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Igor Kyrylenko



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TRAIL WINDS P L A Z A



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Democratic Censorship

Democrats are in full panic mode about the next election, aggressively trying to hide their catastrophic failures. They cannot support their positions or actions with honest arguments or by letting people see the results of their governance. They must rely on censorship to hide their massive disasters and scandals. Truth is called “misinformation” or “disinformation” to justify that censorship.

Mass media censor by boldly lying and fraudulently editing, and by ignoring, burying, or minimizing coverage of events exposing the consequences of socialist ideology. For instance, they portrayed Antifa’s and BLM’s violent riots, arson, murders, and autonomous zones as “mostly peaceful protests,” while the January 6 protest was portrayed as sedition and a violent coup attempt. Coverage of horrendous abuse of political prisoners in filthy jail conditions is absent. More subtly, January 6 coverage is used to fill allotted space and time, displacing coverage of important topics they want hidden, such as election fraud, illegal immigration, and Afghanistan.

Social media censor by shadow banning, suspending, and banning people whose speech counters Democratic ideology. The administration flags factual information that social media is to hide. Phony “fact checkers” use spin, misdirection, unsupported accusation, smears, and outright lies to convince casual readers that truth is false. In violation of the Constitution, Biden publicly told social media to stop the flow of truth: “It has to stop!”

A severe form of censorship is “canceling” political opponents. Important contracts are not renewed or are canceled outright. Business relationships are severed to block supplies and markets. Advertisements are not accepted. Political opponents are demonetized, cutting their access to critical revenue streams. Debanking is used by banks to end important relationships with customers. Deplatforming is used to block communication with opponents’ associates and followers. For instance, two days after Biden demanded censorship be increased, DirecTV announced it wouldn’t renew One America News’ contract.

Censorship is a key fascist tactic to attack and silence opposition. It is used to hurt businesses and people who don’t share fascist ideology, while benefiting

friends who do. The Democratic Party has gone full fascist. We need to call them out for the fascists they are!

MARVIN MATHIAK
Sent via e-mail

A Challenge for Republicans

People constantly ask me, what is the Republican Party doing? Sadly, outside of supporting candidates, I have no response, and this troubles me.

I hereby issue a challenge to the Republican Executive Committees in the 67 counties of Florida: Whatever it is you’re doing, take the time to assure Floridians have clean voter registration lists. Work with the supervisor of elections and assure this effort is a priority. Get rid of all those dead people, people who have moved, and people who cannot be verified as voting Floridians. If you don’t do this, all other efforts are in vain.

Floridians need to know that each vote cast is valid and that our elections are a model for the country. We rely on the Republican Party to be unified in this effort, and we don’t want to hear that our elections are safe and accurate unless they actually are. Personally, I have come across very disturbing information indicating elections are not safe, to the extent that it’s not a matter of debate.

We have serious problems in our election process; I challenge any official to come forward to prove me wrong. Cleaning these lists should offend no one. It doesn’t matter what party you support — this is an effort to assure fairness in our elections for all Floridians.

This responsibility falls upon the Republican Party, and upon each and every Floridian to contact his local party office and assure this is a priority. We need to get this done, and we need it done *now*. Although this message is to Floridians, every county in every state in America should be doing this, and it is *your* responsibility as an American to assure this happens.

So, don’t ask me what we *can* do, this is what we *need* to do. Be an active American, and show that patriots are standing up and demanding that this problem be resolved once and for all.

FRANK D. LOVELL
Sent via e-mail

Elon Musk Warns of “Population Collapse”

“Be fruitful and multiply.” This is essentially the message sent by tech billionaire Elon Musk, who, not for the first time, is warning of population collapse.

Issuing his statement on Twitter January 18, Musk alluded to the world’s long-declining birthrates and lamented, “If there aren’t enough people for Earth, then there definitely won’t be enough for Mars.”

Of course, one could wonder what Musk’s concern really is, as in the past he has said the probability is high that all of humanity is living in a Matrix-like virtual-reality program. But while this notion is eccentric, to say the least, his population concerns are an actual reality demographers have spoken about for decades.

Reporting on the story, market news site Benzinga related January 19 what motivated the tech visionary’s warning, writing that “Musk’s comments come amid reports of a growing number of people around the world deciding not to have children due to concerns such as climate change, inequality and financial worries.”

“Musk dreams of colonizing Mars and founded his space company SpaceX with the mission to make humanity multiplanetary,” the site later added. “He recently said SpaceX will land humans on Mars in five to 10 years.”

Responding to the Benzinga article, commenter Tim Entler wrote, “We cannot even take care of the population we have now

let alone anymore so it is a good thing the birthrate is declining as it is already unsustainable.”

Yet this is a myth. In reality, man produces more food than the world needs (much is wasted), and almost 90 percent of humanity has access to electricity. In fact, even left-wing Think Progress reported in 2013 that the standard of living worldwide was at a historic high.

As for population realities, fertility rates are below replacement level in almost 100 countries worldwide, and demographers have long been informing us that, consequently, the Earth’s population will begin declining around the middle of this century.



Soros Spending \$125 Million to Take Over Our Elections

Mega-donor George Soros is contributing \$125 million to his go-to super PAC to aid Democrat-aligned groups and candidates in the 2022 election cycle, noted Politico on January 28.

The group receiving the enormous investment, Democracy PAC, has been Soros’ main instrument for campaign funding since 2019. He used it to channel over \$80 million to candidates and organizations through the 2020 election.

The new nine-figure sum is intended to support “causes and candidates, regardless of political party,” who are dedicated to “strengthening the infrastructure of American democracy: voting rights and civic participation, civil rights and liberties, and the rule of law,” per a statement first shared with Politico.

Soros called the donation a “long-term investment,” meant to finance political work beyond just this year.

Alexander Soros, George Soros’ son, will serve as president of Democracy PAC.

Democracy PAC may claim to donate “regardless of party,” but it has already made out large checks to two of the Democratic Party’s largest vehicles: \$2.5 million to Senate Majority PAC and \$1 million to House Majority PAC.

The donations didn’t end there. A \$1 million sum went to the Democratic Association of Secretaries of State (DASS), which helps elect Democrats to secretary of state positions throughout the nation. This is notable given that secretaries of state play a major role in administering elections.

As Politico notes, “Several groups focused on field operations also got six- and seven-figure donations. BlackPAC, a group focused on turning out Black voters, received \$250,000 to support its efforts during the Virginia gubernatorial and legislative races in 2021, while Vote Rev (formerly called VoteTripling.org) received \$1 million. That group is focused on training campaigns to canvass voters at polling places to then reach out to their family and friends, urging them to vote.”



Ex-*NY Times* Writer: COVID Restrictions “Catastrophic Moral Crime”

Former *New York Times* writer Bari Weiss said on *Real Time With Bill Maher* January 21 that COVID policy has been “a catastrophic moral crime.”

“I’m done. I’m done with COVID. I went so hard with COVID,” she said. “I sprayed the Pringles cans that I bought at the grocery store, stripped my clothes off because I thought COVID would be on my clothes. I watched *Tiger King*; I got to the end of Spotify. We all did it, right?”

Weiss continued, “And then we were told, you get the vaccine. You get the vaccine and you get back to normal. And, we haven’t gotten back to normal, and it’s ridiculous at this point. I know that so many of my liberal and progressive friends are with me on this, and they do not want to say it out loud because they are scared to be called anti-vax or to be called science denial, or to be, you know, smeared as a Trumper.”

Weiss had still more to say: “I’m sorry, if you believe the science, you will look at the data that we did not have two years ago, and you will find out that cloth masks do not do anything,” she continued. “You will realize that you can show your vaccine passport at a restaurant and still be asymptomatic and carrying Omicron.”

Weiss then issued her money line, stating that the China virus fiasco “is going to be remembered by the younger generation as a catastrophic moral crime.” Supporting this assertion, she men-



Kanawa_Studio/Stock/Getty Images Plus

tioned how a Flint, Michigan, school recently announced there would be virtual learning indefinitely, and, touching on psychological damage done to kids, said there has been a 51-percent increase in self-harm among young girls.

