

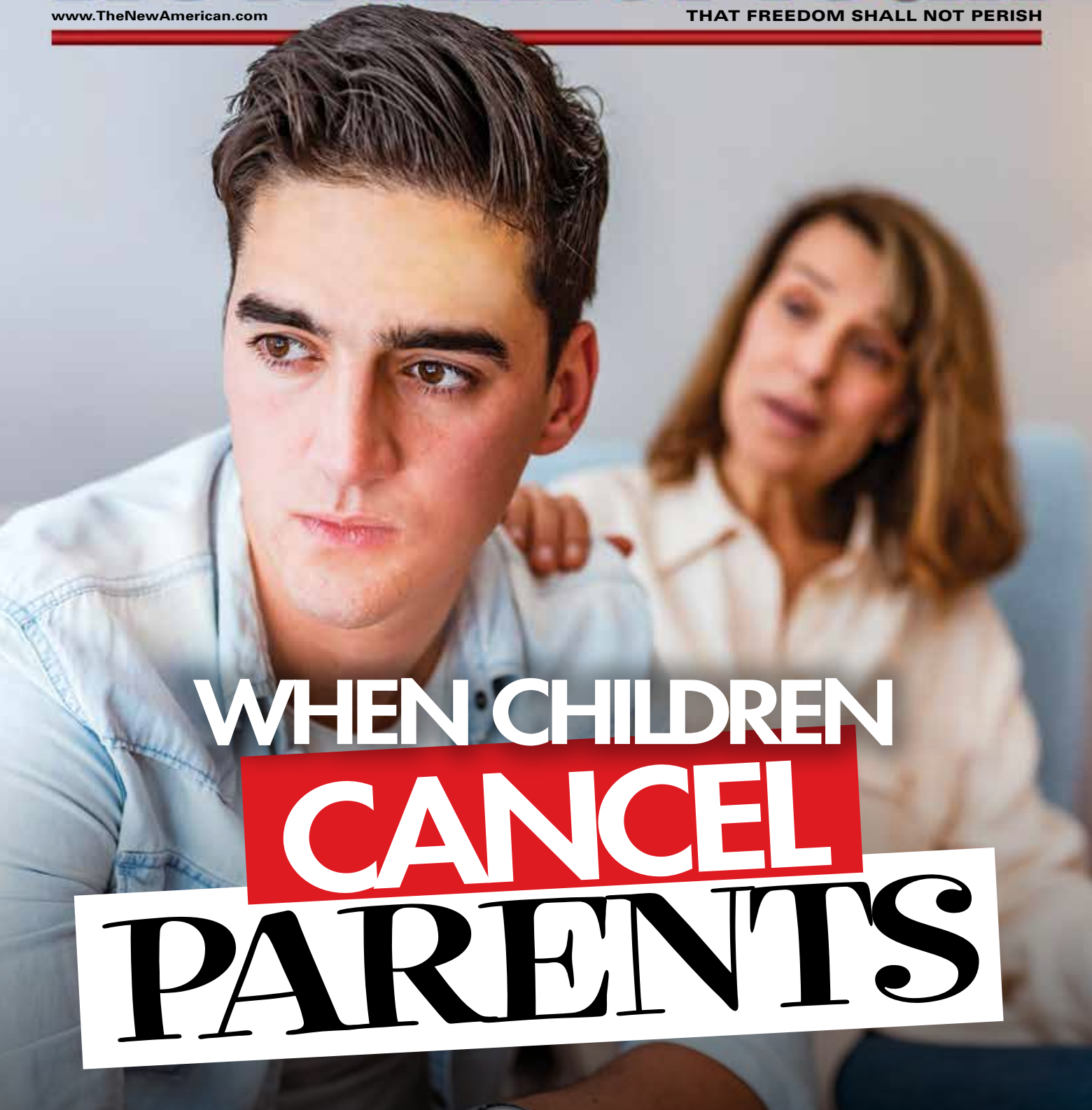
Aggressive New Scheme Exposes Article V Convention Lobby • A Trilogy of Truth

The New American

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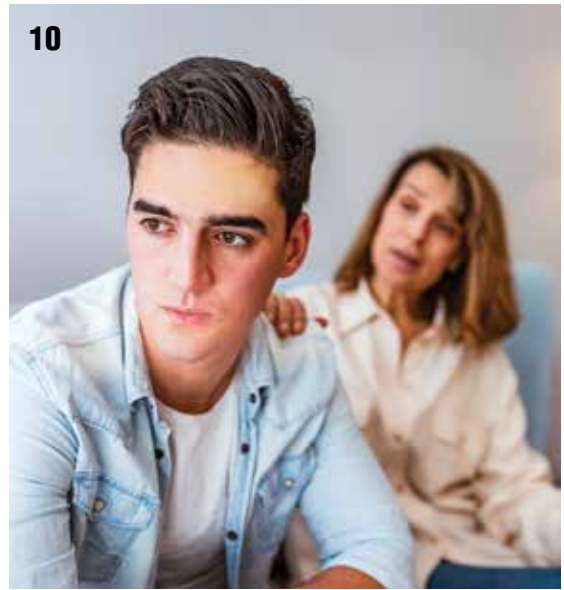
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America at a Tipping Point

From WWII onward, our media and institutions of learning have circulated questionable and false information designed to counter a free, independent, and strong America. The current Critical Race Theory curriculum is now the last straw, which has finally and properly ignited a parental firestorm.

The current street rioting and property damage, while only permitted in the Democratic cities located within Democrat-governed states, shines a light upon the Party's thorough communist infiltration.

Quite possibly, we are at a tipping point comparable to a bucket holding only so much water before overflowing. This is what is taking place: the overflow of pent-up enthusiasm and youthful impatience. Sadly, this also indicates the unrest festering within much of our society.

Also concerning is the drop in the level of capable leadership, which has recently been unmasked by the four years of President Trump's capable pro-American leadership. Now, not only is this settling for less intolerable, but it exhibits the dangers of electing an incompetent leader with possible foreign loyalties.

Realizing the role that both the media and education have played in the propagation of such un-American gibberish is essential to understanding its overall influence as to how this national reversal of allegiance was made possible.

More than 100 years ago, America elected a president, after he had been in politics only two years, who proclaimed that our nation's purpose was to ensure democracy worldwide. Today, Woodrow Wilson's legacy has most Americans believing that America is a democracy! There again, the media and educational institutions did, and continue to do, the heavy lifting to spread this falsehood.

Fast forward to the Russia-adoring Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower; followed by the immoral and inept Kennedy administration

with its Bay of Pigs fiasco; then to LBJ, who stated that no mission or sacrifice was too great (I paraphrase) excepting his own "quit and run" exit due to his own shortcomings.

Need I mention the hapless leadership of Carter's inflation years, or of the WWII-hero Bush, who spoke nationally about a desired New World Order? And presidential leadership quality continued to sink when a documented draft-dodger held an eight-year sway over the public's common sense as *commander-in-chief*! Injury to the presidency again returned with the election and reelection of a probable Muslim who could not claim "natural born citizen" status and who pledged to "transform" the greatest country in the world.

And now we have permitted an illegal entry on a presidential level, as Sleepy Joe finally left his basement only to stumble through speeches exceeding two minutes and to hold press conferences of a few easy and rehearsed questions. This last injustice is worse still, since all those in positions of authority seem not to care to the point of ignoring the obvious 2020 election-night shenanigans!

America is being severely tested. Many are answering the call, as private citizens are joining the march toward the 2022 midterms as candidates. Also, as stated, public education is being challenged, as more opt to homeschool and talk of returning education to local levels has become more common. Both the private citizens' entry into politics and this educational reform are reminiscent of our Founders' ideas and beliefs. Additionally, nationally recognized Pastor John MacArthur of Southern California has labeled government as the "greatest threat."

Could it be "do or die" time? No more complacency! This just might be the threat level and need required to return to our basic American values and beliefs. If not, we will wish we had!

JIM BOWMAN

Ormond Beach, Florida



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No More “Master Bedrooms”; Time for “Racial Justice”

If you’re sleeping in a “master bedroom” in Minnesota, you won’t be for long if the real-estate industry has anything to say about it. And it most certainly does have something to say now that it’s woke.

It’s banning such terms as “master bedroom” and “his-and-hers closets” because they are offensive or not “inclusive.”

The death of George Floyd and increasing awareness that just about everything is racist in one way or another explains the change, the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune* reported August 6.

Such is the heretofore-unknown racism in the real-estate industry that it employs “educators” to teach professionals about racism and real estate.

“Browse through home listings today and you’ll find terms like ‘primary bedroom,’ ‘dual closets’ and ‘in-law suites’ instead of ‘master bedroom,’ ‘his-and-hers closets’ and ‘mother-in-law suites,’” the *Star-Tribune* reported: “‘There’s a hidden discriminatory piece that falls when you say ‘master’ bedroom,’ said Jackie Berry, a listing agent for Edina Realty and an educator in a racism and real estate continuing education class for Minnesota industry professionals.”

Continued the *Star-Tribune*, “In June 2020, the Houston Association of Realtors started to use the word ‘primary’ in place of ‘master’ when referring to bedrooms and bathrooms on its listing

service. Since then, other groups such as the Real Estate Board of New York have committed to reviewing whether the term ‘master’ should be removed from its residential listings, as well.”

Minnesota and Houston are not alone. In Europe, the effort goes back to at least 2009.

“A change in terminology is just the beginning,” Berry continued. “There’s more that needs to be done [in Minnesota] on education around racism and diversity.”

The obvious question: When do we do away with master’s degrees, masterpieces, master electricians and plumbers, and any other masters with whom Berry and her ilk are displeased?



DenGuy/Stock/Getty Images Plus

UN May Use Geoengineering to Combat Global Warming

With the dust still settling from the August 7 release of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) sixth assessment on the state of the climate, news is coming out on controversial new methods that the would-be one-world government is considering to attack the problem. Among those methods are forms of geoengineering.

Reuters reported August 10 that the UN may be considering using solar-radiation management as well as greenhouse-gas removal to address global warming. Although the IPCC report

discussed both methods of geoengineering, it made no recommendations on whether to use them.

Commonly proposed methods of solar-radiation management include the spraying of reflective aerosol sulfate material into the atmosphere, which would supposedly mimic the way that ash clouds cool the planet after a large volcanic eruption. The plan could include spraying these aerosols into the stratosphere, 12-16 miles above the Earth’s surface, to reflect sunlight back out into space, thus lowering the Earth’s temperature.

Introducing sulfate aerosols into the air would likely have the effect of lowering average precipitation. Researchers believe they could counter that effect with more geoengineering, namely thinning out cirrus clouds in the upper atmosphere. Of course, scientists don’t really know how such a project would ultimately affect each region of the globe. There are fears that certain regions could lose the ability to grow crops if weather patterns change.

Another strategy the IPCC report discussed is capture and removal of carbon from the atmosphere. Such a method would involve the use of carbon-capture machinery, which is not yet available; carbon-capture technologies for industrial applications; and even encouraging plant growth in the oceans and planting more forests, which act as carbon sinks.

The simple fact that the latest IPCC assessment mentions such risky options for “saving the climate” is ominous. The fact that such measures are so risky almost ensures that global agreements to use the options could never be reached.



TinasDreamworld/Stock/Getty Images Plus

European Scientists: No Mass Vaccinations, Let COVID Run Its Course

Scientists advising European governments are coming to the realization that mass vaccinations are not going to eradicate COVID-19. Instead, the scientists are recommending that the virus be allowed to circulate throughout the population, with precautions taken for the most vulnerable individuals.

“The delta variant has wrecked any chance of herd immunity, a panel of experts including the head of the Oxford vaccine team said as they called for an end to mass testing so Britain can start to live with Covid,” the U.K. *Telegraph* reported on August 10.

“We don’t have anything that will stop transmission, so I

think we are in a situation where herd immunity is not a possibility and I suspect the virus will throw up a new variant that is even better at infecting vaccinated individuals,” Professor Andrew Pollard, who led the Oxford vaccine effort, told a parliamentary panel.

In his remarks to the committee, University of East Anglia professor of medicine Paul Hunter, an infectious-disease expert, concurred that vaccination would not bring about herd immunity. He further argued that it was time to stop concentrating on supposed cases rather than actual infections.

“We need to start moving away from just reporting infections, or just reporting positive cases admitted to hospital, to actually start reporting the number of people who are ill because of Covid,” said Hunter, who also advises the World Health Organization on the virus. “Otherwise we are going to be frightening ourselves with very high numbers that actually don’t translate into disease burden.”

Her Majesty’s scientists aren’t the only ones arriving at these conclusions. According to the Icelandic newspaper *Visir*, Iceland’s state epidemiologist voiced similar sentiments on August 8.

“We really cannot do anything else” but allow the virus to run its course in order for the population to achieve herd immunity, said epidemiologist Þórólfur Guðnason. “We need to try to vaccinate and better protect those who are vulnerable, but let us tolerate the infection,” he added.



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Biden Wants Half of Cars Sold in 2030 to Be Electric

President Joe Biden signed an executive order on August 5 “setting a goal that 50 percent of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in 2030 be zero-emission vehicles, including battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric, or fuel cell electric vehicles.”

All the major automakers, who had already pledged to manufacture only “zero-emission” vehicles in the future, issued press releases the same day gushing over what Issues & Insights on August 6 dubbed “the most massive, disruptive, and anti-consumer mandate ever to come out of Washington.”

There’s just one problem: Americans simply do not want electric cars.

As Issues & Insights noted in May, “Despite massive taxpayer rebates to electric car buyers, a multitude of subsidized recharging stations, and the constant talk about how electric automobiles will save the planet, sales of plug-ins accounted for a tiny 2% of all cars sold in the U.S. last year. Domestic sales of Chevy’s gas-guzzling Silverado pickups alone last year doubled the combined sales of electric cars from all makers.”

How are automakers going to get half of their customers to buy electric cars in just a few short years? According to the press release from Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis (which makes Chrysler vehicles), “This ... dramatic shift ... can be achieved only with the timely deployment of the full suite of electrification policies committed to by the [Biden] Administration in the

Build Back Better Plan, including purchase incentives, a comprehensive charging network of sufficient density to support the millions of vehicles these targets represent, investments in R&D, and incentives to expand the electric vehicle manufacturing and supply chains in the United States.”

“In other words,” observed Issues & Insights, “massive taxpayer subsidies.”

Biden wants to spend \$174 billion on subsidies, grants, and tax incentives to car buyers; to build electric charging stations; and to replace the entire federal fleet of cars and trucks, including all those used by the already financially desperate U.S. Postal Service.



richjem/Stock/Getty Images Plus

Longtime Physician on COVID: “When Did the World Become Insane?”



Beynes Events/Stock/Getty Images Plus

He’s fed up and, he says, must finally speak out beyond his private circles, even if it means being canceled. What bothers Dr. Matt Bettag, a physician with 24 years of experience, so much is that he has “never before seen the medical establishment just stop thinking,” as he puts it. “Insanity is the new rule,” he continues, “and common sense cannot even be discussed.”

Bettag, who has been an ENT specialist for 19 years of his career, is, of course, referring to COVID craziness, to schizoid prescriptions that mutate faster than a virus ever could.

In an August 5 article for *American Thinker*, Bettag mentions his shock at the insistence on “15 days to flatten the curve”; he writes that though this was unprecedented, he nonetheless gave the government the benefit of the doubt. Of course, this demand was then followed by, “No, actually, we can’t reopen until there are 14 straight days of declining infections.” This was then declared null and void and became, “No, we can’t return to normal until we have a vaccine.” Now we’re told that even the vaccinated must be masked and, essentially, that Branch Covidian restrictions are the new normal.

Bettag goes on to write:

I started researching the utility of masks. There were very good articles I found — one out of a respiratory center in Chicago, and another a good dental review. I bookmarked both of them. Less than a month later, the dental website was down, replaced by a text saying basically that their information is now irrelevant because of COVID. The Chicago article also had a disclaimer that previously wasn’t there saying people shouldn’t use their article politically. What? Don’t use a scientifically-derived article to make a scientifically based decision on the utility of masks? What the hell is going on?

Next comes PCR. Let’s conveniently jack up the cycles to 40+, resulting in a 90–97% false-positive rate, then let’s start testing all elective surgery, asymptomatic exposures, and hospitalized patients. In addition, we will reimburse hospitals greatly for COVID admissions and ICU visits. Oxygen doesn’t work; go home until you get worse. Oh, and bring your family and friends with you; they’ll need testing.

Bettag also makes the following points:

- Steroids were discouraged early on even though they reduce inflammation and have long been used in Bettag’s specialty, ENT, to treat viral disease. Yet weeks later

the Covidians recommended steroids.

- Even though it has been used safely the world over for decades, hydroxychloroquine was demonized as dangerous merely because President Trump trumpeted it. Other trusted therapeutics, such as ivermectin and vitamin D, were likewise dismissed.

- Speaking for many leftists, Kamala Harris said last autumn that she wouldn’t trust any vaccines whose creation the Trump administration facilitated. Now it’s said that the very same drugs should be mandatory for everyone and that those opposing such are mass killers.

