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Overcoming Opposition

If one society wishes to overcome another society, there are a couple ways of doing it. It can be done by direct attack — with guns and bombs — or persuasion.

If the first society believes the second to be stronger militarily, it doesn't choose the first option. And if the first society believes the second society is strongly attached to its beliefs and way of life, it knows that the psychological subversion option will take a very long time — especially if the second society is huge. A lot of minds must be changed or persuaded. So the aggressor society must do it without being noticed. The change in outlook of the target people must be gradual — so gradual that they don't know it is happening. Of course, they start with the children. If children can be influenced, future generations will be easier to persuade. However, eventually the citizens of the second society will begin to notice that their culture has changed.

I believe that is exactly what has happened with our culture here in America. As a child I remember a Norman Rockwell society. At my home in Oklahoma City, we didn't even lock the door at night. You never had to worry about where the keys to the car were — they were in the car. We could tell jokes and be silly, and no one was offended. Now we are in a Jeffrey Epstein society.

In 1958, Cleon Skousen, an FBI agent, wrote a book entitled *The Naked Communist*. Toward the end, he includes a list of 45 communist goals the FBI had uncovered. They were written probably in the 1920s or 1930s by those in power in communist Russia. These goals were read into the *Congressional Record* in 1963. The object was to destroy our culture so that it would collapse from within. I will quote a few of them:

[No.] 17. Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers' associations. Put the party line in textbooks.

23. Control art critics and directors of art museums. "Our plan is to promote ugliness, repulsive, meaningless art."

24. Eliminate all

laws governing obscenity by calling them "censorship" and a violation of free speech and free press.

27. Infiltrate the churches and replace revealed religion with "social" religion. Discredit the Bible and emphasize the need for intellectual maturity which does not need a "religious crutch."

29. Discredit the American Constitution by calling it inadequate, old-fashioned, out of step with modern needs.

This is the threat we face.

ROBERTA SUTTON
Evergreen, Colorado

A Whisker of Truth

University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine Yoshihiro Kawaoka led a study in which researchers administered to three cats SARS-CoV-2 isolated from a human patient.

The following day, the researchers swabbed the nasal passages of the cats and were able to detect the virus in two of the animals. Within three days, they detected the virus in all of the cats.

The day after the researchers administered the virus to the first three cats, they placed a second cat in each of the three cages. Researchers did not administer the SARS-CoV-2 virus to these cats.

Each day, the researchers took nasal and rectal swabs from all six cats to assess them for the presence of the virus. Within two days, one of the previously uninfected cats was shedding virus, detected in the nasal swab, and within six days, all of the cats were shedding virus. None of the rectal swabs contained virus.

Each cat shed SARS-CoV-2 from its nasal passages for up to six days. The virus was not lethal, and none of the cats showed signs of illness. All of the cats ultimately cleared the virus.

So much for inoculating humans to stop new variants of COVID.

JACOB JOSEPH
Sent via e-mail



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New Arizona Law Protects Second Amendment From Federal Overreach



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On April 6, Arizona Republican Governor Doug Ducey signed H.B. 2111, aka the Second Amendment Freedom Act, which states, “An act, law, treaty, order, rule or regulation of the United States Government that violates Amendment II of the Constitution of the United States is null, void and unenforceable in this state.”

Biden is being encouraged by anti-Second Amendment forces to act against firearm ownership in the wake of shooting incidents in Georgia and Colorado in March. The Arizona Legislature and Governor Ducey are attempting to block those coming actions

and any other unconstitutional, anti-Second Amendment measures from the federal government.

The sponsor of the legislation is State Representative Leo Biasiucci, a Republican. According to Biasiucci, the act is meant to protect law-abiding gun owners in Arizona from federal overreach.

“If the federal government does anything that tries to infringe on our second amendment in the State of Arizona, we’re not going to comply,” Biasiucci said. “I was voted into office to protect our constitution. The Biden administration was clear that they want to ban AR-15s, high capacity magazines, and we don’t think that’s right. Our Arizona gun laws are strong and we believe that law-abiding gun owners have the right to bear arms.”

Ducey claimed that the new law will protect Arizona gun owners from knee-jerk reactions in Washington, D.C. “I think that whenever there are these mass shootings we start talking about laws that simply won’t fix the problem,” Ducey said. “There is a lot of discussion out of Washington about Congressional action around the Second Amendment and this law was simply to protect the rights we already enjoy in Arizona.”

Others were not so positive about the new law. Anti-Second Amendment group Moms Demand Action released a statement calling the new bill “dangerous” and “unconstitutional.”

By signing the Second Amendment Freedom Act, Arizona becomes the fifth state to declare itself a so-called Second Amendment Sanctuary, joining Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, and Wyoming, which all have similar laws on their books.

Neopronouns Are Newest Thing Among the Totally Self-centered

If you want to know what happens when you don’t learn after age two that the world doesn’t completely revolve around you, look no further than “neopronouns.” The *New York Times* provides a guide on the matter and asks, “Are you a person, place or thing?” before presenting neopronoun examples such as “bun/bunself,” “kitten/kittenself,” and “prin/cess/princessself.”

As commentator Andrea Widburg explained in an April 12 article at *American Thinker*, “A few years ago, we all used to laugh at the creative pronouns that so-called ‘non-binary’ people concocted to avoid both human biology and the traditional He/Him or She/Her pronouns. They pluralized themselves (‘My pronouns are They/Them’) or substituted silly consonants in place of actual letters (‘My pronouns are Ze/Zir or Xe/Xir’).”

“Now, though, little things like ‘Ze went to the store’ or ‘Give xir the milk’ seem sweetly old-fashioned,” Widburgself continues. As the *Times* tells us in an April 8 article, no doubt with a straight face to balance its crooked thinking, “A neopronoun can be a word created to serve as pronoun without expressing gender, like ‘ze’ and ‘zir.’ A neopronoun can also be a so-called ‘noun-self pronoun,’ in which a pre-existing word is drafted into use as a pronoun. Noun-self pronouns can refer to animals — so your pronouns can be ‘bun/bunself’ and ‘kitten/kittenself.’ Others refer to fantasy characters — ‘vamp/vampself,’ ‘prin/cess/princessself,’

‘fae/faer/faeself’ — or even just common slang, like ‘Innit/Innits/Innitself.’”

While this is comical, it’s far from a joke to some people. “Many neopronoun users are dead serious, and are also part of online communities that are quick to react swiftly to offenses,” the *Times* further reports. “They are deeply versed in the style and mores of contemporary identity politics conversations.”

As to this phenomenon’s cause, Widburg writes, this “is what happens when people become so extraordinarily self-centered that they believe that the entire English language revolves around them.”



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Australian Court: Google Guilty of Misleading Users About Private Data

In an April 16 ruling, Australia's Federal Court found Google guilty of misleading customers about its location-data collection on Android phones.

Since 2019, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has been pursuing legal action against Google for its "misleading conduct."

According to the ACCC, Google has been breaching Australian consumer law since at least January 2017, when it gave users the false impression that they were opting out of data collection when the "location history" setting was switched off.

Google, the court maintained, did not adequately disclose to customers that both the "location history" and "web & app activity" settings had to be switched off for customers to keep their personal data from being collected, kept, and used by the tech giant.

Federal Court Judge Justice Thomas Thawley stated that Google's actions "would not have misled all reasonable users," but would have likely misled some reasonable users.

Google disagreed with the final ruling and signaled that it was looking into the possibility of an appeal. ACCC, meanwhile, is seeking for court orders and financial penalties against Google to be determined later.

"The reality is most people have little to no idea on how much of their data is being used by Google and online platforms," Peter Lewis, director at the Australia Institute Center for Responsible Technology, said April 16. Lewis said it takes an average of 74

minutes to read most terms and conditions, and they are written so that comprehension requires a university education.

AS THE NEW AMERICAN reported April 8, iPhone-maker Apple made a deal with Google that kept the search giant's dominance of the market secure from viable competition — a deal under scrutiny by the U.S. Justice Department as part of an antitrust lawsuit joined by 11 states.

While Google has made investments in several technologies, such as Android phones, and owns important web platforms such as YouTube, it is the tech giant's flagship search engine that remains its biggest cash cow. And in the realm of search engines, Google's dominance is near total.



Denmark Halts Use of AstraZeneca Vaccine Over Blood-clot Fears



The Danish Health Authority announced on April 14 that it will discontinue the use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine over a "known risk of severe side effects" associated with the drug. The move comes despite the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the European Union bureaucracy that oversees medicines for the bloc of nations, giving its tentative blessing to the vaccine in March.

The AstraZeneca vaccine has been tangentially linked to cases of a rare but serious blood-clotting condition.

Denmark is the first nation to announce a complete ban on the vaccine, which was developed in concert with the University of

Oxford in the U.K. After the EMA said that the benefits of the vaccine far outweighed the risks, most countries began redistributing the AstraZeneca vaccine after briefly stopping.

Several nations, including Denmark, stopped administering the AstraZeneca vaccine in March because of reports of serious cases of blood clotting in some individuals, with at least three deaths reported — one in Denmark. Going forward, Denmark will utilize the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna offerings. The 150,000 Danes who received the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine will get their second doses with other vaccines, even though all three vaccines are experimental and mixing and matching the vaccines is even more experimental.

Soren Brostrom, head of the Danish Health Authority, said the "difficult decision" was made based on the country currently having the virus under relative control and because other vaccines are available. "The upcoming target groups for vaccination are less likely to become severely ill from Covid," Brostrom said. "We must weigh this against the fact that we now have a known risk of severe adverse effects from vaccination with AstraZeneca, even if the risk in absolute terms is slight."

Most of Denmark's nearly 900,000 vaccination recipients (nearly 77 percent) were given the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, with 7.8 percent receiving the Moderna vaccine. The AstraZeneca vaccine was administered to 15.3 percent of Danes who received the shot.

EXTENDED INSIDE TRACK

Biden Targets “White Conservatives” and Evangelicals for COVID Shots



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In response to reluctance to take the experimental COVID-19 shots, the Biden administration is rolling out vast new propaganda campaigns targeting “white conservative communities,” evangelical Christians, black Americans, and other “communities.”

Gimmicks including peddling the controversial pharmaceuticals through sports, celebrities, TV shows, pastors, and music are being pursued. Already, billions of federal dollars have been pledged to market the government-backed shots as part of an escalating war on “vaccine hesitancy.”

“We’re looking for a range of creative ways to get directly connected to white conservative communities,” Biden spokesperson Jen Psaki said in an April 12 White House press briefing. “We won’t always be the best messengers, but we’re still trying to meet people where they are but also empower local organizations.”

Among those efforts is launching what Psaki described as a “Community Corps” program to “provide fact-based messages into the hands of local messengers.” That includes working with more than 4,000 organizations, including groups in conservative states where much of the population is resisting the propaganda, to peddle the narrative.

“We’re also investing \$3 billion to states and community-based organizations to strengthen vaccine confidence in the highest-risk and hardest-hit communities,” Psaki said. “And often, people think of that as just black and brown communities, and that is not. As you’ve noted, that is also conservative communities, white evangelicals. It’s a range of communities around the country.”

The most effective tools for getting those hesitant communities to roll up their sleeves, Psaki continued, include working with “faith-based organizations,” such as churches and ministries, to promote the message. That is the same approach that was pursued in the late 1930s and early 1940s by such eugenics luminaries as Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger, who hired black ministers for the “Negro Project” to promote her sinister agenda in black communities.

Already, many “faith leaders” have been brought on board. From the Vatican to evangelical figures such as Franklin Graham and John Hagee, numerous prominent Christian leaders have publicly jumped on the bandwagon.

As part of the effort to target “white conservative communi-

ties,” the Biden administration is partnering with a number of entertainment providers. “We’re also looking for . . . we’ve run PSAs on *The Deadliest Catch*,” said Psaki. “We’re engaged with NASCAR and Country Music TV.”

Psaki’s statements at the aforementioned press briefing were in response to questions about a *New York Times* propaganda piece demonizing Mississippi and other largely rural, conservative-leaning states for having a “hard time getting folks vaccinated,” as the questioner put it. “They’re at 34 percent vaccination rate,” complained the reporter, citing Ohio and Oklahoma while warning that this “impacts herd immunity.”

According to the *Times* piece, the reliably Republican state has struggled to convince black Mississippians — who make up almost 40 percent of the state’s population — and white conservatives to take the shots. The *Times* report cited a survey that found black Americans were even more skeptical of the vaccines than other ethnic groups in the United States. Pathetic propaganda videos such as a rap song produced with help from authorities in New York probably did not help.

Indeed, even the establishment’s biased polls show massive distrust of the vaccine programs. According to the Monmouth University Polling Institute, almost half of Republicans say they will never get the COVID-19 “vaccine.” Almost a fourth of Independents will also refuse the shot, the data show. Only among Democrats were the numbers high, with more than two-thirds of Democratic adults reporting that they had received at least one shot so far.

The U.S. Constitution does not authorize any vaccine programs, propaganda campaigns to promote those programs, “public-health” schemes, or any of the increasingly totalitarian responses to the COVID pandemic. That means, as far as the federal government is concerned, all of this is unconstitutional and therefore illegal.

Using government propaganda and government-backed “faith leaders” to convince Americans to make one-size-fits-all medical decisions is also dangerous. Combined with the fact that informed consent is almost entirely lacking in this lawless campaign, it is clear that there is a major problem. Those responsible for breaking the law must be held accountable. ■

England's Prince Philip Prominently Advocated Drastic Population Control

"In the event I am reincarnated, I would like to return as a deadly virus, to contribute something to solving overpopulation."

In a 1988 interview with Deutsche Press Agentur, the recently deceased Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, stated his opinion that there were too many people on Earth. He stated his rather grisly attitude elsewhere as well.



AP Images

China's Cracking Down on Foreign Journalists Causes Many to Leave for Taiwan

"John Sudworth's work has exposed truths the Chinese authorities did not want the world to know."

BBC journalist John Sudworth has relocated to Taiwan, where he will now file his reports about China's communist-led government. He joins many other foreign journalists who have either left their stations in Beijing voluntarily or have been expelled for publicizing the deeds of the Chinese government.



AP Images

Illegal Immigrants Directed to Asylum With Information Provided by Homeland Security

"It's amazing how many women and children are coming right now, just because the president is promising them amnesty down the road. But the great irony here is these messages guiding the new arrivals appear in Homeland Security bags so they'll stay nice and dry for the thousands of people that are coming up from the [Rio Grande] river."

For many years, Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-Texas) has opposed soft federal immigration policies that virtually invite illegal immigration. He was particularly incensed to find evidence that the Department of Homeland Security was making it easier for lawbreakers to enter the United States and seek asylum.

Leftist Lawyers in New York File Suit Demanding Inclusion of "X" as a Choice of Gender

"I was forced to choose between M or F as a gender marker which neither really align with how I express myself or feel inside."

Jules Donahue is one of several transgender plaintiffs in a suit filed by the New York Civil Liberties Union and Legal Services of NYC. A 30-year-old law student, Donahue applied for financial assistance from a state agency and was told he must choose M or F on his application. He looks forward to a future when he can choose X for gender identity on government forms.

Taliban Leaders Claim Victory; Foreign Expert Agrees That the Taliban Have Triumphed

"I think they [Taliban leaders] are 90 percent right. Clearly the war has been lost. Clearly things have gone in the wrong direction. Things have worsened under [Afghan President Ashraf] Ghani."

Antonio Giustozzi, a leading analyst of Taliban progress, said the reality in Afghanistan is quite clear: The Taliban won, and around 2,400 U.S. military personnel lost their lives during the 20 years American forces were sent to the embattled nation.



AP Images

Florida Governor Opposes Needing Proof of Vaccination to Participate in Normal Activity

"It's completely unacceptable for either the government or the private sector to impose upon you the requirement that you show proof of vaccine to just simply be able to participate in normal activity."

While expressing his view that people have certain freedoms and individual liberties to make decisions for themselves, Governor Ron DeSantis added, "Lockdowns don't work." ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS

Can Government Print Unlimited CASH?



doomu / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Modern Monetary Theory — upon which socialism rests — says that government can print as much money as it wants without consequence, if it's done right. Not true!

by Charles Scaliger

Recently President Biden unveiled his latest spending initiative, a \$2 trillion infrastructure spending plan chock-full of longtime wish-list

Charles Scaliger is an educator with interests in foreign languages, monetary theory, entomology, and ornithology.

items of the Left, including massive spending to “electrify” the entire federal vehicle fleet and a large proportion of the nation’s school buses, steps to reduce carbon emissions, and the creation of a “Civilian Climate Corps.” Ostensibly, this is just another big spending cure-all in the grand tradition of FDR, LBJ, Clinton, and Obama, to be paid for by tax hikes and other impositions on big corporations — measures that sup-

posedly will pay for the plan over the next 10 years or so.