“That is why we need to end the lockdowns and declare it a pandemic of bureaucracy,” she stated.

Freedom Convoy 2022: Coming to a National Capital Near You

A grassroots Canadian truckers’ movement laid siege to their nation’s capital of Ottawa, Ontario, in protest of the government’s COVID tyranny. Freedom Convoy 2022 began in response to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s vaccine mandate for U.S./Canada cross-border truckers and has sparked patriotic protests worldwide.

Dozens of semis rolled out of British Columbia’s west coast on January 23. By the end of the week-long, 2,700-mile journey, so many had joined the caravan that it stretched nearly 50 miles on the western route alone, with thousands of supporters cheering

them along the way. Others traveled from northern, eastern, and southern routes.

Organizers estimate 50,000-plus semis gathered in Ottawa on Saturday, January 29, and most vowed to remain until the government lifts all COVID restrictions. Drivers were literally living in their trucks, parked on the streets of Ottawa, causing what convoy spokesman Benjamin Dichter described as a logistics nightmare. “We’re in this for the long haul,” he told reporters at a press conference. “We don’t have a time limit.”

Supported only by small, non-corporate donations, the convoy raised \$9.5 million by the end of January, breaking crowdfunding records, with no end in sight. Organizers say the money will pay for food, fuel, lodging, and other expenses related to the protest.

In televised speeches during the week, Trudeau called these constituents “a small fringe minority” with “unacceptable views” and denounced their “hateful rhetoric.” Despite these baseless invectives, reporters at the convoy’s first Ottawa press conference confirmed that law enforcement had encountered no violence or injuries. “Everyone’s got hope again ... which is something that we haven’t felt for so long,” said spokesman Tamara Lich, who emphasized the group’s dedication to lawfulness and peace. “In that sense, we’ve already won.”

Thousands of truckers from the United States joined Canada’s convoy and are planning a similar trip to Washington, D.C., once their job north of the border is complete. Other convoys are planned in Australia and in countries across Europe.



AP Images

EXTENDED INSIDE TRACK

Capitol Hill Panel Condemns U.S. COVID Response

A YouTube video, *COVID-19: A Second Opinion*, racked up hundreds of thousands of views, to the dismay of fact-checkers and fake news agents. The roundtable discussion held January 24 in Washington, D.C., included world-renowned doctors and medical experts who gave insights into the folly of the official pandemic response, suppressed treatments, and experimental vaccines. They also discussed what should be done to end the pandemic and resulting draconian overreach.

“These are real-world experiences from people that are on the front lines, that are treating patients,” explained U.S. Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), who convened the panel on Capitol Hill the day after these same experts addressed tens of thousands on the National Mall for a march called Defeat the Mandates.

Senator Johnson has stoked media rage for his outspoken support of vaccine-injured patients. “I’m getting accused of spreading ... misinformation all the time, so I can imagine how the news media is going to treat this,” he said, noting that panel members have also “paid a significant price professionally” for resisting the mainstream narrative on COVID treatment and vaccines.

“How many of you in this room ... have witnessed censorship, intimidation, or professional reprisal and damage as a result of your advocacy for patients?” A sea of hands answered this question from internationally acclaimed Dr. Peter McCullough, a master of public health known for developing a successful outpatient treatment early in the pandemic. “That is 80 percent of this room,” McCullough noted.

A typical example is the heart-wrenching story of Dr. Paul Marik, former chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) in Norfolk. He achieved early success using repurposed drugs, and his patient mortality was half that of his colleagues, who were using EVMS standard treatment.

But victory was short-lived. His employer forbade prescribing any of the medicines in his protocol, including Vitamin C. This ban only applied to COVID patients; for other conditions he could still use the safe, effective drugs off-label. “For the first time in my entire career I could not be a doctor,” he mourned in a cracked voice as his eyes welled with tears. “I had to stand by idly watching these people die!” EVMS answered his formal objections by suspending his hospital privileges and labeling him a threat to his patients.

Marik is now the chairman of Frontline COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance, a group he co-founded with Dr. Pierre Kory. “I’m gonna call it out,” Kory told the panel. “I’m calling attention to the corruption.” He said hospitals are following the dictates of federal health-care agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Their failed



policies are “literally written by pharmaceutical companies,” said Kory, who condemned the government for ignoring both science and the overwhelming success in countries that have employed safe, inexpensive remedies such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. “They are putting profits ahead of patients,” Kory reproached.

Meanwhile, Big-Pharma-serving bureaucrats push experimental vaccines on a compliant public, while concealing skyrocketing adverse reactions. “We have 21,000 cases of myocarditis and climbing in the United States,” warned McCullough. “We are seeing unprecedented numbers of young athletes dying.” He stated, “Under no circumstances should a young person ever receive one of these vaccines.”

Panelists also denounced health bureaucrats for denying the superiority of natural immunity over vaccines, and for stoking irrational fears and endangering lives through unjustified lockdowns, mask mandates, and censorship. “The disastrous fruits of this myopia include an unprecedented 40-percent increase in all-cause mortality among working-age adults,” mostly unrelated to COVID illness, stated Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, a medical ethics specialist who was fired from his 15-year position with the University of California Irvine School of Medicine for refusing vaccination (since he is already naturally immune). “Actuaries tell us that a 10-percent rise in all-cause mortality is a once-in-200-year disaster. This was a 40-percent rise.”

Dozens more testified throughout the day, all confirming government corruption and mismanagement. “This is reality that is being ignored by our federal health officials, by the legacy media,” Johnson lamented. He had invited many representatives from government agencies, academia, and Big Pharma to participate, including the president’s chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, and FDA acting commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock. All declined.

Regardless, the event was wildly popular. Within a week, Rumble tallied more than 1.6 million views of the entire five-hour panel discussion. Senator Johnson urged viewers to share it as much as possible. ■

Pence Aide Scorches Democratic Committee Probing January 6 Capitol Riot

“I can’t have a lot of confidence that this committee is going to provide some sort of impartial analysis. I think that when the Democrats rejected the people Kevin McCarthy put forward to make it a more bipartisan commission, I think it went down more of a political show-trial path.”

Former chief of staff for Mike Pence **Marc Short** has been subpoenaed by the all-Democrat panel and has given indication that he will not cooperate with the commission’s members.



Marc Short

AP Images

Angry Mother Seeks to Block Promotion of Transgenderism in Virginia Schools

“They’re grooming and preparing these kids at a very early age to embrace the whole transgender ideology and sexual freedom ideology.”

Parent **Natassia Grover** formed an organization in Loudoun County, Virginia, known as Parent and Child Loudoun (PACL) to fight against the inclusion of over 100 totally inappropriate books she and her allies found available for students ages four to eight.



GageSkidmore

Sonia Sotomayor

Pro-abortion Supreme Court Justice Angered by the Growing Assault on Roe v. Wade

“The Court should not be so content to ignore its constitutional obligations to protect not only the rights of women, but also the sanctity of its precedents and of the rule of law.”

Justice **Sonia Sotomayor** wants some Court precedents honored as if they were handed down from the Almighty, but history has shown that some Court rulings — such as Roe v. Wade — can and should be overturned.

A Reasonable Assessment of Vladimir Putin’s Intentions

“There is, perhaps, one certainty to hold on to: Mr. Putin will never start a war he’s likely to lose. So the only way to ensure peace is to guarantee that in a military confrontation Mr. Putin would never win.”

A journalist for Echo of Moscow and other Russian-language publications, **Yulia Latynina** has provided an interesting assessment of the blustering Russian leader and calmed the fears of many who worry that war between Russia and Ukraine will result in a major confrontation between Russia and NATO.

Afghan Women See Freedoms Disappearing in the Face of Taliban Strictures

“Whatever goals, freedoms, wishes, dreams, choices, education and jobs women once had are gone. I am feeling very angry — my body is without a soul and all our dreams are nothing now.”

Once dressing as a man to pass through Taliban checkpoints, 27-year-old **Rokhshana Rezai** knows that her campaign for life as it was before the Taliban takeover is doomed to failure.