- The government’s Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) database showed 12,000 vaccine-coincident deaths; this number then dropped to 6,000. It subsequently rose to 10k and is now back to 12k. Moreover, some reports hold that the actual number could be 10-fold (or more) higher and that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) could be hiding deaths via intentional misclassification. But, hey, Bettag says sarcastically, let’s still trust the government.

- Now the Covidian Chicken Littles are blaming the dreaded Delta variant “surge” on the unvaccinated, ignoring data showing that many countries with high vaccination rates have rampant COVID and that many with low vaccination rates are largely free from the disease. Bettag also mentions that while Sweden mostly rejected lockdowns and mandatory masking and has a low vaccination rate, it has almost no COVID.

“I have never lived in a world like this,” Bettag then laments, “where open medical dialogue is completely suppressed and there is only one party line.” He finds this befuddling. It’s not hard to understand, however: It’s what too often happens when there’s a conflation of science and state — especially when that state is built on lies. ■

Twenty Years of Effort in Afghanistan Speedily Converted to an “Unmitigated Disaster”

“I think the Taliban takeover is an unmitigated disaster. Afghanistan [will return to] a pre-9/11 state — a breeding ground for terrorism. Mr. Biden could have had a strategy for this [but didn’t].”

Texas Representative Michael McCaul, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed the thinking of many when he appeared on CNN’s State of the Union program on August 15, the date when Taliban fighters poured into Kabul.



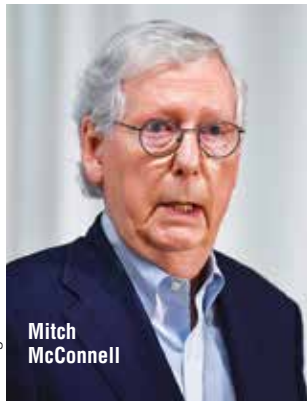
Michael McCaul

AP Images

Families of 9/11 Victims Disinvite Biden to 20th Anniversary Remembrance

“We cannot in good faith, and with veneration to those lost, sick and injured, welcome the president to our hallowed ground until he fulfills his commitment.”

An Open Letter sent by families who lost loved ones in the September 11, 2001 attack pointed to the president’s unfulfilled promise to declassify government documents that, they believe, will implicate Saudi Arabia.



Mitch McConnell

AP Images

Senate GOP Leader Labels Democrat’s \$3.5 Trillion Proposal a “Socialist Shopping List”

“They won’t let Republicans have any say in this monstrosity ... but they want our help raising their credit card to make it happen. This will tax and spend our country into oblivion.”

Having already helped Democrats pass a \$1 trillion “infrastructure” measure, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) wants the American people to believe he’s a hardline opponent of federal debt and spending.

Taliban Forces Win in Afghanistan as America’s Reputation Plummets

“Few will gang up on the U.S. for finally stopping a failed enterprise. Most people would say it should have happened a long time ago. But the notion that you cannot count on the Americans will strike deeper roots.”

French defense analyst Francois Heisbourg is not alone in criticizing the United States for its 20-year struggle in Afghanistan that has ended in utter defeat.

GOP Congressman Points to Leftist Failures in America’s Cities

“In Chicago, murders are up 33 percent over last year. In New York, shootings are up 50 percent. In Los Angeles, homicides are up 36 percent. The trends are similar in Seattle, San Francisco, Portland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit — everywhere the Woke Left is in power.”

Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) accused Democrats of trying to blame “former President Trump, guns, conservatives, Christians ... anyone but the real culprits [who can be found] in their mirrors.”

New York Governor Resigns in the Face of Sexual Harassment Charges

“The culture has shifted in Albany somewhat. But his behavior was never appropriate. Not 10 years ago. Not five years ago. Or last week.”

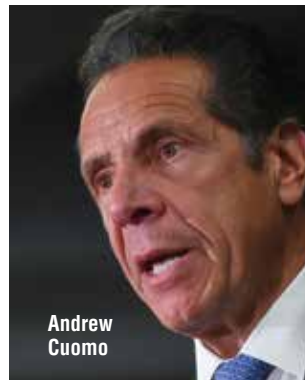
A New York Democrat representing a portion of Manhattan in the state’s legislature, Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal issued a stinging assessment of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s conduct over his 10 years in office.

Cuomo Resigns While Offering His Own Moral Code

“In my mind, I have never crossed the line with anyone.”

Numerous women, most of whom were government employees working for or near Governor Andrew Cuomo, formally accused him of serious sexual improprieties. Seeking to defend himself, he indicated that he has his own moral code. Happily, the traditional prevailing code is stricter than the one Cuomo created for himself. ■

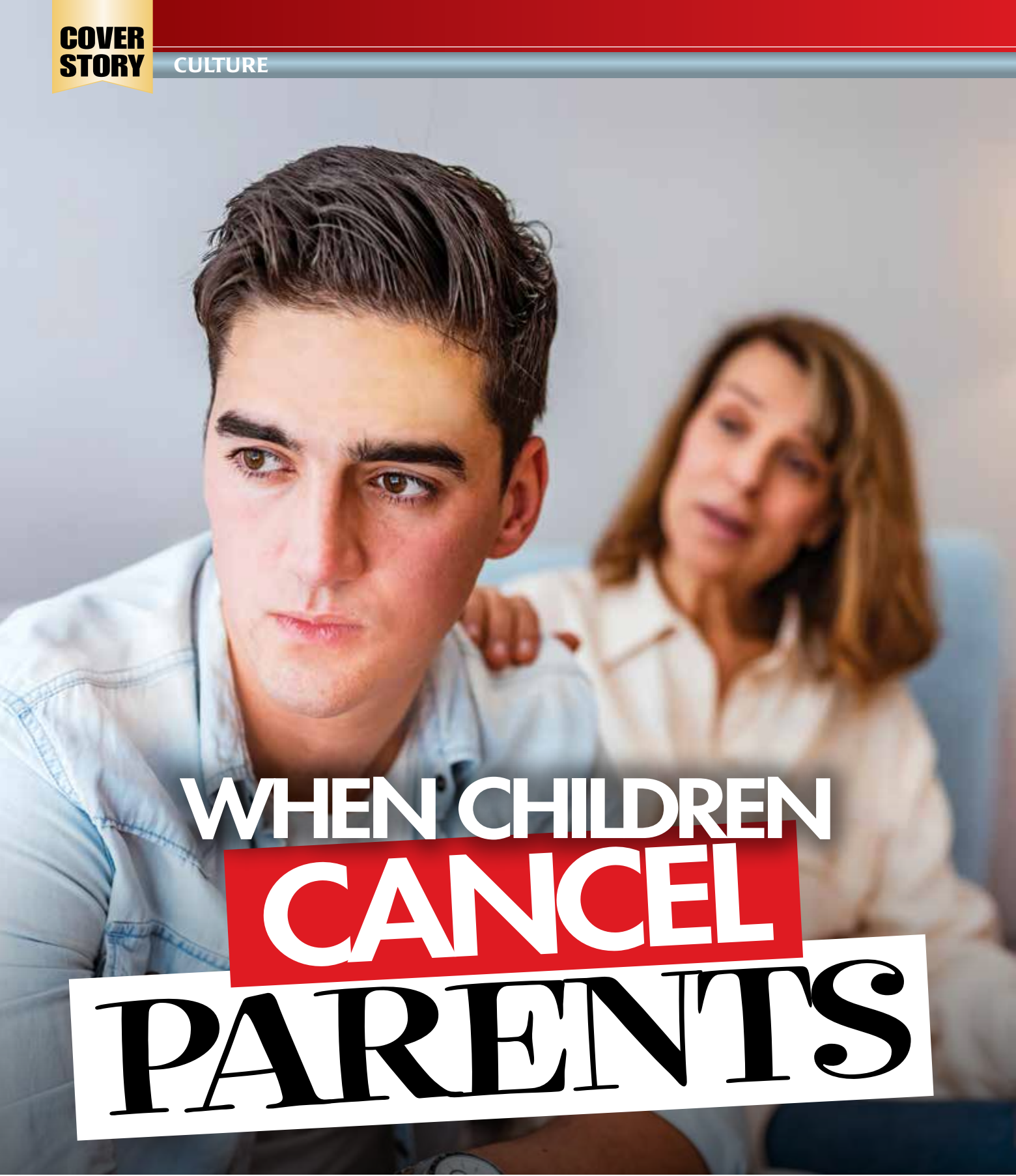
— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



Andrew Cuomo

AP Images

QuickQuotes



WHEN CHILDREN **CANCEL** PARENTS

“Woke” culture is affecting children to the point that they are turning against their own parents. Protecting children from such corruption is possible, however.

by Selwyn Duke

“You’re a thought criminal!” said the boy to protagonist Winston Smith in George Orwell’s *1984*. This comes to mind when pondering stories of parents who get “canceled” by their own children. Oh, they’re not called thought criminals. They’re just not called — for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, or any other time because they dared be awakened to Truth in a “woke” time.

We’ve heard about this for a while. “You are no longer my mother, because you are voting for Trump,” Reuters related lifelong Democrat Mayra Gomez, 41, as having been told by her 21-year-old son last year. The news organ also relates that “Jacquelyn Hammond, 47, a bartender in Asheville, North Carolina, no longer speaks to her Trump-supporting mother Carol.” Now Meadowlark Press writer Caryn Boddie relates her own experiences being canceled by her kids, along with those of other people she knows of enduring the same fate.

Writing at *American Thinker* July 19, Boddie cites the final chapter of socialist author Saul “the Red” Alinsky’s book *Rules for Radicals* (1971). Titled “The Way Forward,” it states, “Organization for action will now and in the decade ahead center upon America’s white middle class. That is where the power is.... Large parts of the middle class, the ‘silent majority,’ must be activated.”

So it has come to pass, too. Middle-class herself and stating that her “cancellation is the fruit of the left’s strategy to remake America,” Boddie writes:

It was shocking to us that our children canceled us for being who and what we are; we have tried to be good and true parents, faithful and patriotic. We are heartbroken, blame ourselves, blame our children, reach out and plead and cajole, pray and pray and pray and ask others to pray, too.

Selwyn Duke has written for THE NEW AMERICAN for more than a decade. He has also written for The Hill, Observer, The American Conservative, WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications.

The African saying “It takes a village to raise a child” was coopted and corrupted by Hillary Clinton. Yet there’ll always be a village — and sometimes it can raze a child (or at least his soul).



AP Images

A blip on the radar screen: Even when churches buck the age’s spirit and teach Truth, the reality is that children may be in them one hour weekly. Yet kids may spend 91 hours a week exposed to corruptive cultural influences.

... This is happening to many middle-class families. For example, I met a friend the other day, and she told me she has several friends whose children are canceling them. One of them is a mother with whom my friend was close as their kids grew up. She said this person was an excellent mother, but now her son will have nothing to do with her and is calling her an abusive mother.

My friend’s own son canceled her and her husband, too. The son told his mother that everything they taught him was a lie. Before he canceled them, he forbade his mother to talk to him about God anymore.

Years ago, my children also told me I was not allowed to talk to them about God anymore.

Both of us told our children that we would not proselytize, but we could not promise never to mention God because we are people of faith; it is who we are.

When my husband posted on Facebook about our plight, more than a few friends responded that they were going through the same things. One mother said her *three children* will have nothing to do with her anymore and had recently left her out of a family wedding. She said she is also a person of faith.

Virtually every parent (if not all) protects his children from perceived bad influences, even if they're only obvious ones such as snuff films, porn, and the worst of peers.

Providing more detail, Boddie points out that her kids hated President Trump with almost demonic passion. She mentions that it upset their daughter when she and her husband expressed concern to their governor, Jared Polis (D-Colo.), about lockdowns (they then apologized to her). But the January 6 trespassing incident was the final straw; even though the Boddies weren't even in Washington, D.C., that day, their children disowned them. All communication ceased.

These incidents bring to mind Antifa, says Boddie, whose members fit the profile here: They tend to be spoiled, middle- or upper-middle-class, white young adults. And she and many others want to know how this intergenerational chasm was created.

Of course, the saying "An idle mind is the Devil's playground" suggests itself, and this surely is a factor. People toiling away in fields under a hot sun 12 hours a day earning a subsistence living don't generally give expositions upon white privilege. But there's more to it.

The African saying "It takes a village to raise a child" was coopted and corrupted by Hillary Clinton. Yet there'll always be a village — and sometimes it can raze a child (or at least his soul).

This is the case today with our now-toxic culture (the "village"). Anti-Christian, anti-white, anti-American, anti-Western, pro-socialist, relativistic, sexualized, and perverse — though I repeat myself — ideas abound, and your

children *will* generally be infected with them commensurate with their exposure to our government (and even private) schools, popular entertainment, and mass media. But what are the implications of this? Must we insulate kids from the outside world and become our own "village"? "Until when?" some may ask, following up with the rhetorical-question criticism, "Can you raise a child in a 'bubble'?" Well, frankly, yes.

Building a Beautiful Bubble

First realize that everyone raises his children in a bubble of sorts. Virtually every parent (if not all) protects his children from perceived bad influences, even if they're only obvious ones such as snuff films, porn, and the worst of peers. Moreover, the same moderns who'll scoff at shielding kids from popular culture shield their own young from "unpopular" culture. Just consider how, speaking for many, the aforementioned mom-canceling Jacquelyn Hammond emphasized that she didn't want her son talking politics with his grandma, saying, "I'm not letting her influence him politically." Or ponder the avowedly "non-religious" mother who, writing to Slate.com's advice columnist Doyin Richards in April and also speaking for many, complained that her seven-year-old son's Mormon best friend wouldn't stop proselytizing and talking to her boy about Bible stories and Jesus. "I don't really want my son to learn these things," said she. "I don't want him to be religious, honestly." So everyone sets limits; it's only a matter of what the bubble's boundaries will be.

A story I read recently well illustrated what people perceive the problem to be when children are lost to what we call leftism, which is more accurately understood as movement toward moral decay. A father wrote that he and his wife raised their son in a strongly conservative Catholic home; the boy was an altar server for many years, attended pro-life events with them, and was by their side as they listened to conservative talk radio. Then he attended college — and within a year became a full-throated social-justice warrior who can't even stand his parents' presence.

Some readers may now roll their eyes, having heard this story before. Academia



Voting is not enough: Conservatives are diligent about voting, but not so diligent about controlling what determines future voting: the culture. And today's cultural deformities become tomorrow's political realities.

today is generally toxic, and it's ironic that so many good Americans send their children to left-wing propaganda mills. After all, people may vote for "conservative" candidates and sometimes even devote time and treasure to corresponding causes, but then send their kids to the very places authoring the demise of what they hold dear. Remember that most of our corruptive ideas germinate and are cultivated on college campuses before being disseminated by media, entertainment, and Big Tech. So giving such places tuition money is to quite literally fund America's destruction. It's done, of course, because the college is dad's alma mater or because the kid wants to attend ("Hey, it's a party school!") or because it's "prestigious" ("It's Hahvahd!"). The good news is that there are viable, traditionalist alternatives, such as Franciscan University of Steubenville, Hillsdale College, Thomas Aquinas College in California, and Liberty University in Virginia. But then there's the bad news, which I'll present as a question: When a child exhibits a social-justice warrior transition at college, is his matriculation first cause?

Or is it a catalyst?

Early Formation

"Give me a child until he is seven, and I will show you the man," goes the saying often attributed to Greek philosopher Aristotle. This was and is hardly an outlier idea. In fact, the "age of seven has been considered the age where common sense and maturity start to kick in, for centuries," wrote *Scholastic* magazine in 2019. "In Medieval times, court apprenticeships began at age seven. Under English Common Law, children under seven weren't considered responsible for their crimes. Turning seven can even be symbolic within a child's religious upbringing, as it's the age around when the Catholic Church offers first Communion."

Why is this a seminal point? "Around the age of seven, give or take a year, children enter a developmental phase known as the age of reason," *Scholastic* also informed. "The age of reason refers to the developmental cognitive, emotional, and moral stage in which children become more capable of rational thought, have internalized a conscience, and have better capacity to control impulses (than in



AP Images

Building a foundation: Allowing a child to be exposed to today's popular culture during formative years ensures that it will largely shape his emotional foundation, his affinities, and his sense of virtue. And "as the twig is bent, so grows the tree."

previous stages),' explains Dana Dorfman, PhD, psychotherapist, and co-host of the podcast *2 Moms on the Couch*." And this "internalized conscience" is quite set in stone apparently, for good or for ill, by age seven, according to Danish psychologist Nicolai Sennels. Sennels spent time working with criminal youth (mostly Muslim) in a Copenhagen juvenile detention center, and his experiences caused him to echo Aristotle and lament that once a child is seven, his basic foundation is almost impossible to change.

Of course, it won't shock anyone to hear that "early years socialization," to use psychological terminology (which I dislike), is significant. But to define this precisely, if a rather ingrained conscience is in place at seven, something quite significant that creates it occurs before that age. Yet if that "something" isn't rational — remember, again, this is before the age of *reason* — it's clearly something else: *emotional*. So perhaps the ages between zero and seven could be called the Period of Emotional Formation.