In reality, of course, every clear-headed American knows exactly what will happen: Any additional revenues garnered by this latest round of tax hikes on America’s most productive will be squandered by the federal government, as estimates for all of Biden’s new pie-in-the-sky proposals suffer from the usual inefficiencies and

unanticipated cost overruns. In the end, the Biden infrastructure boondoggle will simply pile a couple of trillion more dollars onto the national debt, and the usual hand-wringing over the need to impose yet more taxes and create more “stimulus” programs will commence anew. We’ve seen this same show so many times that the predictability borders on cliché. Yet we are fast approaching a point of fiscal and financial no return, a day of reckoning when we are forced to pay the price for decades of irresponsible spending, borrowing, and printing money.

At the time of this writing, the official national debt of the United States stands well in excess of \$28 trillion, with an additional million accruing every minute or so. Divvied up among all U.S. taxpayers, the debt amounts to a staggering \$224,000 per person. At the same time, the gross domestic product barely surpasses \$21 trillion, while the average personal debt per citizen stands at \$64,000. These figures tell an increasingly ominous tale, yet, immersed as America has become in the mounting rivalry with Communist China, the stubborn coronavirus pandemic, and the increasingly acrimonious social, political, and cultural divide among Americans themselves, concerns about the skyrocketing national debt have been largely set aside. Some in government and the academy — the devotees of a new economic doctrine called “modern monetary theory” — now assure us that government debt is not the apocalyptic crisis we once thought, and that there is no cause for alarm.

But the verdict of history tells a different story. While wars, pandemics, and societal breakdown may wreak devastation, debt and the economic and financial collapse it eventually triggers can be even more powerful, albeit less understood, “destroyers of worlds.” After all, before World War II, before the Holocaust, before the rise of Hitler, and before the Great Depression, the German economy and society were left in ruins — not so much by the guns of World War I, but by the hyperinflation that followed, an event that wiped out the savings of millions of thrifty, hardworking Germans almost overnight. This event not only impoverished the once-proud nation, it also destroyed every vestige of trust between citizen and state, between banker and depositor, and between creditor and

The German cautionary tale is but one of many; modern history is full of instances of once-vibrant countries being destroyed by economic collapse, from Argentina and Venezuela to Russia and Zimbabwe.



Warning sign: The astronomical national debt, now closing in on \$30 trillion (sign shown is from April 2020), is set to exceed the size of the entire American economy this year, for the first time since 1946.

debtor. The resulting societal breakdown was exploited by Hitler and the Nazis. Exhausted and shattered morally and socially, the Germans were in no condition to resist the imposition of Nazism and the catastrophe that ensued.

The German cautionary tale is but one of many; modern history is full of instances of once-vibrant countries being destroyed by economic collapse, from Argentina and Venezuela to Russia and Zimbabwe. We must not let such a disaster overtake the United States — but time is running out to turn the economic and financial tide.

Throughout its relatively short history, America’s debt has risen and fallen. On one occasion, it was even — for a single year, from 1835 to 1836 — completely paid off. America began her life as an independent nation deeply enmeshed in war-

time debt and a monetary crisis that would haunt her for decades. During the Civil War and both World Wars, the federal government borrowed massive amounts of money to cover huge military expenditures. The level of national debt has also fluctuated according to the ebb and flow of the economy, with periodic panics, recessions, and depressions generally driving the debt upward, while periods of economic expansion — until recently — generally allowed the debt to be paid down. But throughout much of this period, it has generally been accepted that debt is at best a necessary evil, and that the proper response to debt is to pay it off. “I go on the principle that a public debt is a public curse, and in a Republican Government, a greater [curse] than any other,” remarked James Madison. His colleague and close

Its hipness and superficial appeal aside, MMT is but the latest in a very long series of economic half-truths whose deep-seated allure arises ultimately from the very human impulse to try to get something for nothing.

friend Thomas Jefferson concurred, saying, “We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt.”

Yet perpetual debt is precisely what Americans have been given, along with, in recent decades, an alarming rise in popularity of an old heresy in new garb, the idea that government debt is somehow different from private debt, and that, properly allocated, it will improve national economic health, no matter how high it is allowed to rise.

Recently, this way of thinking has found expression in a faddish new brand of economics misnamed Modern Monetary Theory (MMT). Growing in popularity since

the mid-1990s, when it was first articulated by Warren Mosler, MMT has become something of a buzzword in Washington corridors of power thanks to a number of high-profile Democrats, such as Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), who have openly embraced and promoted it. In essence, MMT makes the reassuring claim that government spending levels are not limited in any way by tax revenues. In the MMT version of things, a sovereign government can create and spend as much money as needed, as long as all sovereign debts are denominated in its own currency. Federal borrowing therefore only constrains interest rates, while taxation is

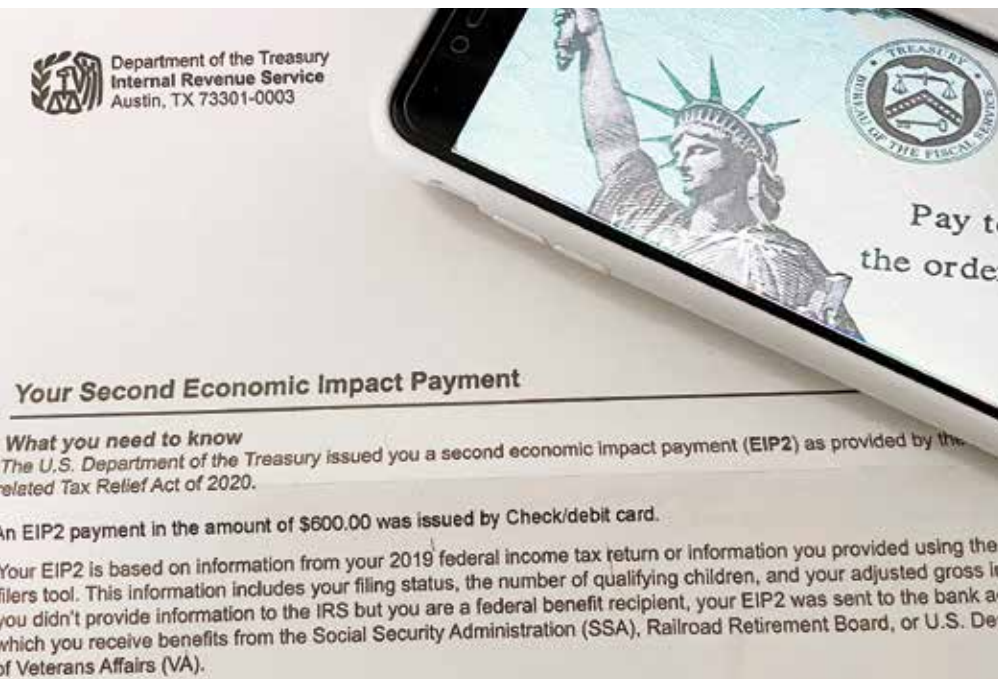
useful only as a tool to curb inflation, by removing money from circulation. Governments must then use money creation as a continuous source of economic stimulus, imposing or hiking taxes whenever inflation threatens to get out of hand.

Unfortunately, its hipness and superficial appeal aside, MMT is but the latest in a very long series of economic half-truths whose deep-seated allure arises ultimately from the very human impulse to try to get something for nothing. Money, MMT theorists argue, has always been a creation of government; even when money was commodity-based (e.g., based on gold or silver), its value and standard units were created by government. Absent laws defining weights, measures, monetary units, accountancy standards, and the like, money simply has no meaning, according to MMT. It follows then that money is the tool, and not the master, of its creator — hence the need for sovereign debt to be denominated always in the sovereign’s own currency.

Modern fiat (unbacked) money, of course, is no longer restrained by a supply of some convertible commodity such as gold or silver; it is undeniably true that governments can create as much money as they like, regardless of how much gold or silver is held in treasury vaults.

However, it is not the case that money originates with government. In the ancient world, money was synonymous with weights (which is why many modern monetary units, such as the pound, the peso, and the lira, all referred originally to units of weight). Units of weight were defined by the state, but only to establish uniform standards of exchange. The money itself was typically a standard amount of gold, silver, or copper reckoned in “grains,” minuscule weights derived from the weight of a single grain of some commodity such as wheat. The idea of coinage was a much later invention, attributed to the Lydians, from where it spread to ancient Greece, across the Middle East to India, and elsewhere. But notice that the original constituents of money — precious metals, grains of foodstuffs such as wheat and beans, and, in some places, cowrie shells, gems, and other commodities — were, then as now, acquired primarily by private enterprise.

On the other hand, modern fiat money is created by government, and, in addition to old-fashioned tax revenue, is used to fi-



Overstimulation: Adding enormously to the debt are totally pointless “stimulus checks,” sent by the government to palliate a crisis created by government — namely, the economic collapse brought about by draconian lockdowns and forcible closures of private businesses.

AP Images

nance all types of government spending. Indeed, the political appeal of fiat money is that it allows government to spend far more money than up-front taxation would permit. But that does not mean that fiat money has some strange power to conjure wealth out of thin air that old-fashioned commodity money somehow did not have.

Supporters of fiat currency rely for their arguments on a subtle confusion of wealth with money. If it were possible to become wealthy merely by creating money and making sure that all debts are denominated in your own currency, then all of the old-fashioned virtues once believed to be the basis for wealth and success — thrift, delaying gratification, savings, and the like — are shown to be wrongheaded. Indeed, in the modern fiat money-based economy, such virtues are commonly derided. Instead of fuddy-duddy savings and thrift, big spending and borrowing are lauded because such activities allegedly drive the economy.

The problem of debt is not confined to the federal government; America at every level, down to household budgets, is in debt up to its collective eyeballs. Long gone are the days when the average individual would pay off college loans within 10 years, and the average couple would burn the mortgage on their house by their early 40s. Most Americans today seem content to live their entire lives in debt, enticed into such a state by a combination of skyrocketing costs for the things upon which our standard of living most crucially depends — education, motor vehicles, and houses — and artificially low interest rates that make decades-long loans and mortgages seem more palatable. But the stark reality is this: Most Americans will be making mortgage payments their entire lives, and increasing numbers of people are entering their 60s with student-loan debt still unpaid. The old-fashioned American dream of a secure retirement and financial independence by middle age appears to have gone the way of Burma-Shave signs.

Nor is this merely a cultural shift. The widespread acceptance of heavy, permanent personal debt is encouraged by the Powers That Be, because the entire viability of modern fiat monetary systems depends upon debt. This is because, strictly speaking, government and banks do not simply “print” money and dole it out like free samples at



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Painful contractions: The catastrophic worldwide economic contraction as a result of government responses to the coronavirus pandemic brought trade and manufacturing virtually to a standstill, significantly disrupting fragile supply chains.

a grocery store. It is in fact “injected” into the economy using the issuance of debt as a cover. Only the demand for debt creates financial circumstances wherein new money can be issued in response to interest-rate adjustments, bank lending, and government-mandated changes in bank reserve requirements. In other words, if there were no demand for debt, it would be impossible for the fiat money system to work. All of the “money multiplier” models used by bankers and economists to calculate how this or that financial policy action would increase the money supply would be useless if people refused to borrow. Most of the money in circulation would vanish back into bank vaults — as former Federal Reserve Chairman Marriner Eccles once told flabbergasted congressmen — if the demand for debt dried up. And demand for debt would be greatly reduced if more people were willing to save and invest instead of borrow and spend.

The modern monetary system also relies on the ability of governments, working in concert with their respective banking systems, to keep interest rates unnaturally low and terms of payment absurdly lenient, to deceive the public into borrowing amounts that they would otherwise be unwilling to take on. In the world of fiat money, it ap-

pears financially advantageous to borrow beyond our means, not only for houses, cars, and education, but also to purchase stocks and bonds and to gamble on foreign exchange rates.

Instead of saving money, most people see no choice but to purchase stocks, bonds, and real estate in the expectation that they will make their money back many times over as markets rise to infinity. Savings and thrift are seen as unwise and passé because inflation tends to erase the value of old-fashioned savings accounts, CDs, and cash over time.

But what is inflation, actually? Few subjects are more misunderstood by the general public, which tends to view inflation as “rising prices.” This mistaken view, shared and promoted by many economists, obscures the true nature and origin of inflation. First of all, rising prices are the effect of inflation, not inflation itself, which is simply an expansion of the money supply via money creation, resulting in diminishing purchasing power of the money already in circulation. Moreover, the rising prices associated with inflation are general, not local, nor are they confined to a few select goods and services. It is incorrect to refer to sudden increases in prices after a natural disaster as “inflation”;



AP Images

America's future? Socialist Venezuela, Latin America's most vibrant economy only a generation ago, has been destroyed by radical leftists mouthing the same platitudes now issuing from many in the Biden administration and their partisan allies in Congress.

such shocks are always temporary and limited to geographical areas affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, and the like. Inflationary price rises occur across the entire country, and affect all goods and services to varying degrees. The cause of such general rises in pricing is government, and the mechanism is the creation of new money by Treasury departments in combination with the banking system. As we have seen, this new money is primarily introduced into the economy by new debt. So an inflationary economy creates a vicious cycle by continually devaluing the currency. A currency that continually loses value disincentivizes saving, and incentivizes borrowing and risky investments. More borrowing creates a need for more debt, which in turn leads to more inflation.

What about the claim made by MMT advocates (as well as Keynesians) to the effect that government debt is somehow different because it can be repaid via monetization (printing currency)? The fatal fallacy with such arguments is that even governments cannot compel others to purchase their debt. In other words, governments are limited in their power to issue debt by the willingness of would-be

creditors to loan money to them. Many governments that develop reputations for profligacy and even default often find it impossible to borrow because no one is willing to lend to them — or will only loan money with very high interest and stringent repayment conditions. This has been the case now for many years with Argentina, for example, which has defaulted several times on debt in the last several decades, each time bitterly blaming wicked foreign capitalists for all of their woes. During the European financial crisis a decade ago, several EU states, most notably Italy, faced the unpleasant reality of having to borrow money at higher interest rates than they wanted because of widespread perception among creditors that their economic and financial condition was a very risky lending environment.

The United States, on the other hand, never seems to encounter the same problems with creditors as faced by the likes of Argentina. No matter how much new money is created by the Fed, and no matter how high America's debt climbs, hyperinflation, collapse of the dollar, and other long-forecast events remain illusory. In

particular, the massive inflation and consequent dollar crisis predicted by many economists as a result of years of massive money creation in response to the Great Recession of 2008 seemingly never came to pass. But appearances are deceptive, as Peter Schiff, an outspoken foe of MMT and fiat money, explained in *Reason* magazine:

Broader consumer price inflation has been kept at bay because many of the newly printed dollars don't even hit our economy. Instead, foreign countries purchase them in an attempt to keep their own currencies from appreciating against the dollar. In the current environment, a weak currency is widely (and wrongly) seen as essential to economic growth. That's because a weak currency lowers the relative price of a particular country's manufactured goods on overseas markets. Nations hope those lower prices will lead to greater exports and more domestic jobs.

Thus we see "currency wars," in which the victors are those who most successfully debase their currencies. That policy perpetuates greater global imbalances (between those nations that borrow and those nations that lend) and the accumulation of dollar-based assets in the accounts of foreign central banks.

The more debt the U.S. government issues, the more purchases these foreign banks must make to keep their currencies from becoming more valuable relative to ours. It is no coincidence that many of the countries heavily buying U.S. dollars, such as China, the Philippines, and Indonesia, are experiencing high levels of domestic inflation. Inflation may now be America's leading export.

In other words, the United States can get away with massive inflation because it is able to export dollars. Countries such as China snap up excess dollars to ensure that their dollar-denominated assets (including debts owed by the United States to them) do not lose value. But this prompts another question: Why are foreign countries so eager to maintain a strong dollar, and willing to hold assets denominated in dollars? The answer has its roots in the Bretton-

Woods Conference held in 1944, in which the United States dollar was set up to be the world's reserve currency, meaning that international transactions were ultimately to be reckoned in dollars. Originally, the United States agreed to keep the dollar tethered to a gold standard for the sake of international holders of dollars — although American citizens were no longer permitted to own monetary gold or to redeem dollars for gold. This “gold window” was repudiated by President Nixon, to the consternation of foreign holders of American dollars, and resulted in a “dollar shock” that reverberated throughout the 1970s, creating recession and stagflation. In the end, though, the global economy recalibrated to the reality of a fully fiat American dollar, which has remained the world's reserve currency to this day. In other words, if other countries wish to be part of international finance and trade, they are currently forced to accept the dollar's reserve status. This means, in effect, that the United States enjoys tremendous (and unjust) leverage over the rest of the world's currencies, as well as a convenient inflationary safety valve not enjoyed by the likes of Argentina or Zimbabwe.