President Misidentifies Cause of Rising Prices

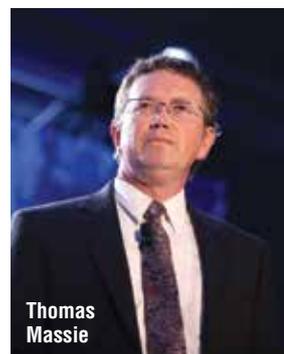
“We still have a lot of work to, with price increases still too high and squeezing family budgets.”

Relying on figures supplied by the government-created Consumer Price Index and comments by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, President **Joe Biden** insists that something other than flooding the nation with unbacked currency is to blame for “inflation.”

Congressman Confronts Attorney General Merrick Garland, Gets Silence for a Response

“He refused to comment on how many agents or assets of the federal government were present in the crowd on January 5th and 6th, and how many entered the Capitol.”

Attempting to verify some highly questionable actions of federal employees who may have goaded the demonstrators to enter the Capitol, Representative **Thomas Massie** (R-Ky.) found Attorney General Garland unwilling to discuss the matter. ■



Thomas Massie

GageSkidmore

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



MARCH AGAINST MANDATES

A photographic journey through America's rally in
Washington, D.C., to defeat the mandates

by Veronika Kyrylenko and Rebecca Terrell

Tens of thousands of patriotic Americans from all states gathered in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, January 23 to demand an end to vaccine mandates and restoration to all citizens of freedoms stripped away during the pandemic tyranny.

Organized by a coalition of grassroots groups, Defeat the Mandates: An American Homecoming featured speakers noted for their tireless efforts in this freedom movement. They assured throngs gathered at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that the medical dictatorship and censorship imposed on us in the name of the common good has nothing to do with public health.

THE NEW AMERICAN attended the rally to march with the crowds, estimated by event planners to be more than 30,000 strong. We spoke with many of the doctors, scientists, and celebrities who delivered powerful and realistic messages of hope and freedom.

True to their motto “United We Stand. In Peace We March,” organizers brought together people of every race, creed, and political party — both vaccinated and unvaccinated — to defend medical autonomy, or the right of each individual to make personal healthcare decisions free from coercive bureaucratic decree.

The highly credentialed medical experts we spoke with endorsed this basic human right, and emphasized that there is no scientific justification for COVID vaccine mandates or for vaccinating chil-

dren. They pointed out that public policies implemented to supposedly “stop the spread” did nothing to protect Americans’ health. Rather, these irrational and overreaching measures put millions of Americans in a far worse position, destroying livelihoods, undermining health, and traumatizing both children and adults.

January’s march is one of hundreds planned in 43 countries as part of the World Wide Rally for Freedom, which bills itself as a “peaceful, apolitical, internationally-syndicated community ... dedicated to emboldening grassroots citizens to push back against Covid-related restrictions” in their areas. Participating groups in the Washington, D.C., march included the Front Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance (FLCCC), Children’s Health Defense, the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, the International Alliance of Physicians & Medical Scientists, the World Council for Health, Airline Employees for Health Freedom, Feds for Medical Freedom, and American Frontline Nurses.

But the overwhelming majority of participants were ordinary citizens, most carrying homemade signs, and each with a personal story of how the pandemic — or rather government overreach because of it — has adversely impacted their lives.

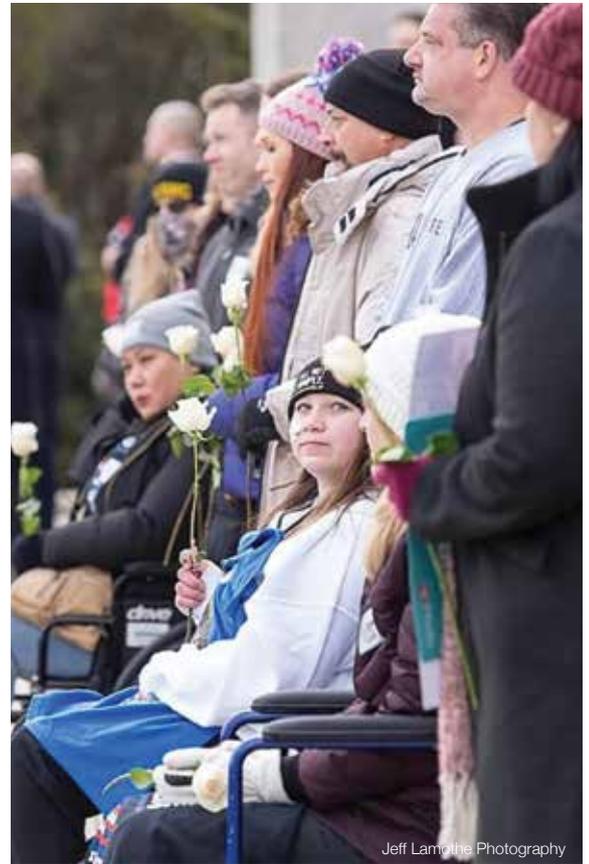
The following pages present a pictorial chronicle of the event. We offer this photographic journal to make it possible for those who could not attend to catch the spirit of the movement, to invite you to join the effort, and to provide hope for the future. ■





Stephanie de Garay

LIVING PROOF: Injured in Pfizer's clinical trials, 13-year-old Maddie de Garay (above left) is now bound to a wheelchair and feeding tube. At age 29, former professional mountain biker Kyle Warner (above center) lives with heart disease and arthritis since his second Pfizer dose. Hundreds of vaccine-injured victims and their families (right) joined them to expose the risks of COVID vaccines. Their experiences belie CDC claims that the experimental meds are safe and effective.



Jeff Lamotte Photography

IN THE TRENCHES: During the march, THE NEW AMERICAN met dozens of "ordinary, extraordinary" people from all parts of the country. Each had a unique story to tell, from those injured by vaccines to others whose lives have been affected by lockdowns and draconian mandates. Their united message: We want to be free!



Michael F. Cormier



Michael F. Cormier



Igor Kyrlyenko

DEFENDING GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS: Firefighters and first responders of Operation Freedom of Choice traveled en masse from Florida to participate in the D.C. rally. Some are vaccinated, others are not. Their united message was clear: "We are not against vaccines, we are against mandates!"

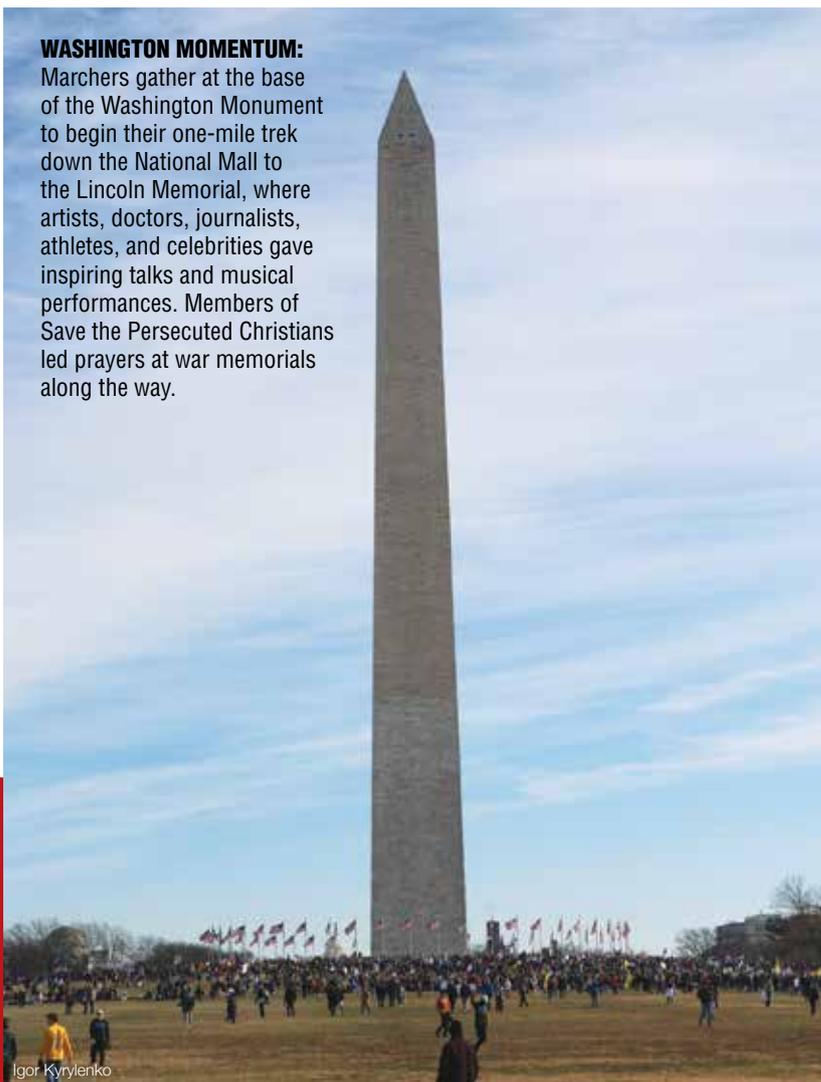
SACRED TRUST: Crowds cheer as a troupe of heroic white-coats mount the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to address the rally. These doctors have endured professional persecution because of their stand for the sacred doctor-patient relationship, which they believe should exist without authoritarian interference.