Emotion is hard to buck because reason is the cold Mr. Spock (of *Star Trek* fame) appealing to the head with dispassionate

logic; emotion is the oh-so seductive siren stoking our urges. Christian apologist C.S. Lewis addressed this in his 1947 book *The Abolition of Man*. He wrote, as presented in 2012 by the C.S. Lewis Institute, that

no justification of virtue will enable a man to be virtuous. Without the aid of trained emotions the intellect is powerless against the animal organism. I had sooner play cards against a man who was quite sceptical about ethics, but bred to believe that "a gentleman does not cheat," than against an irreproachable moral philosopher who had been brought up among sharpers. In battle it is not syllogisms (logical arguments) that will keep the reluctant nerves and muscles to their post in the third hour of the bombardment. The crudest sentimentalism ... about a flag or a country or a regiment will be of more use. We were told it all long ago by Plato. As the king governs by his executive, so Reason in man must rule the mere appetites by means of the 'spirited element'. The head rules the belly through the chest —

the seat, as Alanus tells us, of Magnanimity, of emotions organized by trained habit into stable sentiments. The Chest-Magnanimity-Sentiment — these are the indispensable liaison officers between cerebral man and visceral man. It may even be said that it is by this middle element that man is man: for by his intellect he is mere spirit and by his appetite mere animal.

We've all experienced, seen, or heard about how the heart so readily trumps the head. Consider St. Augustine's prayer through which he tacitly confessed his inability to relinquish carnal pleasures: "Lord, make me chaste — but not yet!" Or ponder how ancient Chinese sage Confucius lamented, "It is not that I do not know what to do; it is that I do not do what I know." These were brilliant men, but even their intellects were "powerless against the animal organism" (at least, that is, without God's intervention — i.e., grace). Of course, this phenomenon has been experienced by billions since those figures lived, by the man who knows he should stop drinking or

taking drugs, but "can't"; by the woman who knows forgiveness is demanded but finds it beyond her; by the older child who knows he should stop mistreating a sibling, but keeps slipping back into old habits; etc. As poetess Edna St. Vincent Millay put it, "Pity me that the heart is slow to learn what the swift mind beholds at every turn."

Perhaps worse still, however — and certainly more applicable to the prodigal social-justice-warrior son phenomenon — are those very common emotion-driven, dark habits that those displaying them *don't* know are wrong. Regardless, how are emotions "trained," and how can proper ones be inculcated?

Virtue Training

"Training" really is the word. The Bible states, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." For those skeptical, realize that "training" isn't synonymous with "telling"; it isn't effected merely by reading a book. A highly trained athlete might have been told much and have read more than one relevant book, but his profi-

ciency is attributable to numerous things: observing those modeling the correct actions, proper and consistent teaching, and countless hours of disciplined practice, that repetition that makes actions and their associated thoughts "second nature." It's a matter of creating the correct *habits*. In the moral sphere things also become habitual, unavoidably. Good moral habits are called *virtues*; bad ones, *vices*. But how are these habits created?

When they're created should already be clear: Well before college. In fact, this process begins before schooling, period. Moreover, while formal education is emphasized by those trying to explain evil's seduction of the young, generally overlooked is a realm likely far more significant: the arts (entertainment). Remember that a major goal (if not the main one) of entertainment is to affect people *emotionally*. If you just want "facts," you can read an academic paper. People typically watch films and shows for *pleasure*, and producers only make money (and effect whatever social change may be an accompanying aim) by moving people, grabbing their hearts, or by titillating them.

Greek philosopher Plato knew well that the arts shape our sense of virtue. Why, he even expressed the idea (I'm paraphrasing) that musical "innovation is full of danger to the State, for when modes of music change, the laws of the State always change with them." Addressing the arts-crafting-kids phenomenon in his book *Why Johnny Can't Tell Right From Wrong*, Boston College Professor Emeritus William K. Kilpatrick wrote that children "ought to be brought up in an atmosphere that provides them examples of nobility and grace. This imaginative education is not a substitute for a reasoned morality, but it paves the way for it, making it more likely that the grown child will happily accept the dictates of reason." Remember, again, that a small child does *not yet speak the language of reason*; *everything* is about emotion. And Kilpatrick explained, echoing Plato, that just as the senses "can be enlisted on the side of virtue," so can they "be enlisted on the side of vice" — and far more easily, too. For all this requires is obeying our animal nature; training in virtue involves rising above it.



AP Images

Indoctrination centers: Today's government schools tag-team with the popular culture to indoctrinate kids with corruption masquerading as enlightenment. What's more, they're also places where children are exposed to persuasive, vice-transmitting peers.

Now how do you suppose our popular culture trains children's emotions today? There's no point devoting ink to illustrating how sexualized, vulgar, and gratuitously violent entertainment long ago became; this is obvious to all with eyes to see and would be a bit like taking pains to prove pigsties are dirty. Rather, let's explore the more subtle corruptive effects of entertainment, which can be just as serious.

As already stated, virtue is certainly a harder sell than vice; to quote Confucius again, "I never knew anyone who loved virtue as much as sex." Of course, people can fight their animal nature and with God's grace, perhaps conquer it. But what if you could convince them there could be no such fight — by convincing them the opposing sides, virtue and vice, don't even exist? Enter moral relativism.

This pseudo-philosophy permeates our entire society today, enables so-called leftism, and is continually transmitted, implicitly or explicitly, via our entertainment. An obvious example is *Star Wars* character Obi-Wan Kenobi's utterance in *Return of the Jedi* (1983), "Luke, you're going to find that many of the truths we cling to depend greatly on our own point of view." Now, Anglo-Irish philosopher Edmund Burke warned that evil would triumph if good men did nothing. But why would we do anything (positive, anyway) if we consider good and evil mere social constructs, changing with "point of view"? And even if we had some vague sense that "ungood" exists, how could we know what to fight for and fight against, with good and evil having been so conflated? Why, had Luke Skywalker truly taken Obi-Wan's relativistic counsel to heart, he might have killed Han Solo and then become Emperor Palpatine's PR man.

Not surprisingly, Obi-Wan (and the Hollywood writers providing his words) reflected all relativists in that he contradicted himself. When in *Star Wars: Episode IV — A New Hope* (1977) he was confronted with the claim by arch-villain Darth Vader that he, Vader, was now the "master," Obi-Wan replied, "Only a master of evil, Darth" (as opposed to, perhaps, a master of "an alternative perspective"). Of course, Kenobi's emotions had changed being face-to-face with his nemesis. And in this moment the writers wanted him

Must we insulate kids from the culture and become our own "village"? "Until when?" some may ask, following up with the rhetorical-question criticism, "Can you raise a child in a 'bubble'?" Well, frankly, yes.



Higher learning? With coed dorms, sexualized curricula, and the teaching of the three r's of racism, relativism, and revisionism, most colleges have long been dens of iniquity. That said, young people's emotional foundations are set long before high school, making wrongly formed individuals easy prey for professors peddling toxic ideology.

to seem resolute; when counseling Luke Skywalker, however, they wanted him to seem "wise." They certainly succeeded, too, in making him seem as wise (and wobbly) as they are.

The point is that, with the above being just one obvious example of entertainment's peddling of relativism to kids — and with schools, media, Big Tech, and even often parents transmitting the same message — is it surprising that a 2002 Barna Group study found that only *six percent* of American teenagers "said moral truth is absolute"? Note, too, Barna also reported that by "far the most common basis for moral decision-making was doing whatever feels right [translation: emotion *über alles*] or comfortable in a situation."

Tragically, what feels right often won't be virtue, especially since those who'd be more likely to represent it in fact are mocked in fiction. As American Thinker's Barry Rubin put it while commenting on contemporary entertainment in his 2008 piece "Detecting Real Heroes," today, someone "who appears moral is, of course, instantly identifiable as corrupt. In a television show, film, or whatever, if a sincere religious believer (except for a Muslim) or a clergyman appears, you know he is stealing from the poor box. That stereotype holds and you can tell from the start who the villains are." In keeping with this, virtue is cast as vice. If someone appears chaste, he just must have a sexual problem. Honesty is devalued, with our film "heroes" being mas-



AP Images

A better option: Homeschooling is an integral part of shielding the young from a culture that has become hostile to all that is great and good. It's no wonder, then, that, spurred on by COVID craziness, the practice has grown to a point where it's almost becoming mainstream.

Either you'll mold your children or modern culture will. That's the choice.

ters of Machiavellian deceit. Kindness has given way to coolness, selflessness to selfishness, and forgiveness to a fear-some vindictiveness.

So what are we left with? As Rubin put it, "A pirate fighting demons; a nicer gangster battling a less charming one[;] that's enough to give you something to cheer for in this type of [relativistic] drama." Oh, and the kids won't know what "virtue" means, but they'll have an instinctive antipathy toward it (or at least skepticism of it).

Protect Your Children!

Now we get back to the child, raised in a "good Christian home," who disowns his parents in deference to leftist ideology. He might have regularly gone to church and even attended faith-oriented events with his parents. But what does this amount to on average, one, perhaps one-and-a-half hours a week? Against this might have

been an average of 91 hours weekly exposed to entertainment, media, schooling, and peers corrupted by the same inculcation. So which experiences will be most likely to have shaped the young person's heart? Sure, he might have been an altar boy, but all the while darker forces were making him an altered boy.

So when the boy then goes off to college and "changes," does the change really have to be very deep? Perhaps, yes — in *certain* cases. But in many, college is just activating, or catalyzing, a wrongly formed emotional foundation and providing an ideology *that aligns with it*, one that *feels* right.

Some will now say it's the parents' "values" that really matter. Famous last words. For this is a bit like saying we shouldn't worry about what children may ingest outside the home because it's the nutrition they get within it that really matters. Of course, if the imbibed poison is toxic

enough, no amount of good nutrition will save them. So it often is with moral and spiritual poison.

Moreover, as a great friend once pointed out, outsiders' influence can often exceed that of the parents. Why? Because the children know that since their parents' love is unconditional, they don't have to toe dad's and mom's line to receive it. Yet acceptance by peers and teachers very well will be contingent upon embracing their "culture."

Staggering to many are this reality's implications: Parents must insulate their children from the culture and, yes, become their own "village" until the youngsters' moral compasses and emotional foundations are fully formed. There are plenty of groups doing this, mind you, from Amish to Hasidim to certain Mormons, and they often manage to raise children radically different from wider-society kids (for good or for ill, though usually for the better, depending on the given sub-culture). The point is that it's absolutely possible to forge youngsters who reject the age's subversive spirit. But you can't be what the aforementioned Boddie said she and her husband are: meek people.

This isn't to demean them; I've no doubt they're wonderful. But the civilization- and soul-destroyers aren't meek about indoctrinating your kids — you must be equally aggressive about protecting them. To this end, you can homeschool, a practice that has been growing rapidly during the COVID-19 era. There are many organizations that help such parents, too, such as FreedomProject Academy, which offers a fully accredited, classical education for kindergarten through high school. You also can and must isolate kids from modern culture and media propaganda. You can keep them away from bad-influence peers, too. This is done all the time; there are parents deciding to do it even as I write this.

Either you'll mold your children or modern culture will. That's the choice. And if the prescribed course here seems radical, just ask yourself what sounds more so: Raising children in a smaller but purer world, or allowing kids to be indoctrinated with extreme, hateful ideas by a society that has become radically wrong. ■

AGGRESSIVE NEW SCHEME EXPOSES ARTICLE V CONVENTION LOBBY

Proponents of an Article V Convention to amend the U.S. Constitution have come up with a new method to acquire the necessary number of applications to call a convention.



AP Images

A new scheme: Georgia State Senator Bill Cowser, a Republican, is calling for past Article V Convention applications, for any topic, to be combined with applications for a Balanced Budget Amendment in order to trigger an Article V Convention.

by *Christian Gomez*

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides two methods for amending, or making changes to, the Constitution.

The first method (and the only method used for all 27 amendments to the Constitution) is when “two thirds of both Houses [in Congress; the House of Representatives and Senate] ... propose Amendments” and those amendments are subsequently “ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress.”

The second method for amending the

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Constitution, which has never been used, is when “on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, [the Congress] shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments,” followed by the same mode of ratification — assuming that the delegates to the Convention do not exceed the scope of their commissions and create their own new mode of ratification (a likely possibility). Historically, this “Convention for proposing Amendments” has been referred to as a federal constitutional convention (Con-Con), and only recently has also been referred to as a “Convention of States” (COS) — not to be confused with the organization of the same name, the Convention of States Project / Convention of States Action.

Despite no actual wording in Article V supporting their claims, for decades advocates of the second method for amend-

ing the Constitution, an untested method, have repeatedly assured state legislators that such a convention can be “limited” to a single-subject amendment, as laid out in the applications of the state legislatures, *and* that all the applications have to be the same or similarly worded, applying to Congress to call a convention to propose the same amendment. Based on these presuppositions, Article V Convention advocates have succeeded in getting myriad applications through state legislatures purporting to limit the convention to a single subject, most notably for a federal Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA). However, despite decades of effort, they have not been able to get the required two-thirds (34 out of 50) of the states to apply to Congress in order to call a convention “limited” to proposing any single-subject amendment.

Now, a new scheme has emerged to reach the required 34 states for Congress to call a constitutional convention. The new plot calls for aggregating, or combining, the applications that state legislatures have previously passed limited to proposing a BBA with some applications passed by other state legislatures for other subjects — with one such application dating as far back as the 18th century. This new aggregation scheme exposes the hypocrisy of the Article V Convention lobby and threatens to drag the United States dangerously close to a constitutional convention, where anything could happen, from abridging the First Amendment and abolishing the Second Amendment to even rewriting and replacing the Constitution with an entirely new and “modern” socialist constitution.

Enter Georgia

This aggressive new scheme by the Article V Convention lobby has materialized in Georgia, in the form of Senate Resolu-

tion 29, introduced by State Senator Bill Cowsert (R-Athens) on January 27, 2021. Senate Resolution 29 (S.R. 29) applies to Congress to call a convention to propose a BBA. The resolution purports to combine the “live,” or outstanding, applications from the then-27 states that had passed resolutions to Congress applying for a BBA convention, with centuries-old applications from six other states that have applied for a supposedly “plenary,” or unlimited, Article V Convention.

Below is the convoluted wording of S.R. 29, which, unlike any other prior BBA application, asks Congress to count the applications for a constitutional convention specifically intended to propose a BBA *along with* other convention applications that are not for a BBA. The resolution reads, in part:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application shall be deemed an application for a convention to address only the subject herein stated. For the purposes of determining whether two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention addressing any of the subjects stated herein, this application is to be aggregated with the applications of any other state legislatures for the single subjects of balancing the federal budget, including but not limited to

previously adopted applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, *Illinois*, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, *Kentucky*, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, *New Jersey*, *New York*, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, *Oregon*, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, *Washington*, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Wisconsin; and this application shall be aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require the calling of a convention, but shall not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject. [Emphasis added.]

The six states, emphasized above in italics, have not passed BBA convention applications! Listed below are the six states along with their Article V convention applications that Senator Cowsert wants to combine with the 27 (now 26) active applications for a BBA convention:

- New York (1789) for a Bill of Rights;
- New Jersey (1861) to prevent the Civil War;
- Kentucky (1861) to prevent the Civil War;

- Illinois (1861) to prevent the Civil War;
- Oregon (1901) for the direct election of U.S. senators; and
- Washington (1901) for no stated purpose other than Congress simply “call a convention for proposing amendments to the constitution of the United States of America as authorized by article v.”

Combining the applications for a BBA (most of which were passed in the 1970s) with the six non-BBA applications that are centuries old may lead to a situation where a convention is called by Congress without a majority of the state legislatures (let alone the two-thirds supermajority required by Article V of the Constitution) currently supporting the calling of the convention.

In fact, all of the legislators who made and supported applications for a constitutional convention at the turn of the 20th century and prior are long deceased. Furthermore, applications where the purpose for petitioning Congress to call a convention no longer applies (e.g., securing a Bill of Rights, preventing the Civil War, and the direct election of U.S. senators) are moot and should not be included in any tally for a modern Article V Convention.

S.R. 29 could be a trial balloon by the convention lobby to test the aggregation scheme meant to trigger a constitutional convention as soon as possible, without bothering to pass any additional unpopular applications through state legislatures. This belies the promises that Article V Convention spokesmen have been making to legislators for at least the past few decades that their applications for a “limited” convention would prevent a runaway convention.

Legislators aren’t being told the truth. The hypocrisy is clear in Georgia, where Senator Cowsert falsely told his colleagues on the Georgia Senate floor on March 12, 2020 that the 33 states listed in his resolution (at the time S.R. 854, containing the same language as S.R. 29) *had all passed applications for a BBA convention*. And he said that they were added specifically to prevent a runaway convention!

Cowsert told fellow lawmakers:



The wrong solution to a crisis: While many conservatives can empathize with those wanting a Balanced Budget Amendment, calling a convention to amend the Constitution is incredibly dangerous. Americans could end up with much more than just a BBA.