But the effects of the massive inflation are still visible in the U.S. economy — years of “quantitative easing” (printing money and using that new money to buy government and private stocks and bonds) on the part of the Fed have resulted in spectacular run-ups in asset pricing, such as the stock market. As Schiff observed in 2014, well before the Trump presidency:

Through its zero-interest-rate policy and direct asset purchases via quantitative easing, the Fed has lowered the cost of capital and raised prices for stocks, bonds, and real estate....

Over the past five years, the prices of these financial assets have risen dramatically. However, unlike past periods of bull asset markets, these increases have not been accompanied by robust economic growth. To the contrary, the last five years have seen the slowest non-recession economic growth since the Great Depression.

This Fed-driven dynamic explains the rich-get-richer economy we've seen since the alleged recovery of 2009 began. The wealth effect has

The problem of debt is not confined to the federal government; America at every level, down to household budgets, is in debt up to its collective eyeballs.



Rise of radicalism: Never before has the federal government been so dominated by the radical Left, whose stated aim is to tear down the Republic and Constitution and replace them with Marxism. Can the Republic survive the relentless attacks led by the likes of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez?

allowed the elites to push up prices for high-end consumer goods such as luxury real estate, fine art, wine, and collectible cars. But that is cold comfort to rank-and-file Americans struggling to find work in an otherwise stagnant economy.

In broad outline, then, the system allows the Federal Reserve, together with the Treasury Department and the banking system, to create money practically at will, by the issuance of debt. This state of affairs also keeps interest rates artificially low, discouraging savings and incentivizing borrowing. And the American dollar is shielded to some extent from the effects of consumer

price inflation by the demand for dollars overseas — a demand imposed on the rest of the world by the legal status of the U.S. dollar as the world's sole reserve currency. Under such conditions, it might indeed appear that the U.S. economy is impervious to the sort of debt-related woes that afflict other countries. But no matter how clever the financial gimmickry, no matter how airtight the regulations, no government can compel any other party to accept either its currency or its debt, if push comes to shove. For the past 75 years, the international monetary system has acquired a certain inertia, as the world has adjusted to the reality of the U.S. dollar. Yet old orders can and do change, as circumstances



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Stop the presses: Governments have always resorted to inflation — printing money — to pay off debts. This always leads to soaring prices and devaluated currency.

become intolerable. In certain parts of the world, other currencies are beginning to gain favor over the U.S. dollar, especially the Chinese renminbi.

Much of the global perception of the dollar's invulnerability stems from the overall strength — military, political, and economic — of the United States. But this, too, is looking increasingly fragile in recent years, as witness the epic economic and social unraveling in the United States in 2020, triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and unrelenting hostility of America's power elites to the Trump administration. The piling on of trillions of dollars in new debt — not to mention massive new taxes and regulations — in response to the pandemic will not pass unnoticed by hard-eyed investors. How can a United States seemingly bent on impoverishing its own citizens, succumbing to lawlessness, and permitting public corruption (including electoral fraud) at Third World levels, be relied upon to continue to service its debts and to be a responsible custodian of the world's fall-back currency? All these are questions that foreign lenders will be asking, more and

more stridently, if the United States does not soon correct its path. In the end, such misgivings will give way to a full-blown crisis of confidence in the U.S. dollar and in the entire dollar-based global system. When that unhappy day arrives, the United States will discover that it can no longer issue public debt on its terms and print any quantity of money it deems expedient. Dollars pumped into the economy will no longer slosh overseas; they will remain in American bank accounts, driving up consumer prices and ultimately destroying the value of the dollar as surely as happened in Weimar Germany.

How long it may take for events to reach such a pitch is impossible to predict. Black swan events, such as the ongoing pandemic and its economic and geopolitical fallout, may hasten the process. War is often another catalyst of economic catastrophe. The hyperinflation in Weimar Germany occurred after Germany's humiliating loss of World War I and war reparations. The aforementioned closure of the "gold window" by Nixon was necessitated by Vietnam War expenses; when the United

States withdrew in defeat from Vietnam, the blow to American prestige was considerable, and probably contributed to the stagflation of the '70s and early '80s. Argentina's stunning loss to the British in the Falklands War led to a run of hyperinflation that left the Argentine economy in ruins. For the United States, while the prospect of a ruinous foreign war may seem less likely than in 1940 or 1970, continual domestic unrest, unrestrained illegal immigration, and almost constant political malfeasance are all factors likely to erode confidence, both at home and abroad, in America's continued viability as the sole economic superpower.

None of these considerations enter into the flawed calculus of MMT or even Keynesianism. All such proponents of debt and fiat currency believe that the system is self-maintaining as long as the proper government regulations are put and kept in place. They fail to understand that no financial system can be made impervious to the choices of consumers. The day that global consumers end their love affair with the American dollar and with dollar-denominated public debt will be a dark day indeed for America.

It's Not (Yet) Too Late

Can this eventual day of reckoning be avoided? Yes, if Americans are willing to force their leaders to take some politically difficult steps, including curtailing government borrowing, cutting hundreds of billions, if not trillions, of dollars in unnecessary and unconstitutional spending, and ultimately restoring the American dollar to a gold or bimetallic standard. Because all of these steps will of necessity entail some short-term economic pain, and because they will be strenuously resisted and impugned by the Deep State, it will require a tremendous level of national character and endurance to effect what needs to be done. Kicking the can down the road has proven a viable short-term strategy for decades, because the American system is more cleverly insulated than any other against the laws of economics. But in the long run, to paraphrase John Maynard Keynes, we will all be bankrupt, an outcome that will be infinitely worse than any short-term inconveniences arising from a return to fiscal austerity and economic sanity. ■

They Call It Infrastructure Spending

To provide cover for the fact that the Biden administration is blowing money on socialist, ill-advised boondoggles, the spending has been dubbed “infrastructure” spending.



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Buzzword: Originally applied primarily to transportation and communication networks, the term “infrastructure” has evolved into an all-purpose catchphrase for any public works project on which politicians want to spend money.

by Charles Scaliger

Back in the early '90s, the Clinton administration coined a new buzzword, “infrastructure,” that took Washington social circles by storm and soon became an all-purpose rationale for spending on what were once more honestly styled “boondoggles.” But whereas “boondoggle” long connoted wasteful spending on useless public works, “infrastructure” was a serious term, conjuring as it did visions of grandiose, visionary public spending. “Boondoggles” were tawdry and venal, the pet projects of corrupt, cigar-chomping politicians in smoke-filled rooms, but “infrastructure investment” is the enlightened stock-in-trade of the Ivy League-educated sophisticates who constitute America’s de facto ruling class.

From the Clinton era onward, every liberal politician has been bound by the creed of “infrastructure investment.” The word itself is imprecise, as all buzzwords must be. To the Clintons, it referred to any publicly funded or subsidized network or conduit — transportation, communication, sanitary, etc. — that tied the country together. In Biden’s America, the term seems to have expanded to embrace anything that politicians want to spend money on — “health infrastructure” and “environmental infrastructure,” for example. And, true to form, the Biden administration has cobbled together an ambitious \$2 trillion dollar “infrastructure plan” signaling legislative and budgetary priorities for the next four years. The quaintly named “Build Back Better” plan is the lineal successor of federal government boondoggles stretching all the way

back to the New Deal. The Biden plan even pays rhetorical homage to FDR’s mother of all boondoggles with its “Civilian Climate Corps” (an obvious nod to FDR’s Civilian Conservation Corps), while contemplating “investment” in a broad array of distinctly 21st-century Big Government conceits. Let’s have a look.

First of all, the overall cost of the Biden plan is somewhat in dispute, with estimates varying between \$2 trillion and \$2.5 trillion. The plan, supposedly, will be paid for by a hike in corporate taxes, to 28 percent, coupled with legislative measures preventing U.S. corporations from shielding their assets from taxes by offshoring. Such a measure is conveniently expected to generate \$2.5 trillion over the next 15 years, according to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. But, of course, every-



The price is not right: Soaring gas prices since the beginning of the Biden administration may betoken broader consumer price inflation, thanks to massive monetary expansion.

one knows that corporate tax hikes alone will not pay for the Biden plan (nor for the already-signed \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill). More robust sources of revenue will be needed, and negotiations are already under way in Washington to figure out the best way of fleecing American taxpayers without alienating too much of the voter base.

One proposal, an old Washington standby, is simply to borrow the money. After all, claim the happy talkers, this infrastructure investment is so good that it will pay for itself in rising revenues begotten by an infrastructure-fueled economic boom. As one former Treasury official argued on CNBC, “You can make a very strong case to borrow the money and pay it back over time on expected returns. We have failed to invest in all of the infrastructure needs that this country has by this fictional argument that it must be paid for for us to do it.” Indeed, a study just carried out by the Wharton School of Business discovered that the Biden plan, thanks to the inherent virtue of infrastructure, will reduce the national debt by 6.4 percent — in 2050!

Assuming that at least part of the Biden plan will need to be paid for by the usual suite of tax hikes, what other options, in addition to corporate taxes, will be under

discussion? Income taxes on the wealthy, another time-honored canard, are of course on the table. Biden even promised during the campaign a tax hike on Americans making over \$400,000 per year, and appears open to discussing it in connection with his infrastructure plan (whose passage, in the current Washington political climate, appears to be a foregone conclusion). Other possible sources of revenue under discussion include a gas-tax hike. Owing to the fact that the federal gas-tax has not been raised since 1993 and that the price of gasoline is well below historic highs, this might appear to be a politically viable option in the eyes of most Washington Democrats.

A couple of novel funding options are also under consideration, including a mileage tax (or vehicle miles tax, VMT). While it is not yet clear how a VMT would be levied, the idea behind it is simple enough: The farther you travel, the more tax you pay. In this way, people who try to minimize gas costs (and hence, the gas tax) by driving fuel-efficient cars will be taxed according to the amount they drive and not the amount of fuel they consume. Wrote Congressman Sam Graves (R-Mo.):

Although critics will say that we’re

not ready for VMT, we’ve heard that same argument for too long. The Highway Trust Fund continues to lose more and more revenue because not all users are paying their fair share given increased fuel efficiency and electric vehicle technology.

The VMT is likely to become a reality sooner rather than later, since many Republicans, such as Graves, are clamoring for everyone to pay their “fair share.”

Yet another enticing source of revenue (to liberals, that is) is the electricity grid — part of the very infrastructure that the Biden plan proposes to overhaul. Here, the tempting options are almost endless, from federal levies on home electricity bills to taxes at charging stations for electric vehicles.

Whatever the legislative outcome, it appears that America is heading toward a wave of new taxes and tax hikes, made necessary by the Biden infrastructure project, on top of trillions of new debt courtesy of the government’s response to the coronavirus pandemic. But what sort of bang will America be getting for its “Build Back Better” buck? Biden’s program envisions the inevitable expenditures on highway and bridge repairs, long-overdue work repeatedly postponed because of overspending on other projects.

But the plan doesn’t stop there. In keeping with the relentless anti-progress dogma of the “Green” agenda, the Biden plan will funnel at least \$174 billion into electrification of school buses and the federal government car fleet — that is, it will plow billions into driving gasoline-powered transportation into obsolescence.

The recent drive to nullify more than two centuries of technological advance by making internal-combustion engines illegal is a product of the breathtaking ignorance and fanaticism of the Green lobby. Electric and hybrid vehicles have a place in urban environments, where commutes are typically short. But because most such vehicles — especially electric cars — have maximum ranges of less than 300 miles between charges, and because such vehicles typically take an hour or more to recharge, they are effectively useless in the wide open spaces of non-urban America. Electric cars and other vehicles

make sense in densely populated areas such as China, Japan, and parts of Western Europe, but outside of the urban corridors of the east and west coasts, they will have little utility in much of the United States. Such concerns, of course, are no deterrent to the radical Left, which is determined to transform Americans' standard of living by rolling back as much technological progress as they can in the name of saving the planet.

Generating a lot of buzz is Biden's aforementioned Civilian Climate Corps, a \$10 billion government make-work program in the grand tradition of the New Deal that will use federal taxpayer dollars to create an army of workers ostensibly to protect the climate. This proposal has already prompted effusive praise from the usual lineup of liberal media outlets. Jim Lardner of *The New Yorker*, for example, called it a "Big-government plan that all Americans can embrace." While short on particulars so far, the general outline of the plan, described in a Biden executive order on climate, is "to conserve and restore public lands and waters, bolster community resilience, increase reforestation, increase carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protect biodiversity, improve access to recreation, and address the changing climate." The fact that this program is transparently modeled after the centerpiece of the FDR-era New Deal sends a clear message: The Civilian Climate Corps is an early installment of the Dems' infamous "Green New Deal," camouflaged as infrastructure investment.

Among other high-priced items in the Biden plan are:

- \$100 billion for high-speed broadband;
- \$16 billion to put people to work plugging oil and gas wells;
- \$213 billion for affordable housing;
- \$100 billion for school construction;
- \$25 billion for child-care facilities;
- \$400 billion for care for the elderly and the disabled;
- \$180 billion for research and development, including \$35 billion earmarked for climate-related research (again, think "Green New Deal by installment");
- \$300 billion for business and manufacturing; and

It appears that America is heading toward a wave of new taxes and tax hikes, made necessary by the Biden infrastructure project, on top of trillions of new debt courtesy of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic.



AP Images

Electric shock treatment: Prominent in the Biden plan is a directive to convert school buses and the federal government's fleet to electric vehicles. The drive to eliminate internal-combustion engines is one of the most important agenda items of the radical Green Left — even though the extraction of rare earth elements for electric car batteries and the production of power for recharging stations is demonstrably just as harmful to the environment per vehicle as internal-combustion cars.

- \$100 billion for workforce development programs.

Aside from the staggering price tags, all of these programs have something else in common: Not one of them is remotely legitimate under the Constitution and its limited writ of federal authority. Yet Americans, browbeaten and exhausted by years of leftist fury over the Trump phenomenon, as well as more than a year of pandemic hysteria-mongering, are about to have yet another illegitimate yoke placed on their shoulders by a newly energized Left determined to impose as much of its agenda as possible while political conditions are fa-

vorable. If the Biden plan becomes law, in whole or in part, Americans will be poorer and less free. It is very clear that Biden and his supporters intend a radical remake of America, using the pandemic as cover, just as FDR once did during the Great Depression.

The remedy, as always, is an informed citizenry holding the feet of elected representatives to the fire. Without doing so, it is horrifying to imagine how much damage the radical Left will be able to inflict between now and the next election, when the radicals need to be replaced with the constitutionally minded. ■



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Georgia's Voting Law: AN ELECTION-INTEGRITY WARNING

In response to the numerous weaknesses in Georgia's election laws and the many credible claims of fraud in the 2020 elections, the state claimed it fixed its laws. It didn't do that.



AP Images

Getting to work? The Georgia General Assembly passed S.B. 202 following disastrous presidential and Senate elections that revealed a lack of election integrity in the state.

by Peter Rykowski

Election integrity is one of the top legislative priorities this year in statehouses across the nation, at least in those controlled by Republicans.

According to the left-wing Brennan Center, which closely tracks election-related legislation in all 50 states, 361 election-integrity bills had been introduced in 47 states this year by March 24, an increase of more than 100 from a month prior. Furthermore, 55 of those bills, in 24 states, were moving through their respective legislatures, while four states — Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, and Utah — had already enacted pro-integrity bills. These numbers indicate an unusually

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strong level of interest in the subject, and since late March the number of bills has certainly risen.

Considering this intense activity, it is important to ask: Do these bills actually strengthen election integrity, or are they largely window dressing designed to appease dissatisfied voters without making substantial reforms? Unfortunately, a look at Georgia's recently signed election law — the most prominent and controversial of these — indicates the latter.

Background on Georgia's Election Law

Georgia's election law — Senate Bill 202 (S.B. 202), or the "Election Integrity Act of 2021" — has its background in the 2020 presidential election and the 2021 U.S. Senate runoff elections.

From 1996 through 2016, Georgia had

consecutively voted for the Republican Party presidential nominee by wide margins. Beginning in 2005, both of its U.S. senators were Republicans. Knowledgeable individuals considered it a reliably Republican state.

This all changed in November 2020 and January 2021. Not only did Joe Biden become the first Democrat in nearly 30 years to win the state, but two months later, two far-left Democrats defeated the state's incumbent Republican U.S. senators. Demographic changes, including through immigration and public-school indoctrination, certainly played a role in this shift. However, the most immediate reason was Georgia's weak election laws, including policies allowing easy-to-obtain absentee ballots and a long early voting period. Multiple allegations of election fraud were reported, both in the presidential and senate elections.

In response, the Georgia General Assembly — still having a substantial Republican majority — began an effort to reform the state's election laws and make it harder to commit election fraud. These efforts culminated on March 25, 2021, when Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed S.B. 202.

