:** “No, you don’t see anything. Well, I mean, of all the thousands of second trimester abortions I’ve done, maybe I’ve seen half a dozen.”

**Reporter:** “But didn’t it bother you when you did?”

**Nathanson:** “No, not particularly, it was the end product, a lifeless limp thing lying there.”

**Reporter:** “They have a human form.”

**Nathanson:** “Oh absolutely.”

**Reporter:** “I’m a little confused. First you said, all you see is ‘bloody meat,’ but now you say you always thought it was a person. So, which one is it?”

Abortion has been a holocaust on the black community, with 40 percent of all abortions in the country happening in poor black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

**Abortion Was Never About Women**

In this scene Nathanson is conveyed as calm and cool, and his statements are verbatim real-life documented conversations. This is the man whose journey to committing his life to “saving women” began after he paid for a back-alley abortion for a girlfriend he’d hoped to marry, a decision that destroyed their relationship but led to what he describes in the film as “the start of a revolution. Women are dying.... I’m saving lives!”

We quickly learn that abortion’s real mastermind, however, was a man named Lawrence Lader (Jamie Kennedy). Dubbed “the father of the abortion movement,” Lader was mentored by Planned Parenthood founder and eugenicist Margaret Sanger in the 1920s. Aspiring to continue her work, Lader recruited Nathanson and the leader of the women’s movement, feminist Betty Friedan (Lucy Davenport), to launch the National Association to Repeal Abortion Laws (NARAL), the

nation’s first organization committed to legalizing abortion.

As Loeb pointed out, “There is a lot of money in abortion.” And greed and power clearly drive the ambitious Lader, who is visibly thrilled at the fervent enthusiasm of the women in the burgeoning “pro-choice” movement.

In one scene, a spooky jingle known as the “Abortion Song,” first introduced in Nathanson’s 1979 book *Aborting America*, is sung gleefully by Lader’s and Nathanson’s wives and children. Its lyrics, composed by Nathanson, relay the grim truth about abortion: “There’s a fortune in abortion — just a twist of the wrist and you’re through.... The population of the nation won’t grow if it’s left up to you.”

Lader’s mission is simple: Find a pregnant girl to challenge the abortion laws, and “When New York falls, the country falls.”

Enter Dr. Mildred Jefferson (Stacey Dash), Nathanson’s compelling if under-

developed foil (perhaps this was deliberate?), who is briefly introduced but then noticeably absent for the next 40-plus minutes of the film. Jefferson was the first black woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School. She would go on to become one of the founders of the National Right to Life Foundation and influence President Ronald Reagan’s pro-life views.

Yet, as Loeb noted, “Mildred Jefferson has been completely left out of history. No one talks about her.... If Mildred had been pro-choice, everyone would have heard her name.” Dash, who plays the young doctor, has been utterly disparaged by the film’s critics and is one of the latest victims of cancel culture.

In the film, Dr. Jefferson is approached by Catholic priest James McHugh (Tom Guiry) to head the National Right to Life Committee. She initially declines but is pressed further by McHugh, who says, “[Abortion] is akin to slavery, and you know the topic.” To which Jefferson retorts, “Because I’m black?” “Yes,” he replies. Eventually signing on with the group, she befriends law professor Robert Byrn (Joey Lawrence), whose charismatic, convincing personality and sharp legal mind create an endearing character with a penchant for quoting luminaries such as Ben Franklin, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and John Marshall.

McHugh’s comment to Jefferson equating slavery to abortion should be alarming for every American. It’s true: Abortion has been a holocaust on the black community, with 40 percent of all abortions in the country happening in poor black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

Given Sanger’s views, as proposed in “The Negro Project,” to reduce the black population and literally stop black people from having children altogether, such a result could have been expected. But in film scenes of busy abortion clinics, women enthusiastically await their opportunity to receive “reproductive health care” services; notably, none of the women are black.

Throughout, the pro-life movement is depicted as sincere but lacking in funds, support, and the well-engineered enthusiasm of the pro-abortion side. Archival footage of massive protests demonstrates a fervent women’s liberation movement embracing Lader’s ingenious invention of the slogan “pro-choice,” a message few were



**Not listening to both sides:** Though U.S. Supreme Court justices presided over the pro-life and pro-abortion arguments in *Roe v. Wade*, ultimately ruling 7-2 in favor of Roe, it is clear that they cast their votes based on personal preferences, not the law.

Roe v. Wade RWW media kit



willing to oppose. Loeb expressed his belief that “today the majority of pro-choicers believe they are helping women and they just don’t understand the facts. I think the movement was co-opted by a few corrupt people who knew what they were doing, and greed set in.” To viewers, it appears that at the height of the sexual revolution, women were so caught up in the idea of their right to control their own bodies that they seemed to show no concern for the fact that they are killing their own children.

As with Nathanson’s confession that he lied about knowing the aborted fetus was a human being, the movie makes clear that lies are what advance the entire pro-abortion movement. Lader proves especially adept at conjuring incredible falsehoods, which even *Time* magazine willingly prints, such as that “every year, a million back-alley abortions claim thousands of women’s lives.”

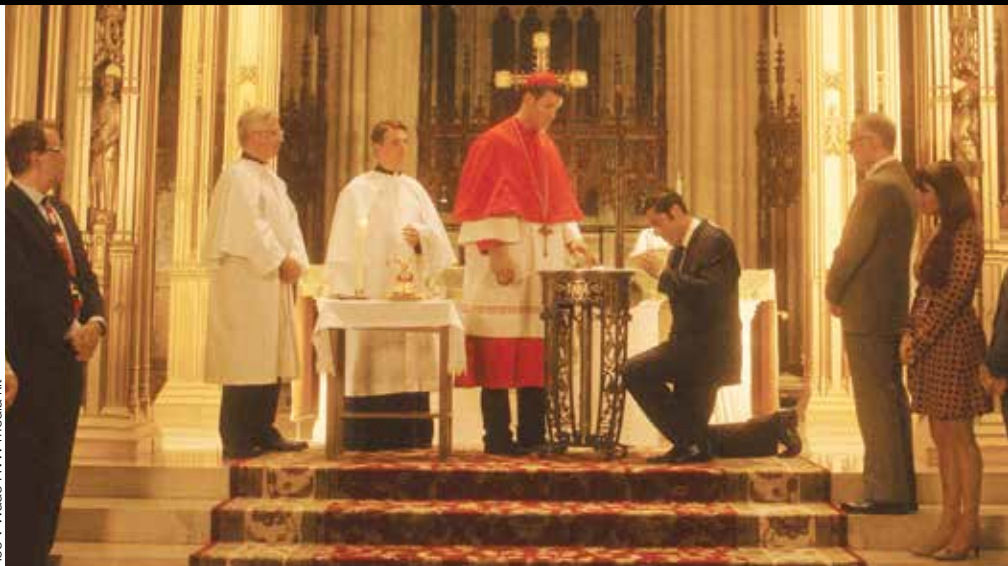
In one revealing scene, while vacationing in St. Lucia, Nathanson and Lader are boasting to a beautiful bikini-clad woman about what they’ve done. She asks why they would lie about such things. Nathanson, who at this point is raking in \$50,000 a day, tells her, “If you keep repeating the big lie, people don’t question it.”

Buying the lie, Texas lawyers Linda Coffee and Sarah Weddington (played by Justine Wachsberger and Greer Grammer, who deserve plaudits for their outstanding performances) are the willing pawns of the “pro-choice” cause. Unemployed and having never tried a case before *Roe*, they bask in their rise from rags to riches.

### Corruption in the High Court

Among the film’s greatest strengths is its intimate portrayal of the political and personal influences impacting the decisions of the Supreme Court justices, a group commonly revered as impeccable men without flaws. “I want the general public to take away from [the film] how Supreme Court cases are decided today, very similar to the way they were decided back then,” said Loeb. “It’s very political, as the whole process has been in the past decade for the Supreme Court, and maybe it’s not all about the Constitution or legal fact.”