NoDerog/ iStock / Getty Images Plus

This is single subject matter specific, asking only for there to be an amendment on the balancing the budget presented or considered by the States. That's the reason for Amendment One which I will go speak to. I heard feedback in the halls and from constituents. They wanted to make sure that this was not a runaway convention to totally revamp our United States Constitution. So, the Amendment tightens it up and specifies the States that already have balanced budget amendment applications in to the United States Congress, and makes it clear that we're restrained to only that one subject matter. [Emphasis added.]

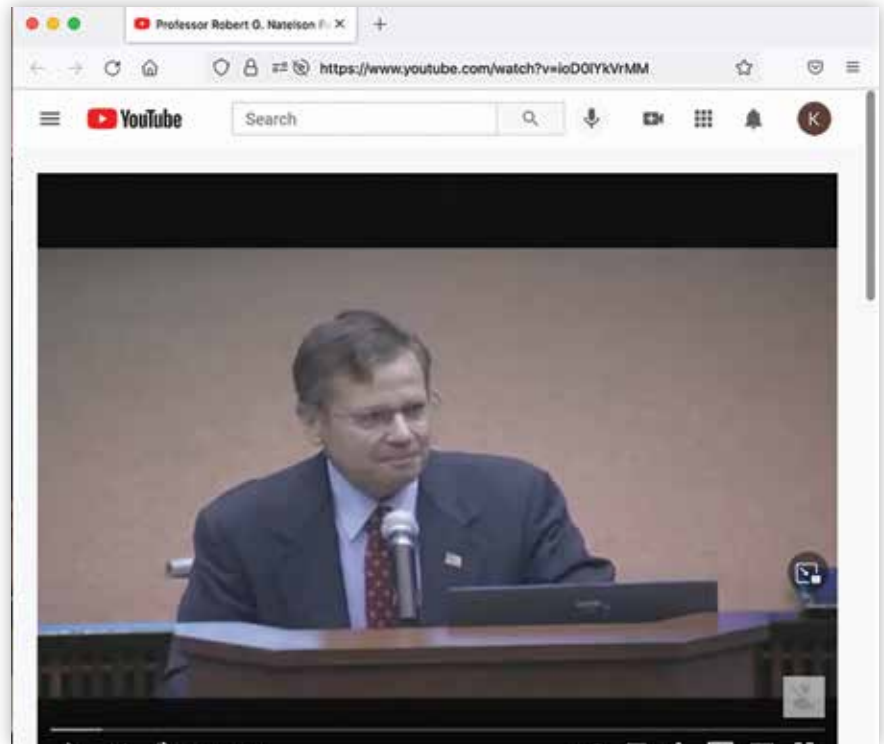
Responding to a question brought up by another senator, who was concerned about the potential of combining the BBA application with the applications of other states that applied for a convention for another propose, Cowser replied, in part:

If there are states that have applications on other subject matters, they would not be considered as one of the 2/3 of the states that it requires to join in in calling for a constitutional amendment convention — on just balancing the federal budget. So, I have built a safeguard in there for you, so that it doesn't get lumped in and we end up having multiple subject matters considered.

However, Cowser's aggregation language in S.R. 854 and, more recently, S.R. 29, provides no such "safeguards." Instead, it does the opposite of what he said on the Senate floor when he originally promoted S.R. 854 in 2020.

Despite Cowser's false statements, the Georgia Senate passed S.R. 29 by a vote of 34-20 on February 22, 2021. Fortunately, the Georgia General Assembly adjourned for the year on April 2, 2021, without taking any further action on the resolution. Unfortunately, S.R. 29 carries over into the following year, at which time the Georgia House of Representatives could still pass it. If the resolution had passed in the spring of 2021, Georgia would have become the 34th (and final) state to apply for an Article V Convention, based on this

S.R. 29 could be a trial balloon by the convention lobby to test the aggregation scheme meant to trigger a constitutional convention as soon as possible, without bothering to pass any additional unpopular applications through state legislatures.



It's his brainchild: Robert Natelson appears to be the originator of the idea to combine outstanding Article V Convention applications with BBA applications. His rationale? Those old applications were "plenary," meaning they could be for any purpose.

new aggregation scheme, and thus would have triggered the call for a convention, provided the resolution's rationale were recognized as legitimate by Congress.

Nineteen days after the Georgia General Assembly adjourned, the legislature of Colorado — one of the then-27 states with a "live" application to Congress for a BBA convention — passed a resolution rescinding all of its previously passed Article V Convention applications, including its 1978 application to Congress for a convention to propose a BBA. This action brings the count of states with "live" applications for a BBA convention down to 26. Therefore, if the Georgia Senate passes S.R. 29 in 2022 (assuming no other state

legislatures rescind a previous BBA application or apply for a new one), Georgia would become the 33rd state based on the proposed aggregated count (26 states with outstanding BBA applications plus six states with non-BBA applications plus Georgia's S.R. 29 BBA application).

In addition to S.R. 29 in Georgia, Mississippi State Representative Dan Eubanks (R-DeSoto) introduced H.C.R. 58 in the Mississippi House of Representatives earlier in 2021, which applied to Congress to call a convention to propose a BBA and to combine the outstanding BBA applications with the same six aforementioned non-BBA convention applications. As the text of H.C.R. 58 says,

The promotion of the new aggregation scheme can be traced, in part, to a paper published on June 7, 2018, written by Article V Convention enthusiast Robert Natelson, entitled “Federalism & Separation of Powers,” with the subtitle “Counting to Two Thirds: How Close Are We to a Convention for Proposing Amendments?”

This application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently-outstanding balanced budget *and unlimited-subject applications from other states*, including but not limited to previously-adopted and unrescinded applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, *Illinois*, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, *Kentucky*, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, *New Jersey*, *New York*, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, *Oregon*, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, *Washington*, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming and Wisconsin, and this application *shall be aggregated with same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds (2/3) of states necessary to require the calling of a convention, but shall not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject.* [Emphasis added throughout].

Fortunately, H.C.R. 58 officially died in committee on April 1, 2021. Nevertheless, the introduction of both H.C.R. 58 in Mississippi and S.R. 29 in Georgia raises the following questions: Why are Article V Convention advocates suddenly looking at new ways to reach the threshold of 34 states, and who’s behind the push for this new scheme?

Plot Origins & Litigation

The promotion of the new aggregation scheme can be traced, in part, to a paper published on June

7, 2018, written by Article V Convention enthusiast Robert Natelson, entitled “Federalism & Separation of Powers,” with the subtitle “Counting to Two Thirds: How Close Are We to a Convention for Proposing Amendments?” Natelson contended that the same six aforementioned non-BBA convention applications in question should be counted toward reaching 34 states because he classifies those applications as

being “plenary,” meaning for a general convention where the delegates are free to propose any amendments that they see fit to the U.S. Constitution. And as such, according to Natelson, a BBA would fall under the purview of an all-encompassing convention. “When counting applications toward a convention for proposing a balanced budget amendment — or, indeed, toward a convention for proposing any other kind of amendment — Congress should add to the count any extant plenary application,” Natelson concluded, in part. Whether or not the applications from the six aforementioned states are for a “plenary,” or unlimited, convention is irrelevant. Ultimately, Congress — not Natelson — would decide which applications are counted toward an Article V Convention.

Building on Natelson’s desperate and dubious proposal, little-known Article V Convention proponents Paul Gardiner, Ron Scott, and Neal Schuerer wrote an article in 2020 entitled “A Convention Strategy,” published on the pro-Article V Convention website HuntForLiberty.com. In this article, they expressed concern about recent efforts to rescind past applications for an Article V Convention, and that as a result they must push for a convention as soon as possible before any more outstanding applications are rescinded. “In concert with the axiom that ‘timing is everything’, and in view of the increasing risk of COS application rescission efforts in different states, it would be a very wise action to have a COS successfully convened and conducted no later than end of year 2022,” the authors pleaded.

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The face of the movement: Mark Meckler, president of Convention of States Action, is perhaps one of the best-known proponents of calling a Convention of States to amend the Constitution. He assures us nothing could go wrong.

They also cited a January 2020 “Article V Convention Legislative Progress Report,” in which Georgia-based attorney David F. Guldenschuh reluctantly admitted that the Article V Convention movement has experienced a “plateauing” in its efforts to reach the necessary 34 states. “The last half of the past decade saw the Article V movement peak, but the last

two years have seen a plateauing of our efforts. We are now down to four major groups: the Center for State-led National Debt Solutions (CSNDS; the 501(c)(3) arm of the BBA Task Force); U.S. Term Limits; Wolf-PAC/Free & Fair Elections; and the Convention of States Project,” Guldenschuh wrote. Readers should keep in mind that Wolf-PAC is a leftist group started by radical left-wing pundit Cenk Uygur, the host of the *Young Turks*.

Gardiner, Scott, and Schuerer proposed aggregating different Article V Convention applications in order to reach the necessary 34 states. “In concert with the axiom ‘a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush’, it makes good sense to *use whatever qualifying COS applications are available to have a COS convened as soon as possible.*” (Emphasis added.) What they really want is a general or open Article V Convention, in which any and all amendments (including a new constitution) can be proposed. “Convening a *general COS* overcomes the risk of SCOTUS ruling against the legitimacy of Congress having authority to call and sanction a limited COS.” (Emphasis added.)

Aggregating Article V Convention applications in order to reach the 34 states necessary to trigger a convention, regardless if it is initially described as “general” or “limited,” is the very opposite of what convention advocates such as Mark Meckler of COS Project/Action, Cenk Uygur with Wolf-PAC, and other BBA convention proponents have been telling people for years. What else has the Article V Convention lobby been misleading both legislators and the public about?

In their article, Gardiner, Scott, and Schuerer cited two aggregation studies completed in 2018 by pro- Article V Convention advocates in an effort to justify reaching the necessary 34 states. The first study was produced by the American Constitution Foundation (ACF), and the second by attorney John M. Cogswell. Both the ACF and Cogswell aggregation studies concluded that there were at least 34 valid, qualifying applications to require Congress to call a general, or unlimited, constitutional convention.

Gardiner, Scott, and Schuerer concluded their article with the following recommendation from the ACF:



Not just for conservatives: Leftist Cenk Uygur, host of the *Young Turks* news commentary show, founded Wolf-PAC to push for an Article V Convention to pass an amendment to end “corporate personhood” and publicly finance all U.S. elections.

The comprehensive strategy of ACF (or similar strategy) needs to be seriously considered and funded in planning to make application to the Congress to call a general COS. Below, for example, are some of the more important actions listed by ACF:

Organize the states that have already submitted applications for an Article V General Convention to affirm that their applications remain valid and in force, and that they expect Congress to discharge their duty to call the Convention;

- Work with additional states (if necessary) to remove limiting language from an existing application, or pass a new application for an Article V General Convention to attain the 34 applications needed to trigger the Convention;

- Equip State Attorneys General for litigation to compel Congress to call the Convention, should it be necessary;

- Hold a pre-convention assembly to prepare state legislatures to effectively participate in the Convention; and

- Provide the states with logistical support from pre-convention all the way through ratification, including

facilities, security, communications, media, and legal support.

This is key, as it reveals their strategy to reach 34 states. Gardiner, Scott, and Schuerer want to aggregate the different convention applications by removing any “limiting language” from existing applications that may hinder aggregation, and they want to pursue litigation to force Congress to call for a convention. In fact, at the 2020 annual meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), held in July of that year, former Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker unveiled a plan for states to sue Congress to aggregate the BBA and non-BBA applications for an Article V Convention and thus call a convention.

The Associated Press reported that, in addition to Walker, David Biddulph, the co-founder of Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment Citizen’s Campaign, also promoted aggregating the different convention applications at a presentation developed at the annual 2020 ALEC gathering. “The new plan, presented during the ALEC workshop with a PowerPoint presentation from conservative activist David Biddulph, is to take the 28 state resolutions seeking a balanced budget amendment and combine them with six state resolutions passed over the last two centuries



Will history repeat itself? The 1787 convention was called to revise the Articles of Confederation. The delegates instead scrapped the Articles and wrote an entirely new document, our current U.S. Constitution. What would be the result if convention delegates did this today?

generally seeking a constitutional convention,” AP reported. “The oldest of those was a resolution passed by New York in 1789, according to a 2018 article on the conservative Federalist Society’s website by constitutional scholar Robert G. Natelson,” AP explained.

According to AP, Biddulph recommended “litigation to compel Congress to call the Convention, should it be necessary.” Further elaborating, “Biddulph proposed recruiting state attorneys general to file a legal order demanding that Congress recognize the 34 state resolutions and convene a constitutional convention. If Congress refuses, the AGs would sue in federal court.” Biddulph also reportedly told AP that a lawsuit was the “best shot” for getting Congress to call a convention.

The last bullet point above from Gardiner, Scott, and Schuerer’s article — providing “states with logistical support from pre-convention all the way through ratification, including facilities, security, communications, media, and legal support” — would require an exorbitant amount of money to carry out. This raises a number of additional questions: Where is such a vast revenue stream coming from? If an Article V Convention does not go astray — as they have been assuring legislators for years — why would the state legislatures need logistical “support” all the way

through the ratification process? Furthermore, what type of pressure, or “support,” will the Article V Convention lobby exert on the convention delegates? These are all important questions that state legislators should be asking when considering potential convention applications such as S.R. 29 in Georgia, H.C.R. 58 in Mississippi, and any other application stating that it should be aggregated with dissimilar Article V Convention applications.

Constitutionalist organizations such as The John Birch Society, Eagle Forum, Phyllis Schlafly Eagles, and Ron Paul’s Campaign for Liberty have long opposed the convening of an Article V Convention, because, they say, convention delegates, as the sovereign representatives of “We the People,” would have the inherent right to propose any and all amendments or “to alter or to abolish” our “Form of Government,” as expressed by the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. As a result, nothing prevents or “limits” the delegates from going so far as proposing an entirely new constitution.

In fact, new constitutions have already been drafted, waiting for such an opportunity to formally propose them. Take, for instance, the Ford Foundation-funded “Constitution for the Newstates of America,” proposed by Rexford Guy Tugwell in his book *The Emerging Constitution*, pub-

lished in 1974. Tugwell’s proposed “Constitution for the Newstates of America,” as it was called, would have watered down God-given individual rights and state sovereignty, expanded the size and scope of the federal government, and allowed the president to assume dictatorial powers in the event of a national emergency. Article XII of this “Newstates Constitution” called for its acceptance by a referendum,” or national popular vote. Voting machines anyone, à la the 2020 election?

Not surprisingly, Tugwell had quite the socialist and Deep State pedigree. In 1928, he actively campaigned for the Socialist Party ticket of Norman Thomas, before switching his support to the Democratic Party’s candidate, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in 1932. Tugwell then served as the head of FDR’s “New Deal Brain Trust,” during which time he also expressed his desire to “make America over.” In 1948, Tugwell switched his affiliation to the openly socialist and pro-Soviet Progressive Party, for which he served as the platform committee chairman. With this background, Tugwell was later hired by the tax-exempt Ford Foundation, through the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, which tasked him to assemble a team of academics and intellectuals to re-write the U.S. Constitution in time for America’s bicentennial. The result of this was the “Constitution for the Newstates of America.”

In the event that a new constitution is proposed in a future Article V Convention, the new constitution would likely include its own mode of ratification — potentially superseding the current ratification requirements in Article V. In fact, such a scenario is not outside the realm of possibility or without historical precedent. This is precisely how the current U.S. Constitution was ratified after it was drafted at the original Federal Convention, held in Philadelphia in 1787.

Looking Back to See Forward

The Continental Congress and the states originally tasked the delegates to the 1787 Philadelphia Convention with “the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation.” At the time, the Articles of Confederation were the supreme law of the land. Article XIII of the Articles of Confederation specifically stipulated that “any alterations” made to

the Articles of Confederation had to be unanimously “agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every State.”

Both of these mandates were clearly exceeded. The delegates chose to replace the Articles of Confederation with an entirely new federal constitution. And they also altered the mode of ratification from being “confirmed by the legislatures of every State,” according to Article XIII of the still-governing Articles of Confederation, to ratification by only nine of the 13 states. Article VII, Section I of the U.S. Constitution states: “The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.”

Who is to say that this historical precedent won’t be used to draft an entirely new — perhaps even socialist — constitution that would be considered ratified by way of a national referendum, in a modern populist appeal to “democracy”? This would enable those pushing for the new constitution to claim popular support, when they may simply have control of the voting machines, and therefore, control of the outcome. This is why any Article V Convention, including one ostensibly “limited” to proposing a single subject or amendment such as the BBA, should be avoided at all costs.

Despite the claims made by Article V Convention advocates such as Cowser, Gardiner, Natelson, Biddulph, and Meckler that a convention is necessary because it is the “only solution” to rein in an out-of-control federal government, the truth is that Article V was never meant to restrain the federal government’s usurpation of power. The framers of the Constitution drafted Article V to remedy any potential defects in the Constitution.