Immediately upon the law's enactment, the Left predictably attacked it as racist. President Joe Biden, for example, labeled it "un-American" and "Jim Crow in the 21st century." Meanwhile, "woke" corporations, including Georgia-based Delta Air Lines, lined up to condemn the law, while Major League Baseball announced a partial boycott of the state.

Many Republicans and conservatives, however, praised S.B. 202's enactment. In a statement released on the same day the bill was signed, Heritage Action, the advocacy arm of the Heritage Foundation think tank, described S.B. 202 as "a model for

Trump noted that the law lacked several effective reforms, including ending no-excuse absentee voting, shortening the state's early voting period, and eliminating "ballot drop boxes."



A thank you given too soon: S.B. 202 was presented by Georgia legislators as a law that robustly restored election integrity. The law's provisions reveal this is not the case.

the rest of the country." Other conservatives made similar statements.

A notable, negative conservative critique of S.B. 202 came from the individual arguably most affected by Georgia's poor election laws: Donald Trump. In two separate statements issued on April 5 and 6, the former president decried the law as "watered-down" and "far too weak and soft to ensure real ballot integrity." Trump noted that the law lacked several effective reforms, including ending no-excuse absentee voting, shortening the state's early voting period, and eliminating "ballot drop boxes."

Furthermore, Trump noted in both statements, Georgia officials had weakened the law's final provisions compared to its original iterations. Illustrating the futility of caving to the Left, he claimed, "Kemp also caved to the radical left-wing woke mob who threatened to call him racist if he

got rid of weekend voting. Well, he kept it, and they still call him racist!"

S.B. 202's Provisions

Trump's criticisms of S.B. 202, while blunt, are backed up by the text and provisions of the law itself.

First, the former president is correct that the law was significantly weakened during the legislative process. For example, it originally included a provision that would have required voters to have a valid reason for requesting an absentee ballot, including being physically impaired or out of the area on election day. Republican legislators stripped this provision from the final version. Although the enacted law includes a voter ID requirement to receive an absentee ballot, legislators bypassed an opportunity to implement robust mail-ballot integrity in Georgia.

Additionally, while the original bill would have reduced the number of early weekend voting days, S.B. 202 increases them. Before the law's enactment, Georgia required that counties allow at least one Saturday for early voting, with up to three additional weekend days being optional. Although the original bill would have decreased the number of early weekend voting days, the enacted law increases the number of mandatory days to two, while still allowing counties to offer a total of four. This represents another instance where legislators watered down the bill, and this time, the enacted provision is worse than under the previous law.

S.B. 202 contains multiple worrisome provisions. One of these is a backdoor expansion of ballot drop boxes. If one believes the media, the law actually limits drop boxes in Georgia. To some extent, this is true; according to Fulton County, it would have eight drop boxes under the law compared to 38 in the 2020 presidential general election. Ignored, however, is the fact that ballot drop boxes did not exist in Georgia prior to mid-2020, when the State Election Board decreed their use for the 2020 election. The new law even admits as much on page 5. Although genuine election integrity would include the elimination of drop boxes, the law requires every county to provide at least one. Thus, S.B. 202 makes permanent what was originally a temporary policy ordered by a bureaucratic agency.

On the topic of vote-counting transparency, S.B. 202 takes another step backward. Specifically, the law restricts the ability of citizens and other observers to monitor vote-counting. For example, on page 67, it prohibits observers from "Using or bringing into the room any photographic or other electronic monitoring or recording devices, cellular telephones, or computers." Similarly, page 96 of the law prohibits photographing or recording a completed ballot. These provisions strip observers of an effective means of providing evidence of fraud. In recent decades, state laws reduced vote-counting transparency. Rather than restoring the ability of observers to monitor vote-counting and collect evidence, S.B. 202 takes a step backward.

Furthermore, page 73 of the law adds a provision mandating that poll watchers

complete “training provided by the political party, political body, or candidate designating the poll watcher.” Once again, this provision would limit who can observe vote-counting — when criteria instead should be expanded — by prohibiting independently trained individuals from participating. As election integrity expert Kurt Hyde relates, some of the best poll-watcher training courses are taught independent of political parties or candidates. S.B. 202’s provision risks creating an establishment monopoly over election observers, something that could hamper election-integrity efforts.

Additionally, the law does not change an existing provision, found on pages 68 and 69, that severely limits the ability of observers to communicate with those outside the vote-counting centers. The lack of provisions promoting vote-counting transparency — and the existence of new provisions that decrease transparency — is one of the most anti-integrity portions of S.B. 202.

Another worrisome provision within S.B. 202 is the enactment of ranked-choice voting for military and overseas voters. Ranked-choice voting, also called instant-runoff voting, is a complicated system that requires voters to assign a rank to each candidate on the ballot, regardless of

whether they support that candidate. If no candidate is ranked first by a majority of voters, the lowest-performing candidate is eliminated. Voters who gave their highest ranking to the eliminated candidate then have their second choice counted instead. This process repeats until one candidate receives a majority.

As implied above, ranked-choice voting can lead to candidates with little genuine support winning elections. The system confuses voters, distracts from policy issues, and forces voters to vote for candidates they otherwise would not support. In the United States, ranked-choice voting was enacted in Maine in 2016 and Alaska in 2020. These efforts, primarily backed by liberals, led to Republican U.S. Representative from Maine Bruce Poliquin losing to Democrat Jared Golden in 2018 despite winning a plurality in the first round. Meanwhile, some political analysts believe that Alaska’s new system, which also eliminates party primaries, will enable liberal Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski’s reelection in 2022 despite her unpopularity among Republicans.

Pages 5 and 6 of S.B. 202 claim this change will make it possible to shorten the length of time between the general elec-

tion and the runoffs. However, the provision amounts to a sneaky way of introducing ranked-choice voting in Georgia, further compromising election integrity.

To be clear, S.B. 202 does contain some positive measures. For example, the voter ID requirement to receive an absentee ballot is certainly a step in the right direction, along with a provision requiring counties to publicly report detailed absentee-ballot data each day during a voting period. Another positive change includes the establishment of a telephone hotline for citizens to report potential voter fraud and intimidation, which the state attorney general would then review, though this provision would have been more effective had the reports and determinations been open to public inspection.

Despite these pro-integrity provisions, the fact remains that the General Assembly watered down the bill. Furthermore, S.B. 202 contains a disappointingly large number of changes that undermine election integrity and make certain portions of Georgia’s election code worse than before the law’s enactment. S.B. 202 should act as an example — and as a warning — to voters and legislators across the Republic.

The Folly of Compromise

Trump’s criticisms are correct: For pro-election integrity reformers, S.B. 202 does not effectively crack down on election fraud, at least to the extent its proponents allege. As mentioned above, the former president brought up another point worth pondering: Georgia officials made the final law significantly weaker than its original version, and yet the Left reacted as if nothing had changed.

This illustrates the futility of compromising with, or caving to, the Left. Conservatives frequently fall for this, believing that compromise will make it easier to advance their policies and lead to a less-intense reaction from liberals. In reality, it inhibits a genuinely Americanist agenda while garnering the same leftist response.

It is imperative that conservatives stand up for what is right, without compromise or backing down. If Republican legislators in Georgia and other states do this, whether through pressure from citizens or another impetus, we will see legislation passed that robustly ensures true election integrity. ■



AP Images

Trump weighs in: Amid the commotion over Georgia’s election law, Donald Trump pointed out it had been watered down and lacked multiple effective reforms.

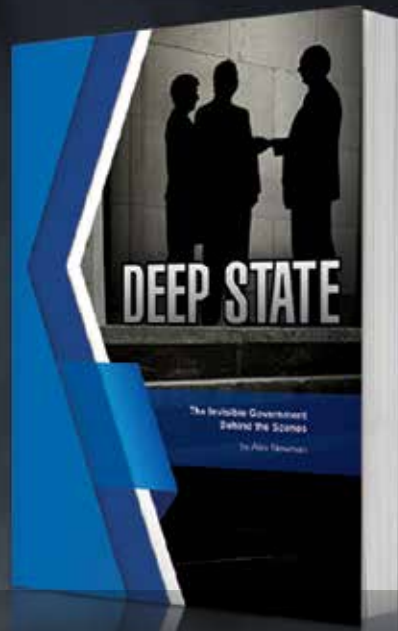


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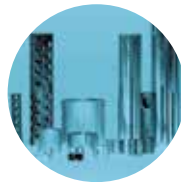
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WOKE SPORTS

Wokeness has invaded the world of sports — as it has other fields of human endeavor — with virtue-signaling athletes leading the way despite the disgust of fans.



AP Images

More leftist bunkum: The Milwaukee Brewers demanded justice for the shooting of Jacob Blake, but then offered no apologies to the cops they slandered after the shooting was found to be justified.

by *Dr. Duke Pesta*

In the contemporary West, we live in a culture where virtue has been replaced by display. In other words, the trumpeting of virtuous attitudes — the endless boasting about our good intentions and motivations — is too often confused with actual virtue. This kind of “peacock” virtue, or “virtue signaling,” is long on talk and short on action. Nor is it new. It has been a hallmark of socialism down through history, where members of the collective were required to repeat and disseminate the wise and virtuous actions and slogans of the state, whether true or not.

Dr. Duke Pesta is academic director at Freedom Project Academy.

The Christian understanding of virtue, by contrast, is anchored in the actual behavior of individuals. It is a personal decision to choose right behavior over wrong. We need look no further than the Gospels to find the antithesis of socialism’s self-serving politicization of virtue. In the sixth chapter of Matthew, Jesus makes the case for a very different approach to virtue: “So when you give to the needy, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

By comparison, modern sporting culture is all about virtue signaling, where every success on the field or court becomes an opportunity for individual display. In today’s sporting events, multi-millionaire football players produce choreographed dances to commemorate two-yard touchdown receptions, and even wealthier basketball players celebrate flamboyantly over “gimme” breakaway layups on the basketball court.

As the kudzu-like creep of socialism continues to expand implacably across the landscape of American culture, it is no surprise that organized sports have rapidly and with great fervor ceded themselves to the new woke order. The ubiquity and theatricality of professional sports have long provided athletes the wealth and cultural

Like Hollywood actors up until the last few decades, the great athletes of the 20th century tended to be quite patriotic.

capital so attractive to socialist reformers. The performative nature of sport, once brought to ideological heel, offers broad and socially diverse stages on which to play out the lessons of collective thinking and socialist virtue signaling. And as is the case for Hollywood culture as well, the huge payoffs in money, access, and opportunity granted to celebrity athletes for little more than playing games breeds a legitimacy gap. In the psyches of athletes who are rewarded so well for doing so little, the distance between their humble origins and spectacular wealth and privilege is easily filled with preachy “look at me” virtue signaling and politically correct boasting that in many ways resembles socialist displays of virtue. It is no surprise that kneeling and attention-seeking athletes such as Colin Kaepernick couch their public displays of virtue in the language of socialistic change.

MLB: From All-American Pastime to Globalist Preoccupation

Of course, it has not always been this way. For almost two centuries, sports in America generally celebrated our national history and way of life. Again, like Hollywood actors up until the last few decades, the great athletes of the 20th century tended to be quite patriotic, especially during war time, putting lucrative careers on hold to enlist, as did legendary Boston Red Sox slugger Ted Williams. Or Jesse Owens, who was able to look past the glaring imperfections of his own country and stand against the evil ambitions of Nazism. The all-American story that was the rise of Major League Baseball, so unique to the United States, offered the model: Any tow-headed farm kid could grow up to be presi-

dent, or even Shoeless Joe from Hannibal, MO. And with each decade that passed, it became less clear which dream job was more glamorous and significant.

And that small-town, working-class dream was not limited to waspy Mickey Mantle-ish native sons, but included the swarthier immigrant-class masses of Joltin’ Joes and Yogi Berras, as well as the great Negro leaguers who were finally integrated on ball fields, years before they were welcomed fully into primary schools and private diners. You would need to travel back but a few decades to recall when baseball was as American as apple pie, hot dogs, and Chevrolet. Now MLB is a global brand and an Olympic sport, with much of the game’s best talent arriving from foreign shores. Yet baseball is still in the most precarious situation in

terms of youth participation and cultural clout among the big three American sports (football, basketball, and baseball), and is therefore the most susceptible to virtue signaling, given that demographics seem to be moving against them, as fewer and fewer African-American kids are participating. Only according to today’s racially obsessed protocols can you have a league under crisis for lack of African-American involvement, despite huge numbers of Latin players and growing representation from Asians.

All of which makes Major League Baseball’s ill-considered decision to strip Atlanta of the 2021 All-Star Game the more head-scratching. In March, Georgia’s Republican Governor Brian Kemp signed into law the “Election Integrity Act of 2021.” Kemp explained that Georgia was taking “another step toward ensuring our elections are secure, accessible and fair” in the wake of numerous reports of election irregularities during the fall 2020 presidential vote. Kemp was careful to articulate that “ensuring the integrity of the ballot box isn’t partisan, it’s about protecting the very foundation of who we are as Georgians and Americans.”

Predictably, and led by race-baiting activist and failed Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, the media immediately branded the act as an overt attempt to suppress black voters from casting ballots, largely due to the burden of requiring valid identification to participate in voting. Abrams, who has claimed that any challenge to Joe Biden’s 2020 election win over Donald Trump — despite the many complaints and irregularities — is a form of racist voter suppression, nevertheless still insists without evidence that the 2018 election for governor of Georgia was stolen from her. Despite the fact that 18 other states require ID for voting, the ACLU insisted, “Many Americans do not have one of the forms of identification states [deem] acceptable for voting. These voters are disproport-



Don't black Americans want honest elections, too? Georgia lawmakers were attacked and called racist for passing an election-integrity bill.

tionately low-income, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Such voters more frequently have difficulty obtaining ID, because they cannot afford or cannot obtain the underlying documents that are a prerequisite to obtaining a government-issued photo ID card.” In a statement rife with white paternalism and “white-knighting,” the tone-deaf ACLU can’t even see their own racism at work. African-Americans need IDs to drive, to fly, and to cash their government COVID payouts, but they are supposedly unable to muster them for voting.

This manufactured outrage boiled over in less time than it takes to boil a Georgia peanut, even though a recent Rasmussen report showed that “75% of likely U.S. voters believe photo identification should be required to vote,” including 60 percent of Democrats and 69 percent of black voters. Scenting Republican blood in the red-state waters of Georgia, some critics — whose positions in government and media should have taught them better — made the hyperbolic leap to Jim Crow: Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) claimed that this “despicable voter suppression bill” will “take Georgia back to Jim Crow.” MSNBC’s Joy Reid described the bill as a “Georgia Jim Crow law” aimed at “suppressing Democratic votes.” And even Vice President Kamala Harris’ niece spoke out, calling the bill “The new Jim Crow, except that it’s actually the old Jim Crow.”

Corporations, too, went on the attack, with both Coca-Cola and Delta demanding changes, “or else.” But it was Major League Baseball that rushed to be the first to punish Georgia for demanding transparency in elections. Commissioner of Baseball Robert D. Manfred, Jr. exclaimed, “Major League Baseball fundamentally supports voting rights for all Americans and opposes restrictions to the ballot box.... Fair access to voting continues to have our game’s unwavering support.” The league further announced that it was moving the 2021 All-Star Game from Atlanta — a majority black city and the playing home of recently deceased hall of famer Hank Aaron — despite the fact that neither Stacey Abrams nor Georgia Democrats called for a boycott of the game. President Biden tottered precariously toward the nearest microphone to insist that the Georgia bill “makes Jim Crow look like Jim Eagle.”



Perfect venue? The All-Star Game is now scheduled to be played in Denver (shown), not Atlanta, because of Georgia’s new election law, which (horror of horrors!) requires voter IDs. Yet Colorado already requires voter IDs.

Shortly after Biden threw his weight behind Major League Baseball’s decision to punish Georgia, the league moved the All-Star Game to Colorado. The precipitous and unprecedented move underlines how potentially fraught such decisions are with the American people in general, most of whom believe that sports leagues should stay out of politics. MLB’s decision was immediately hammered for a whole litany of hypocrisies, failures to do due diligence, and ham-fisted contradictions. For starters, Colorado *already has voter ID laws on the books*, which completely undercuts the politically correct messaging that MLB was pushing. A simple visit to the Colorado secretary of state’s website would have explained to MLB that “all voters who vote at the polls must provide identification. If you are voting by mail for the first time, you may also need to provide a photocopy of your identification when you return your mail ballot.”

Further, the move to Denver’s Coors Field is a move to a much-less racially diverse city and state. Many have pointed out the stark disparities: Atlanta is roughly 51-percent black, and only 41-percent white. Denver, on the other hand, is 76-

percent white and only nine-percent black. Statewide, Georgia is 60-percent white and 32-percent black, while Colorado is 87-percent white and less than five-percent black (4.67 percent), which means that Georgia has more than three times the nationwide percentage of blacks, while Colorado has almost three times less. According to estimates, Atlanta’s Fulton County, where the game would have been played, will lose about 100 million dollars in revenue because of the move, and much of that money would have gone to black and other minority small-business owners. The percentage of black citizens in Fulton County is over 44 percent. Not only is Major League Baseball’s decision to move the game going to devastate black communities in Atlanta, it will also disproportionately benefit primarily white businesses in Colorado.