In the film, Justices Potter Stewart (William Forsythe) and Harry Blackmun (Corbin Bernsen) unashamedly have family members who work at Planned Parent-



**Change of heart:** In the movie depiction, as well as real life, Dr. Bernard Nathanson (Nick Loeb), a notorious abortionist-turned-pro-life advocate, is baptized into the Catholic Church.

hood, creating a clear conflict of interest. When Stewart is confronted by Justice William Brennan (Robert Davi), who demands Stewart recuse himself, Stewart refuses. To spite Chief Justice Warren Burger (Jon Voight) for demanding *Roe* be reargued after an initial internal vote of 4-3 in favor of *Roe*, Justice William Douglas (Richard Portnow) admits to Brennan that he’s going to leak the vote to the press.

As each judge wrestles with his decision, the film emphasizes the pressures they face from outside forces, including fears of damaging established political alliances or losing the favor of family members. Blackmun’s own daughter tells him, “Stand with us, Daddy, stand up for women.”

As depicted, all of the judges had strong feelings about the way the vote should go. Burger uses his position as chief justice to demand *Roe* be reargued, a move several of the other justices resent. To attack Burger publicly, Douglas and Stewart coordinate an organized effort to leak information about the court’s internal vote to a *Washington Post* reporter played by the inimitable Roger Stone. Stone is shocked at the leak, but Stewart remains defiant, stating, “He [Burger] deserves it.”

In December 1971, when *Roe* was first heard by the high court, only seven justices sat on the bench, as President Richard Nixon struggled to get his two picks confirmed in the Senate to fill vacant seats.

Burger is the most tragic figure. Knowing abortion is legally and morally wrong, he ultimately falls prey to perceived public opinion and flips his vote from no to yes for *Roe*. Byron White (John Schneider) is the only justice unwavering in his commitment to life, and, with Justice William Rehnquist, dissents in the final 7-2 decision.

Now, viewers will be wondering where and who is Jane Roe. As a character, the 20-something Norma McCorvey, the real-life *Roe*, is given less than 10 minutes of screen time. In fact, viewers learn very little about her or the actual case. Yet, according to Loeb, “What is relevant about Norma is not that she was pro-life or pro-choice but that she was lied to and manipulated. They signed her up and never spoke to her again.... What happened? She had no idea.” In the film, Professor Byrn raises some obvious questions during a college lecture: “Why was *Roe* in the Supreme Court? There’s no factual record in this case, no trial, no expert witnesses, no description of evidence, no expert witness testimony.... This is a conspiracy.”

One could argue the conspiracy of which Byrn speaks is that the case has nothing to do with women’s healthcare or well-being, but instead money and power for Planned Parenthood and abortionists.

In the movie, as well as real life, Norma’s case is initially filed in Houston, even though she lives in Dallas. Lawyer

Coffee arranges this so that Dallas Judge Sarah Hughes, who favors the position of Roe, will oversee the hearing. McCorvey never appears in court; she never even has an abortion. Meanwhile, Judge Hughes' enemy No. 1, Texas District Attorney General Henry Wade, takes one look at the case and states emphatically, "No judge or jury in their right mind would ever let abortion happen in Texas."

In court, Assistant District Attorney Jay Floyd argues that the child's right to life is superior to the woman's right to privacy. Conversely, Weddington asserts it's impossible to determine "when life begins or even ends," garnering a standing ovation after an impassioned closing argument: "These young girls, who cannot possibly shoulder the responsibility of a child, should be entitled to an abortion!" Though Texas loses the case, Wade promises to "appeal all the way to the Supreme Court so help me God!"

**Life Is the Way Forward**

Well illustrated throughout are the parallels of the cultural issues dividing

America both then and now, as well as the manipulation of the media and the proliferation of the Lawrence Laders of the world among today's progressive Left. American society today and during the Roe controversy are deeply similar, and this fact will not be lost on conservative or leftist viewers.

Aside from a 1989 TV movie starring Holly Hunter, Allyn and Loeb's film may be the seminal account (so far) on the landmark ruling. In a recent phone interview with THE NEW AMERICAN, Allyn stressed that the film received zero Hollywood backing. "We reached out to everyone we could think of from pro-life and religious groups." Moreover, members of the cast included "an equal breakdown of actors from the pro-life and pro-choice movements, brought together to document the history of the ruling," said Allyn. Yet, according to Loeb, over the course of filming, one cast member changed from the pro-abortion to the pro-life side.

At the end of the film, Nathanson, a pro-life champion, is baptized into the Catholic Church (in 1996). That someone

who could kill so many babies could have a change of heart and work so diligently for the pro-life cause is nothing short of miraculous. In 1984, before his religious conversion, he created the antiabortion film *The Silent Scream*, depicting an abortion-in-progress via ultrasound imaging. Perhaps it's time to resurrect this film.

Still, the question remains, will *Roe v. Wade* the movie convince viewers of the abomination of abortion? For decades, Americans have been deceived, thinking abortion is about caring for women. But abortion in no way advances women; instead, it normalizes murder by dehumanizing the preborn child. Since 1973, more than 60 million babies have been aborted, and 40 percent of those deaths are in the black community. In 2020, the profits of Planned Parenthood exceeded more than \$1.6 billion, according to the film.

Undoubtedly, the story of *Roe v. Wade* is long overdue. Yet it is here now, and in the words of the film's executive producer, Dr. Alveda King, it "proves that Hollywood does not have the final word about the sanctity of life." ■

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## THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

### Shoes for Souls

At just 12 years old, Lindsay Sobel of Los Angeles, California, made it her mission to *pair* the homeless population of her city with a *pair* of great shoes.

As part of her preparation for her bat mitzvah ceremony, Sobel launched Shoes for Souls, a charitable program that collects and distributes shoes for Southern Californians in need.

“Part of the requirement for having a bar or bat mitzvah is that in some way you give back to your community, give back to the world,” Sobel told KNX-1070 News Radio. “I decided I wanted to give back as big as I could.”

Sobel had been struck by the deplorable conditions in which the homeless population in her area lived and knew she wanted to do something to help. “I noticed a lot of them did not even have shoes on,” she said in an interview with the online site A Mighty Girl. “At 12 years old, I was like, ‘Wow, people don’t have shoes?’ It kind of put things into perspective for me.”

Today, nearly five years since its inception, Shoes for Souls has donated more than 30,000 pairs of shoes for the homeless.

Sobel says the organization accepts shoes in good condition. “My motto is, if you would wear it, I’ll accept it,” she told A Mighty Girl. “I want to try to give the best experience to all the people... A fresh, new pair of shoes can really brighten someone’s day, brighten their attitude, and their outlook on life.”

As the pandemic affected her ability to host school shoe drives, Sobel turned to the Next Door app to solicit donations.

### Restaurant-owner Rescue

Adolfo Melendez, owner of the Tex-mex eatery El Mezcal in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, knows firsthand the tremendous impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on the restaurant industry. That’s why he decided that he would use his own resources to help his competition avoid cutbacks and closures.

With money from his own restaurant’s advertising budget, Melendez purchased more than \$2,000 in gift cards to other res-

taurants in his community and raffled them off to customers on Facebook, WKOW-27 News reported.

CNN reported Melendez began purchasing \$20 gift cards from area restaurants at the end of last year.

Melendez told CNN he was inspired to help his fellow restaurant owners after a local realty company helped his own restaurant at the start of the pandemic.

“They did something where people voted for their favorite restaurant and I got second place so they bought \$300 in gift cards from me,” he said.

Melendez believes that helping his competition to be successful reaffirms his own place in the community and encourages residents to shop and eat local. “That’s part of what keeps us alive,” he told WKOW. “You can go to Applebee’s, or you can go to Pizza Hut but it ain’t the same like when you go to this little diner or pizza joint.”

### “Mattress Mack”

Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale of Houston, Texas, is well-known locally for his over-the-top commercials. But he has also built a reputation for himself as the guy who opens his furniture-store locations to families displaced by severe weather. The first time was in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina. More recently, Mattress Mack opened his Gallery Furniture locations as “warming stations” for hundreds of residents after Texas was struck by a winter storm that knocked out large parts of its power grid and left millions without power and running water.