According to James Madison’s notes on the Federal Convention of 1787, Alexander Hamilton explained on September 10, 1787 that the purpose of amendments was “for supplying [archaic use, meaning to remedy] defects which probably appear in the new System.” And in *The Federalist*, No. 85, Hamilton further explained the corrective purpose of amendments, writing in part:

In opposition to the probability of subsequent amendments, it has been urged that the persons delegated to the administration of the national government will always be disinclined to yield up any portion of the authority of which they were once possessed. For my own part I acknowledge a thorough conviction that any amendments which may, upon mature consideration, be thought useful, *will be applicable to the organization of the*

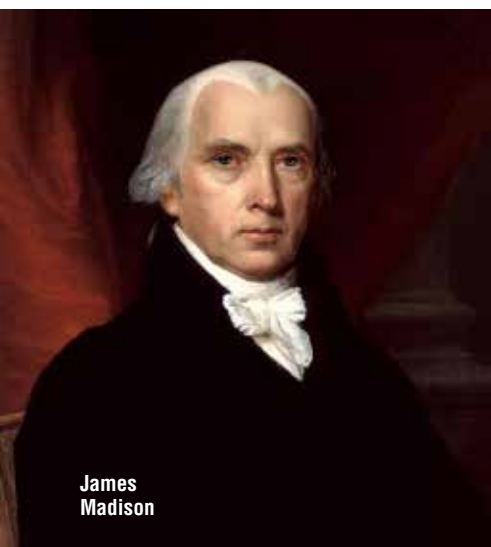
government, not to the mass of its powers. [Emphasis added.]

Today’s problems in Washington do not stem from defects in the Constitution, but rather from Washington’s departure from the Constitution’s original meaning and interpretation. Just as an informed electorate would be necessary for upholding any new constitutional amendments, so too is an informed electorate necessary for the preservation of the current U.S. Constitution. Therefore, the solution is not new amendments, but education promoting fidelity to the current Constitution.

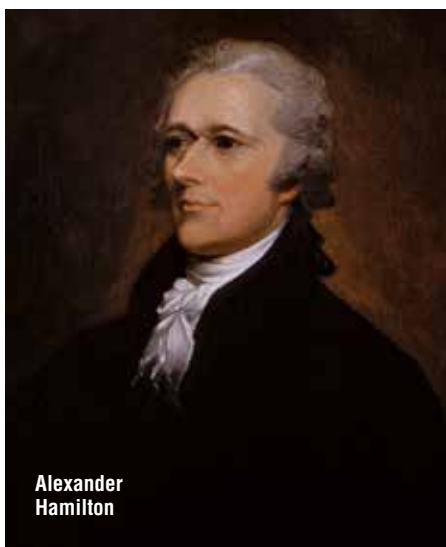
In chapter 17 of his 1831 book *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville observed how well the average American citizen understood the Constitution: “In New England, every citizen receives the elementary notions of human knowledge; he is moreover taught the doctrines and the evidences of his religion, the history of his country, and the leading features of its Constitution. In the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts, it is extremely rare to find a man imperfectly acquainted with all these things, and a person wholly ignorant of them is a sort of phenomenon.”

Would a modern-day de Tocqueville traveling through America in 2021 be able to write or say the same about American citizens in any given state? Without such widespread knowledge among the American electorate about the Constitution or of its underpinning philosophy of individualism, freedom from oppressive government, and that ultimately our rights come from God, this author would tremble at the results of a modern Article V Convention. As the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said during an appearance on an episode of *The Kalb Report* on April 17, 2014, “I certainly would not want a Constitutional Convention. I mean whoa. Who knows what would come out of that?”

State legislators, all of whom have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution, should firmly reject any resolutions applying to Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution, especially applications such as Georgia’s S.R. 29 (2021-22), Mississippi’s H.C.R. 58 (2021), and any other resolutions aggregating dissimilar Article V Convention applications. ■



James Madison



Alexander Hamilton

Back to the source: Founders such as James Madison — often called the “Father of the Constitution” — and Alexander Hamilton believed the Article V amendment process was to be used to correct defects in the Constitution, not to rein in the government.

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Critics Slam UN “Racism” Probe OF U.S.; CHINA CHEERS

Totalitarian governments the world over are overjoyed that the UN is investigating America for “racism.”

by Alex Newman

When the Biden administration invited far-left United Nations “investigators” into the United States to supposedly investigate alleged “systemic racism” last month, Republican lawmakers, policy analysts, and normal Americans balked. But not everyone was appalled: The mass-murdering Communist Chinese dictatorship and its totalitarian allies in America and around the world celebrated the news. The division between those who support America and those seeking to bring it down could not be more clear. In fact, Chinese Communist butchers and Bidenites are making the exact same arguments.

The power play by the UN, Beijing, and their allies within the U.S. government such as top Biden officials is part of a broader trend. Aside from simply demonizing the freest (and perhaps the least “racist”) nation to have existed in human history, the goal is ultimately to supplant the God-given rights enshrined in America’s founding documents by the Founding Fathers — life, liberty, property, free speech, and so on — with government-granted privileges endorsed by the dictator-dominated UN. This sort of “UN-to-oversee-racism” propaganda is key to that mission.

Some Republicans in Congress, at least,

Alex Newman is senior editor of THE NEW AMERICAN, author of the new book Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes, and co-author (with the late Sam Blumenfeld) of Crimes of the Educators.



The lead investigator: Tendayi Achiume, a fringe racial activist from Zambia who moved to America, will lead the UN’s “racism” investigation into the United States, sparking concerns among Republicans and everyday Americans.

lambasted Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken. In a letter, a coalition of 25 members of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), a relatively conservative caucus in Congress led by Representative Jim Banks of Indiana, highlighted the real reason why the administration would invite fringe racial activist and Critical Race theorist Tendayi Achiume from the UN to come “investigate” America’s alleged racism.

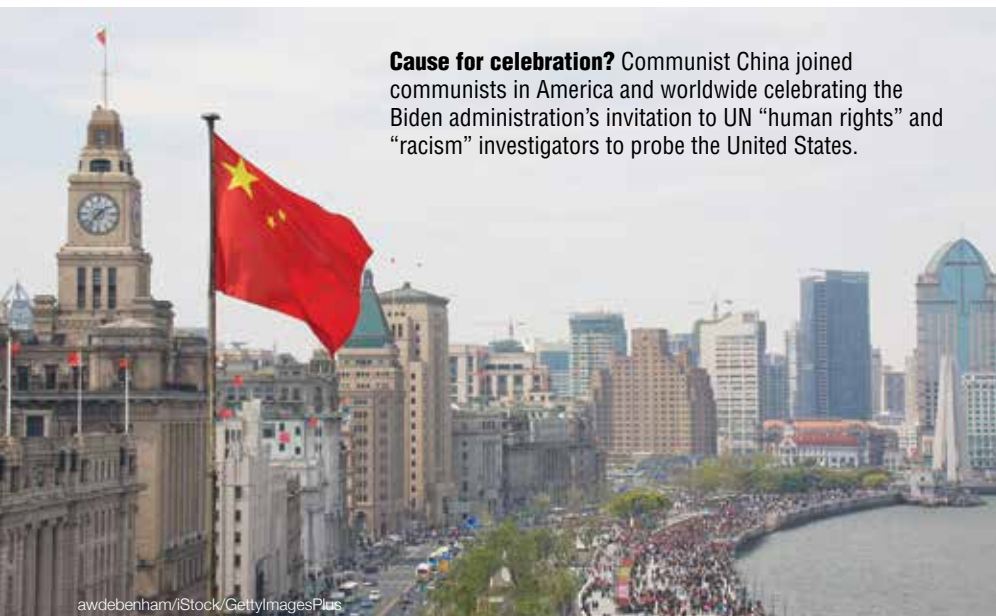
Achiume, whose formal title is literally “UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,” came to America from Zambia (presumably not for the alleged racism) and got a prestigious perch at the tax-funded UCLA to lecture those paying her salary on the alleged evils

of their nation. According to her biography, the assistant law professor’s work focuses on “the global governance of racism and xenophobia.”

In other words, Achiume is a globalist and a professional race-hustler who left her native Africa to leech off American taxpayers while working to implement global controls over humanity. Another one of her interests is flooding what remains of Western Christian civilization with massive immigration from alien cultures, which she describes as “Migration as Decolonization.” Achiume has worked for South Africa’s notoriously corrupt judicial system dominated by the African National Congress (ANC) and its barbaric South African Communist Party overlords.

GOP lawmakers blasted the move to

For some perspective, consider that the Communist Chinese regime and its socialist and communist allies around the world now dominate the UN from top to bottom.



Cause for celebration? Communist China joined communists in America and worldwide celebrating the Biden administration's invitation to UN "human rights" and "racism" investigators to probe the United States.

invite her. "In our view, her involvement is likely to sow division and distorted accounts of American history," the two dozen members of Congress wrote. "With her anti-constitutional and anti-American views ... already so well-established, it is impossible for Ms. Achiume to be objective in her analysis. Your invitation of Ms. Achiume suggests that you are more concerned about American self-flagellation than you are about those men and women facing oppression overseas."

Ironically, Achiume released a UN report during the Trump administration calling for a ban on political parties and movements that reject her extremist views. "Ascendant nationalist populist ideologies and strategies pose a sobering threat to racial equality by fuelling discrimination, intolerance and the creation of institutions and structures that will have enduring legacies of racial exclusion," she opined in the UN-backed screed.

Translated into normal English, for Americans who do not inhabit the tax-funded world of far-left academia, Achiume

is claiming that the agendas promoted by U.S. President Donald Trump, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, and many other national leaders elected by their people are racist and illegal. Ironically, the UN "human rights" outfit is literally dominated by unelected mass murderers and tyrants — the regimes ruling Cuba, China, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and more all sit on it.

Even U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), a squishy Republican often ridiculed by conservatives as a RINO, lambasted the administration for inviting the UN's "racism" investigators to U.S. shores. Tweeting at Secretary of State Blinken, Rubio said, "Instead of asking the UN to come here & tell us how 'racist' America is, why don't you ask them to go to Cuba where an evil socialist regime storms into peoples homes, beats the crap out of them and then drags them away? #SOSCubaLibre."

Blinken did not respond to the message. But his minions, such as Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Jenny Chung, have been very

busy claiming, falsely, that Cubans being slaughtered in the streets are simply protesting against COVID and shortages of medicine. Yes, seriously — even as they shout "freedom" in the streets and wave American flags.

Even controlled-opposition outlets such as the *New York Post*, owned by Rupert Murdoch's globalist media empire, blasted the Biden invitation to let UN "investigators" loose in America to demonize it, calling the scheme "obscene" and an "utter travesty." "The UN human-rights bureaucracy is all about politics, not truth," the *Post* pointed out in an editorial.

"Most of the functionaries are left-leaning hacks, while the higher ranks respond mainly to orders from back home — from nations that mostly aren't democracies and hold natural rights in utter contempt," the neoconservative paper continued. "Iran, China, Russia — countries that would never allow, much less invite, such an investigation will hold up the report as evidence of the Evils of America (while their despotic leaders chuckle to themselves about our self-destruction)."

The editorial also predicted serious consequences for Democrats in terms of losing favor with mainstream Americans. "Blinken and other Bidenites think they're winning easy points with their party's noisome left (or, worse, buy this bunk themselves), but it's a huge loser with the great American center," the paper said. "And it's beyond appalling that the head of the State Department actually invited UN apparatchiks to come in and support America's own far-left culture-warriors."

But not everybody was outraged and appalled. Speaking through its propaganda organs around the world, the Communist Party of China, currently engaged in a brutal genocide against the country's Uighur minority and relentless persecution of Christians, among other atrocities, could barely contain its glee. In a series of articles and columns posted in the *Global Times*, a CCP-owned and -operated mouthpiece for Beijing, the regime blasted Republicans opposed to the UN's meddling while attacking the so-called human rights record of the United States.

On July 22, for instance, the regime's propaganda organ highlighted what it claimed were widespread abuses of "human rights" in America. These include

gun rights, which the regime falsely implied are responsible for violence (no mention was made of the 100 million-plus disarmed Chinese slaughtered by the CCP), as well as COVID infections. The piece also claimed, falsely, that Native Americans “still live like second-class citizens” in the United States and apparently “experience more deaths” than “white Americans.”

Ironically, but not surprisingly, the Communist Chinese regime’s attack on America sounded a lot like the attacks of communist operatives and their dupes in America. Consider a July 22 piece by Wang Wenwen rebuking Republicans for their efforts to “discourage” a “UN probe” of “US human rights abuses.”

“It is not that the Republicans are unaware of the seriousness of the human rights abuses and racial discrimination in the US, especially after such seriousness has been fully exposed by the US government’s mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic and by the rampant Black Lives Matter movement,” wrote Wang. “But still, they refuse to let justice come to see the light of day.” With slightly better grammar and style, the exact same drivel could have come from any Democratic politician or far-left propaganda newspaper in America. But it actually came from the most murderous regime in human history.

“After all, racial discrimination is the scar and shame of US society,” Wang continued. Citing a Communist Chinese academic, he added, “In the eyes of Republican conservative forces, the invitation of UN envoys to investigat[e] US problems by Democrats equals digging the US’ own grave.” “Republicans’ refusal to let the UN investigate will only expose the US as a weak, irresponsible and hypocritical country,” the CCP mouthpiece added.

Another *Global Times* piece on the issue contained similar propaganda. “The international community is highly concerned about systemic racism in the United States,” the piece said. “Since last year, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, together with dozens of UN Human Rights Council special procedures mandate holders, has repeatedly called on the US administration [sic] to carry out structural reform to address systemic racism, pointing out that the protests sparked by the death of George Floyd exposed not only police brutality against colored people in the United States, but also inequality and racial discrimination widely found in health, education, employment and other fields.”

For some perspective, consider that the Communist Chinese regime and its socialist and communist allies around the world now

dominate the UN from top to bottom. And the mass-murdering dictatorship’s view of “human rights” dominates, too. This fact can be seen clearly in the UN’s selection of “High Commissioner of Human Rights” Michelle Bachelet — a proud “Socialist” and Castro acolyte who is a key operative with the murderous Latin American Communist network known as the São Paulo Forum, founded by Fidel Castro, the Sandinista communists, and the Marxist narco-terror group FARC.

As this magazine has documented extensively, the reason the most murderous regime in human history and the collection of dictators and kleptocrats known as the UN can prattle on about “human rights” is because they mean something very different than Americans mean. In America, the nation’s legal system and foundational documents recognize the “self-evident” truth that God endowed people with unalienable rights, and that government exists to protect those rights. These rights — found clearly articulated in the Bible — include life, liberty, and property.

By contrast, in the UN system embraced by totalitarians of all varieties, “human rights” are actually revocable privileges endowed by governments and international agreements. In fact, the UN’s own “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” makes that clear, even claiming in Article 29 that “human rights” can never be used “contrary to the purposes and principles” of the UN. That is why mass-murdering Communist and Islamist dictatorships can claim with a straight face to uphold “human rights” while demonizing the freest nation in human history for respecting actual human rights such as free speech, gun rights, and more.

Rather than complaining about fringe activists styled UN “investigators” coming to demonize America, or simply ridiculing them and criticizing the Biden administration for inviting them, Republican lawmakers who are serious about defending the nation should work to get the United States out of the UN entirely. Legislation to do that — the American Sovereignty Restoration Act — has been introduced in Congress consistently for decades by some of America’s leading freedom fighters. It is time for those who love America and liberty to make an exit from the UN a top priority. ■



AP Images

A human-rights expert? UN “Human Rights” boss Michelle Bachelet, a Socialist Party bigwig and admirer of mass-murdering dictator Fidel Castro, is helping lead the chorus against the “human rights” record of America.

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A TRILOGY OF TRUTH

Three new books from former John Birch Society CEO Arthur R. Thompson expose the UN's agenda against the United States and the American way of life.

by James Murphy

In these days of politicians more concerned with getting screen time than honoring their oath of office to the Constitution, celebrities who believe that they've become so important that they need to foist their political and cultural views upon the rest of us, and a mainstream media more concerned with running interference for whichever political party with which they align themselves, it's hard to know whom to trust — or whom to believe.

Arthur R. Thompson is one of those people you can trust. Now in his 80s, Thompson has lived a full and varied life. Educated at the University of Washington, the Washington State Military Academy, and business-related institutions, Thompson has seen much of what the world has to offer — and much of what it

James Murphy is a freelance journalist who writes on a variety of subjects, with a primary focus on the ongoing anthropogenic climate-change hoax and cultural issues.

threatens to become should certain people ever gain the complete control they so earnestly crave.

As a successful businessman, Thompson has traveled extensively and was even in Berlin when the famous Berlin Wall came tumbling down. He realized, even then, that just because this dreaded manifestation of communist tyranny had been removed, it did not mean that the totalitarian “ism” that built that wall would simply fade away. Communists — those who espouse a brutal, anti-freedom, and anti-American way of life — would need to hide in the shadows for a bit to retool and reinvigorate their plans for world socialism.