An editorial in the *Colorado Springs Gazette* entitled “Other View: Major League Baseball Errs in Moving All-Star Game” lays out in stark terms the intended and unintended consequences of MLB’s decision to go full woke, with a clarity seldom found in legacy media:

As irrationality so often manifests in



Uniform uniformity: NBA jerseys have become walking Black Lives Matter billboards. The players rally against rare anti-black violence by police, yet ignore the fact that their league supports Communist China, which is guilty of human-rights violations, including mass murder.

irony, Manfred and his organization did all of this because the Georgia Legislature updated its voting regulations. In doing so, it established an election system with similarities to Colorado's. It means protecting outcomes for the majority of law-abiding, taxpaying, upstanding Atlanta residents who deserve fair elections that reflect majority will. In Atlanta, most of those voters — people who deserve equal protection in the democratic process — are Black. Maybe this is news to the MLB, and we hope not, but Black people have picture IDs just like white voters in Colorado.

The closing line is devastating and all too true: "As we have seen too often, white liberals often proceed with just enough information to cause trouble for minorities they claim to care about."

Major League Baseball has teams in red cities and blue cities, in liberal states and more conservative ones. Clearly, the league overreacted to the racial shakedown tactics of people such as Stacey Adams and Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock, who wanted MLB's support and pressure, not its outright boycott. As so often happens

in the rush to tout one's wokeness, the first corporate organizations to the front of the virtue-signaling queue are the ones who reap the most progressive kudos, despite being the ones to make life much more difficult for the very minority communities they are pretending to support. But no amount of facts or evidence slows down the corporate virtual-signaling stampede, and, the Daily Wire reports, "More than 100 corporate leaders met ... to plot their opposition to voter integrity laws across the United States following false statements made by far-left activists and top politicians like Democrat President Joe Biden," including leaders from American Airlines, United Airlines, Levi Strauss & Co., Walmart, ViacomCBS, Ariel Investments, LinkedIn, Twitter, and AMC Theaters.

And like the other major American sporting leagues, Major League Baseball is very keen on calling out the perceived mote in the eye of Georgia's voter accountability law, and very blind when it comes to addressing the Louisville slugger-sized beam in their own eye. The league operates a Player Development Center in Communist China that, according to its website, focuses on "academics, baseball, and the social and cultural development of

each of the participants to come through the doors." MLB's hypocritical double standard is especially egregious, given China's horrendous human-rights record. The U.S. government and international organizations have accused China of enforcing slave labor and engaging in genocide against their Muslim minority Uyghur population. But rather than target China with the same smugly ferocious threats of boycott, MLB praises its Chinese-based development center on its website: "MLB has formed a complete talent training pathway in China, comprised of learning centers, MLB Cup, and connections with domestic and foreign universities." It goes without saying that any potential baseball talent languishing in Chinese labor camps need not apply. After all, someone's got to sew the uniforms and manufacture those cleats, right?

Calling Foul: The NBA's Double Dribble

Well before Major League Baseball was striking out in Atlanta, the National Basketball Association was busy inflicting flagrant fouls on logic and intellectual consistency with its double-standard approach to social justice. The 2019-2020 NBA season was consumed with political controversy in the wake of international Black Lives Matter protests. Even before the season began, players were protesting what they called targeted police brutality against blacks, highlighted by the death of George Floyd. Players wore shirts, bandanas, and masks promoting BLM; they knelt for the National Anthem or opted to remain in the locker room until it was over. The NBA even painted "Black Lives Matter" on and around the courts for all to see.

The league also allowed players to wear social-justice messages on their jerseys for the entirety of the season. The messages included such slogans as "Say Their Names," "I Can't Breathe," "Power to the People," "Justice Now," "Sí Se Puede" (Yes We Can), "Liberation," "Listen to Us," "Stand Up," "Ally," "Anti-Racist," and "I Am a Man." Three hundred (out of 350) players wore jerseys carrying those messages, including high-profile white players and international stars. All season, NBA players and coaches foregrounded victims of police "racism" while speaking during media sessions. Last August, the Milwaukee

Bucks opted not to play a playoff game in protest of the shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin (no charges would eventually be filed against the officer who shot Blake). Other playoff teams joined the protest, and no NBA games were played for three days. After meetings involving players and coaches, the majority voted to resume play. Calls for the league to focus on the game of basketball were decried far and wide as racist and anti-American. Silence was violence and complicity, we were told by players, coaches, and league talking heads.

By the time October rolled around and the NBA finals were under way, a cacophony of voices on the Right and Left were calling out the league's double standard regarding China. The triggering event was an October 4 tweet from Daryl Morey, the general manager of the Houston Rockets. The tweet shared the popular slogan "Fight for Freedom, Stand with Hong Kong." Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta immediately distanced the team from the statement and even suggested that the Rockets were not a "political" team, despite their full participation in Black Lives Matter protest symbology.

Under duress, Morey eventually apolo-

gized and removed the tweet, but not before a tidal wave of threats, demands, and ultimatums were lodged by the Chinese Communists, who were already dealing with international outrage after Hong Kong protesters staged large-scale demonstrations over China's move to allow extradition from Hong Kong to the mainland. The Chinese Basketball Association ended all cooperation with the Rockets, and Chinese-run state television suspended all broadcasts of games. New Jersey Nets owner Joseph Tsai posted on Facebook that "1.4 billion Chinese citizens stand united when it comes to the territorial integrity of China and the country's sovereignty over her homeland."

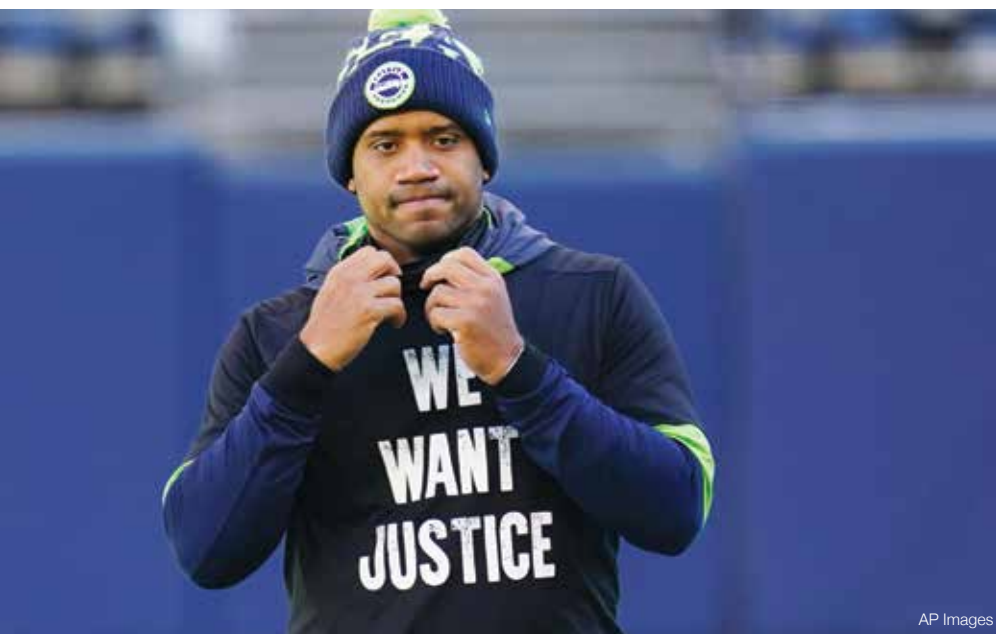
Despite the full-frontal social-justice blitz already taking place around Black Lives Matter issues, the league's formal statement about the China controversy was woefully inadequate and triggered considerable backlash in the United States:

We recognize that the views expressed by Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey have deeply offended many of our friends and fans in China, which is regrettable. While Daryl has made it clear that his tweet does not represent the Rockets or the NBA, the values of the league support individuals educating themselves and sharing their views on matters important to them. We have great respect for the history and culture of China and hope that sports and the NBA can be used as a unifying force to bridge cultural divides and bring people together.

All during this trying time, there was never a single posting from anyone in the NBA that dared to remember "our many friends and fans" among the local police.

China has been a major and very lucrative NBA market since the Rockets selected Chinese center Yao Ming with the first pick in the 2002 draft. The impact of Ming's very successful career accelerated the globalization of the NBA. So, when the NBA's official statement failed to quell the backlash, Nate Silver, the league's commissioner, sat down for an interview with *GQ* magazine. He responded to the double standard by saying, "But I guess that people could say, 'Well, it's inconsistent with our values.' And I'd say, 'Do you make decisions based on one issue?'"

If Silver had the historical knowledge and intellectual integrity to have suggested that this "one issue" was actually communism itself — across its long, murderous history, and through its dark trajectory of totalitarianism, and below to the depths of its endless repression — then perhaps he might be forgiven for the seeming reductionism. But instead, Silver meant China's strong-arming of Hong Kong. That one issue. Not the Falun Gong, or the bullying of Taiwan and Tibet, or the million-plus Uyghurs in concentration camps, or the coverup



What did he learn? Even though the Seahawks' Russell Wilson played college ball for an academic school — UW Madison — he apparently didn't read the statistics that refute the BLM message.

surrounding the COVID-19 virus, or the persecution of Christians, or the harvesting of organs, etc.

To be clear, the one real issue concerning Silver was money — lots of it. It is the same one issue that prompted Warriors’ coach Steve Kerr to deflect away from Chinese atrocities and pivot back to the comfortable and profitable criticism of America. When questioned if he’s ever been asked about human rights during his trips to China, Kerr replied: “No. Nor has [America’s] record of human rights abuses come up either.... People in China didn’t ask me about ... people owning AR-15s and mowing each other down in a mall.” Even the so-called king, LeBron James, begged off by throwing the first amendment under the bus:

We all do have freedom of speech, but at times, there are ramifications for the negative that can happen when you’re not thinking about others and you’re only thinking about yourself.... So, many people could have been harmed, not only financially but physically, emotionally, spiritually. So just be careful what we tweet and

we say and what we do even though, yes, we do have freedom of speech. But there can be a lot of negative that comes with that, too.

No word from his royal highness about the negatives that might accrue from enforced child labor. Those sneakers aren’t just going to stitch themselves!

In 2016, North Carolina passed H.B. 2, also known as the “transgender bathroom law,” which prohibited local governments from compelling private businesses to allow trans persons into the bathrooms of their preference. The law was a response to a trans-friendly bathroom ordinance passed by the Charlotte City Council earlier in that year. Immediately after H.B. 2 was passed, corporations across the nation banded together and sent a letter of protest to North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory. Not only was the NBA part of the protest, but Commissioner Silver announced that Charlotte would no longer host the 2016 NBA All-Star Game, which was transferred to New Orleans.

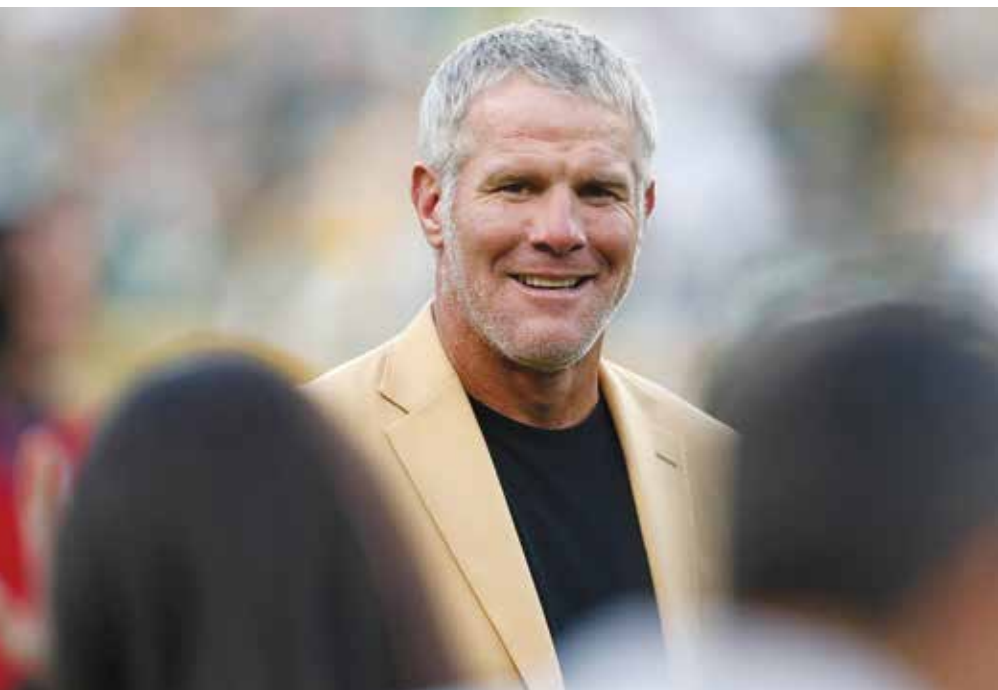
In an interesting and ironic twist, a Chinese court ruled in February of this year that homosexuality can be character-

ized as a psychological disorder. Given the NBA’s unwavering commitment to LGBTQ issues, one might expect a response to China at least as definitive as the actions taken against North Carolina. But as of the time of the writing of this article, there is no indication that the NBA will challenge China in any way. As usual, the NBA’s players and leadership put profit above principles when it comes to the Chinese Communists. But as the experts at Human Rights Watch have documented, this is not a zero-sum game, as China’s human-rights abuses have accelerated since American corporations such as the NBA began accessing Chinese markets. Once again, woke sports not only fail those they pretend to support, but very often make the plight of persecuted minorities even worse, from Atlanta to Beijing.

With every new shameless act of sports-league virtue signaling, athletes and sports writers begin to push back. Former star players such as Herschel Walker and Burgess Owens spoke out boldly against NFL double standards, Owens parlaying his activism into a seat in Congress. Former superstar quarterback Bret Favre blasted the woke NFL: “I know when I turn on a game, I want to watch a game. I want to watch all the important parts of the game, not what’s going on outside of the game, and I think the general fan feels the same way.... I can’t tell you how many people have said to me, ‘I don’t watch anymore; it’s not about the game anymore.’” And talented African-American sportswriter Jason Whitlock was banned from Twitter for daring to criticize self-described, Marxist-trained, BLM founder Patrisse Cullors for buying four houses and moving into an upscale white neighborhood, all while demonizing white people and the wealthy.

Game Over: Global Profit Over Global Social Justice

A key idea driving the woke sports we described in this article is the push toward globalism. Global markets, of course, mean increased access to new customer bases and rapidly expanding profits. As we have seen, the same global corporate entities that condemn — and in some instances foment — inequalities in the United States are nevertheless complicit



AP Images

Condemning social division: Famed quarterback Brett Favre was critical of efforts to use sports to achieve mainly left-wing political agendas. He was right in saying that unity was better than division.

and downright adamant about the limits of their self-serving wokeness. They will condemn the United States, but calling out the palpable evil of regimes such as Communist China is a bridge too far.

Woke sports is only truly woke inside the snug and altogether safe borders of Western culture. Outside those borders, “wokeness” means little more than sleepwalking through emerging markets in places where slavery, sex trafficking, political assassination, censorship, repression, and terrorism are good for business. So it goes, and leagues and superstar players add to their personal billions while children slave away making basketball shoes in “the people’s republic.” So-called Black Lives Matter leaders — self-identified Marxists — busily buy up expensive houses and property, having gotten rich condemning the very free markets that now shower them with wealth so lavishly. But people of color dying in China is acceptable collateral damage, as long as the endorsements and shoe deals keep coming. Some role-models these.

Even as world leaders and corporations line up to support the World Economic Forum’s push for the “Great Reset,” it should come as no surprise that athletics play an integral part in the marketing and fundraising plans of our new global overlords. The corporatization of sports, the drive to politicize sports in the service of globalist ideology and the erasure of national borders, is indeed what is called for in a new UN advocacy brief entitled “Recovering Better: Sport for Development and Peace — Reopening, Recovery and Resilience Post COVID-19.” The document details how sports can help usher in a brave new world that prominent globalists are hoping to foist upon us, whether we like it or not. First and foremost, sports can assist in the UN’s efforts to implement Agenda 2030: “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes sport as an important enabler of sustainable development. It highlights the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect.” Of course, to the UN, sus-

tainability means restrictions on liberty, mobility, private property, and self-determination. The UN recognizes the power of athletes to manipulate their fans and seeks to enlist sports in the global centralization of power.