According to the store’s website, Mattress Mack and his crew provided more than 3,000 meals and overnight accommodations to more than 700 Houston residents after offering its stores as shelters for displaced residents.

McIngvale put the word out on social media, inviting displaced residents to his store. “We have lots of beds, lots of sofas and lots of recliners,” he told them. “Come on in and make yourself at home.” The staff handed out blankets, chips, donuts, water, and sweatshirts to everyone as they arrived.

McIngvale has been doing this since

2005, when he first opened his stores to shelter people who fled Hurricane Katrina.

In 2017, he opened his stores as shelters for victims of Hurricane Harvey. “We’re opening up both buildings as shelters during this horrible time,” McIngvale said in a 2017 post on the company Facebook page. “We’ve got lots of beds, we’ve got lots of food, we got water, and you can even bring your animals.”

Mattress Mack also opened his stores in 2019 after Imelda, when he and his staff also rescued people from stranded cars and flooded homes, the *Washington Post* reported.

This time around was a bit more difficult, however, as the store was also impacted by the storm. The electricity was coming from a diesel-run generator, and the store was operating with a single functional water pipe. McIngvale also had to ensure proper COVID protocols were in place.

But, the *Washington Post* reported, Mattress Mack made due by bringing in portable toilets and rigging a special flush system in the restrooms.

McIngvale also paid vendors to bring in burgers, hot dogs, tacos, and breakfast burritos. And as if seeing to the physical needs of his guests wasn’t enough, McIngvale also wanted to take their minds off their troubles, he told Michael Strahan on *Good Morning America*. He brought in balloon artists and other entertainment to lift spirits.

Though McIngvale has paid for most of the expenses out of his own pocket, he told the *Washington Post* that he was happy to do it. “To whom much has been given, much is expected,” he told the *Post*.

Those who have benefited from McIngvale’s generosity have sung his praises. “Their generosity is incredible,” said Maurisio Garcia, who brought his wife and three children to Gallery Furniture after their mobile home lost power. “It’s been like an adventure for the kids staying here. The first night, they fell asleep on a diagonal sofa, happy and warm.”

But for Mattress Mack, this is just another opportunity to teach his 10-year-old granddaughter that the “essence of living is giving,” *People* reported. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH



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# Slavery and Dehumanization

The history of masks, especially when their use is compulsory, harkens back to one of the most evil episodes of human history.

by *Dennis Behreandt*

Anastácia trembled in fear, and backed farther into the corner of the dark, sweltering room. The monster had come again for her, and approached slowly and menacingly. His eyes gleamed with lurid desire, and as beads of sweat ran down his dust-streaked face, he mouthed sounds in the alien language he spoke. Each guttural syllable from the monster pierced her heart and soul with terror.

Wiry and strong, the sweaty, dirty man's hands grasped Anastácia and forced her to him. She shrunk from his grasp and cried, her blue eyes shedding tears of terror and outrage that flowed like rivers down the dark skin of her regal cheeks. Once she was a princess famed in her distant home as much for her wisdom and kindness as for her beauty. Now she was sunk to a mere object whose physical presence and spirit alike were nothing more than prey for the demon-drunk slavers of Brazil.

Her beauty was not merely physical — she glowed with the inner beauty of grace and intelligence and confidence, and she was targeted by evil precisely for these qualities. The squalid creatures who first captured her, enslaved her, and finally delivered her to the distant shores of far-away Brazil sought to quench their demon thirst on the oppression of her goodness and her beauty. To satisfy their own evil, disfiguring bloodlust, they sought to conquer and consume her essence.

And so it was that the slaver grasped her and forced himself on her once again. But frightened unto death itself, and powerless, Anastácia in her heart would never, could never, give in to the violent advances of her captors. Small and weak though she might be in bodily form, her spirit was

*Dennis Behreandt is publisher of THE NEW AMERICAN.*



Artwork: Karri E. Kelly

as a mighty warrior, and by the grace of God she would never give in, never in terror give up, no matter the circumstance, no matter the consequence.

As the monster forced his lips to hers, she spat at him and screamed a blood-curdling battle cry while she writhed under his grasp with all her might. Her legs kicked with all the force she could muster, and her knee, brought up with the force of all her straining sinews, found a target in the monster's abdomen. A gasp of air burst from the his lungs as her spittle dripped in rivulets from his disgusting beard. That was the last thing she saw and remembered before the monster's bony fist collided with her temple and her consciousness drowned in an infinity of nothingness.

She awoke with her hands and feet bound behind her back and affixed to a splintered wooden post. A crowd had gathered around her and though a few onlookers averted their gaze, brave and beautiful and unconquered Anastácia saw a multitude with bloodlust in their eyes, shouting monstrous words and shaking their fists. It was as if a tide of demonic evil had submerged the entire world around her.

Courageously, she held her head high and fixed her gaze on her monster. Step by step he approached with clanking cast iron and leather instruments of torture grasped in his fists. The monster smiled his lurid smile, revealing three remaining yellow and rotting teeth protruding at tilted angles from his skull.

Anastácia, princess of her far-away land across the great Atlantic, beloved by her people and more beautiful than the mythical Helen of Troy, straightened herself and gazed with indomitable will at her oppressor. Under her smooth, dark skin, her lithe muscles strained against her bonds. She made no sound, but the intensity of her gaze let the assembled pack of onlookers know: She would never be conquered.

In his language, her monster, now standing before her, growled, "Let no one be tempted by this harlot. She'll work shackled and collared in the field and her face will always be covered by this muzzle."

With that two henchmen rushed to her and took the muzzle and forced it over her face, buckling it so tightly behind her head that blood welled up, dripping down

the back of her neck and onto her shoulders while she shook her head in defiance. Her monster, in a quick motion, snapped the cold iron collar around her neck. She choked from the pressure as one of the henchmen secured a padlock to the back of the collar.

With his face drawn close to hers, she could smell the monster's fetid breath as he leered into her clear, sparkling blue, and defiant eyes. As he did so, his left hand began to tighten the thumbscrew affixed to the side of the collar — and with a few turns, a needle-sharp point of iron dug into the side of her neck. More blood flowed as agony shot through her like a lightning bolt.

Still defiant, tears welled in her eyes, pouring in a river down her face, as an unfathomable sadness for the state of mankind filled her heart.

### Torture and Dehumanization

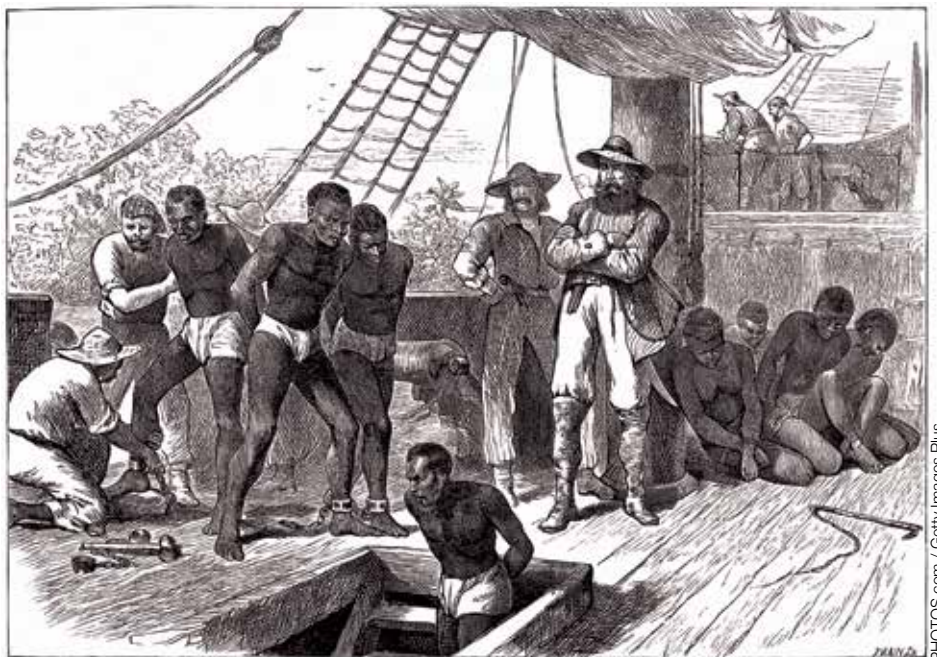
The preceding story, embellished as it is, nonetheless is one possible version of the events that are thought to have occurred in the life of Escrava Anastácia. There are several versions of her story, brought down to the present day entirely by oral tradition.