Over the years, Thompson has served on a small-town city council, done a stint as chairman of a local Chamber of Commerce, worked as an official in the Republican Party, been a local leader of the Christian Coalition, and served his country as an officer in the Select Reserve Force of the Army and National Guard. But it is through his decades-long involvement with The John Birch Society, both as a volunteer and on the staff, including his

15-year stint as CEO ending in 2020, that Thompson has worked most effectively to preserve and restore America.

As someone who has always believed in public service, Thompson again is serving us, this time by creating a series of books that attempt to shed light upon the dark actors who set themselves up as angels of light.

The books are entitled *The United Nations: Unity Through Tyranny*; *The UN's Agenda 2030: Marxist Stealth Plan for World Government*; and *The Second Amendment: Under Attack From All Angles*. The books are all short in length but offer more than a glimpse of the machinations that those who think of themselves as the global elite have concocted to bring about their dream of a one-world socialist government — and the end of the American way of life.

The United Nations: Unity Through Tyranny, by Arthur R. Thompson, Appleton, Wisconsin: Western Islands Publishers, 2020, 73 pages, paperback.

This short yet information-packed book is a primer on the special type of evil associated with the United Nations — the intergovernmental organization founded in the immediate wake of World War II, ostensibly dedicated to preserving peace between the nations of the Earth.

Of course, when the UN refers to “peace,” it means a certain type of peace — the type of peace where the power brokers of the UN are in complete control and “outdated” ideas such as those of the U.S. Constitution are subordinate to the higher ideals of globalism and godlessness.

Thompson succinctly explains how the people of the United States in particular, and the world in general, have slowly allowed their God-given rights as described in the Declaration of Independence to be trampled on in the last century.

On private property, for instance, Thompson points out:

No one today actually owns their property. This in and of itself seems like a ridiculous statement, but before you reject it, let us ask you a question. If you rent your property, home, or building, and you do not pay your rent, what happens to you? Obviously, you are evicted. What happens if you own your property and do not pay your taxes? Again, you find yourself evicted.

And Thompson asks, “What is the difference?”

The very idea of property ownership has been vastly downgraded, from something inviolable that no one in America would question into something controlled by the government, ultimately by the barrel of a gun. The government, by levying taxes on property ownership and passing zoning laws, ultimately decides who can live where and who can do what business where.

It happened slowly, without most of us even realizing it. We just shrugged and saw it as a part of life — but it was never intended to be this way in liberty-loving America.

But the United Nations wishes to take things even further. Thompson goes on to address key differences between the U.S. Constitution and

the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Where the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is absolute on the issues of freedom of speech, religion, and the press, the UN covenant offers similar language, with just a little room for despotism thrown in.

As for religion, the U.S. Constitution states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

The UN covenant states in its Article 18 that “everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.”

But then comes the caveat: “Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law.”

Thompson goes on to describe the flowery words and empty promises of the UN’s statement of rights and how it differs vastly from America’s Bill of Rights. As the author notes, “The slippery slope is built right into the UN’s statement of rights.”

Above all, this short work is an overview of the globalist scheme to create a one-world socialist government under the auspices of the United Nations. It is best read

as an introduction to that shadowy world and helps the reader connect the dots.

Thompson discusses how the global power brokers use the language of peace as well as manufactured military entanglements to create conditions under which a free nation might be willing to give up its freedom in exchange for safety.

He names most of the key players as well. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in the United States; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which subordinates itself to the UN — not to the signatories and most certainly not to the United States; and, of course, the United Nations and its various satellite agencies.

All pursue the same goals: A world socialist (even Marxist) government, a one-world currency, and total control over the people of the world — Americans included.

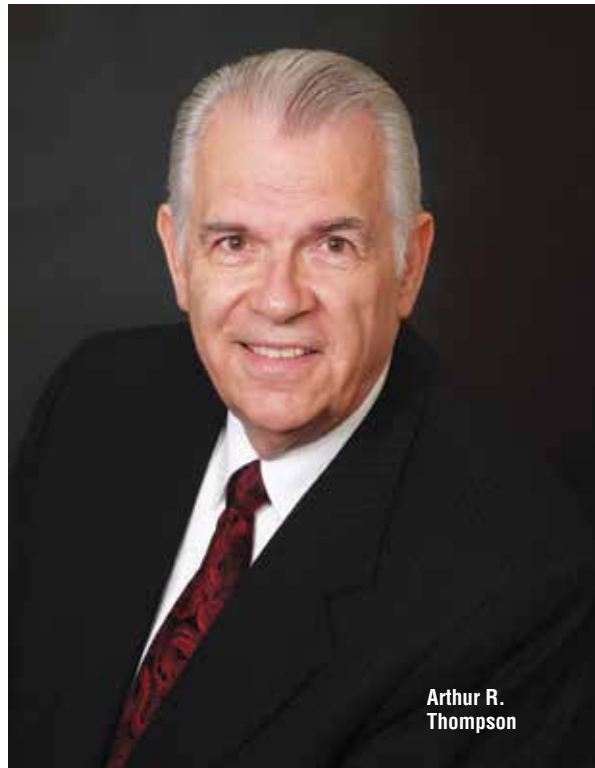
The UN’s Agenda 2030: Marxist Stealth Plan for World Government, by Arthur R. Thompson, Appleton, Wisconsin: The John Birch Society, 2021, 116 pages, paperback.

This book details the use of environmentalism as a means for gaining world domination. Thompson explains the use of fear tactics used by the United Nations and its affiliated NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) to create a de facto religion (Earth worship) as a way to exert control over every aspect of our daily lives.

Initially named Agenda 21, after being agreed upon at the Rio Earth Conference of 1992 (“21” is in reference to the 21st century), the name of this so-called sustainable development agenda changed in 2015 to Agenda 2030, with 2030 representing the year by which the UN hopes to attain its goals.

The tentacles of this movement reach far beyond national governments to the local level, and even into our children’s classrooms.

Thompson explains an early 21st-century attempt to replace the Judeo-Christian tradition of America with a project known as the Ark of Hope.



Arthur R. Thompson



mizoula iStock / Getty Images Plus

“It clearly represented replacing the Judeo-Christian religion with paganism,” Thompson explained.

Even the name “Ark of Hope” brings to mind something associated with religion — think “Ark of the Covenant.” As light was shined on that movement, it was not incorporated into elementary school curricula all over the country. The movement, in fact, still exists, though it presents itself in a more benign manner.

Thompson deftly delineates the differences between UN’s Agenda 2030 and its globalist aims and the basic principles of Americanism.

“The American system is designed to limit the power of government over the people and property, thus maintaining freedom, the United Nations is designed to grant power to a central world government with no checks and balances,” Thompson notes.

The goals of Agenda 21/2030 are nothing less than chilling. As Thompson points out, an early version of the plan released to the public entitled *Agenda 21: The Earth Summit Strategy to Save Our Planet* stated outright:

Agenda 21 proposes an array of ac-

tions which are intended to be implemented by every person on Earth ... [It] will require a profound reorientation of all humans unlike anything the world has ever experienced.... There are specific actions which are intended to be undertaken by ... every person on Earth.

Nothing totalitarian there, at all. Just the complete capitulation of all of mankind to environmental extremism.

Thompson cites just a few of Agenda 21’s proposed actions, such as eliminating your right to private ownership (property rights), forbidding you from entering woodland and wetland areas, restricting the number of children you may have, restricting the amount of trash or waste you may dispose of, restricting the amount of water you may use, limiting how much you may harvest on your land, forcing you to participate in community projects, and diminishing your individual rights in favor of community rights.

And if you believe that Agenda 2030 is only some globalist pipe dream, you should know that at least one NGO formerly associated with the United Nations has already attempted to have some local

governments (maybe even your own) voluntarily adopt UN initiatives and mandates without the local governments even knowing that they were essentially ceding power to the UN.

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) has burrowed its way into literally hundreds of American communities using the globalist buzzword “sustainability” to get the UN’s foot in the door.

This type of local pressure is combined with pressure from the top from anti-freedom forces such as the CFR, the World Economic Forum, the World Bank, and the United Nations itself in a bid to place the United States in an ideological pincers.

As Thompson states,

The tactic has been referred to as pressure from above and pressure from below: Its pincers movement aimed at the American people, their businesses, their property rights, and even their nation. Pressure down from the upper echelons of government, and pressure upwards by community action organizations, with the average citizen caught between not understanding what is going on.

Perhaps no portion of Agenda 2030 is more dangerous than the Marxist, globalist plan to control our children. Those in favor of Agenda 2030 would like a world where, much as in Communist China, there is a strict limit to how many children parents can bring into the world.

Thompson explains how under the guise of being “for the children,” the United Nations wishes to control population through such rules globally:

They are setting the stage for the type of controls imposed by China, even though they claim to be for the children, wanting to set up programs to help children survive either illness or starvation. It doesn’t compute, as they say, when the same entities who want to curtail the number of people, at the same time want to help them survive, particularly in Africa and Asia.

The population-control aspect of Agenda

21/2030 boils down to one thing, really: Fewer people are far easier to control.

The Second Amendment: Under Attack From All Angles,

by Arthur R. Thompson, Appleton, Wisconsin: The John Birch Society, 2021, 118 pages, paperback.

This book is concerned with something that globalists see as an impediment to their plans for a Marxist one-world utopia — armed American citizens.

Sooner or later, would-be authoritarian governments will come for the people’s guns. The Ottomans disarmed the Armenians, which eventually led to a genocide of at least 800,000 Armenians. In Russia, the Bolsheviks initiated a large-scale gun confiscation that only grew worse when Stalin took power, and we know how that turned out. Of course, the Nazis famously used gun-registration records to disarm and crush political opponents, which eventually led to the slaughter of six million Jews and World War II.

Thompson doesn’t see American anti-gun zealots — such as the Brady Cam-

paign to End Gun Violence or Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America — as the main culprits in the war against the Second Amendment. Instead, he sees a country slowly and unwittingly having its freedoms snatched away through tiny infringements that, over time, add up until the people are no longer sure what their rights are.

Thompson writes,

Are you really different from millions of other people who have turned in their weapons around the world? People who thought they lived in free countries, but when the laws were passed to disarm the citizenry, went to their closets, picked up their guns, and turned them in at the local police station? This has happened in such countries as Britain, Australia and others, countries that had all the trappings of liberty, except they weren’t really free. It only looked as if they were.

People can lose their rights if they don’t understand their rights. Education is key,

but in America, thanks to concepts such as Common Core, children are no longer taught even a basic understanding of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights.

Our collective ignorance on these issues is far more dangerous to our rights than any propaganda-spewing anti-gun group — although such groups certainly contribute to that ignorance.

Thompson describes how a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic can give governments the excuse to act in unconstitutional ways and issue rules simply by gubernatorial or mayoral fiat:

Examples abound of the ridiculous edicts and their limitations. No church, but marijuana outlets, liquor stores, grocery stores, and abortion clinics could all stay open. It was not unusual for local politicians to disobey their own edicts and justify their actions based on their own importance. The same politicians had no problem having the police protect their own property but not the property being burned to the ground by arsonists during “peaceful” demonstrations.

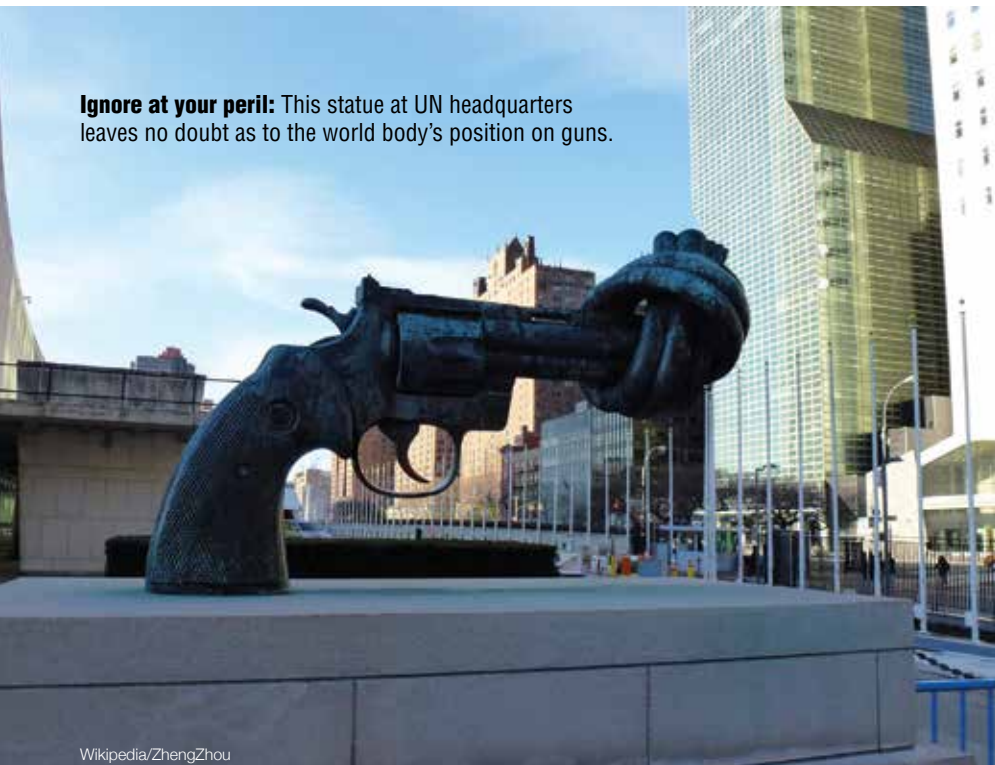
Indeed. And, for the most part, we all just watched it happen. Could a future crisis lead to governments ransacking homes, looking for weapons and non-approved literature all in the name of public safety?

Throughout the three books, a common theme emerges: the importance of education. We need to be educated about exactly what our rights are, and we need to be loud about ensuring those rights are not taken from us in the name of the United Nations, the planet, and most definitely our own safety.

More than anything else, we need to educate ourselves as to the goals and schemes of those who would place America under a world government’s thumb and make sure others know about such plans. And we need to extricate ourselves from the United Nations as soon as possible.

These books by Art Thompson are a good way to begin that education. ■

To order these books, please see the ad on inside front cover.



Ignore at your peril: This statue at UN headquarters leaves no doubt as to the world body’s position on guns.

Wikipedia/ZhengZhou



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Officer and Mentor

Duluth, Georgia, Police Officer Rolf Seiferheld earned some well-deserved praise for mentoring a six-year-old Georgia boy, born without leg bones or arms, who wants to become a detective.

Seiferheld had the honor of meeting Harrison Humphries at the start of the year while on downtown patrol, and the two reportedly became fast friends, according to the *Epoch Times*. When Harrison told Seiferheld he wanted to work in a police department to “help people get better,” Seiferheld felt a kinship with the small child. Seiferheld told 11 Alive he lives by a similar philosophy: “Be kind, and treat people how you want to be treated. Show them the respect they deserve.”

According to Humphries’ mother, Tara, Officer Seiferheld has been kind and encouraging to both Harrison and his brother. Seiferheld and Harrison have a weekly meet-up during Seiferheld’s downtown patrols, at which time Seiferheld talks to Harrison about life in law enforcement. Both Harrison and Seiferheld say it is the highlight of their week.

Seiferheld and Humphries first met at a Food Truck Friday event in downtown Duluth on May 21. A bystander happened upon a sweet scene between the two and captured it on camera. The photo was shared on social media, prompting the Duluth Police Department to share the photo on its Facebook page.

“Someone attending last week’s Food Truck Friday event in Downtown Duluth witnessed our very own Officer Seiferheld taking a moment to speak to this little guy,” they posted.

“He was super excited as they spoke about his toy trucks and wanted to see Officer Seiferheld’s patrol car!”

Harrison’s mother is grateful to Officer Seiferheld for the attention he has given her son. She said people are often “scared” to interact with Harrison, but Seiferheld has treated Harrison just like any other child who has dreamt of becoming a cop. Tara believes Harrison is capable of fulfilling his dream, particularly under the tutelage of Officer Seiferheld.

“Harrison was born without arms, and the absence of leg bones, so [he does not

have] his hips, fibulas and femurs. But we were told he would never be able to walk, never be able to feed himself, never be able to do anything,” she said. But in spite of all that, Harrison can do all of those things. He taught himself to use his feet the same way people would use their hands, according to 11Alive.com.

Double Donations

Two women in Georgia have each other to thank for their husbands’ life-saving kidney transplants in March.

CNN reports Tia Wimbush and Susan Ellis were co-workers for 10 years at the Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, and knew that they both had husbands who suffered from kidney disease and were badly in need of transplants.

After not seeing each other in person for several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a chance encounter resulted in the exchange of life-saving information.

While washing hands in the restroom at their office, the women asked one another how their husbands were doing. It was then that Wimbush learned she was a blood-type match for Ellis’s husband, Lance, and Ellis was a blood-type match for Wimbush’s husband, Rodney.

“All that was going through my head is, ‘What if we can donate our kidneys to each other’s husbands?’ I could have never imagined it,” Wimbush told CNN.