According to the plan, sports are to be coopted so that they become “vehicles to develop and bolster the social and emotional skills in children and young people.” In addition, sports can be used for “promoting positive behavioral changes, public health practices and social safety measures, and for de-stigmatization of mental health issues.” In addition, according to the UN, sports can be a way to promote “gender equality,” “reduce inequality,” promote “sustainable cities and communities,” and be a “strong voice” for “climate action.” But all such utopian idylls — a fancy way of saying elaborate and unrealistically dangerous cons — come at a very large cost to freedom, liberty, and national sovereignty. In more ominous ways than ever before, American sports are indeed more than just a game. They are a way of life. And death. ■



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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

120 Gallons of Platelets

Marcos Perez of San Antonio, Texas, reached an incredible milestone in March with a donation of platelets that brought him to a total of 120 gallons of donated platelets throughout his lifetime.

Perez was motivated to begin donating platelets in 1984 because a transfusion had saved his life as a premature baby.

“Back then there was no blood bank,” Perez said. “My dad had to go around and ask his family members, my aunts and uncles, cousins, friends to go donate blood and only one man stepped up to the plate.”

That man was Perez’ father’s co-worker, Tony Aguilar, Fox News reported.

Since becoming old enough to donate, Perez has donated platelets 962 times, with his donations helping nearly 3,000 people, according to Ashley Frolick, a specialist at South Texas Blood and Tissue Center. “Donors like Marcos that come in regularly make sure we have an adequate blood supply,” Frolick said. “It’s really that dedication that helps patients.”

Platelet donors must wait two weeks between each donation, which means they can donate up to 26 times per year, Frolick explained.

Hearts for Lamere

When seven-year-old Lamere Johnson of Johnston, South Carolina, needed a heart transplant, his elementary school helped raise funds to make sure the family could afford the surgery.

Johnson has struggled with heart problems since infancy, having been born with a birth defect called hypoplastic left heart syndrome that affects normal blood flow to the heart. He had his first surgery to treat the issue at just five days old, with two more open-heart surgeries since then.

When Johnson had surgery in May 2017, his family was told it would be his last, but all that changed during a cardiology check-up last year in which the family learned his heart was not functioning as well as it should have been and that he would likely need a new heart.

Johnson’s mother, Contessa Culbreath, immediately created an account for her son with the Children’s Organ Transplant

Association (COTA), which helps raise funds for transplant-related expenses for “families who have a documented financial need related to the transplant.”

“My transplant journey started when I was inside my momma’s womb,” Johnson’s profile reads. “I had a sister with the same heart condition as me, but she wasn’t as strong as me so God called her home at 2 months old.”

“I really need my new heart so I can play football,” the profile adds.

Johnson’s school family wanted to help in any way they could. Makinzie Corley, a paraprofessional at Johnston Elementary School, decided to lead a campaign to help raise money for Johnson’s surgery. The campaign, dubbed Hearts for Lamere, sold paper hearts for \$1. The funds for the hearts went directly to Johnson’s COTA account.

“We started with Hearts for Lamere and it just kind of stuck,” she said. “We started by cutting out hearts on our little machine in our workroom, and we were just selling them within our school.”

But support for the campaign spread rapidly. Before long, the local middle and high schools began to participate.

“And then other elementary schools started getting involved and then people literally started walking into our school saying, ‘I would like to donate,’” Corley added.

And still, the generosity did not stop there. According to Fox News, the elementary school began receiving mail donations from people across the country. Even Kansas City Chiefs cornerback Antonio Hamilton made a sizable \$30,000 donation.

The initial goal of the campaign was \$45,000 to cover the cost of the surgery and any medical-related expenses that will follow the procedure. As of the start of April, the account already sat at more than \$76,000.

Johnson is currently on a waiting list at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, but with the funds now safely in his COTA account, he is ready for his new heart whenever it becomes available.

Surprise Birthday Party

Jose Villarruel was a substitute teacher in California who had been living out of his

car since the start of the pandemic — that is, until he bumped into a former student.

“I decided the school situation has changed completely and I believed that a job of a substitute was over,” he told Fox 11 Los Angeles. “I managed to do all of the paperwork, all of the arrangements to get my pension. I got my check, but that check didn’t last long because I had debts already.”

Sadly, by May of last year, Villarruel was living out of his 1990s Ford Thunderbird.

Meanwhile, former student Steven Nava, 21, took notice of the familiar-looking man living out of his car in a parking lot near Nava’s home, Fox News reported.

Nava reached out to help, giving Villarruel \$300 and setting him up with a hotel room and a nice breakfast outing.

“It’s sad to see one of your own teachers go through that so it only makes you want to help out more,” Nava said, recalling how Villarruel had helped him during his high-school career.

“I said to him you helped me work on my study guide and you helped me eventually pass a math test,” he said.

It was during that breakfast together that Nava learned Villarruel’s 77th birthday was approaching. Nava knew he wanted to do something extra special for his old substitute teacher.

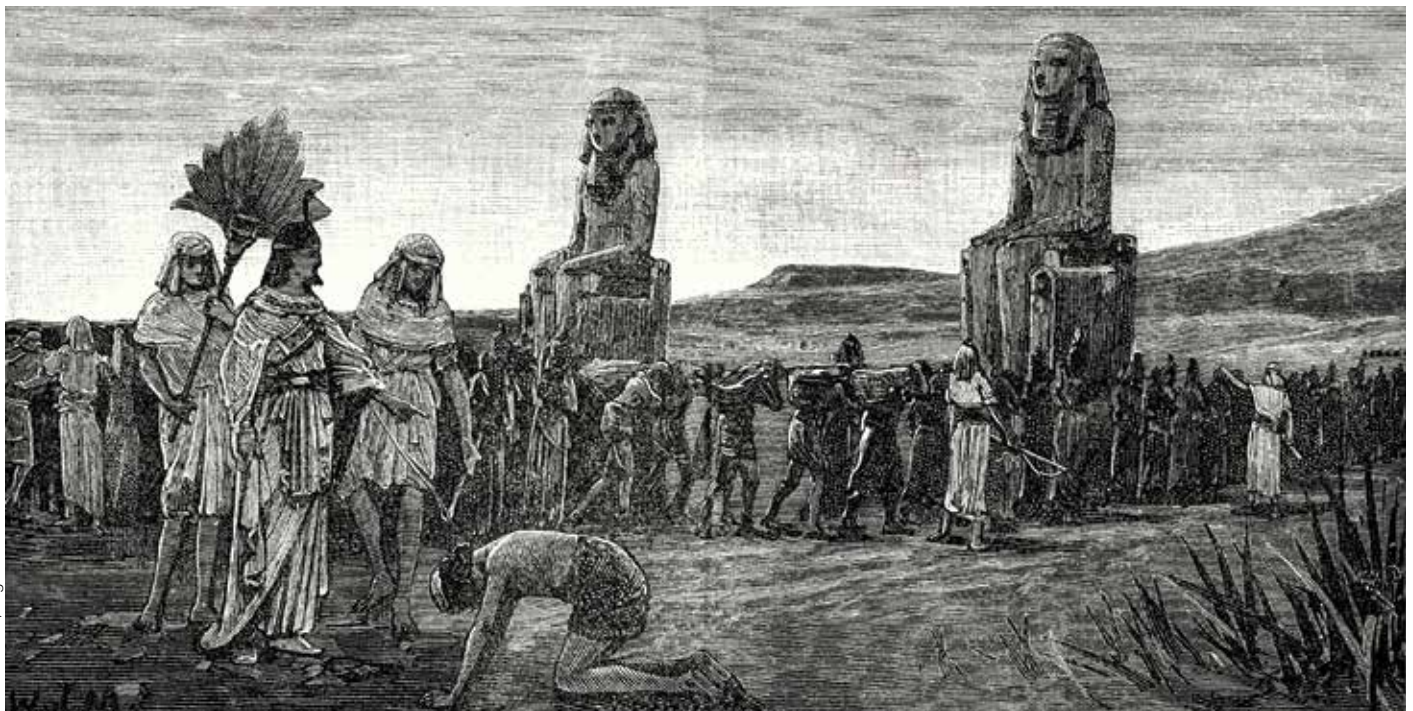
Nava set up a GoFundMe page in the hopes of raising some much-needed money for Villarruel. “Mr. V was a great funny and helpful educator and substitute teacher in the Fontana Unified School District,” the profile read. “He’s struggled with getting back on his feet after the pandemic hit and has been living in his car ever since despite the brutal weather and living conditions. This fundraiser is to help him out financially and getting back to normal life.”

The page brought in an astounding \$27,000. As part of the surprise, Nava set up an outdoor birthday party on March 11 for Villarruel and invited his fellow former students and other members of the community. At the surprise party, Villarruel was presented with a check for the money raised on the GoFundMe page. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

America Did Not Invent Slavery — It Ended Slavery

Americans are constantly told that their country is inherently bad because it relied on slavery. But not only was slavery practiced worldwide, America pioneered getting rid of it.



duncan1890 / DigitalVision Vectors

Pyramid people: Slavery has existed since ancient times, among all cultures, across all continents. The enslavement of the Israelites in ancient Egypt is well-known to even casual readers of the Bible.

by Steve Byas

A few years ago, I sat in church and listened to a preacher (a substitute for my pastor) who declared from the pulpit what a great and courageous man was William Wilberforce, the famous English abolitionist. The pastor then lamented that it was unfortunate that America did not have a William Wilberforce.

Steve Byas is a university professor of history and government, and the author of History's Greatest Libels.

It is unfortunate that so much historical misinformation comes from the mouths of well-meaning individuals, such as this minister, but his statement illustrates the success of those who are not so well-meaning — those who want to distort history to advance the cause of the Left. To the secular progressives who largely run our institutions of education from kindergarten to graduate school, the mass media, the entertainment world, and now the corporate world, the issue is never the issue. The issue is power.

The “1619 Project,” promoted by the *New York Times*, is a bold effort to un-

dermine the foundations of our constitutional republic by asserting that America was founded, not in 1776, but rather in 1619, when the first black Africans were brought to Virginia. According to this thesis, which is unsupported by the historical record, America was founded on the backs of African slaves, and practically every aspect of American history, including our Constitution, was tainted by the desire to implement and preserve the institution of slavery.

Therefore, since America was founded on slavery, its very founding is illegitimate, which means it needs to be trans-



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A really southern institution: Here slaves from Guinea dig in the gold and silver mines of Hispaniola (now Haiti/Dominican Republic) in 1595. The number of slaves used in the Spanish Empire was far greater than those in bondage in English America.

formed into a nation more to the liking of the secular progressives who promote this fictional view of U.S. history.

Students emerge from our schools believing that not only was our country founded on slavery, but America originated slavery, and only abolished it after just about nearly every other country had already done so.

Historian Kenneth Stampp promoted this ahistorical view in his book *Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-Bellum South*. In truth, slavery was neither “peculiar,” nor “original” to English America or, later, the United States. Writing in *1619: Jamestown and the Forging of American Democracy*, James Horn explained that by the time the first Africans arrived in Virginia, “half a million slaves had already been shipped across the Atlantic to work in Spanish America and Brazil [Portugal’s New World colony].”

The late Walter E. Williams, the renowned economics professor at George

Mason University, expressed similar sentiments in May 2019. Calling such false assertions as “America created slavery” a “favorite leftist tool,” Williams wrote, “Slavery is by no means peculiar, odd, unusual or unique to the U.S.”

The historical record is quite clear: Rather than originating in Colonial America, slavery has existed since we have had recorded history — and before. References are made to slavery as early as 3500 B.C. in ancient Sumer, the world’s first great civilization, founded in Mesopotamia (now in modern Iraq). The famous Code of Hammurabi of Babylon mentions laws concerning slavery around 1860 B.C. Slavery was part of the societies of ancient Egypt, China, Persia, Greece, India, the Roman Empire, the Arab Islamic Caliphate, the pre-Columbian civilizations of the Americas (such as the Aztecs, the Mayas, and the Incas), and the early kingdoms of Africa.

Individuals were slaves for various

reasons, including debt slavery, punishment for crimes, child abandonment, and as prisoners of war. Some were born into slavery.

When Atlanta was being considered for the 1996 Olympics, members of the Olympic committee from West Africa expressed misgivings about locating the games in Georgia, a place where slavery existed prior to its abolition in 1865. Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young countered that while white Americans purchased slaves from Angola and other places in western Africa, it was the ancestors of the Africans themselves who sold them into slavery. This is true. Almost all those sold into the Atlantic slave trade were sold by black African kingdoms who had already enslaved them in Africa.

In fact, King Gezo of Dahomey (in West Africa) was angered when the British ended the slave trade: “The slave trade is the ruling principle of my people. It is the source and the glory of their wealth.” The king of Bonny (now Nigeria) was also disappointed when the British ended the slave trade.

This, of course, brings us back to that preacher who (rightly) praised William Wilberforce, a member of Parliament who struggled for years to end the slave trade and finally slavery itself in the British Empire. Wilberforce’s career well illustrates why the slave trade — and slavery — came to an official end in the world. The death of the ugly institution of slavery was a result of Western civilization. And the greatest impetus to Western civilization’s attack upon slavery was Christianity — Wilberforce became an ardent foe of slavery after his Christian conversion.

Christianity had largely ended slavery in Europe in the early Middle Ages (when many popes and other church fathers denounced it), and it was the conversion of Wilberforce in 1785, when he became an evangelical Christian, that led to its eventual demise in the British Empire. A member of the House of Commons for 45 years (which is a strong argument against “term limits”), Wilberforce was finally able to get Parliament to end the slave trade in the British Empire in 1807. Then, only three days before his death in 1833, slavery itself was abolished throughout the British Empire.

America Led the World in Abolitionist Efforts

But was it correct to lament that America did not have such a man as Wilberforce in our country? Actually, the institution of slavery had been under attack in America for several decades by men — and women — who decried the institution of slavery. Slavery was specifically declared illegal in Georgia when it became a colony in 1733, only to be legalized in 1750 by the king of England when it became a royal colony. When Vermont declared itself an independent republic in 1777, it abolished slavery at the same time. (Vermont was made the 14th state in 1791). Other states that ended slavery early included Pennsylvania in 1780; New Hampshire and Massachusetts in 1783; Connecticut and Rhode Island in 1784; New York in 1799; and New Jersey in 1804.

Another early action against slavery was taken in 1787, when Congress (under the Articles of Confederation) banned slavery in the Northwest Territory (now the present states of Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota). Interestingly, this was done at the insistence of Thomas Jefferson, who had tried to insert a condemnation of the slave trade into the Declaration of Independence.

All of these dates prove that, rather than being tardy in attacking the institution of slavery, America was the world's leader in bringing the practice to an end. While Wilberforce is rightly commended for his multi-year struggle to abolish slavery in the British Empire, he did not accomplish that feat until 1833. By that time, slavery either had been ended or was being ended in several states in the United States, in some places more than a generation earlier than in the British Empire.

And it is not just that America's abolition of slavery was accomplished earlier than in the British Empire. Abolition in America pre-dated almost the entire world. While Peter

Students emerge from our schools believing that not only was our country founded on slavery, but America originated slavery, and only abolished it after just about nearly every other country had already done so.

the Great abolished outright slavery in Russia in 1723, he converted Russians into serfs, and it was not until 1861 that serfdom finally ended in Russia. Mexico abolished slavery in 1829. France initially abolished slavery in 1794, but it was reestablished by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, before being permanently ended in the French colonies in 1848.

The abolition of slavery came to Bolivia in 1851; Ecuador in 1852; Peru, Argentina, and Venezuela in 1854; the Netherlands in 1863; Paraguay in 1869; Cuba in 1886; and Brazil in 1888. Abolition happened even later in other parts of

the world, such as Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

Although now officially illegal in all countries, the institution still exists, with an estimated 25-40 million now enslaved in Asia, and large numbers still enslaved in Africa. Children work as slaves today on cacao plantations in western Africa, for example.

While slavery was not abolished in all states of the United States until the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865, the U.S. Constitution provided that Congress could ban the importation of slaves into the country in 1807 — which Congress did on March 2 at the urging of President Thomas Jefferson. Wilberforce's bill had passed about a week earlier.