Igor Kyrlyenko

WASHINGTON MOMENTUM:

Marchers gather at the base of the Washington Monument to begin their one-mile trek down the National Mall to the Lincoln Memorial, where artists, doctors, journalists, athletes, and celebrities gave inspiring talks and musical performances. Members of Save the Persecuted Christians led prayers at war memorials along the way.



Igor Kyrlyenko



Igor Kyrilenko

EARLY TREATMENT PIONEER: Cardiologist Dr. Peter McCullough developed a COVID treatment early in the pandemic using repurposed meds with decades-long safety records. He told TNA that hundreds of thousands have needlessly died because government prevents doctors from treating them. “It’s a war on our health ... a crime against humanity,” he lamented. Find his interview and more at www.TheNewAmerican.com.

COVID COUP D’ÉTAT: Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., chair of the vaccine-safety nonprofit Children’s Health Defense, had this sobering message about the official COVID response: We are witnessing “a controlled demolition of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.” Calling on all Americans to fight for their children’s future, he said, “Nobody in the history of the planet has ever complied their way out of totalitarian control.” The complete interview is available at www.TheNewAmerican.com.



Igor Kyrilenko



MRNA ARCHITECT WARNS AGAINST VACCINES: Dr. Robert Malone, internationally recognized as the chief architect of mRNA vaccine technology, told TNA of the COVID vaccines: “The science is settled: they are not working.” He noted that they “are not completely safe, and the full nature of the risks remains unknown.” See the full interview at www.TheNewAmerican.com.

COMIC REINFORCEMENT: As emcee for the rally, YouTube sensation JP Sears electrified the audience with his comic interruptions, encouraging us to free ourselves from fear. “Be the change you wish to see in the world,” he urged, reminding us that freedom is the most essential part of human nature because God created us to be free. Enjoy our time with JP at www.TheNewAmerican.com.





HE WAS RIGHT: As former COVID advisor to the World Health Organization and to President Trump, Dr. Paul Alexander warned of the “catastrophic failure” that would result from lockdowns. He advocated for targeted protection of the elderly while keeping economies and schools open. He now advises against COVID vaccines, especially their use in children. Will we heed him this time? Hear everything he told us at www.TheNewAmerican.com.



Igor Kyrlyenko

HERO ON THE FRONT LINES: Pulmonary and critical-care specialist Dr. Pierre Kory, co-founder and president of the Front Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance (FLCCC), called U.S. health authorities “federal pharmaceutical agencies” and told TNA that they suppress early treatments to protect Big Pharma’s bottom line. Learn his full story at www.TheNewAmerican.com.



Igor Kyrlyenko

LESSON IN FREEDOM: Crowds heed the words of Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, who was fired from his 15-year work as chief ethicist for the University of California Irvine for refusing to get vaccinated. He implored Americans to remember Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s warning in *The Gulag Archipelago*: “We didn’t love freedom enough.... We purely and simply deserved everything that happened afterward.”

“GUILTY” OF SAVING LIVES: Dr. Paul Marik, co-founder and chairman of FLCCC, lost his job for refusing to administer dangerous COVID protocols demanded by his medical system. His message to establishment bureaucrats: “Let doctors be doctors.” Dr. Marik’s interview is available at www.TheNewAmerican.com.



Igor Kyrlyenko

AGAINST THE ODDS: Veteran Silicon Valley entrepreneur and founder of the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, Steve Kirsch put his career on hold and launched the COVID-19 Early Treatment Fund in 2020 to find a cure. Now blacklisted by colleagues for promoting proven remedies, he was a major sponsor of the Defeat the Mandates march and told TNA, “It is up to people to decide what to put in their bodies.” You can catch the full interview at www.TheNewAmerican.com.



Igor Kyrlyenko



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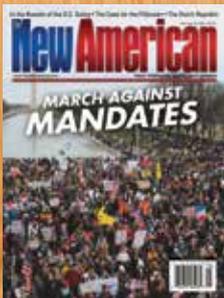
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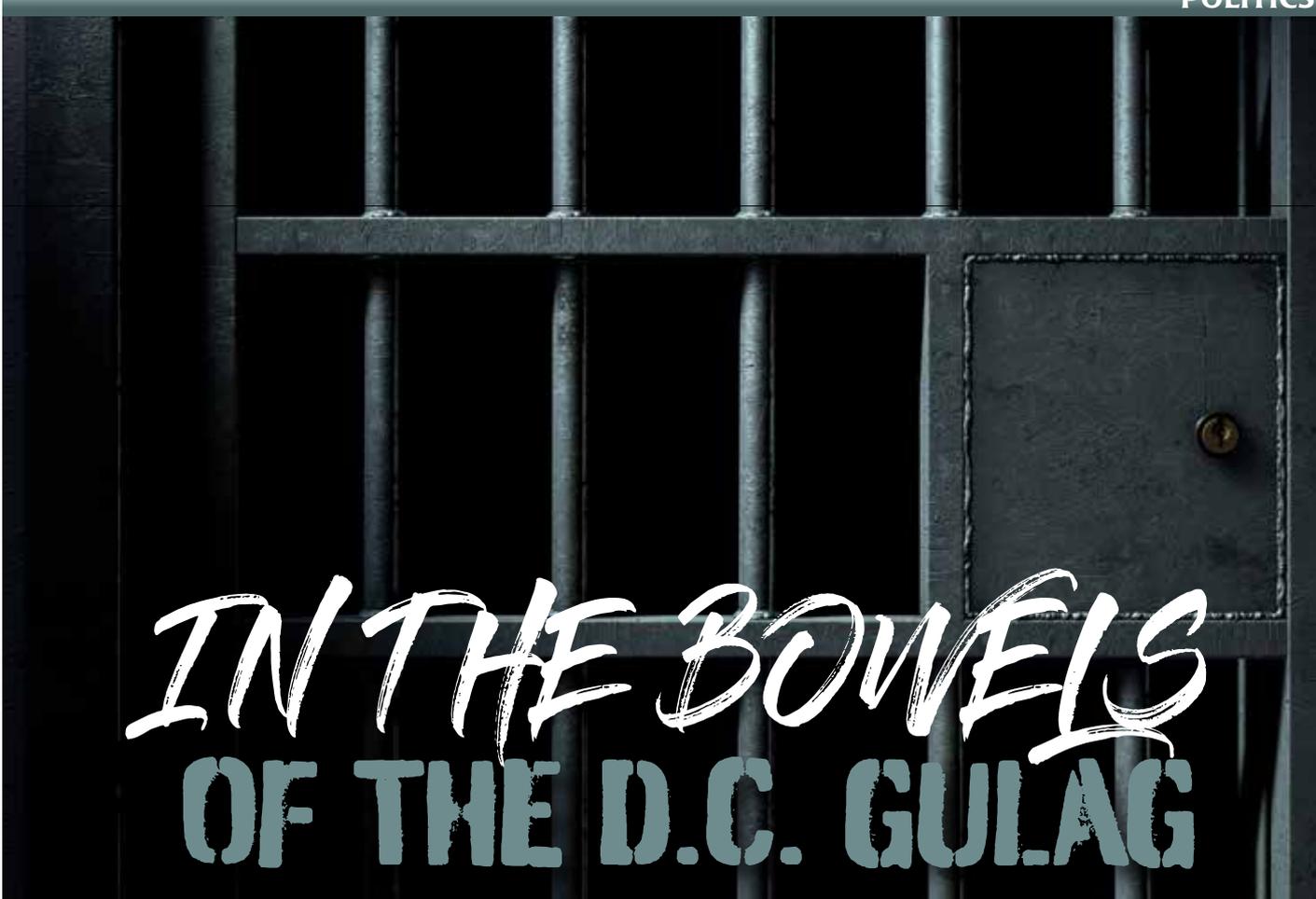
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IN THE BOWELS OF THE D.C. GULAG