Universally described as possessing unbelievable beauty and striking blue eyes, she is, in all versions of her story, the victim both of depraved sexual aggression by her captors and of courageous, chaste, and heroic resistance to the slave trade.

Her story was traced out in some detail by scholars Jerome S. Handler of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Kelly E. Hayes of the Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University in the academic journal *African Diaspora* in 2009.

"Despite the differences in details in various accounts, Anastácia's story is invariably one of enslavement, sexual exploitation, great hardships, and brutal death," Handler and Hayes wrote.

Interest in the story of Anastácia has never waned, and has only become more popular over the years in Brazil, where at one point an effort was made by Catholics in the country to see her canonized by the church. "For many of her devotees," Handler and Hayes continue, "what makes Anastácia special are not the circumstances of her enslavement, but her martyr-like qualities in reacting to her slavery: her stoicism, serenity and virtuous suffering."



**Slave ship:** Treatment of those imprisoned for slave transport was unspeakably horrifying, and once at their destinations, treatment of the enslaved was barbarically brutal.



Another elemental component of Anastácia's story is that of dehumanization. Perhaps it is the core of her story. Enslavement requires the violent restriction and overthrow of the most important characteristic of humanity, the God-given unalienable rights of individual personhood: the right to life, to liberty, and to independent existence. As practiced during the horrific Atlantic slave trade, the implements of slavery, including shackles, collars, and masks, were used to physically control the enslaved, but equally importantly, were used to remove their humanity from view. The story of the forced muzzling/masking of Anastácia features this aspect distilled to its essence. Her physical beauty, and her ability to express that beauty — innate elements of her humanity — were quite literally masked so as not to threaten the regime of the slavers.

### Pure Evil

There is nothing more evil than the unjust dominion over the very life of a person by some other person. Acquiring that dominion requires the destruction of the personhood and the utterly complete dehumanization of the victim. Just how thoroughly slavery erased individual rights is, ironically, recorded in one former slave's manumission.

Olaudah Equiano, also known as Gustavus Vassa (the name given to him by his "owner"), through tenacious industry ultimately arranged to purchase his freedom while enslaved on the Caribbean island of Montserrat. In his autobiography, Equiano explained why he thought it necessary to record the text of his document of manumission — the document that gave him his freedom.

"As the form of my manumission has something peculiar in it, and expresses the absolute power and dominion one man claims over his fellow, I shall beg leave to present it before my readers at full length," he wrote.

That document reads:

*Montserrat* — To all men unto whom these presents shall come: I Robert King, of the parish of St. Anthony, in the said island, merchant, send greeting: Know ye, that I the aforesaid Robert King, for and in consideration of the sum of seventy pounds

Her physical beauty, and her ability to express that beauty — innate elements of her humanity — were quite literally masked so as not to threaten the regime of the slavers.

current money of the said island, to me in hand paid, and to the intent that a negro man-slave, named Gustavus Vassa, shall and may become free, have manumitted, emancipated, enfranchised, and set free, ... the aforesaid negro man-slave, named Gustavus Vassa, for ever, hereby giving, granting, and releasing unto him, the said Gustavus Vassa, all right, title, dominion, sovereignty and property, which, as lord and master over the aforesaid Gustavus Vassa, I have had, or which I now have, or by any means whatsoever I may or can hereafter possibly have over him the aforesaid negro, for ever. In witness whereof, I the above said Robert King, have unto these presents set my hand and seal, this tenth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six.

Equiano was overjoyed at finally securing his freedom. "I who had been a slave in the morning, trembling at the will of another, was become my own master, and completely free. I thought this was the happiest day I had ever experienced."

Long before he had come to this happy day, he had experienced the utterly dehumanizing character of slavery after his capture by a trio of slavers who abducted him and his sister from their home while their parents were away. Equiano was but 11 years old when

he was captured and sold into slavery.

Crying out for help to passersby as they were transported against their will, Equiano recounted: "My cries had no other effect than to make them tie me faster and stop my mouth, and then they put me into a large sack. They also stopped my sister's mouth, and tied her hands."

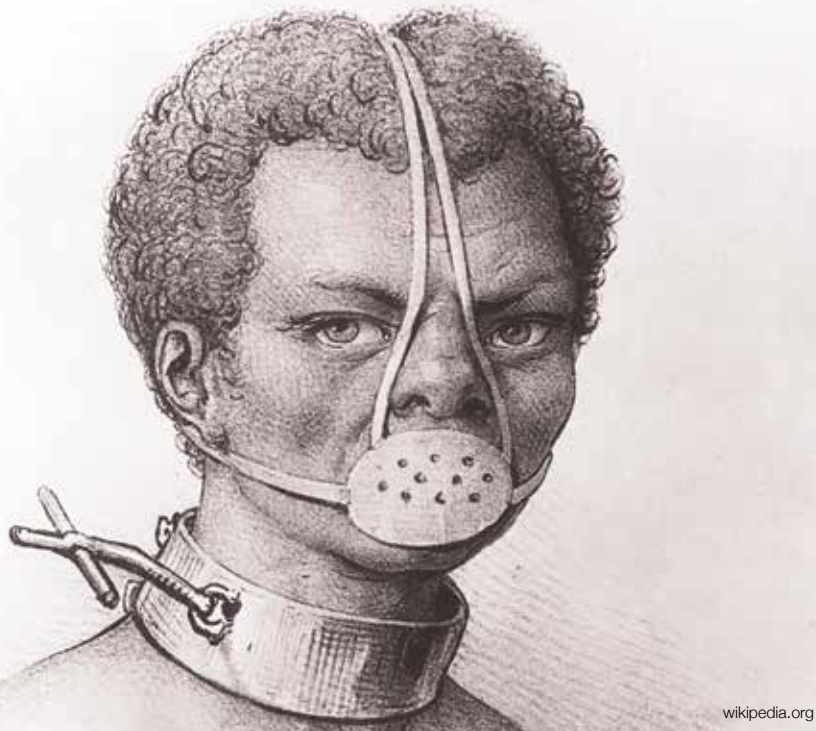
During his captivity, Equiano witnessed repeatedly the results of the thorough dehumanization of slavery, and the "tools" that were used to achieve oppression through dehumanization. The impact of the endemic dehumanization was not just



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**Former slave:** A witness to and victim of depravation and dehumanization, Olaudah Equiano was captured and enslaved with his sister when only 11 years old. His autobiography on the slave trade was published in 1789 in London.

Among the means of torture and dehumanization that Equiano observed while on his travels as a slave was the use of the mask.



**Cruel, no matter to whom:** The illustration of a masked slave, created by French artist and writer Jacques Etienne Victor Arago, was of a masked male slave; however, it's an image that is often associated with the captivity of a princess, Escrava Anastácia.

evident in its effect on the slaves, but also on the slavers, whose cruelty and inhumanity was applied equally without regard to race. Equiano related one scene that terrified him after being brought aboard his first slave ship.

Of those commanding the ship, he said, "I had never seen among any people such instances of brutal cruelty; and this not only shewn towards us blacks, but also to some of the whites themselves. One white man in particular I saw, when we were permitted to be on deck, flogged so unmercifully with a large rope near the foremast, that he died in consequence of it; and they tossed him over the side as they would have done a brute. This made me fear these people the

more; and I expected nothing less than to be treated in this manner."