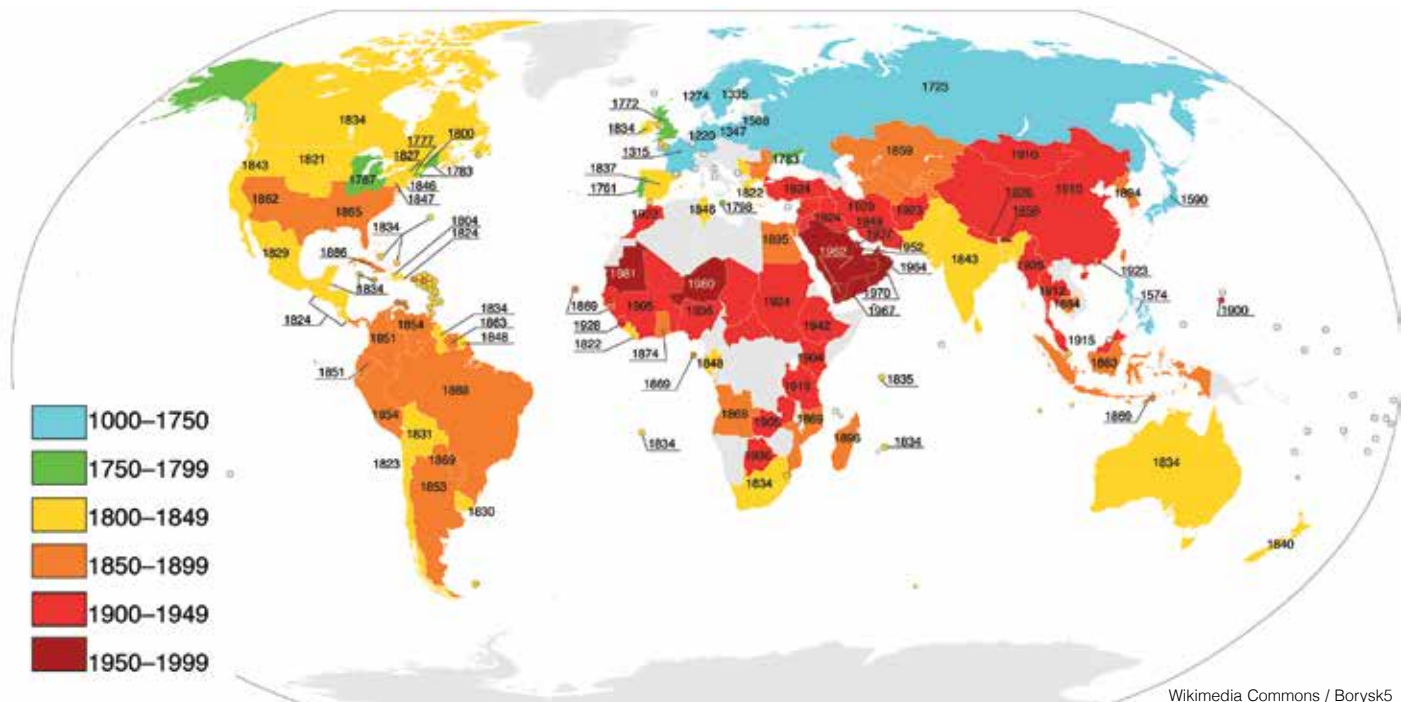
Indentured Servants and Slaves in America

By the time the importation of slaves was banned in 1807, and slavery was finally abolished in 1865, slavery had existed in America since the 1600s, when it was still part of the British Empire. The 1619 Project errs, however, in asserting that slavery began in Virginia in 1619. The first black Africans, who had been slaves in Africa, did arrive in 1619, but they did not become slaves in Virginia. John Rolfe, a prominent resident of Virginia, reported their arrival to Sir Edwin Sandys, which took place on August 20, 1619: "A Dutch man of war of the burden of 160 tons arrived at Point Comfort, the commander's name Capt. Pope, his pilot for the West Indies one Mr. Marmaduke, an Englishman....



Not just a "white thing": Perhaps the most prolific slave masters of the Middle Ages were the Arabs. Here, we see a painting of the sale of black Africans by Muslim slave traders in 13th-century Yemen.

Wikimedia Commons



Wikimedia Commons / Borysk5

Color me honest: As this map graphically demonstrates, slavery was generally abolished much earlier in parts of the United States than in most of the rest of the world. The common remarks that slavery was somehow unique or original in Colonial America and the early United States is a massive falsehood.

References are made to slavery as early as 3500 B.C. in ancient Sumer, the world's first great civilization, founded in Mesopotamia (now in modern Iraq).

He [Pope] brought not anything but 20. And odd Negroes, which the Governor [Sir George Yeardley] and Cape Merchant bought for victuals [food or provisions].”

Famed historian Paul Johnson, in his *A History of the American People*, wrote, “These men were unfree though, not strictly speaking, slaves. They were indentured servants.... White laborers arrived from England under the same terms, signing their indentures [contracts], or making their mark on them, in return for passage to America.”

In 1625, the black Africans were listed as servants, just like the white servants, in that year’s census. Laws governing slavery would not exist in Virginia for several more years.

Historians now believe that Rolfe may have been mistaken in writing that it was a Dutch ship that brought the first black Africans to Virginia. It is now thought that

two English pirate ships took over a Portuguese ship in the Gulf of Mexico, then went to Virginia with their cargo, which included African slaves from Angola. As there was no market for slaves in England, the men — who had been slaves in Africa — became indentured servants in Virginia.

Indentured servants were generally released from their contract after a period of a few years, and would usually be given some land on which to farm. While indentured-servant status was not a pleasant existence, it was not slavery. It is not known whether any of these indentured servants from that first ship in 1619 lived to see both freedom and land, but many Africans who arrived in Virginia did.

For example, Anthony Johnson was an Angolan who, after finishing his indenture, obtained land and became a tobacco farmer. By 1651, he had a 250-acre farm and five black indentured servants of his

own. He even managed to own a slave before it was legal to do so. One of his black servants, John Casor, demanded his release in 1654 and went to work for a white man, Robert Parker. Johnson successfully sued Parker and the court sentenced Casor to a lifetime of indentured servanthood as punishment for breaking the terms of his indenture.

Ironically, it could be argued that the first slave owner in Virginia was a former black indentured servant from Africa. Not until 1670 did Virginia enact laws governing actual slavery. Maryland had done so in 1664, when there were only 300 blacks in that colony.

Still, few slaves populated any of the English colonies until the next century. The 1625 census of Virginia listed 23 blacks. In 1640, only 20 were identified in Maryland.

It was this slow growth of the institution of slavery that historian Paul Johnson asserts caused the gradual corruption of society to accept it. In other words, the people living at the time could not have predicted the eventual negative effects slavery would have on American history.



Sainted souls, here and there: While much attention has been rightly paid to the work of British abolitionist William Wilberforce, abolitionism was even more prominent in the United States. One striking example of extensive abolitionist efforts was the “Underground Railroad,” which used safe houses to help thousands escape from slavery.

By the time questions were raised about an institution that had existed throughout recorded history in all cultures and on all continents, the institution of slavery was deeply entrenched into the American culture and economy.

Rather than creating the institution of slavery, many Americans fought to abolish it. It is simply incorrect to argue that America should have had a William Wilberforce, when America had many like him. Quakers and Baptists were among the earliest abolitionists in Colonial America. Thomas Jefferson spoke often of the evils of slavery. “I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever,” Jefferson said in reference to slavery. George Washington freed his slaves. Alexander Hamilton and John Adams both supported abolition.

America’s Many Abolitionists

John Randolph, a cousin of Jefferson and a descendant of John Rolfe and his Indian wife, Pocahontas, became an ar-

dent opponent of slavery. He described the horror of a slave auction, in which a slave woman was going to have her children taken from her. “The greatest orator I ever heard was a woman. She was a slave. She was a mother, and her rostrum was the auction block.”

Randolph inherited a plantation with slaves, and worked many years to free the estate from debt, so he could emancipate his own slaves. Not only did he free them, he purchased land for them in the free state of Ohio.

William Lloyd Garrison, a strong abolitionist, had a rope tied around him and was dragged through the streets of Boston. An Illinois mob murdered abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy, the editor of a newspaper in Alton, Illinois, and both he and his printing press were thrown into the Mississippi River. John Greenleaf Whittier, a Quaker from New England, lost publishing opportunities for his literary works because of his public opposition to slavery. In Connecticut, a woman was jailed for teaching blacks to read.

Despite such intense opposition, abolitionists persevered. Following the Mexican War, the discovery of gold in California caused such a tremendous increase in that area’s population that it quickly needed to become a state. The “problem” was that California wanted to enter the Union as a “free state,” where slavery would be illegal, and this would give the “free” states a one-state majority over the “slave” states. This led to the Compromise of 1850, which stated that California would enter the Union as a “free” state, but also provided a draconian fugitive slave statute, under which a person could be jailed for helping a slave to escape.

The Fugitive Slave Law was extremely unpopular in the many states that had already abolished slavery, and many resorted to “nullification” to frustrate its enforcement. Nullification is a doctrine first advocated by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in opposition to an attempt by Congress to suppress freedom of speech and freedom of the press in 1798. According to their nullification

doctrine, states should interpose themselves between their citizens and the federal government if the federal government tries to enforce an unconstitutional law in their state.

Wisconsin's Supreme Court declared the Fugitive Slave Law unconstitutional, and its Legislature even claimed the right to secede from the United States if the national government persisted in forcing obedience to the law. Vermont passed a law forbidding the return of fugitive slaves. Other states fined law officers who assisted in the capture of an alleged runaway slave, and revoked the law licenses of lawyers who represented the owner of a fugitive slave. Massachusetts even enacted legislation that said a law officer could be imprisoned for five years if he helped enforce the Fugitive Slave Law.

The Underground Railroad

Many people, both black and white, actively helped slaves escape, even though it could have put them in legal jeopardy. The "Underground Railroad" was one

such example. Neither underground nor a railroad, it was rather a system of well-planned routes of escape for slaves. Houses, barns, and other dwellings, about 20 miles apart, where the fugitive slaves could be concealed during the day, were called the "stations" of the road. When night fell, the runaways would then be taken to their next station. Some went all the way into Canada on this "railroad." Levi Coffin, a Quaker, was dubbed the "president" of the Underground Railroad, because he aided in the escape of more than 3,000 slaves. Many famous "conductors," such as Harriet Tubman, a former slave herself, assisted slaves on the "railroad."

Frederick Douglass was among the more famous black abolitionists. Born a slave in Maryland, Douglass managed to escape to the North, where he took up the abolitionist cause as a gifted orator, writer, and editor. After the Civil War, he was appointed U.S. ambassador to Haiti.

After she heard Douglass speak in Bristol, England, in 1846, Mary Estlin praised him in a letter to an American

abolitionist. "There is but one opinion of him. Wherever he goes he arouses sympathy in your cause.... Our expectations were highly roused by his narrative, his printed speeches, and the eulogisms of the friends with whom he has been staying: but he far exceeds the picture we had formed both in outward graces, intellectual power and culture, and eloquence."

If his words then are any guide to what he would say now, we can safely assume that Douglass would disagree with those who argue that America was founded upon slavery. On the contrary, Douglass revered the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, calling them "liberty documents."

Rather than accept the vile accusations of the 1619 Project and other radical criticisms saying that the founding of America was centered around slavery, and that slavery was America's "original sin" and our "peculiar institution," Americans need to stand up to those who would distort our nation's founding. America did not originate slavery, but was actually a leader in its ultimate demise. ■

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Memorable Quotes

The world of American politics lost an iconic figure on March 30 when G. Gordon Liddy, the chief operative for Richard Nixon’s Watergate break-in, passed away at 90 years old. The *New York Times* ran an obituary for him that did a good job capturing the eccentricity that made him such a memorable figure, but it was a few of his quotes on the Second Amendment that readers of this column would appreciate. The *Times* reported that when Liddy was asked about restrictions on firearms, he replied, “I believe in gun control. Hold the gun steadily and hit what you aim at.” Liddy also admitted to interviewers that he could no longer own a gun due to his conviction for conspiracy, burglary, and illegal wiretapping, but also explained, “Mrs. Liddy owns 27 [guns], some of which she keeps on my side of the bed.” Regardless of your thoughts on Liddy and his role in American history, something has to be said about his ability to leave a lasting impression.

Constitutional Carry

Fox News reported on February 12 that Utah Governor Spencer Cox signed a bill into law that allows what is popularly referred to as “constitutional carry.” The law, which goes into effect in May, makes Utah the 18th state to allow residents to carry concealed without a permit. The National Rifle Association praised the law in a press release. Jason Ouimet, the executive director of the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action, wrote, “There is no reason a law-abiding person should have to ask for permission to carry a firearm for self-defense.... The passage of this bill demonstrates Utah’s commitment to protecting the Second Amendment rights of its citizens.”

Utah wasn’t alone. The *Tennessean* reported on April 1 that a similar constitutional-carry type bill was passed by both chambers of the Tennessee state legislature and just about to be signed into law by Governor Bill Lee. Governor Lee was a proponent of the measure, which he described as part of his public-safety agenda. The *Tennessean* reported on March 22 that

Lee explained his support for the law by saying, “It is very simple what the founders had in mind, and it was to allow the citizenry to be protected against a tyrannical government.... What’s most important here is we allow the rights of law-abiding citizens to be protected.”

Court of Appeals Goes After Concealed Carry

In a Second Amendment corollary to Newton’s law that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction, the last story’s good news about concealed carry being expanded in Utah and Tennessee is offset by an alarming decision from the San Francisco-based Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The *Washington Examiner* reported on March 25 about a controversial gun-control decision in *Young v. State of Hawaii*, which narrowly interpreted the Second Amendment to mean that it only protects gun ownership within one’s home, not outside of it. This ruling restricts gun owners’ right to carry their firearms, but it is already being appealed to the Supreme Court. Dissenting in the decision, Judge Diarmuid O’Scainnlain wrote, “A majority of our court has decided that the Second Amendment does not mean what it says. Instead, the majority holds that while the Second Amendment may guarantee the right to keep a firearm for self-defense within one’s home, it provides no right whatsoever to bear — i.e., to carry — that same firearm for self-defense in any other place.”

The decision was immediately denounced by Second Amendment proponents across the country. NRA spokesman Lars Dalseide told the *Washington Examiner* that “the ability to defend yourself and your loved ones is one of the most basic of fundamental rights.... With today’s ruling, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has basically eliminated that right once you step outside your home. This ruling affects the safety of seven states, tens of millions of people, and the very principles upon which this country was founded.”

Court observers say that the Ninth Circuit is one of the most liberal appeals

courts in the nation, but the issue might be heard by the Supreme Court and lead to a precedent-setting decision involving concealed-carry laws across the country.

Turncoat Republicans

Breitbart News reported on March 11 that eight Republicans voted to support the Democrat-controlled House measure pushing universal background checks, and two of those Republicans were actually co-sponsors of the anti-gun legislation! The proposed gun-control law has already been criticized as potentially paving the way for a national gun registry, as explained by Virginia Republican Bob Good. Breitbart published a quote by Good that explained that “this bill creates a de facto gun registry by involving the federal government in every gun transfer, including private transfers and gifts, or else how will we enforce these requirements?”

Reading such news about the Grand Ole Party reminds one of the quote, “With [Second Amendment] friends like this, who needs enemies?”

Old but Not Obsolete

Speaking of concealed carry, the *Chicago Tribune* reported on March 10 about a 69-year-old man who was surrounded by three younger thugs who demanded his personal belongings. The older man acted like he was complying but instead pulled out a loaded pistol, which he fired at the suspects, hitting one of the suspects in the knee. As do most criminals who intentionally target those they view as vulnerable and easy victims, the thugs quickly fled the scene when they realized they were dealing with someone willing to use deadly force in self-defense. Police say the three suspects sped away in a vehicle, which they later crashed, and were soon apprehended by law enforcement. The investigation is ongoing, but police say the vehicle they crashed was reported stolen a couple nights earlier, and some of the apprehended suspects were teenagers. Police did say the elderly man was lawfully licensed to carry concealed. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Can Government Print Unlimited Cash?

Modern Monetary Theory — upon which socialism rests — says that government can print as much money as it wants without consequence, if it's done right. In truth, endless money creation will ultimately lead to economic ruin. (May 10, 2021) **TNA210510**

News Spread



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The Left's strategy in its political war is to win the culture war — by belittling opposing viewpoints and personages to the point of removing economic opportunity, displacing them. (April 19, 2021, 48pp) **TNA210419**

Declaring War on U.S. Energy and the U.S.

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. (April 5, 2021, 48pp) **TNA210405**

Pushing the Great Reset

As a senator, Biden wrote an op-ed, "How I learned to Love the New World Order." Now, as president, he is showing his love for the NWO and his hatred for the Constitution. (March 22, 2021, 48pp) **TNA210322**

Lockdown Madness

Presently, a remedy for an illness is more dangerous than the disease itself. The lockdowns for COVID-19 have meant more suicides and drug abuse, and less cancer and heart care, meaning many deaths are being caused from the lockdowns. They also cause economic disaster. (October 19, 2020, 48pp) **TNA201019**

The War on Local Police

Lately, police have routinely been vilified for brutality and systemic racism against blacks, but the claims are misleading at best and lies at worst. We tell what's true and what's not — and reveal the shady goals of those making the claims. (October 5, 2020, 48pp) **TNA201005**

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Biden Eyes Major Federal Tax Hikes, Creation of Global High-tax Cartel

ITEM: In Pittsburgh on March 31, President Biden unveiled “a \$2 trillion jobs, infrastructure and green energy proposal to reshape the U.S. economy,” as the Washington Post reported in its April 1 print edition. The paper quoted his remarks during his pitch for the American Jobs Plan, in which Biden said, “We have to move now. Because I’m convinced that if we act now, in 50 years, people are going to look back and say this was the moment that America won the future.”