The American legal system is based on due process, a speedy trial, and humane treatment while awaiting trial. But in the case of the January 6 prisoners, a radically different and inhumane approach holds sway.

by Selwyn Duke

As you've probably heard, all of us rightward of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) are insurrectionists now. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) even went so far as to say last month, about election-integrity efforts, that what "Republicans are doing across the country is really a legislative continuation of what they did on January 6." Because, of course, voter ID policies — one of which the Barack Obama administration essentially touted in 2013, because it was instituted in *Kenya* — are just like a political riot, which itself can be just like 9/11 and Pearl

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Harbor. The latter comparison to January 6 (J6) actually was made, mind you, by Vice President Kamala Harris when recounting events during which "our democracy came under assault," as she put it. "Dates that occupy not only a place on our calendars," she explained in early January, "but a place in our collective memory: December 7, 1941, September 11, 2001, and January 6, 2021."

This is ridiculous, but also entirely necessary if power by any means necessary is the aim. For just as there are so few actual "hate crimes" committed by conservatives against so-called "victim" groups that they must be fabricated (paging Jussie Smollett), the same can be said of "insurrections." Oh, there was CHAZ, the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone, where left-wing George Floyd protesters seized Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood for three weeks in 2020. But though CHAZ "warlord" Raz Simone was videoed next to his Tesla giving fol-

lowers AR-15s, and the "protesters" perpetrated theft, rape, and murder, Mayor Jenny Durkan reassured us the occupation could breed "a summer of love." Then there was the two-day, May 2020 attack on the White House, where hundreds of leftists gathered, Secret Service agents were injured, and President Trump had to be moved to an underground bunker. Perhaps that was just part of a spring of love; the media didn't say. But no one called it an insurrection.

J6 protesters are different, however. If you need an insurrection threat to justify arrogation of power, you need to point to a case of insurrection; and if you have a case of insurrection, it follows that it involved insurrectionists. And if it wasn't and didn't, you hammer and distort and spin the facts beyond recognition.

So, as opposed to CHAZ, where police fled the area, presumably under orders, authorities have proceeded no-holds-barred

Tragically, out of sight (and out of mind) largely describes the incarcerated J6 political prisoners. Pawns in a power game, their reality is ignored by the entire establishment.



A truly unique day: If January 6 was an insurrection, it was the first one attempted without weapons, organization, or an actual plan to overthrow the government. In fact, in CNN parlance, it was “a riotous but mostly peaceful protest.”

with the J6 defendants. Thus do they still languish in prison, more than a year later, under horrid conditions in what some have dubbed an “American gulag.” This is despite the fact that for a year they faced relatively minor charges, nothing approximating insurrection or sedition. That is, until a day after Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) mocked on the Senate floor the idea that “our government last year was almost overthrown by a guy wearing a Viking hat and speedos.” So on January 13, sufficiently embarrassed and needing to buttress the narrative for the upcoming midterms, “moderate” Attorney General Merrick Garland brought “seditious conspiracy” charges against 11 people.

The Charge of the Lightest-ever Brigade

Interestingly, however, no guns were displayed by, or seized on-site from, anyone

who entered the Capitol on J6. No one is sure what type of insurrection is launched in the third millennium sans firearms, though if there were insurrectionists in caveman days, they might have looked a bit like the viking-hat-and-furs guy (who, unlike Raz Simone, is seen on video calling for “peaceful” protest but is doing almost 3.5 years in prison).

Of course, the FBI, though a tool of the Left in recent years, long ago concluded there was no evidence of “insurrection,” and the only person killed on J6 was unarmed, 5’2” female protester Ashli Babbitt. The Capitol Police officer who shot her, Lieutenant Michael Byrd, has a bit of a history of incompetence but was apparently cleared of wrongdoing without even being interviewed. Contrast this with the plight of cops such as Ferguson, Missouri’s Darren Wilson; after he killed 6’4”, 294-pound

thug Michael Brown in self-defense in 2014, media bias and government investigations ruined his life, forcing him to leave law enforcement and drop out of sight.

Tragically, out of sight (and out of mind) largely describes the incarcerated J6 political prisoners. Pawns in a power game, their reality is ignored by the entire establishment. Average citizens couldn’t even imagine their treatment because, well, such things “just don’t happen in America.”

Shredding the Constitution

Emphasizing on December 18 how the political prisoners’ rights have been violated, American Thinker’s Andrea Widburg first reminded us of the constitutional protections in question:

- Amendment IV: Protection against “unreasonable searches and seizures.”
- Amendment V: “No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury.”
- Amendment VI: “In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed.”
- Amendment VIII: “Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.”

Despite this, many “of the January 6 defendants were arrested [in] dawn raids on their homes, with the FBI stripping them bare (both homes and people),” Widburg then wrote. “They’ve been held for eleven months in appalling conditions ... without bail and without trial. Because they are in D.C., when they are finally brought before a judge after months in Gulag-like conditions, they have the choice of either a biased judge or a biased jury. Because most are poor, they seldom have competent counsel and ... [reportedly] often have court-appointed attorneys who despise them.”

Widburg is not exaggerating about the arrests. Just consider the story of retired naval officer Thomas Caldwell, a wiz-

ened, portly, disabled senior citizen who walks with a cane owing to back injuries sustained in the service. As American Greatness' Julie Kelly related September 23 in "An American Horror Story" after interviewing the hapless man:

Thomas Caldwell's wife awakened him in a panic at 5:30 a.m. on January 19 [2021].

"The FBI is at the door and I'm not kidding," Sharon Caldwell told her husband.

Caldwell, 66, clad only in his underwear, went to see what was happening outside his Virginia farm. "There was a full SWAT team, armored vehicles with a battering ram, and people screaming at me," Caldwell told me during a lengthy phone interview on September 21. "People who looked like stormtroopers were pointing M4 weapons at me, covering me with red [laser] dots."

Agents demanded that Caldwell, a former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy who suffers from debilitating service-related spinal injuries, come outside and lay down in the grass.

"Someone grabbed my legs and dragged me through the grass. They threw me face down on the hood of the car, kicked my legs apart, put a chain around my waist and put me in handcuffs." Caldwell said he looked up to see Sharon, his wife of 22 years, dressed in her nightgown holding her hands up with a sock in either hand. She, too, was covered in red dots from the weapons aimed at her. Sharon, 61, begged to put on her socks before they forced her outside in the cold. "I said a prayer, 'Father, please don't let them kill my wife,'" Caldwell said through sobs.

Caldwell was forced into the back of a police car for nearly 40 minutes; he asked several times what he was being charged with but FBI agents refused to answer.

This is even worse than what befell Trump confidant Roger Stone, another harmless senior citizen who was arrested shock-and-awe style in a pre-dawn raid; the main rap against him was allegedly

lying to federal officials. Meanwhile, ex-intelligence agency figures James Comey, James Clapper, and John Brennan all lied to Congress but walk free. Clapper's and Brennan's "punishment" was to get paid TV media gigs while, among other things, Comey became a professor at Virginia's William & Mary college teaching a course on "ethical leadership" (you can't make this stuff up).