There was much, indeed, to fear. Recounting what he witnessed in the West Indies, he noted that "it was very common in several of the islands, particularly in St. Kitt's, for the slaves to be branded with the initial letters of their master's name; and a load of heavy iron hooks hung about their necks. Indeed on the most trifling occasions they were loaded with chains; and often instruments of torture were added. The iron muzzle, thumb-screws, etc. are so well known, as not to need a description."

As in the story of Anastácia, slave women were frequently raped by their

owners, ostensibly to build up the population of slaves but certainly for carnal gratification as well. Equiano relates the story of James Tobin, "a zealous laborer in the vineyard of slavery" who Equiano says was given a tour of a French slaver's plantation on "the island of Martinico." According to Equiano, the slaver showed Tobin "many mulattoes working in the fields like beasts of burden; and he told Mr. Tobin these were all the produce of his own loins! And I myself have known similar instances. Pray, reader, are these sons and daughters of the French planter less his children by being begotten by a black woman?"

This horrific treatment of enslaved women was the norm. "I used frequently to have different cargoes of new negroes in my care for sale," Equiano relates, "and it was almost a constant practice with our clerks, and other whites, to commit violent depredations on the chastity of the female slaves; and these I was, though with reluctance, obliged to submit to at all times, being unable to help them. When we have had some of these slaves on board my master's vessels to carry them to other islands, or to America, I have known our mates to commit these acts most shamefully, to the disgrace, not of Christians only, but of men."

Of the complete dehumanization required by the practice of slavery, Equiano asks, "Is not the slave trade entirely a war with the heart of man? And surely that which is begun by breaking down the barriers of virtue involves in its continuance destruction to every principle, and buries all sentiments in ruin."

Florid prose by modern standards that, nonetheless, emotionally describes the utter, devastating, and demonic dehumanization that slavery represents.

### Masks

Among the means of torture and dehumanization that Equiano observed while on his travels as a slave was the use of the mask. In one case, he related the appearance of a slave woman in Virginia that recalls the use of a mask/muzzle to submerge the personality and humanity of Anastácia.

While in Virginia, he was summoned to the home of a plantation owner who had become ill. Equiano's job was to fan the man to keep him cool. Of the incident, he recalled:



When I came into the room where he was I was very much affrighted at some things I saw, and the more so as I had seen a black woman slave as I came through the house, who was cooking dinner, and the poor creature was cruelly loaded with various kinds of iron machines; she had one particularly on her head, which locked her mouth so fast that she could scarcely speak; and could not eat nor drink. I was much astonished and shocked at this contrivance, which I afterwards learned was called the iron muzzle.

### Mask Traditions

That masks are used to transform a person's identity, up to and including full dehumanization, is attested by mask usage traditions from around the world.

An account of facial masking using paint is provided by Nicholas Black Elk in *The Sacred Pipe: Black Elk's Account of the Seven Rites of the Oglala Sioux*. Describing the significance of face painting, Black Elk relates: "By being painted, the people have been changed; they have undergone a new birth, and with this they have new responsibilities, new obligations, and a new relationship. This transformation is so sacred that it must be undergone in darkness; it must be hidden from the view of the people. But when the curtain is taken aside, they come forth pure, free from ignorance, and must now have forgotten all troubles of the past."

A similar function performed using masks comes from Nigeria, according to author Christine Price in her 1978 book *The Mystery of Masks*. According to Price, "The mask from the Afikpo people of Nigeria is ... sacred and kept hidden when not in use. Masks like this one, made from hollow painted gourds, are worn by the eldest sons of important families when they are accepted as members of a men's secret society."

The transformative power ascribed to masks is described by authors Amanda Earl and Daniele Sensier in their 1995 over-

view of mask traditions, *Masks: Traditions Around the World*. Earl and Sensier write: "When people put on masks they are usually disguising themselves, and can almost feel they have become other persons, or animals, ghosts, or whatever the mask represents. In fact, in some religions it is believed that the wearer actually changes into a spirit or ancestor."

Discussing traditional mask usage in South American native cultures, Earl and Sensier point out the role masks have had in those cultures in coercing behavior. "Controlling people's actions was another purpose of Amerindian masks, such as those of the Tierra del Fuego Indians who once lived in the southernmost region of Argentina," they write. "Men wore masks to represent spirits who were thought to frighten women and make them obedient to men."

### Social Control

The relationship of masks to social control informed and motivated by fear is alive and well today. As in far-flung traditions

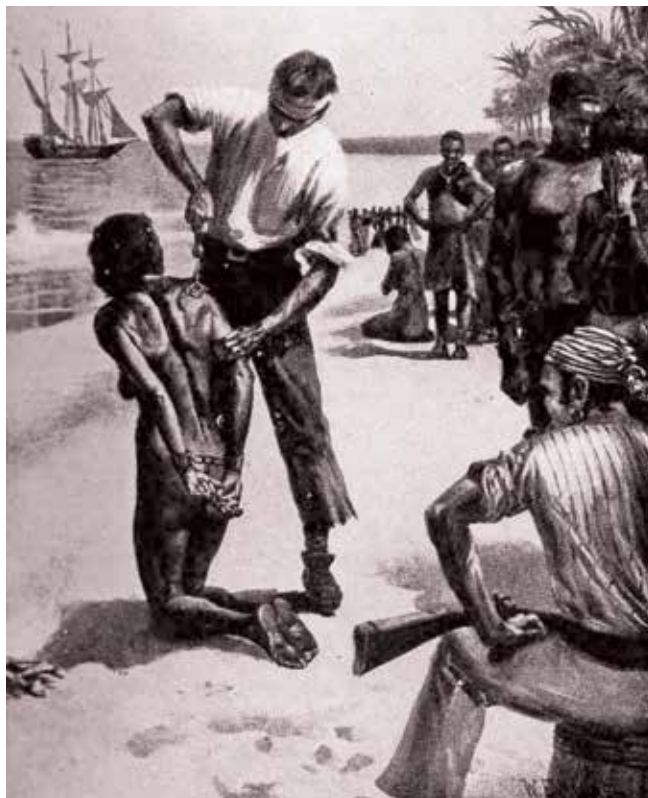
that used masks as key parts of initiation rites meant to transform a person from one being into a new, and presumably better, being, modern mask usage, ostensibly meant to thwart a virus, also provides a means of initiating social control and allowing the "initiated" to signal their belonging to the initiated group.

Rites of initiation, in occult practice (occult, in this case, hewing to its precise definition of "hidden" or "secret"), are intended to transform a person from a previous state to a new state. The wearing of a mask first occludes the wearer's true and God-given persona, then forces the assumption of a new persona. This is a key part of most occult initiation rituals. As James George Frazer notes in *The Golden Bough*, his groundbreaking exploration of primitive rituals and worship, basic initiation involves the symbolic killing of the initiate and bringing him to life again. The old person, having undergone the process, is gone. Typically, life has been taken and then restored using some sort of totem —

perhaps a bean or a medicine bag — and the new person is brought into existence through "an exchange of life or souls between the man and his totem," as Frazer puts it.

In this sense, the tools of torture, including the muzzle or mask used to oppress and enslave the victims of the Atlantic slave trade, demonstrated to the enslaved that their old life as a free person had ended. That person had died and could never be resurrected.

The intense psychological impact was to generate great mourning and despair, something experienced by Olaudah Equiano. After his initial abduction, he longed to escape, and opportunity to do so eventually presented itself while he was still in Africa. Having accidentally killed a chicken with a carelessly thrown stone, he ran away in fear of being flogged for the crime. Hiding in the bushes for an entire day while his captors searched for him, he overheard them discussing his escape.



**Treating humans like animals:** Dehumanization during the slave trade included branding slaves with the initials of an "owner's" name.