In an editorial on April 1, the left-wing Post enthused: “Mr. Biden’s plan represents an unapologetic commitment to a bigger federal government, with bigger responsibilities, for the foreseeable future.” “At its heart,” the paper said, this proposal “shifts hundreds of billions of dollars from the private sector to the public sector on the theory that the latter can put them to better use than the former.”

ITEM: The April Fool’s Day edition of the New York Times was beside itself with multiple page-one stories, festooned with these headlines, “Biden Plan Stresses Jobs, Roads and Growth”; “Tax Pitch Challenges G.O.P. Notions on Spurring Growth”; “\$2 Trillion for ‘Once in Generation’ Fix of Infrastructure”; and, “Big Bet: Fighting Climate Change Will Add to Work Force.” The paper, while describing the proposed tax increases, happily noted that this is “the first half of what will be a two-step release of the president’s ambitious agency to overhaul the economy and remake American capitalism, which could carry a total cost of as much as \$4 trillion over a decade.”

ITEM: The Associated Press for April 5 reported: “U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Monday urged the adoption of a minimum global corporate income tax, an effort to at least partially offset any disadvantages that might arise from the Biden administration’s proposed increase in the U.S. corporate tax rate.”

The wire service continued: “Citing a



AP Images

Tax till it hurts: Joe Biden’s tax plan would hit corporations with major taxes while at the same time giving new subsidies to chosen industries, picking winners and losers. The Tax Foundation estimated that the plans would reduce business investment by more than a trillion dollars.

‘30-year race to the bottom’ in which countries have slashed corporate tax rates in an effort to attract multinational businesses, Yellen said the Biden administration would work with other advanced economies in the Group of 20 to set a minimum. ‘Competitiveness is about more than how U.S.-headquartered companies fare against other companies in global merger and acquisition bids,’ Yellen said in a virtual speech to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. ‘It is about making sure that governments have stable tax systems that raise sufficient revenue to invest in essential public goods.’”

ITEM: On April 2, the president was asked by a reporter if there was a risk to his plan: Could raising taxes slow the economy? Biden responded, as quoted by the White House: “Raising taxes, the studies show, will not slow the economy at all. Asking corporate America just to pay their fair share will not slow the economy at all. It will make the economy function better and will create more energy.”

CORRECTION: In the real world, the following is a truism: If you want more of something, you subsidize it; if you want less, you tax it.

Nonetheless, the president is itching to impose more taxes — a lot more — on businesses and investment, and he is sure that will improve the economy. Or so he

says. Biden lives in a different world — one that revolves around its taxes.

Wishful thinking rules in this progressive realm. Academics give advice to the president, such as a typical article not long ago in the radical *New Republic* entitled “Why Joe Biden Can Stop Worrying and Start Spending Like Crazy.” It celebrates the “magic of public money, the alchemy of public finance.” Therein, ostensibly sane professors instruct gullible readers that “public investment is — by definition! — not inflationary. The new money, simply spent into existence by our money-issuing federal government, creates the very means of its own absorption.” Don’t try to understand that. It will hurt your head. We have now realized why brains are not taxed in Washington: The take would be too meager.

If enacted, Biden’s tax plans would entail, among other changes, undoing the 2017 Trump/Republican tax overhaul; boosting the corporate tax rate to 28 percent from the current 21-percent rate; imposing a 21-percent global minimum tax on businesses; raising the individual income tax rate to 39.6 percent from 37 percent; and taxing unrealized capital gains at death. The price tag has been estimated at \$2 trillion or so. That’s a 13-digit number: \$2,000,000,000,000.

Remember that one trillion dollars of



Correction, Please!

spending works out to be around \$3,000 per American. Other estimates put the total at \$2.2 trillion, \$2.25 trillion, or \$2.3 trillion. (Recall the quip attributed to former Illinois Senator Everett Dirksen: “A billion here, a billion there, pretty soon it begins to add up to real money.” In these days of magic money, hundreds of billions of dollars are just rounding-off figures.) In the long run, the costs could be much higher.

Perhaps seven percent of the total being bandied about represents what is normally considered to be infrastructure — such as for roads, bridges, waterways, ports, and airports. (For more on infrastructure and debt, see pages 10 and 17.)

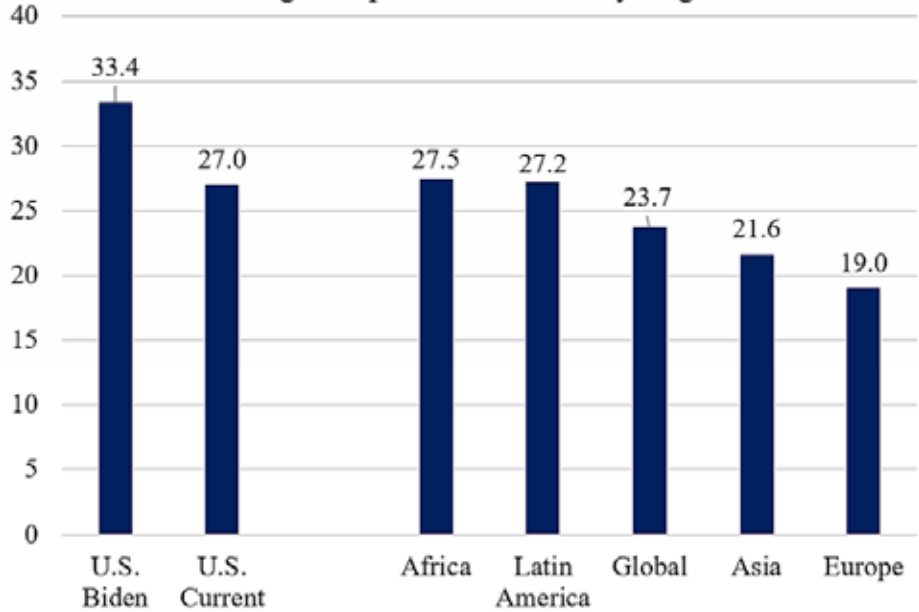
That is what a spokesman for the Republican National Committee (RNC) told the *Washington Times*. According to Tommy Pigott, “Of Biden’s \$2.25 trillion bill, only \$115 billion is allocated for repairing roads and bridges, only \$25 billion for airports, and only \$17 billion is for waterways and ports.”

And, he continued, “to pay for his non-infrastructure bill, Biden is proposing \$1.8 trillion in tax hikes that would kill hundreds of thousands of jobs and raise the combined tax rate on U.S. businesses to the highest of any country in the G-7,” the Group of Seven (the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom). As the *Times*’ Jennifer Harper said, according to the RNC official, that tax rate would be higher than those found among the 37-member Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Some in the OECD have been contemplating a global minimum tax of 12 percent, but that’s a far cry from Biden’s 21-percent minimum. As the editors of the *Wall Street Journal* have commented, “Only in Washington would the left punish American employers in the hope that the rest of the world would be as self-destructive.”

Others in the OECD have been negotiating for what economist Daniel Mitchell calls a “global high-tax cartel.” Small countries (such as Ireland, Malta, and Hungary) have instituted low-tax policies so they can compete with the large economies in Europe. That bothers the big boys.

Average Corporate Tax Rates by Region



www.cato.org/blog/topics/11 – Data from KPMG

Tax nation: The current U.S. corporate tax rate is higher than the average global rate for 173 countries of 23.7 percent. It is also higher than Asia at 21.6 percent and Europe at 19.0 percent. With Biden’s increase, the U.S. federal-state corporate tax rate would rise to 33.4 percent.

Ryan McMaken, a senior editor at the Mises Institute, points out that Germany and France “have already announced plans to bilaterally pursue a common corporate tax policy, but this is just the first step. The next step is to impose minimum tax rates on the rest of Europe as well.” Biden’s Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (see above) wants to join this anti-competitive effort and avoid what she falsely terms the “race to the bottom.”

The Yellen “tax harmonization” effort would be damaging, as has been described well by Dan Mitchell. As he puts it, any type of “tax harmonization is a bad idea, and it is an especially bad idea to impose a minimum rate on a tax that does so much economic damage.” Not one to pull his punches, Mitchell calls the OECD a “counterproductive international bureaucracy that advocates for statist policy.” To add insult to injury, he says, “American taxpayers finance the biggest portion of the OECD’s budget.” And “to add insult upon insult, OECD bureaucrats get tax-free salaries while pushing for higher taxes on everyone else.”

Meanwhile, the experts at the Tax Foundation are among those who are not fans of the Biden plan, saying that these proposals “rely on mistaken assumptions about how corporate taxes work, how corporations respond, and how workers are affected.” Moreover, say the analysts,

An increase in the federal corporate tax rate to 28 percent would raise the U.S. federal-state combined tax rate to 32.34 percent, higher than every country in the OECD, the G7, and all our major trade partners and competitors including China. This would harm U.S. economic competitiveness and diminish our role in the world.

Contrary to the proposal’s claims about a “race to the bottom” on corporate tax rates, reductions in corporate rates have plateaued for more than a decade. When the U.S. cut the federal statutory corporate rate from 35 percent to 21 percent in 2017, it was not leading a race to the bottom but moving to the average. The U.S. combined (state and federal) tax rate



on corporate income is now 25.77 percent. The average corporate rate among countries in the OECD (excluding the U.S.) is 23.4 percent.

The Tax Foundation’s analysts also point to domestic consequences, commenting that raising the rates by seven percentage points (an increase of one-third) “would reduce the after-tax rate of return on corporate investment in America, resulting in less investment, less productivity, fewer jobs, and lower wages. We estimate that raising the federal corporate tax rate to 28 percent would reduce long-run economic output by 0.8 percent, eliminate 159,000 jobs, and reduce wages by 0.7 percent.” In an economy the size of the United States, that might mean around \$170 billion in lost economic activity per year.

While left-wing promoters and politicians tell a different tale to justify their own actions, corporations really don’t pay taxes. A combination of shareholders, workers, and customers pick up the cost — though economists do argue over the proportions.

The Congressional Budget Office “automatically assumes when government raises taxes on corporations, roughly 25% of that comes right out of workers’ pockets,” note the editors at the online

site Issues and Insights. “Private economists’ estimates are much higher: 50% and more.” The remainder

comes from consumers and investors, who are often the same people. They pay through higher prices (consumers) and lower returns on investments (investors). Remember: If you have a 401(k), you too are an investor.

The corporation pays nothing. People do.

Again, it will not be a faceless company footing the bill for these huge tax increases that are meant to transform the entire economic system of the nation. Rather, it will be your relative, your friend, and that gray-haired teacher down the street with a retirement account. You.

Here’s a summary by Ryan Young, a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, about those who will feel the pain of the Biden plan:

In a 2020 study by Scott R. Baker of Northwestern University, Stephen Teng Sun of City University of Hong Kong, and Constantine Yannelis of the University of Chicago estimate that 31 percent of the cost of an increase in

corporate taxes is borne by consumers, 38 percent by workers, and 31 percent by shareholders, or about a third each. Other studies have found different ratios. A 2020 Tax Policy Center study, a joint effort between the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution, estimates an 80-20 split between investors and labor. The Tax Foundation’s Stephen J. Entin estimated in 2017 that labor pays 70 percent or more of the corporate tax. Differences aside, these studies share a common conclusion: Ultimately, corporations themselves pay no corporate tax.

The president, meanwhile, is reading a teleprompter that tells him to say that the increase “will ensure that corporations will pay their fair share of taxes.”

Little wonder that Texas Representative Kevin Brady, the top Republican on the tax-focused House Ways and Means Committee, calls this proposed tax increase “the biggest economic blunder of our lifetime.” When we are “trying to rebuild the economy from the biggest hit we’ve had in 90 years, why would you impose a massive tax hit on the very American businesses [that] you want to rehire workers?” asks Brady.

On Twitter, Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell observed that the Biden administration’s “non-infrastructure ‘infrastructure bill’ looks like another Trojan horse for far-left demands. Rolling back Right to Work laws. Imposing the biggest new tax hikes in a generation — killing jobs and slowing wage growth when workers need a fast recovery.”

Naturally, there are some winners. This is politics — where government handouts are intended to elicit support and votes.

There are, keep in mind, additional plans in the wings for even more taxing and spending. And as oppressive as the tax burden would be, studies show that there are still five to six dollars of spending intended for every tax dollar to be imposed (with the rest charged to the nation’s credit card, to be paid by our children and grandchildren).

No, Mr. President, you don’t win the future by crushing today’s economy. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

BY WILLIAM F. JASPER

Dr. Judith Reisman: A Champion for Our Time

“**M**ay her memory be a blessing.” To all who knew Dr. Judith Reisman, or who knew of her untiring labors and her tremendous body of work, this traditional Jewish expression honoring the deceased has true meaning. Like Judith the biblical heroine, Dr. Reisman was fearless and stood against the great powers of the world in our time. When her countrymen were ready to surrender to the mighty Assyrian army, the biblical Judith, trusting in God, walked into the enemy camp



— and walked out with the head of Holofernes, the Assyrian general, thus saving her people. Likewise, Judith Reisman repeatedly, over the past several decades, strode into many hostile enemy camps around the world — colleges, universities, legislative bodies, media outlets — to speak truth to power and to expose vile works of darkness.

Dr. Reisman’s passing on April 9 came as a shock to all, including this writer, who has considered Judith a dear friend and colleague for decades. We had attempted a Skype video interview in March, but she was experiencing audio technical difficulties, so we had decided to reschedule it for after Easter. I was about to call her for the interview when I learned of her death. What a devastating loss of a great soul, a beautiful human being, and a fierce defender of all that is good, honorable, and decent.

Dr. Reisman is best known for her works exposing the fraudulent, depraved, and criminal work of Dr. Alfred Kinsey, the notorious sex pervert who, with generous funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and lavish praise from the liberal media, became the celebrated “Father of the Sexual Revolution.” Kinsey, we are told in our psychology books and the popular press, freed the world from “sexual oppression” inspired by ignorance and religious superstition. Kinsey invoked “science” to proclaim that homosexuality, adultery, premarital sex, fornication, masturbation, pornography — virtually anything and everything sexual — is “normal,” meaning widely practiced, and therefore *good*. Kinsey’s 1948 book *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and his 1953 book *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* hit the world like twin atom bombs. Kinsey’s “research” seemed to explode all previous notions of moral and permissible behavior as it pertains to sexual relations.

Kinsey’s “science” was used to overthrow the Judeo-

Christian moral codes that had protected societies and families for millennia and to usher in the new Age of Aquarius, the era of unrestrained “free love.” Kinsey’s “science” was cited to overthrow laws on obscenity, pornography, and perversion. Kinsey’s “science” was employed to flood our schools with obscene “SexEd” curricula. Kinsey’s “science” declared that children are “sexual beings” from birth and therefore need to be liberated from their parents’ stultifying restrictions on their sexual “freedom.” Thus

the pedophile/pederast lobby began a nonstop campaign for continuous lowering of age-of-consent laws, and the education and entertainment establishments began inundating our culture with hypersexualized materials aimed at children.

It was this insidious Kinseyite attack on the innocence of children that aroused the ferocious Mamma Bear instinct in Judith Reisman. Unlike so many others, she was not awed and intimidated by Kinsey’s “science.” She smelled a rat and was determined to smoke it out. And indeed she did. A consummate scholar, she dived into Kinsey’s raw data, and relentlessly pursued him down his labyrinthine trail. Her herculean efforts yielded four explosive books on Kinsey: *Kinsey*, *Sex and Fraud*, *Sexual Sabotage*, *Stolen Honor*, *Stolen Innocence*, and *Kinsey: Crimes & Consequences*.

What Dr. Reisman discovered was that Kinsey’s “science” was not science at all. In fact, not only had he fraudulently invented much of the data and many of the statistics that have been used to undermine morality and normalize perversion, he had recruited perverts, child molesters, prostitutes, and convicts to produce the “evidence” he would make famous. One of the most shocking of Judith Reisman’s discoveries was that Kinsey’s “research” involved pedophiles sexually torturing hundreds of boys and girls — some of them infants as young as four months old — and then described their screams of pain as “orgasms,” thus “proving” that these children were “sexual beings”! Reisman proved that the exalted Kinsey, far from being a “liberator,” was a hideous *monster* with feet of clay. Her books, along with a profusion of articles, research papers, speeches, and videos — most of which are available on her website drjudithreisman.com — are a living legacy for us all.

Thank you, Judith, of blessed memory. We will not forget you or abandon the fight to which you nobly committed your life. ■

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