Caldwell ended up spending 53 days incarcerated, 49 in solitary confinement. He says that, among other torments, he was denied medication needed to ameliorate his agonizing spinal-injury-induced back pain. "I thought I would die in jail," he stated.

Lawmakers Speak Out

Yet it appears that many J6 political prisoners endured far worse — and are still suffering. Just consider what representatives Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) and Louie Gohmert (R-Tex.) and their staff discovered on November 4 upon gaining access to the D.C. jails in question: the Central Detention Facility (CDF, commonly known as the D.C. Jail) and Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). The J6 prisoners are in the latter.

In a report Greene issued, entitled "Un-

usually Cruel (UC)," her office writes that the prison "tour was only accomplished after months of persistence. Representative Greene and her congressional colleagues, Reps. Gohmert, Matt Gaetz, and Paul Gosar, were denied entry to the jail on multiple occasions — July 29 and November 3 [2020]. In July, the Deputy Warden of the facility — Ms. Kathleen Landerkin, charged a congressional delegation led by Rep. Greene with trespassing, avoided and evaded Representatives' questions, and forcibly locked congressional Members out of the facility."

When Greene and Gohmert finally did gain access, they were shown the CDF, which housed non-J6 prisoners. With indoctrination being the order of the day for these mainly (if not completely) black inmates, "multiple common areas of the CDF contained distributional reading materials which promoted the Nation of Islam and Critical Race Theory," Unusually Cruel (UC) informs. "Additionally, members of the Young Men Emerging [a rehabilitation program] cohort of inmates ... revealed that they are reading books which emphasize the unusual cruelty of the American justice system and intend to study materials which promote the view



Make up your mind, Nancy: While House Speaker Pelosi called the 2011 takeover of the Wisconsin Capitol an "impressive show of democracy in action," she characterized January 6 as "a violent insurrection that sought to undermine democracy." What a difference 10 years and some party prejudice can make.



Mostly peaceful: While some of the January 6 protesters did break the law, most of the video from the event appears to show them milling around like tourists.

AP Images

that the United States perpetuates a racial caste system.”

Ironically, however, it’s the primarily (if not exclusively) white political prisoners who are being persecuted at the D.C. gulag. In fact, Landerkin initially refused to even let Greene and Gohmert see the CTF. Greene then threatened to go to the media while Gohmert vowed to get the courts involved. Nonetheless, Landerkin was unmoved until a D.C. mayor’s representative grudgingly ordered her to allow CTF access.

What the two representatives then witnessed was shocking. “For example, cells in the January 6 wing of the CTF were extremely small, composed of a single toilet, sink, and a small bed cot,” Greene’s UC relates. The report continues:

The walls of the rooms had residue of human feces, bodily fluids, blood, dirt, and mold. The community showers were recently scrubbed of black mold — some of which remained. The interior walls of the common area were also freshly painted. According to the inmates, the U.S. Marshals had recently visited the area just days before, which caused a flurry of activity by guards to clean up the January 6 area while the U.S. Marshals were inspecting another area.

Inmates explained that they did not have access to their attorneys, families, or proper nutrition from the jail.

... Some inmates disclosed that when they arrived in the area, the cells were crawling with rats and bed bugs.

... But the physical conditions of the area were just the start. Inmates were only allowed out of their cells for five hours a day, a small mercy. Prior to this relative freedom, inmates were kept in their cells similar to the maximum security inmates: 23 and 1 (23 hours in the cell, 1 hour out), 22 and 2, (21 and 3), etc. One inmate, who had been detained since February 3, 2021, explained that he had been subjected to “23 and 1” for four months, followed by two months of 22 and 2. This inmate stated that he had gone through 200 days of solitary confinement. This type of treatment is being used against inmates who are all pre-trial. They have been convicted of nothing.

... Many inmates suffered from a variety of health and dietary issues: one with a broken finger, another from celiac disease. The inmate with celiac disease must go days without eating because the jail will not accommodate his dietary needs. Other inmates

claimed that the jail inserts chemicals and pubic hair in their food.

Given that Landerkin and her comrades had time to put their best (but still quite damning) CTF foot forward, you can imagine what the facility looked like before receiving its hasty makeover.

There’s much more in Greene’s UC, including information about (quotations are from the report)

- an inmate being punched in the stomach for singing the national anthem;
- a guard responding to the singing of “God Bless America” with “F*** America!”;
- J6ers being “denied basic medical care, bathrooms, exercise, religious services, haircuts, and a nutritious diet”;
- making things such as receiving Communion or a haircut contingent upon getting “vaccinated”; and
- an elderly inmate developing an apparently gangrenous forearm but being denied treatment, which means future amputation may be necessary.

Double Standard

Contrast this with the accommodations made for al-Qaeda terrorism suspects detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who, among other things, were given halal-only meals and even prayer breaks during court hearings.

None of this is surprising, however, when considering that Deputy Warden Landerkin is a rabid left-wing ideologue who has publicly displayed her biases. For example, as *The American Spectator*’s George Parry reported December 15 in “A Visit to the DC Gulag”:

On November 24, 2019, Kathleen Landerkin, Deputy Warden of the District of Columbia Jail, tweeted the following public service announcement: “F—k everyone who supports Trump.”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump Give it a f—king break. White men are more dangerous than immigrants.”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump How many Americans have been killed by white American men? How

about a story on alt-right killers and hate crimes? How did the idiots of this country fall for your bulls-t?”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump What the f-k is it with you and size. Must be the mushroom d[**]k?”

“To the two old white racists who felt the need to flip me off tonight, right back at you. If you’re more offended by my free expression than u are of Trump today, the problem is you! I can’t wait until you’re all extinct.”

“Trump is doing more damage to this country then (sic) foreign terrorists ever have.”

“Replying to @GOP His [Trump’s] corrupt staff and family met with the Russians how many times before the election? How many times did they lie about a meeting with Russians? How many are in prison? Schiff is a hero.”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump You’ll be in jail soon.”

“Replying to @SecPompeo And with that they should throw you in jail.”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump We know Obama did nothing wrong! You, on the other hand, are

corrupt and are running scared because you know Mueller is coming for you!”

“Replying to @realDonaldTrump You’re a traitor. You don’t get to determine what’s patriotic. Leave the people [Antifa] engaging in a peaceful protest [Portland riots] alone. Why the hell are you involved in stirring a s-t pot for your deplorables? You’ll be in jail soon.”

“Replying to @GOPLeader He [Trump] didn’t win the popular vote. Abolish the electoral college.”

Regarding Brett Kavanaugh, she approvingly retweeted, “After Kavanaugh’s confirmation [to the Supreme Court], we know one thing for sure. Sexual predators will always have a safe space in today’s Republican party.”

In another tweet she declared, “I am one of many white females who work for social justice.”

In regard to the jailed January 6 Capitol Hill protesters, she approvingly retweeted, “Every prison needs a MAGA wing.” And, in response to the tweet “DC Jail is run by DC Govt agency. Id bet good money no fox

news is being shown,” she tweeted “Nope. No Fox News.”

There’s still more to this classy lady’s “body of work,” too. In fact, this history and the torments she visits upon the political prisoners inspired 14 Republicans to sign a December 16 letter to D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser demanding she fire the warden. As Representative Greene’s office wrote in a press release:

As stated in the letter, Deputy Warden Landerkin has “demonstrated a consistent pattern of disrespect for Members of Congress and fellow corrections staff, in addition to displaying a public animus toward anyone who supports President Donald J. Trump.”

“The Constitution set out to establish a system where justice would be delivered swiftly, impartially, and the severity of the punishment would be equal to the severity of the crime — absent of any cruel and unusual punishment,” Congressman [and signatory] Michael Cloud [R-Texas] said. “Deputy Warden Landerkin has not lived up to the Constitutional standard. She’s instead demonstrated extreme personal bias in subjecting non-violent first time offenders who trespassed on the Capitol at a greater level than many of the most heinous criminals. She must be removed.”