SlaveryImages.org



Twitter/Black Professor Crown @WonderKing62

**Protest:** Two women demonstrating against COVID mask-wearing in California held a placard with the image drawn by Arago, along with a provocative slogan. They were immediately condemned by cancel culture for supposedly promoting slavery — though their real meaning was obvious.

gan: “Muzzles are for dogs and slaves. I am a free human being.” The two women who were photographed holding the sign at the protest in California were viciously criticized for their “racist” placard, which clumsily seemed to indicate that perhaps since muzzles “are” for slaves, slavery must be justified. While this — or other racist overtones — is almost certainly not what the two women meant to indicate, as is typical of cancel culture, one of them, Gretha Stenger, was forced to grovel for forgiveness. In her apology she wrote: “My intent was to take a stand for the freedom of all human persons and I mistakenly held a sign that conveyed the opposite. Please know that I respect the dignity of all people and I sincerely regret any suffering it caused.”

The history of the transatlantic slave trade is among the most repulsive episodes in the human story. Though slavery is nothing new, persisting yet today and reaching back through time even to ancient Sparta and earlier, the industrialization of the transatlantic “trade” was an atrocity of specifically intense evil dehumanization and horror.

Though it may be discomfiting to consider, masks were among the instruments of torture, control, and dehumanization that were used by the wretched criminals who abducted and enslaved their fellow humans. And, though masks have just as often been used historically for entertainment and celebration, they have also long had a darker role in schemes of representational sacrifice, transformation, and social control.

Looking backward at the awful record of history where human rights and dignities are concerned will leave one often dismayed — and even despondent — at the frequency and ferocity of the tyrannies and evils visited upon the innocent. On this basis alone, there is no reason to conclude that similar depredations are impossible now or will be impossible in years to come. Prevention of those outcomes in the future depends on gaining understanding of the ways in which these evils were perpetrated in the past, the methods employed, and the instruments used. And one of those methods, however uncomfortable it may be for some to admit under current liberal orthodoxy, has been compulsory masking. ■

At one point as he hid, a search party was so near him, he recounted, “that I even heard their conjectures as they were looking for me; and I now learned from them, that any attempt to return home would be hopeless. Most of them supposed I had fled towards home; but the distance was so great, and the way so intricate, that they thought I could never reach it, and that I should be lost in the woods. When I heard this I was seized with a violent panic, and abandoned myself to despair.”

Rather than chance all for freedom when he had a prime opportunity to do so, the young slave felt his former life lost forever. “I at length quitted the thicket very faint and hungry, for I had not eaten or drank anything all day; and crept to my master’s kitchen, from whence I set out at first, and which was an open shed, and laid myself down in the ashes with an anxious wish for death to relieve me from all my pains.”

In Equiano’s case, a mask was not among the tools used to cause him to experience the ritual death of his former life as a free person, but in the greater theater of the slave trade, the mask or muzzle was one of the instruments that commonly contributed to that transformation, as Equiano witnessed several times, and as the oral tradition of Anastácia attests.

### Virus Masks

The relationship of masks to oppression and ritual transformation has not been lost on some in the context of the COVID-19 panic and pandemic, as illustrated by the recent use by some protesters of an image of a masked slave.

In the period from December 1817 to January 1819, according to Jerome Handler and Kelly Hayes, French artist and writer Jacques Etienne Victor Arago sketched a portrait of a Brazilian slave wearing a slave mask/muzzle. Though Arago said the image was of a male slave, it has gone on to be associated with the story of Anastácia. Notably, Arago also provided a description of slaves he witnessed wearing the mask. In one example he said he saw two slaves “whose faces were covered with tin masks [*masque de fer-blanc*] with holes made for the eyes.” Later he wrote of seeing another slave “whose face is entirely covered with an iron mask [*masque de fer*] which has two holes for the eyes, and which is locked behind the head with a strong padlock.”

In the context of the pandemic, Arago’s depiction of the masked slave appeared on a placard held by protesters demonstrating against coerced mask-wearing. Alongside Arago’s sketch on the placard was the slo-



## Grandson Shoots Intruder Who Shot His Grandmother

The *Daily Mail* reported on February 14 about how the brave actions of a boy saved the lives of his family during an apartment break-in in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Police say two masked robbers forced their way into the apartment around 1 a.m., and one of the burglars, who was armed, fired at the boy's grandmother. One of the bullets hit her in the leg, but her 12-year-old grandson quickly responded, grabbing a loaded firearm and shooting back at the intruders.

The two burglars fled from the house after being fired on, and police who arrived on the scene discovered a wounded suspect a half-block from the grandmother's apartment. The wounded suspect was taken for treatment to a nearby medical facility, where he later succumbed to his gunshot wound.

The police issued a statement identifying the deceased suspect as 19-year-old Khalil Herring and stating they had evidence that links the deceased suspect to the burglary attempt of the apartment.

The wounded grandmother received medical treatment, is in good condition, and is expected to make a full recovery. Another relative who was in the home at the time of the shooting told the local ABC affiliate that he had no doubt that these violent intruders wouldn't have stopped after wounding the grandmother, and the grandson saved all of them from certain death. “He [the armed intruder who shot the grandmother] would have shot him too, he would've shot me too, he would've killed us all,” Randolph Bunn, who is the grandmother's son, told ABC11.

The *Daily Mail* reported that the grandmother's niece was shocked at what happened and complained about the high crime in the local community. Chiquita Coley asked, “Why would somebody come into her house and do this? It's got to stop.... I don't know what they're thinking around here in Goldsboro, but it's got to stop.” Police are still investigating and hope to soon arrest the other suspect. They confirmed that there won't

be charges against the grandson because it appears his actions were justified self-defense.

## New Gun Control on the Horizon?

Writing at Reason.com in February, Jacob Sullum took his readers on a terrifying journey into the type of draconian gun control that some Democrats are hoping to implement under a Biden administration. Sullum did an in-depth review of legislation proposed by Democratic Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee entitled the Sabika Sheikh Firearm Licensing and Registration Act. The act is named after an immigrant exchange student who was killed in a school shooting, and establishes “a national database that is supposed to include every gun in the country, make it a felony to own a firearm or ammunition without a license from the Justice Department, ban magazines that hold more than 10 rounds and ‘ammunition that is 0.50 caliber or greater,’ and criminalize possession of a ‘military-style weapon’ without a special license. Violating the bill's provisions would be punishable by hefty fines and long minimum prison sentences, which Lee ordinarily claims to oppose.”

Sullum explains that the registration applies to all guns, even ones owned prior to the law's implementation, and would give gun owners three months to report the required details about their firearms, with noncompliance “punishable by a minimum fine of \$75,000, a minimum prison sentence of 15 years, or both.”

The law also requires prospective gun owners to be screened by a government-approved psychologist. This psychological screening will extend to even the spouse or former spouse of the applicant and “at least 2 other persons who are a member of the family of, or an associate of, the individual to further determine the state of the mental, emotional, and relational stability of the individual in relation to firearms.” The law requires annual renewal of licenses for firearms for any guns that have been owned for five years or less, and three-year renewals after that. Anyone who is caught not re-

newing the license would be subject to the same punishment as people who have never registered at all.

Sullum poked fun at how Congresswoman Lee has previously opposed minimum-length prison sentences on racial grounds because she complained that it unfairly targeted African-Americans but “now wants to transform millions of Americans into felons, threatening them with long prison terms for peaceful conduct that violates no one's rights.” Sullum also explains that the proposed gun-control framework is “completely impractical, since gun owners would be understandably reluctant to identify themselves and their firearms so they could be entered in a federal database and required to apply for licenses.... Since the Justice Department would not have the resources to go after millions of recalcitrant gun owners even if it knew who they were, the result would be random application of Lee's draconian penalties to the few who happened to attract the government's attention.” Based on recent events and the overreaction to the January 6 protest at the Capitol, it seems like a Democrat-controlled government would use these laws to criminally prosecute right-wingers who publicly dissent from their left-wing agenda. Sullum explained that even though this law is unlikely to pass, it shows signs of what might come in the future because “it reflects a broader mindset in the Democratic Party, which used to at least pay lip service to the Second Amendment but lately talks and acts as if it does not exist. After promising to respect the Second Amendment in 2004, 2008, and 2012, the Democrats erased the constitutional provision from their 2016 platform, although they did mention ‘the rights of responsible gun owners.’ The 2020 platform omitted even that phrase.”