The women brought the ideas to their husbands’ doctors and underwent blood-type and antibody tests to confirm that they were indeed matches for each other’s husbands, an extremely rare phenomenon, said Christina Klein, a transplant nephrologist at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital.

“It is very rare for two immunologically incompatible pairs to propose their own paired exchange and actually be a match for one another,” Klein reported. “I have been a transplant nephrologist since 2008 working in active living donation and paired kidney exchange programs, and I have personally never seen this happen before.”

The couples were scheduled to undergo the transplant surgeries in December, but that was delayed after Lance Ellis was hospitalized for acute kidney fail-

ure. The surgery was rescheduled for January, but was once again postponed when Susan Ellis tested positive for COVID-19.

Finally, the two couples underwent successful transplants on March 19, *Good Morning America* reported.

“It was not as easy as I thought it was going to be, but I’d absolutely do it again,” said Tia Wimbush. “The feeling that I had after surgery is one that I almost can’t describe, just the hope and joy that I felt knowing that my kidney could be a part of the process that helped two people have a better quality of life, after seeing what they’ve gone through in their kidney disease journey.”

The entire experience has bonded the two families. The women refer to each other as “kidney sisters,” and Lance Ellis says he now thinks of Tia and Rodney Wimbush as family.

“In the process, having somebody else to talk to about this, to talk on a real, transparent level about how we’re feeling as wives, as women, as mothers, has been invaluable,” said Tia. “We’re looking forward to just continuing to get to bond with them because we’re family now.”

The families are hopeful their story will encourage others to look into becoming living organ donors.

“This is the most important and rewarding thing I’ve ever done in my life,” Susan Ellis said of the kidney donation. “I didn’t do it for that, but it ended up being that way.”

And Susan is also hopeful their story reminds others of the importance of taking time out of their day to check on one another. If not for that kind exchange in the bathroom at their place of work, the two women may never have learned that they were compatible to donate kidneys to each other’s husbands.

“Our story is a story of kindness. It ended up in a kidney exchange, that was the result of it, but it started with human beings just ... checking on each other,” said Susan. “We’re so busy with social media and texting and thinking ‘that’s not my business’ that we can self-isolate and we don’t check in on our neighbors.” ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

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Who Is a “Natural Born” Citizen? The Question of Birthright Citizenship

Many today claim that any person born on U.S. soil is automatically a U.S. citizen. Is this what the Founders, and the authors of the 14th Amendment, intended?



AP Images

Eligible? Is Vice President Kamala Harris constitutionally eligible to serve in her current position or as president?

by Steve Byas

Vice President Kamala Harris is not a natural-born citizen of the United States and is thus ineligible to ever serve as president of the United States, or even to continue in office as vice president. That is the contention of a lawsuit filed in federal court in California by the Constitution Association, Inc. and presently under review by that court. Regardless of the outcome of that case, it is almost certain that the losers will appeal, and because of its importance, it will eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case was filed while Harris was a candidate for vice president, with the argument in the brief with the court asserting that “at the time of the birth of [Kamala] Harris, the Father of Harris was in the United States as a temporary visitor on a student visa and was not otherwise a lawful permanent resident, and was not, and never has been a citizen of the United States.”

The Constitution Association (CA) further argues that Harris’ mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was a “citizen of India at the time of the birth of Harris, the Mother of Harris was in the United States as a temporary visitor on a student visa and was not otherwise a lawful permanent resident, and was not a citizen of the United States, however, many years after the birth of Harris, the Mother of Harris did apply and was granted United States citizenship.”

Who Is a “Natural Born Citizen”?

What does the Constitution itself say regarding the requirements to be president or vice president? Article II, Section 1, Clause 5, states:

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

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

One can safely assume that if Native Americans were excluded from citizenship because they were not under the jurisdiction of the United States, despite their families being on American soil for several generations, a person born of parents physically present in the United States on a student visa would not be considered a citizen, either.

In its court filing, CA noted that there is considerable “confusion” over the meaning of “natural born citizen,” and that the Supreme Court has never adjudicated the question. Rather than meet CA with constitutional arguments, opponents of the lawsuit have chosen to charge the plaintiffs with racism and of being “conspiracy theorists.”

The plaintiffs argue that the Constitution requires the president of the United States (or the vice president, by extension) to be a “natural-born citizen.” While the Framers of the Constitution did not define “natural-born citizen,” the plaintiffs note that they “clearly required different levels of allegiance” for president and vice president than they required for holding office in the House of Representatives (a minimum of seven years as a U.S. citizen), or in the Senate (a minimum of nine years as a U.S. citizen). There is no natural-born citizen requirement in the Constitution to hold office in either house of Congress, but there is for president or vice president.

They quote famed 19th-century Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, who wrote in his *Commentaries on the Constitution* that the natural-born citizen requirement “cuts off all chances for ambitious foreigners, who might otherwise be intriguing for office; and interprets a barrier against those corrupt interferences of foreign governments.”

There is little doubt as to why the Framers inserted the requirement of being a natural-born citizen into the Constitu-

tion, rather than just any sort of citizen, such as a “naturalized” citizen — a person who is a foreigner who goes through a process to become a citizen of the United States. They wanted there to be no doubt as to the undivided loyalty to the United States of the chief executive of the U.S. government — the president — who serves as the commander in chief of all armed forces of the country.

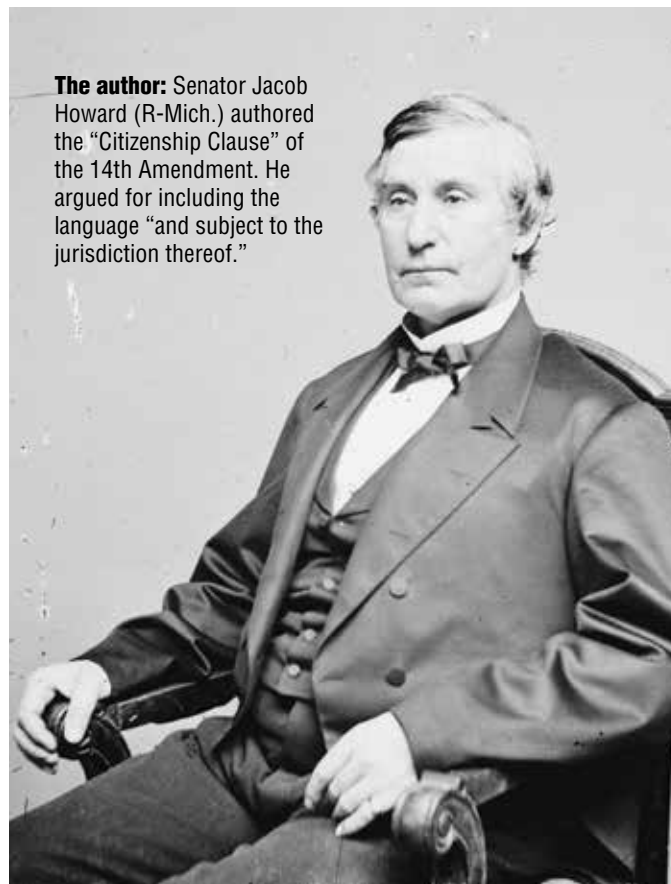
Often passed over in this consideration is the additional requirement that a person have resided in the United States

for at least 14 years before being eligible to serve as president. In short, a person could be a natural-born citizen of the United States, but if he had lived little of his life inside the borders of the country, he may have become divided in his loyalties. The requirement that a person be a natural-born citizen is not intended as a slight to naturalized citizens — many of whom are excellent citizens. The purpose of the requirement that a person be natural-born and have lived in America for at least 14 years is to decrease the chances that a person serving as president would put loyalty to any other country above that of the United States.

Over the course of American history, the issue of whether a person is a natural-born citizen, and is therefore qualified to serve as president (or vice president) of the United States, has arisen. For example, Chester Alan Arthur was elected vice president in 1880, on a Republican Party ticket led by James Garfield. Since Arthur’s father was a traveling Free Will Baptist minister who often crossed the border into Canada to preach, it was uncertain if Chester Arthur was born on the soil of the United States or was born in Canada, while his father was preaching there. In the end, the matter was dropped.

Another instance that this question arose involved Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the Republican nominee for president in 1964, who was born in Arizona while it was still a territory, not a state. But U.S. territories have always been recognized as part of the United States, and both of Goldwater’s parents were U.S. citizens. Mitt Romney’s father, George, was born in Mexico while his parents were Mormon missionaries there, and John McCain was born while his father was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone. But, in all of these cases, it was held that clearly both parents of these men were U.S. citizens. Historically, citizenship has been a matter of who one’s parents are (especially the father), not

The author: Senator Jacob Howard (R-Mich.) authored the “Citizenship Clause” of the 14th Amendment. He argued for including the language “and subject to the jurisdiction thereof.”





Making them citizens: The purpose of the 14th Amendment was to grant citizenship to former slaves — they were born in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction. It was never meant to apply to every person born on U.S. soil, no matter the nationality of the parents.

where one was born. Bible readers might recall that the Apostle Paul was a Roman citizen because his father was a Roman citizen, not because he happened to be born inside the Roman Empire.

The intent of the Founders was not to diss those who would come to the United States from other places on the globe. They specifically expected that would happen. Their concern was the fragility of liberty in world history, and they desired that the chief executive of the government — who would be in command of the armed forces of the country — be unquestionably loyal to the United States. While it would not ensure such loyalty, a person who was a citizen at birth would be less likely to be infected with the political doctrines of the Old World — the Old World from which Americans had seceded in 1776.

It is clear that the Founders intended that a person who would become president or vice president be a citizen at birth, and not a naturalized citizen. But is a person automatically a citizen just because he or she is born on U.S. soil? In other words, if foreign nationals have a child in the United States, is that child a U.S. citizen? This is the real issue of whether or not politicians such as Kamala Harris are actually eligible for the office of the presi-

dency. Many Americans today believe in the doctrine of birthright citizenship — the idea that being born in America automatically confers citizenship. But is this what the Founders intended?

The 14th Amendment and “Birthright Citizenship”

The 14th Amendment, adopted on July 9, 1868, is often cited as making someone a U.S. citizen simply because that person happens to be born on U.S. soil — i.e., “birthright citizenship.”

Actually, the 14th Amendment says no such thing. It requires that a person be born under the jurisdiction of the United States in order to be a U.S. citizen at birth.

Section 1 of the 14th Amendment states:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

When interpreting any amendment to the Constitution, one should read it in its historical context. Each amendment was added to the Constitution to address some perceived problem that had arisen since the adoption and ratification of the original language in 1789. The 14th Amendment is no exception. With the abolition of slavery (via the 13th Amendment), the legal status of millions of former slaves was a serious question, specifically their citizenship status, along with all of the legal rights they would have if they were citizens.

The 1857 *Dred Scott* ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court had held that slaves could not be citizens of the United States. Considering that a person was considered a citizen if one’s parents were citizens (this is how most countries in world history have determined citizenship), none of the former slaves could be considered citizens. To address this problem, Congress initially enacted the 1866 Civil Rights Act to make all former slaves citizens of the United States, allowing them to enjoy all the benefits of citizenship, such as legal rights. But concern over the constitutionality of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, combined with the fear that a future Congress might opt to repeal the law, led to the adoption of the 14th Amendment.

To accomplish their purposes, the amendment’s authors decided that any person born in the United States, and not subject to the jurisdiction of any other country, would be a citizen at birth. This would be in addition to those who gained birthright citizenship by having parents who were U.S. citizens. One could make the argument that this amendment is now superfluous, as all persons it applied to in the 1860s are now dead. After all, the minor children of naturalized citizens become naturalized citizens themselves when their parents become citizens. The authors of the 14th Amendment did not, however, intend to make the children of foreign diplomats, tourists, and those here on student visas citizens simply by virtue of having been born on U.S. soil.

Regarding American Indians, the amendment’s authors maintained that they could not be citizens at birth, because they were not under the jurisdiction of the United States, but rather were subject to the jurisdiction of their tribal

governments. (Of course, many became citizens via naturalization, or later laws passed by Congress.)

In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on this very issue in the 1884 *Elk v. Wilkins* case. John Elk, a Winnebago Indian, was born and raised on an Indian reservation but later left to live with whites and renounced his tribal allegiance. Upon registering to vote on April 5, 1880, he was denied by City of Omaha fifth ward registrar Charles Wilkins. Wilkins' reasoning for refusing Elk's registration was that Elk was born on an Indian reservation, and thus was not subject to the jurisdiction of the United States — and not a U.S. citizen. He would have to be naturalized. The Supreme Court ruled in Wilkins' favor, i.e., that Elk was not a U.S. citizen. According to the Court:

The main object of the opening sentence of the Fourteenth Amendment was to settle the question, upon which there had been a difference of opinion throughout the country and in this Court, as to the citizenship of free negroes (*Scott v. Sandford*, 19 How. 393), and to put it beyond doubt that all persons, white or black, and whether formerly slaves or not, born or naturalized in

the United States, and owing no allegiance to any alien power, should be citizens of the United States and of the state in which they reside. *Slaughterhouse Cases*, 16 Wall. 36, 83 U. S. 73; *Strauder v. West Virginia*, 100 U. S. 303, 100 U. S. 306. This section contemplates two sources of citizenship, and two sources only: birth and naturalization. The persons declared to be citizens are "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof." The evident meaning of these last words is not merely subject in some respect or degree to the jurisdiction of the United States, but completely subject to their political jurisdiction and owing them direct and immediate allegiance. And the words relate to the time of birth in the one case, as they do to the time of naturalization in the other. Persons not thus subject to the jurisdiction of the United States at the time of birth cannot become so afterward except by being naturalized, either individually, as by proceedings under the naturalization acts, or collectively, as by the force of a treaty by which foreign territory is acquired.

One can safely assume that if Native Americans were excluded from citizenship because they were not under the jurisdiction of the United States, despite their families being on American soil for several generations, a person born of parents physically present in the United States on a student visa would not be considered a citizen, either. If American Indians in the 19th century were not under the jurisdiction of the U.S. government, then how could people from Europe or elsewhere meet this requirement? The short answer is that they cannot.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court ruled in the 1898 *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* case that a child born to Chinese nationals who were permanent residents of, and working in, the United States, but were not yet citizens themselves, *would* be considered a U.S. citizen. The Court *did not* hold that a tourist — or someone who was living in the United States on a temporary student visa, for that matter — could have a child, and that child be granted U.S. citizenship under the 14th Amendment. This view — that anyone born inside the borders of the United States was automatically an American citizen — was not the accepted view until the late 1960s.

For example, children born to guest



“Anchor babies”: Even though they are born on U.S. soil, the children of illegal immigrants such as these could hardly be said to be “under the jurisdiction” of the United States.



RyanKing999/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Birth tourism: The current interpretation of the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment has led many wealthy mothers, especially Chinese, to travel to the United States for the sole purpose of giving birth to a baby with U.S. citizenship. Many feel this is an abuse of our nation's laws.

workers from Mexico in the 1920s were not considered U.S. citizens at birth simply because their parents were here on work visas. Similarly, the *bracero* program of the 1950s did not make automatic citizens of guest workers of that era, either.

It is quite clear that the 14th Amendment did not allow the children of a person living in the country illegally to be considered U.S. citizens at birth. Although they could possibly become naturalized citizens at some later time, they could never be eligible to be elected either president or vice president of the United States.

Recent Disputed Cases of Citizenship

Thornier questions have arisen in recent years. While it is not disputed, for example, that Barack Obama's mother was a U.S. citizen, born in Kansas, the man listed on his birth certificate as his father was a citizen of Kenya, and only in the United States on a temporary student visa. The dispute over whether President Obama was born in Hawaii or in Kenya is actually irrelevant, if only one citizen parent is required to be a natural-born

citizen. Also, if the father must be a citizen, then Obama could not have been a natural-born citizen even if he were born in Hawaii.

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas finished second to Donald Trump for the 2016 Republican nomination. In Cruz's disputed case of whether he was a natural-born citizen, his mother was a U.S. citizen, but his father, an immigrant from Cuba, was only a permanent legal resident of the United States. And, Cruz was born in Canada while his father was involved there in the oil business. Then there is the case of Senator Marco Rubio of Florida. Like Cruz's father, both of Rubio's parents left Cuba (evidently not caring much for the communist dictatorship of Fidel Castro), and were permanent legal residents of the United States, in the process of becoming U.S. citizens, when little Marco was born.

Some argue that Cruz, Obama, and Rubio are all constitutionally eligible to serve as president, contending that they were clearly citizens of the United States at the time of their births. Others argue that only the children of a citizen father can be a natural-born citizen, and

thus qualified to be president, contending that those three may have been citizens at birth, under the 14th Amendment, but not natural-born citizens.

So What About Kamala?

Regardless of the citizenship status of Cruz, Rubio, and Obama, the situation with Kamala Harris is clearly different. Neither her mother nor her father was a U.S. citizen at the time of her birth in 1964 — neither was even a permanent legal resident of the United States! They were in the United States on temporary student visas. Kamala Harris' mother was a citizen of India at the time of Kamala's birth. She did not even apply for lawful permanent residence in America until 1967, three years after Kamala's birth. This means that no logical interpretation of the 14th Amendment would have Harris' mother as having placed herself "under the jurisdiction of the United States" at the time of the birth of her daughter, Kamala.