Train of Abuses

While these 14 statesmen should be applauded, where are the other 199 House Republicans? Where are the 222 Democrats? Their deafening silence enables the American gulag.

But though the J6 prisoners are hidden and locked away, their stories still escape. A few more examples follow.

“Jonathan Gennaro Mellis is one of the ‘Jan Sixers’ who has been held in 11 months of pre-trial detention under 23-hour lockdown, placed without justification for 35 days in solitary confinement and denied attendance to his Purple Heart decorated father’s funeral — a damning testimony to the ‘presumption of innocence’ and far outside the bounds of our legal process,” reported The Gateway



Violent insurrectionist? Sometimes known as the “QAnon Shaman” or “Chewbacca guy,” J6er Jacob Chansley is an odd duck with many New Age views who’s about as dangerous as he looks.

Pundit on January 6, 2022. Worse still, Mellis spoke of, and I quote him, “cell doors being opened in the middle of the night to have Patriots zip-tied and beaten by correctional officers.”

J6 prisoner Matthew Council also provided a testimonial, published by The Gateway Pundit January 16. He writes:

To get right into my story, I have been abused after January 6th more times than I care to remember. I have been abused in Hillsborough County Jail [in Florida, where Council was first brought] by a serial rapist who raped my bunkie in the mouth and another inmate I was friends with. Him and other Officers tried to come into my cell repeatedly and I had to stay up for 3 nights straight to stay safe. They were playing a Trump/Flynn parody like a tribunal was going on and a “Hero Hero Hero” song over and over again because of my involvement on January 6th.

Then they released me and made me go to a Mental Institution because they made up that I was hearing things to put me in isolation in the first place. I was having delusions due to football head impacts but mostly loss of sleep/ no food and stress.

Yet another testimonial is from Lexie, the fiancée of political prisoner Jorden Mink. Plainly noting that their eight-year-old son is not allowed to see Mink and misses his dad, she writes (as related by The Gateway Pundit December 30):

Eleven months ago Jorden was ripped from our family. He was moved to 4 different prisons until he finally reached his 5th one in DC. In the beginning of him being there he was locked down for 14 days in a cell for 24 hours each day, because he caught COVID. When he was released from medical, he was in solitary confinement for 23 hours & only allowed out for 1 hour per day. That is mentally & emotionally abusive.

... Jorden has lost about 30 to 35 pounds since being there due to malnourishment.

There’s mold, no clean drinking water (it quickly turns brown). If something positive happens in there, or they even see a little bit of happiness on their faces the next day they are punished for something & put on lockdown. This goes for all the political prisoners! I could go on and on.

Finally, there’s J6 detainee Edward Lang, a 26-year-old native of Narrowsburg, New York, who added perspective. “There was a protest outside the Department of Interior for climate change and there were these leftist activists throwing bike racks at cops, [and] they were just given \$50 violation tickets, loitering, disrupting the peace,” Lang said,” wrote Resist the Mainstream January 7. “When we get arrested for the same allegation, we’re stripped of everything. I haven’t had a visitation in 10 months.”

For sure. While we live in a time of

no-cash-bail laws; soft-in-the-head (and on crime), George Soros-backed district attorneys; and revolving-door justice, the political prisoners are kept behind bars — *despite having been convicted of nothing.*

There’s a racial component, as well. While the political prisoners are defamed as “white supremacists,” two of them were black men. And low melanin counts don’t yield supremacy, either. As the aforementioned Thomas Caldwell was told, because he’s a white country boy, a veteran who believes in Jesus: “You’ve got no chance against [the Justice Department] when they get ready to take you down.”

Oh, the prisoner who told him that, as a friendly warning, is a black man who’s spent much of his life behind bars.

But whatever one’s color, the political prisoners’ persecution is a cautionary tale: If you oppose the left-wing powers-that-be, you’ll be targeted. In fact, right on cue using “white supremacy” as a boogeyman, Biden’s DOJ announced in early January the creation of a new “domestic terrorism unit.”

Tragically, many “Americans” cheer this tyranny. Yet perhaps those willing to release the demons of despotism to crush their political opponents ought to consider a famous little speech from the 1966 film *A Man for All Seasons*. After a zealous associate said he’d “cut down every law in England to ... get after the Devil,” the St. Thomas More character movingly responded:

And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned ’round on you, where would you hide ... the laws all being flat? This country is planted thick with laws, from coast to coast, man’s laws, not God’s! And if you cut them down ... do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I’d give the Devil benefit of law, for my own safety’s sake!

When you don’t give even the Devil the benefit of law, sometimes the Devil will become the law and end up being in charge — of you. ■



The fox guarding the henhouse: Kathleen Landerkin (center) is not just the warden of the jail holding the January 6 political prisoners, but also a far-left radical.

Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



The Case for the **FILIBUSTER**

Though the filibuster was established by the Senate, not the Constitution, it is in harmony with both the Constitution and the Senate's role as a deliberative body moderating the House.

by Charles Scaliger

Tens of millions of Americans alarmed by the radical Left's ongoing assault on the American body politic heaved a collective sigh of relief on January 19 when the Senate narrowly voted to uphold the longstanding parliamentary practice known as the filibuster. Were it not for the principled intransigence of Democratic senators Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, the Senate filibuster, one of legislative Washington's most cherished and long-held institutions, would have met an indecorous end at the

Charles Scaliger, a longtime contributor to THE NEW AMERICAN and former academic at an American university, now lives and works in East Asia.

hands of the demagogic mob disguised as Democratic legislators.

The filibuster, be it noted, is not a constitutional requirement. It is instead an institutional tradition that emerged as a dual consequence of the constitutional provision allowing the Senate to establish its own procedures and rules of conduct, along with the understanding — once almost universal in Washington — that the Senate, as the “upper house” of the American legislature and its allegedly deliberative body, should seek scrupulously to uphold the principle of checks and balances, and to maximally enable the voice of every one of its members.

Unfortunately, as the ongoing campaign against the filibuster has shown, most of the hyper-radicalized Democratic faction no longer accepts any limits on majoritar-

ian power in either house. This has become especially relevant at a time when the top priority for the entire Democratic Party is nothing less than a radical and thoroughgoing overhaul of the American system of government — an overhaul that, if successful, would be at least as deleterious and impactful as the New Deal, and would virtually guarantee a permanent lock on government power by the Schumer- and Pelosi-led radical leftist Democrats. Included in the Democrats' widely advertised program would be “stacking” the Supreme Court (something that FDR also attempted, in order to safeguard the New Deal); granting statehood to Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. (thereby guaranteeing four new Democratic Senators); maintaining a permanent “open door” policy for illegal immigrants likely to vote Democratic in perpetuum (in

Abolition of the filibuster belongs to the same category of actions that, although in and of themselves might not violate the letter of the Constitution, would certainly be corrosive to our Constitution and our Republic in the long (or possibly not-so-long) run.



Principled minority: Democratic Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) incurred the wrath of their party by voting to uphold the filibuster, thereby thwarting the Democrats' ongoing legislative power grab — at least for now.

order to effect a demographic shift in Texas, Florida, and other refractory “red” states); spending the country trillions of dollars further into receivership; and — perhaps most ominously of all — usurping federal control over all state election laws, a flagitious attack on a constitutionally protected state power if ever there was one. Given the ferocity of the building electoral backlash against the radical Left, Democrats understand only too well that the time is short and the stakes are high — hence the fevered drive to abolish the filibuster and seize control of state elections before November.

We have seen a similar script before.

In 2013, with the Democrats in control of the White House and the Senate, then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid pushed through the Senate a measure overturning the filibuster for presidential appointees (other than Supreme Court justices). At the time, Democrats were riding high, confident of a President Hillary Clinton in 2016 and beyond, which would allow them years to reshape the federal judiciary with a minority GOP in the Senate unable to stay a flood of radical judicial appointees. But following the surprise election of Donald Trump, it was the GOP that was able to nominate and

confirm hundreds of new federal judges without resistance.