Sullum concluded his column by stating that “Democrats would be perfectly happy to expurgate the Bill of Rights if only the courts would let them.” This is not too reassuring, seeing as how appointments to the courts will be made by the Biden administration and confirmed by a Democrat-controlled Senate. ■

— PATRICK KREY



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## Using Violence as a Smokescreen, Biden Targets Law-abiding Gun Owners

**ITEM:** A release dated March 4 by “Everytown for Gun Safety,” dealing with “Requiring Background Checks for All Gun Sales,” declares: “With the inauguration of President Joseph Biden and Democratic majorities in both chambers of Congress, gun violence prevention legislation has a real opportunity to become law for the first time in nearly a decade.” The group calls itself “the largest team of litigators in the country dedicated to advancing gun safety in the courts and through the civil and criminal justice systems.”

**ITEM:** Gail Collins, writing in the New York Times print edition for February 25, (“Ready to Nag About Gun Control?”) puts pressure on President Biden because he “promised to tackle it on ‘my first day in office,’” but didn’t do so. The opinion columnist offers what she clearly considers to be a clever stipulation as a “starting point” — namely, “Demand that nobody be able to purchase a gun without passing a test demonstrating she knows how to aim it.”

**ITEM:** Politico for February 23 reported: “The White House is weighing a number of gun safety proposals as it looks to deliver on President Joe Biden’s campaign promises.... Among the executive actions under consideration by the administration is one that would require buyers of so-called ghost guns — homemade or makeshift firearms that lack serial numbers — to undergo background checks.”

**ITEM:** The Biden-Harris campaign website, in a section entitled “The Biden Plan to End Our Gun Violence Epidemic,” maintains: “As president, Biden will pursue constitutional, common-sense gun safety policies.” Numerous goals are listed, including “Hold gun manufacturers accountable.” Under “Get weapons of war off our streets” is this objective: “Ban the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.”

Also: “Regulate possession of existing assault weapons under the National Fire-



**Biden’s bombast and planned bans:** Joe Biden and the Democrats want to make buying guns and ammunition expensive and difficult, but studies show that despite restrictions, criminals still get guns. So the moves are not about gun safety, but removing rights.

arms Act” — which is a 1934 law restricting (fully automatic) machine guns, among others. Other goals: “Buy back the assault weapons and high-capacity magazines already in our communities”; “Reduce stockpiling of weapons”; and “Keep guns out of dangerous hands.” Toward that latter end, says the document, Biden will “require background checks for all gun sales.”

There’s much more. For instance: “Put America on the path to ensuring that 100% of firearms sold in America are smart guns” — with technology that “requires a fingerprint match before use.”

**CORRECTION:** If you really believe that guns are responsible for violence, and that a fictional crisis can be ended by passing ever more laws, you may need a background check for intelligence — or lack thereof.

Yet, the new occupant of the White House is stepping up the push for additional restrictions on guns.

We’re old enough to remember when there was a modicum of common sense exhibited in Washington, even among Democrats in the U.S. Senate. For instance, during an earlier gun-control debate, one such lawmaker observed:

During my 12 years as a Member of this body, I have never believed that

additional gun control or Federal registration of guns would reduce crime. I am convinced that a criminal who wants a firearm can get one through illegal, nontraceable, unregistered sources, with or without gun control. In my opinion a national register or ban of handguns would be impossible to carry out and may not result in reductions in crime.

That was a certain U.S. senator named Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-Del.) on July 9, 1985 (*Congressional Record*, page 18229).

The president’s “four-prong attack against firearms ownership in the country” was recently criticized by Alan Gottlieb, the founder of the Second Amendment Foundation.

“One [attack] is [that a] universal background check is really a universal registration system,” said Gottlieb, as noted in the Daily Wire. “Second is banning of assault weapons and then defining assault weapons as almost any semi-automatic firearm. Third is banning magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, you know, again, hurts people twice for self-defense in our country, and then attacking the firearms industry so that any criminal that goes out and misuses a gun, the gun manufacturer can be sued for



# Correction, Please!

it. It's going to put the industry out of business and nobody can buy a gun."

Is there really a "gun violence" epidemic? Not really, even taking into consideration that last year was an unusual one. There have been several "mass shootings" in recent years, such the one used as a prop by the Biden administration's recent call for more controls on the third anniversary of the killings in Parkland, Florida.

But overall numbers are down. Robert Levy, chairman of the board at the Cato Institute, in a Cato policy report dated September/October 2020, observed:

Since peaking in the early 1990s, gun homicide has declined by 44 percent nationwide. Overall gun crime victimization is down roughly 70 percent. During that same period, the number of guns in circulation nearly doubled. U.S. residents own more than one gun per person. Guns are way up, and gun killings are way down.

You wouldn't think so from the mass-media coverage. Nonetheless, as Levy stated: "Multivictim spree killings are a fraction of 1 percent of all murders in the United States."

Much as occurred during the Obama administration when the threat of gun controls sent many buyers to gun stores, Biden's anti-gun campaign is also boosting sales. According to the FBI, the 3.4 million background checks was the highest count ever in a February; that came after the 4.3 million record set in January.

There was an increase when the pandemic started. And there was an even larger surge during the summer, as pointed out by columnist David Harsanyi, "as left-wing riots erupted around the country, and national Democrats began to entertain the idea of defunding the police."

About the Parkland tragedy, AWR Hawkins, a Second Amendment columnist for Breitbart News, adds the context generally ignored by the mainstream media, pointing out that Democrats

often point to the Parkland, Sandy Hook, and Las Vegas mass shootings

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when promoting universal background checks. Some will also point to the January 8, 2011, Tucson, Arizona, attack in which Gabby Giffords was injured. But they never explain that universal background checks would not have hindered, much less stopped, any of these attacks. That is because those who attacked Parkland, Las Vegas, and Giffords all acquired their guns via background checks.

The Sandy Hook attacker stole his guns, so no amount of background checks would have stopped him.

Anti-gun propaganda, echoed by the Biden White House, tries to convince us that "weapons of war" are being used against the American public. What is true is that nearly 20 million semi-automatic AR-type rifles are legally owned by Americans. These are not fully automatic "weapons of war."

The president, however, wants to ban the future sale or possession of these "assault weapons" — which are the most popular semi-auto rifles in the nation. Amy Swearer, a legal fellow in the Heritage Foundation's Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, has offered some background: "As the Supreme Court explained in *D.C. v. Heller*, *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, and *Caetano v. Massachusetts*, the

Second Amendment protects all arms that are commonly used by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes."

She also poked holes in other contentions by the White House and anti-gunners. For instance, Swearer observed that semiautomatic rifles are "by far, the type of firearm least likely to be used to perpetuate criminal violence, and account for only about 3% of gun-related homicides every year."

Well, aren't we all doomed because of the capacity of firearms magazines? Nope. Wrote Swearer:

Any ban on so-called "high-capacity" magazines would fail constitutional muster and policy considerations for largely the same reasons as a ban on "assault weapons."

There's nothing "unusually dangerous" about factory-standard magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds, which are regularly employed by police departments around the nation. Moreover, there are likely hundreds of millions of these magazines in circulation already — meaning, they are incredibly common for lawful uses.

Then there are the "ghost guns" that seemingly haunt the nightmares of anti-gunners, including the president and even





**Buying guns, not gun-control hype:** In response to BLM riots in cities and threats of increased gun control, Americans have been buying guns and ammunition at a heady pace, indicating they are unlikely to turn the guns in if the government demands that of them.

(see above) Gail Collins of the *New York Times*. Collins, in a snide comment directed at those who believe in the Constitution and the Second Amendment, remarked: “You do wonder how the founding fathers would have felt about the right to bear arms if they knew their nastiest neighbor had just installed a printer that manufactures guns in his basement.”