Harris' father did not even begin the process of obtaining U.S. citizenship until May 2015. Furthermore, Jamaican law specifically states that children born outside Jamaica to a Jamaican parent are Jamaican citizens. In blunt terms, neither of Kamala Harris' parents had placed themselves under the jurisdiction of the United States when she was born in 1964.

As Dr. John Eastman, a professor of law and dean of the law school at Chapman University, wrote in *Newsweek* magazine last year, "There is some dispute over whether [her father] was in fact ever naturalized, and it is also unclear whether Harris' mother ever became a naturalized citizen."

The most that Kamala Harris could be is a naturalized citizen of the United States, not a natural-born citizen. This makes her ineligible to serve as either president or vice president of the United States. Mere birth on U.S. soil is not enough to make her eligible.

The evidence is very clear — Kamala Harris is not constitutionally eligible to hold the office she now holds, much less for an elevation to the presidency itself. Sadly, what is not clear is whether federal judges, including those who sit on the Supreme Court and took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, will have the will to do the right thing. ■

McCloskeys Get Pardoned

This column previously covered the politically motivated criminal prosecution of St. Louis couple Mark and Patricia McCloskey, who found themselves at the center of a national controversy last year when Black Lives Matter protesters invaded their gated community. As the protesters trespassed on private property outside their home, the McCloskeys stood in their front yard armed with a pistol and an AR-15. Video of the armed couple instantly went viral, and many Second Amendment supporters rallied behind the McCloskeys while leftists smeared them as dangerous gun owners. The McCloskeys are both attorneys and were able to defend themselves in the court of public opinion, with Mark taking on the role of a spokesperson and making numerous media appearances, including on Tucker Carlson’s show on Fox News.

Due to their newfound fame, the McCloskeys even gave a pre-recorded speech at the 2020 Republican National Convention, in which they endorsed then-President Donald Trump. Mark McCloskey would later announce his candidacy as a Republican for a Missouri U.S. Senate seat. Yet there remained a legal cloud over the McCloskeys, because the local prosecutor in St. Louis had charged them with crimes for their actions in the trespassing incident. That changed on July 30, when Missouri Governor Mike Parson pardoned them. Mark McCloskey celebrated the pardon, saying it righted a wrong. As he explained, the Black Lives Matter protesters who trespassed on their property were issued citations for trespassing, which were then dropped by the politically biased prosecutors, whereas the McCloskeys had the book thrown at them. Mark McCloskey told FoxNews, “If you’ve got an ‘R’ behind your name, you’re subject to one kind of justice system and if you have a ‘D,’ you’re subjected to another.”

Self-defense or Revenge Killing?

Local10.com reported on August 4 about a story out of Kendale Lakes, Florida, that really highlighted how a man involved in

an armed self-defense situation can cross the line and find himself facing criminal charges. The story began when Christopher Luis went to a drive-up ATM in Miami-Dade County on February 13 and, within a matter of moments, two armed miscreants slowly walked alongside his truck and attempted to rob him. The entire violent encounter was caught on surveillance video, and showed the suspects confront Luis and shoot at him, hitting him in his arm and his hand. Luis had a gun in his car, which he quickly retrieved and then used to return fire at the suspects. One was seriously injured and collapsed nearby, dropping his gun. The other suspect fled the scene and escaped in a nearby getaway vehicle that was driven by a third suspect. Luis exited his vehicle, took the weapon that was laying on the ground near the injured suspect, got back into his vehicle, and drove away.

It is what happened next that turned the entire narrative of the crime upside down. Luis returned to the scene of the crime where the injured suspect was still lying on the ground, and opened fire on him with the suspect’s own gun. Investigators said that Luis shot the suspect an additional 10 times. Police gathered all the evidence, and the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office eventually cleared Luis of murder and manslaughter charges, but did end up charging him with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. A Miami attorney, David Weinstein, watched the surveillance videos from the Miami-Dade Police Department and told Local10.com that, regarding the first shooting, Luis “was entitled to meet their force with firearms with the equal amount of force, so he was within his right to stand his ground and use deadly force against the people who were trying to rob him.”

The second shooting is when this story changes from a justified use of lethal force to a crime that now has the victim of an attempted robbery facing criminal charges. The arrest warrant for Luis explained that “[Luis] drove into the drive-thru ATM lane again, without stopping, and observed [the suspect] as he remained incapacitated on the ground. [The suspect’s] hands were visible, and he was not in possession of any weapon. [The suspect] was alive,” and Luis then proceeded to shoot the wounded

suspect multiple times. The two other suspects in the crime were later apprehended by police, and both were charged with second-degree murder, attempted murder with a firearm, and attempted robbery with a firearm. The second-degree murder charge stems from the Florida felony murder rule, which makes a criminal vicariously liable for any murder that occurs as a result of the felony he was committing.

Face Value

CBS affiliate CBS13 out of Sacramento reported on July 21 about an attempted home invasion just north of Gunda, California, that was abruptly ended when the homeowner shot the would-be burglars. Investigators are still piecing together what happened, but they believe the homeowner was aware that trespassers were entering his house and stealing from him. Police say the homeowner lay in wait at his house as the criminals, who may have been connected to a past burglary at the same house, returned to the scene of the crime allegedly with the intention of trying to burglarize the house again. CBS13 reported that Lieutenant Gary Hallenbeck of the Yolo County Sheriff’s Office said the homeowner “did not go out to confront these people. He stayed in the house, and eventually, these people came into the residence.... The homeowner ended up firing his weapon at them.... On face value, it points to that self-defense side.” The suspects were a man and a woman. Lieutenant Hallenbeck added that the homeowner “had been gone a couple days and [after he returned] he realized there had been a break-in at his house, where a firearm had been stolen from his residence.”

If what Lieutenant Hallenbeck said is correct, it’s reasonable for the homeowner to be afraid for his life because the intruders could be armed with the same gun they had stolen from him and, due to the California “Castle Doctrine” penal code, there is no duty to retreat for a homeowner who confronts an intruder within his house. CBS13 reported that the male suspect died from his gunshot wounds and the female is in police custody. Both of the suspects had lengthy criminal records. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Liberal Media “Corrects” Truthful COVID Coverage at Urging of White House

ITEM: In an e-mail newsletter transcript dated July 30, carrying the headline “White House blasts Covid coverage,” CNN’s Oliver Darcy reported that the White House “is frustrated with what it views as alarmist, and in some instances flat-out misleading, news coverage about the Delta variant.” Citing two anonymous “senior Biden administration officials,” Darcy said, “In some instances, poorly framed headlines and cable news chyrons wrongly suggested that vaccinated Americans are just as likely to spread the disease as unvaccinated Americans.” He said he was told by one Biden official that the “media’s coverage” is “hyperbolic and frankly irresponsible in a way that hardens vaccine hesitancy” and that “the biggest problem we have is unvaccinated people getting and spreading the virus.”

Following are examples of that coverage as amended to satisfy the White House:

ITEM: The New York Times published an online article on July 30 under the headline “C.D.C. Internal Report Calls Delta Variant as Contagious as Chickenpox,” and tweeted that article saying, “Breaking News: The Delta variant is as contagious as chickenpox and may be spread by vaccinated people as easily as the unvaccinated, an internal C.D.C. report said.”

After the White House informed the Times that they were “doing it wrong” by reporting it that way, the Times changed the tweet to read, “Delta variant infections in vaccinated people are rare, compared with those who are unvaccinated, the internal CDC report said. But vaccinated people with a breakthrough infection may spread the virus just as easily.”

ITEM: Also, on July 30, the Washington Post ran an online article under the headline “CDC study shows three-fourths of people infected in Massachusetts coronavirus outbreak were vaccinated.” Again, the White House took umbrage and — though the headline accurately reflected



AP Images

Papers, please: Concerns about unvaccinated individuals spreading the new COVID Delta variant have led some places, such as New York City, to mandate COVID vaccines to enter public venues.

the CDC study — the Post amended the headline to end in the clause, “but few required hospitalization.”

ITEM: Another headline from July 30 drew the ire of the White House. This one, from NBC News, read, “Breakthrough Covid cases: At least 125,000 fully vaccinated Americans have tested positive.” After being set straight about the headline, NBC changed it to read, “Breakthrough Covid cases: Data shows how many vaccinated Americans have tested positive.”

Apparently, it is permissible to report on “how many vaccinated Americans have tested positive” as long as the headline does not actually list that number.

CORRECTION: Since no one can accuse CNN of having a conservative editorial slant — the network has been so liberal for so long that it is commonly referred to by many conservatives as the Clinton News Network or the Communist News Network — it is noteworthy that CNN reported on the Biden administration’s reaction to COVID coverage by liberal news outlets. Furthermore, even while reporting on this, CNN both buried the lead in its reporting and promised to try to do a better job of acting as a propaganda tool of the Biden administration. The network also took steps to make sure other news networks toe the line set by the White House.

That line was made clear by the “two senior Biden administration officials” that spoke to Darcy: “The biggest problem we have is unvaccinated people getting and spreading the virus.” The message is clear: Stop focusing on the reality that vaccinated people can contract and spread the virus and start focusing on the specter of unvaccinated people making vaccinated people sick. From CNN’s report:

“The media’s coverage doesn’t match the moment,” one of the Biden officials told me. “It has been hyperbolic and frankly irresponsible in a way that hardens vaccine hesitancy. The biggest problem we have is unvaccinated people getting and spreading the virus.”

As the Biden officials explained to me, the administration is worried that the media’s focus on these instances of breakthrough infections might lead to people being more hesitant to get a vaccine. Think about it: If you’re a young person, and already believe you will be OK if you do get infected, why would you now get a vaccine, given that coverage suggests you can still just as easily become infected and spread the virus after receiving a shot?



Correction, Please!

The worry about this line of messaging from major media sources worried officials so much, I'm told, that they reached out to several major news organizations with the aim of getting them to dial back the coverage.

Let that sink in: Someone in the Biden administration is telling the media what to report and how to report it. And while this writer is not above making that assertion, in this instance, it is CNN that makes that assertion — backed up by “two senior Biden administration officials.” Granted, that someone is not likely Biden himself — that would require him to string words together into coherent sentences. But whoever it is, that person has “reached out to several major news organizations with the aim of getting them to dial back the coverage” that the White House doesn't like.

That CNN was acting as the lead in the White House's play to get the media in line with the direction to focus on “the unvaccinated” is clear. Darcy stated that

occasionally “poorly framed headlines and cable news chyrons wrongly suggested that vaccinated Americans are just as likely to spread the disease as unvaccinated Americans.” Darcy also claims “that isn't quite the case” since “vaccinated Americans still have a far lower chance of becoming infected with the coronavirus and, thus, they are responsible for far less spread of the disease.”

But the *Post* headline Darcy cited for this stated, “CDC study shows three-fourths of people infected in Massachusetts coronavirus outbreak were vaccinated.” This headline, though — far from being “poorly framed” — was an accurate summation of the CDC's report on the outbreak in Massachusetts.

The CDC report states that there were “469 COVID-19 cases” in this outbreak and that “346 (74%) occurred in fully vaccinated persons.” The headline says that the CDC study shows that three-fourths of the infected people were vaccinated. The only issue here is that the White House doesn't like what the CDC report states and doesn't like that the *Post* reported on it.

Likewise, the *New York Times* headline and tweet also accurately portrayed what the CDC said. But that is not what matters to the masters of media at the White House. Because, in this instance, the *Times* was corrected publicly. Ben Wakana, a member of the White House's rapid response team, replied to the tweet, saying, “VACCINATED PEOPLE DO NOT TRANSMIT THE VIRUS AT THE SAME RATE AS UNVACCINATED PEOPLE AND IF YOU FAIL TO INCLUDE THAT CONTEXT YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG.”

So, the *Post* amended its headline to add “but few required hospitalization.” The *Times* rewrote its tweet to say, “Delta variant infections in vaccinated people are rare, compared with those who are unvaccinated, the internal CDC report said. But vaccinated people with a breakthrough infection may spread the virus just as easily.” And NBC updated its headline to read, “Breakthrough Covid cases: Data shows how many vaccinated Americans have tested positive.” In short, they all caved to pressure from the White House about what to report on COVID and how to report it. That is a great working definition of propaganda.

The White House has not yet confirmed whether those news organs are now “doing it right,” but this writer is sure of two things: First, truth and journalism are dying as a result of COVID, but it is not the virus that is killing them; someone at the White House is. Secondly, if President Trump had dared to actually pressure the media about what to report and how to report it, there would have been congressional hearings about it. Heck, he was accused of “silencing” and “attempting to control” the media just for criticizing their demonstrable lies.

This column usually cites mainstream news articles and corrects their deliberate errors. This time is a little different, because they got it right the first time, then “corrected” themselves to line up with the approved narrative coming from the White House. So this time, THE NEW AMERICAN corrects their corrections. ■

— C. MITCHELL SHAW





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BY GARY BENOIT

America Is **Not** Gomorrah

There is no question that America is “Slouching Towards Gomorrah,” to borrow the title of a best-selling book by the late U.S. Circuit Court Judge Robert Bork. Nor is there any question that the cultural decline Bork warned against has been many decades in the making. The deteriorating culture was already a major concern when Bork’s book was published in 1996; it is worse today.

But has the cultural cancer metastasized to the point where America can no longer be saved?

This magazine is predicated on the belief “That Freedom Shall Not Perish,” our tagline that appears on the front cover of every print edition, including this one. Nothing has happened to cause us to back away from that purpose one iota. Yet a traditionalist who knows nothing about America except how it is portrayed by the cultural subverters who now largely control the nation’s cultural organs — the media, education, entertainment — could be forgiven for becoming completely demoralized and saying otherwise.

Consider Hollywood. It is of course true that many of today’s movies are filled with sex and immorality. Yet it must not be overlooked that the Hollywood depiction of America is worse than the reality. Hollywood executives know this, too. They portray America the way they do, not because they see their programming as an accurate reflection of America, but because they want to make America more like the Hollywood depiction.

Or consider the cultural landscape as a whole. According to the subversive cultural mavens, abortion is a woman’s choice. Homosexual sexual activity is perfectly normal. “Marriage” is the formal union of two people who may be the same sex or different sexes. There are no absolute truths, except the truth that there are no absolutes. A boy who identifies as a girl is a girl, and a girl who identifies as a boy is a boy, regardless of one’s chromosomes. Whites are inherently racist, and any white person who opines that such a view is itself racist is exhibiting his inherent racism rather than trying to overcome his whiteness. America was built on the backs of slaves, its history is racist, and it is still systemically racist today.

The cultural mavens do not merely express such distorted views of reality, they incessantly and insidiously work to pound these beliefs into the public psyche, they present them as facts, and they



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create the appearance of popular support for them. They also portray anyone who refuses to acquiesce to the party line as being a bigot, a racist, a homophobe — and even alone. Is it any wonder that a traditionalist who looks at America only through the prism of the establishment opinion cartel would feel overwhelmed, hopeless, and demoralized?

This is not to say that America’s moral decline is not serious. Of course it is! But the immorality is not nearly as embraced or as commonplace as the opinion cartel would like traditional-

ists to believe. Moreover, we are not alone, and we still possess the means to reverse the decline.

The cultural mavens know this is the case, or they would not go to such pains to distort reality. They must rely on deception to accomplish their subversive aims, yet the light of truth is more powerful than the darkness of deception and can overcome it.

Anyone who thinks this is wishful thinking should consider the plight of the early Christians during their persecutions by the mighty Roman Empire. At the time, how many contemporaries could have imagined that Christianity would have survived, much less subsume the empire? Yet that is exactly what happened.

In our own time, are the odds for success any worse than those faced by the early Christians? Is America today more decadent than pagan Rome?

In truth, despite the propaganda to the contrary, there are countless millions of Americans today who believe in God, family, and country; who try to live their lives according to the old “Thou Shalt Nots” even though — like every one of us — they sometimes fall short; who work hard to support themselves and their families and to help those in need; and who reject the establishment’s portrayal of America.

The cover story in this issue, “When Children Cancel Parents” by Selwyn Duke, does not mince words regarding the current cultural conditions and their harmful effects, particularly on children who have been denied the opportunity to grow up in a better culture. Yet Duke offers solutions for rescuing them from the external corrupting influences in their lives, such as by getting them out of the government schools.

The cultural devolution did not happen overnight and the cultural restoration also will not happen overnight. Just as America has been slouching toward Gomorrah — not by happenstance but by design — it can start moving toward a better world once again. ■

Gary Benoit is editor-in-chief of THE NEW AMERICAN.

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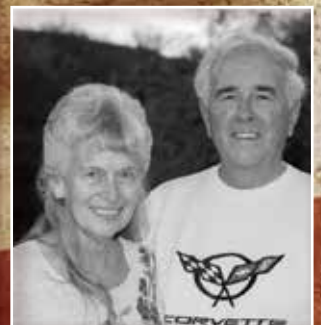
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