Ivan al-Nohandi, a gunsmith with a Ph.D. who designs and makes 3D printed firearms, took umbrage at Collins’ commentary. He noted on Twitter that the Founders “relied on underground, decentralized manufacture of small arms during and after” the American Revolution. They smuggled in, he recalled, “barrels and lockplates from France when they could, melted down tools when they couldn’t, and armed a serious fighting force with guns they made (without any governmental permission slips from the Crown).”

Authorities eventually should require, or so Biden has said, that all guns sold be “smart” — foreseeing the use of DNA matching with pre-programmed information before a trigger can be pulled. Yet guns should be simple and reliable, especially in

self-defense situations. An unreliable smart gun is likely to put its owner at risk.

*Times* columnist Collins, as cited above, promotes the notion that only those who can pass a government shooting test should be allowed to own a gun. Sort of like a mandatory literacy test for voters, eh? Of course, properly enlightened folks consider literacy tests to be “racist.” It’s sure tough to be a consistent leftist these days.

One aspect of gun control definitely smacks of discrimination — class discrimination. Surprisingly, the left-wing *Washington Post* allowed the publication of a piece last summer that cogently argued that case. The title was on target: “Biden’s gun control plan is terrible for working class firearm owners.” When discussing universal registration and buybacks of often expensive weapons, Kim Kelly pointed out that under the potentially revised National Firearms Act, violators could face up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$10,000 fine. Indeed, as Kelly put it, “It is obvious that this proposal will disproportionately impact poor and working-class communities.”

“If cutting down on gun violence is the end goal here,” she asks, “what good could

it possibly do to disarm the working class and ensure that only the well-heeled (and the agents of the state who defend them) will be able to hoard stockpiles of highly efficient weaponry?” It would be interesting to see Biden’s response to that.

The Biden White House has a larger agenda than most understand. Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.), who is close to Biden, recently indicated that he was moving legislation that would extend the time it takes to undergo an instant background check for a gun purchase. The National Rifle Association points out that “would allow unelected government bureaucrats the discretion to cause indefinite firearm purchase delays.” That may seem like a relatively small thing, but as Clyburn has admitted, that is just “a good first step.”

If you believe such infringements on your Second Amendment protections are worth it if they really put a major dent in crime, think again.

Indeed, as the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) has explained, what is being called a “universal” background check is ineffective against most criminals:

According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), 75 percent of criminals in state and federal prison who had possessed a firearm during their offense acquired the firearm through theft, “Off the street/underground market,” or “from a family member or friend, or as a gift.” Less than one percent got firearms from dealers or non-dealers at gun shows.

And, continued NRA-ILA, the DOJ’s National Institute of Justice in 2013 researched “universal” background checks and “determined that they would not be effective without additional draconian firearm restrictions and efforts to combat straw purchasing.”

Unfortunately, power-hungry governments don’t shrink at being draconian, even to the law-abiding. The ultimate goal of gun control is not crime reduction: it is to compel the broad disarmament of and compliance by the populace. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

BY WILLIAM F. JASPER

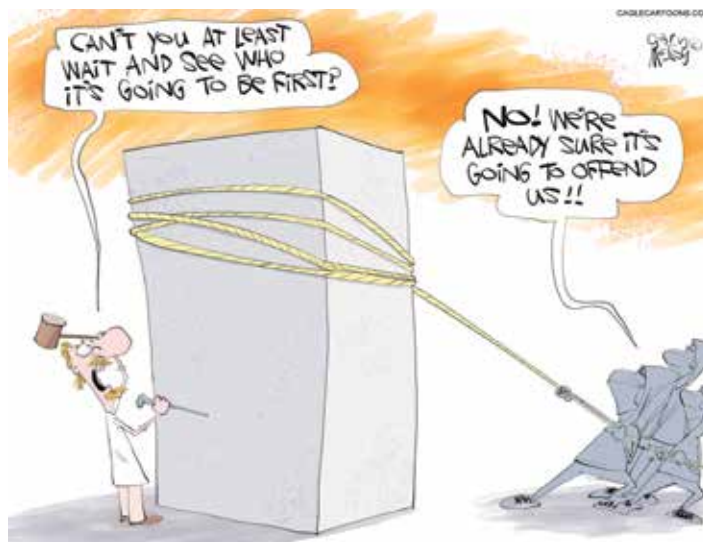
## Are You Awakened — or Woke?

There is a world of difference between being awake and being woke. There *is* a Great Awakening rolling across our land. Americans, in the tens of millions, are realizing as never before that we are being systematically stripped of our God-given rights, and that it is time to get involved in the fight for liberty.

Your editor experienced a small example of this awakening last August in Bonners Ferry, a rural town near the Canadian border in Idaho's panhandle, where I was to be a featured speaker. When my turn came to speak, I couldn't help remarking that the federal BLM (Bureau of Land Management) is burning our countryside up while the revolutionary BLM (Black Lives Matter) is burning our cities down. The humor was not lost on the audience, which understood well the truth of the statement. At the time, Black Lives Matter rioting had set fire to Portland and Seattle, and the smoke from that urban conflagration had merged with the smoke from the rural wildfires that have become regular and increasingly hazardous conflagrations, thanks to the policies of the Bureau of Land Management and its sister agencies.

The event was a barbecue dinner sponsored by the local chapter of The John Birch Society. More than 300 people showed up for the beef tri-tip provided by longtime JBS member and rancher Bob Vickaryous. Joining me at the podium were two of the nation's premier pro-liberty state legislators, Representative Matt Shea of Washington and Representative Heather Scott of Idaho. Following our speeches, the Society's regional director, Caleb Collier, delivered a moving exhortation and "altar call." Reminding the audience of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence who pledged "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor," he cited the cases of several of the signers who did indeed sacrifice their lives and their fortunes in the cause of liberty, but none betrayed their sacred honor.

Collier then asked the audience how many would be willing to stand and join the fight for liberty. Like a scene out of a movie, they began rising until it appeared that virtually everyone was standing. Collier ran out of JBS membership applications. Combined with a more recent follow-up in Bonners Ferry, the JBS signed up more than 130 new members in the area. A more recent follow-up in Bonners Ferry was even larger. Collier says he is having similar experiences throughout Montana and Washington. Wayne Morrow, who as vice



president oversees the group field operations, says a similar awakening is happening across the nation.

One of the catalysts for this awakening is the recent realization on the part of many that millions of our fellow Americans have succumbed to "woke" ideology, the false enlightenment that has turned them into foot soldiers of the Marxist revolution in the name of "racial justice," "social justice," "gender justice," "environmental justice," etc. This was already becoming screamingly obvious in 2016, as the

organized forces of the militant Left escalated a campaign of physical violence against then-candidate Donald Trump — and his supporters — in the run-up to that year's presidential election. It escalated further at his inauguration and continued throughout his four-year term in the Oval Office.

It was plainly evident that much of the violence and social tumult was being fomented by youths who were being indoctrinated in "wokeness" by their schools, colleges, and universities. And, of course, there is also the indispensable ingredient of the radical "community organizations" — of which BLM is the most conspicuous — that invariably are funded from *outside* the community by wealthy globalists and their subversive tax-exempt foundations.

However, even being awash in cash and being fed an unlimited supply of woke youth, BLM would not have been able to accomplish what it has without its accomplices in the Fake News media empire — without the networks, newspapers, and punditocracy providing sympathetic coverage, justifying the violence and destruction in the name of racial justice, and constantly describing the BLM-Antifa mayhem as "mostly peaceful."

The same is true with regard to the media-generated hysteria over the COVID virus that is being used by the Beijing-Gates-Rockefeller-WHO axis, together with the World Economic Forum, to turn us into a facsimile of Communist China's totalitarian society. The vicious smearing, censoring, "canceling," deplatforming, demonetizing, and banning by the media/social-media cartels has awakened enough Americans to *conspiracy reality* that the media-applied "conspiracy theory" charge has lost much of its sting. We can no longer be silenced by that label. This is a time of great peril, but also great opportunity. Millions of Americans are seeking answers and direction. We can, and must, help them with both. ■





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