Although hoisted by their own legislative petard, the Democrats remain unchastened. They are gambling that, this time around, they can radically reshape government at the federal and state level before this fall's anticipated electoral rout, and guarantee for themselves a permanent majority. Such a state of affairs, they reason, would render the filibuster moot. But having fallen two votes short, thanks to the steadfastness of Manchin and Sinema, they are running out of time and options.

The Senate Is Not the House

The filibuster, or something similar, has been a de facto, if not de jure, feature of the U.S. Senate since its inception in 1789. Always regarded as America's most august deliberative body, the Senate gradually developed rules and traditions to guarantee that every senator could have unlimited say regarding any piece of legislation, regardless of party affiliation.

Whether or not George Washington truly likened Senate deliberation to cooling a cup of tea by pouring the hot tea into a saucer, as is popularly believed, the metaphor gained currency in Washington. The Senate itself was originally formed as a compromise between the large and small states, but, over time, the wisdom of having a second deliberative body became established as an unintended miracle arising from the Constitutional Convention. The Senate, in its capacity representing the states rather than the people, would serve not only as an effective external check against federal power in general, but also would serve as an internal check against the injudicious use of the greatest of the three government powers, the legislative power. Whereas the House — the people's House — was generally composed of younger people elected for briefer terms in office, in order to make them more directly accountable to the citizenry, the Senate was to be composed of older, more experienced people who would serve longer terms, thereby representing not only the states, but also the republican virtues of prudence and temperance, a voice of reason countervailing the often raucous and precipitate impulses of the House.

As James Madison expressed in the *The Federalist*, No. 62:

The necessity of a senate is not less indicated by the propensity of all single and numerous assemblies to yield to the impulse of sudden and violent passions, and to be seduced by factious leaders into intemperate and pernicious resolutions. Examples on this subject might be cited without number; and from proceedings within the United States, as well as from the history of other nations. But a position that will not be contradicted, need not be proved. All that need be remarked is, that a body which is to correct this infirmity ought itself to be free from it, and consequently ought to be less numerous. It ought, moreover, to possess great firmness, and consequently ought to hold its authority by a tenure of considerable duration.

Equipped with such a vision, the Senate was, until recently, impressed with its internal responsibility to maintain practices that limited its own ability to legislate at will or for frivolous and transient causes.

Filibuster in Practice

The first major use of filibuster-like activity was in the context of the debates surrounding the Bank of the United States in the 1830s. This bitter political fight — the most consequential of President Andrew Jackson's tenure in office — guaranteed full and exhaustive debate over what was in Jackson's day a divisive issue, and withal one that had divided the country since its founding: Should the federal government be empowered to run a national bank? Alexander Hamilton and many federalists believed such a bank — we would now call

it a central bank — to be a necessity, but many of the Founders disagreed, and so did Andrew Jackson. Jackson's long political war with Nicholas Biddle, the imperious head of the Bank of the United States, need not detain us; suffice it to say that, when the votes were finally cast, the bank's charter was not renewed, and the United States was left without a central bank until 1913, when the Federal Reserve was legislated into existence. The filibustering tactics used during the debates served to increase the rancor, but also guaranteed that no stone would be left unturned. And as with many other instances of such tactics in American legislative history, the partisan heat they gen-

erated frequently produced light to guide the ship of state through uncertain waters.

By the mid-1800s, the term "filibuster," originally a term for Caribbean freebooters that was also applied to private American citizens who attempted to wage war in foreign countries (especially in Latin America and Canada), had come to apply to the tactic of using drawn-out speeches and kindred parliamentary techniques to "talk a bill to death." Although the propriety of unlimited debate on bills was the topic of endless controversy, filibusters became more and more frequent features of the Washington political landscape throughout the 19th century. Consecrated by tradition, the practice came to be viewed more and more as a vital check on the power of the partisan

majority. In an era when the republican imperative of protecting the minority against the whims of the majority was still widely appreciated, the filibuster was transformed in the popular view into a cherished institution.

Nevertheless, a check on the unlimited power of the filibuster was devised in 1917, at the urging of a President Wilson frustrated with senatorial hindering of his war ambitions — specifically, after 12 anti-war senators killed a bill that would have allowed Wilson to arm commercial vessels against German submarines months before war was actually declared. Senate Rule 22 allowed for the Senate to invoke "cloture" — that is, to limit debate on a given measure — if a two-thirds majority of the Senate voted to do so.

Despite the action, the filibuster continued to see heightened use during the "war to end all wars." Even after President Wilson succeeded in dragooning America into the European conflict, a number of senators, such as Wisconsin's maverick Robert La Follette, remained resolutely opposed to American involvement. In October



Library of Congress

"Fighting Bob": Senator Robert La Follette of Wisconsin was pilloried by the media and Congress alike for opposing America's involvement in World War I and the stifling of dissent by the Wilson administration. He used a filibuster to defend the freedom of speech in wartime, and was ultimately exonerated, despite calls for his removal from office and even his arrest for treason.

1917, facing bitter accusations of treason in Congress and in the press — and even calls for his execution — La Follette arose and spoke for more than three hours in defense of his character, and also the hallowed principles attending just war and the need to preserve freedom of speech, even in wartime. Although La Follette paid for his defiance of Senate and popular opinion with a protracted investigatory witch hunt seeking to ruin him for alleged treason, the Wisconsin senator was ultimately vindicated. Two years later, the Senate not only dismissed resolutions calling for La Follette's expulsion, they also voted to defray all of his legal bills stemming from the affair. Today he is revered for his principled anti-war stance under the most adverse of circumstances, but given the envenomed circumstances in the 1917 Senate, it is doubtful that La Follette's speech, "Free Speech in Wartime," would have been delivered absent provision for a filibuster.

By the mid-20th century, the filibuster

had gained notoriety in a very different context. Beginning in the 1940s, filibusters were used by Senate Democrats to block all bills seeking to mandate equal civil rights for blacks, including anti-lynching bills. Only in 1964 was cloture finally invoked successfully, despite a Democratic filibuster of 75 hours, to allow Senate passage of what became the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In 1975, the cloture threshold was lowered to a three-fifths majority, or 60 votes, a lower but still formidable bar for passage. The status of the filibuster remained unchanged until 2013, when Senate Democrats, led by Senator Reid and full of partisan confidence, exercised the so-called "nuclear option," eliminating the filibuster for most confirmation votes of presidential appointees — only to be outraged a few years later when the new rules were applied ceaselessly by a Republican-controlled Senate eager to ram through as many Trump judicial appointees as possible. Undeterred, many of

those same Democratic Senators are now trying to do what was once politically deemed impossible — eliminate one of the most storied Washington institutions — in the service of a raw power grab unrivalled in recent decades.

Lessons for Today

For those whose only measure of worth is strict constitutionality, elimination of the filibuster would not in itself amount to a constitutional infraction. But then, neither would stacking the Supreme Court (whose number has changed since the ratification of the Constitution), declaring war, convening a modern-day constitutional convention, or admitting new territories to statehood.

Given the stranglehold enjoyed by the radical Left on the federal government and many state legislatures, as well as the general impoverishment of constitutional fealty among our government officials at every level, changing the number of Supreme Court justices, convening a constitutional convention, or admitting new states guaranteed to vie with the likes of California and Massachusetts for radical Left supremacy would be the height of folly. Similarly, although the Constitution is silent on just-war principles, a declaration of war for an unjust cause, even if constitutionally valid, would be morally indefensible. Abolition of the filibuster belongs to the same category of actions that, although in and of themselves might not violate the letter of the Constitution, would certainly be corrosive to our Constitution and our Republic in the long (or possibly not-so-long) run.

America in 2022 is facing an unexamined convergence of crises. In addition to the ongoing collapse of the economy, the precipitous breakdown of social order, and the treasonous abolition of our southern border, we are also staring at the very real possibility of a calamitous international war with Russia or China in the very near future — and all of these amid a massive push by the radical Left to seize control of the levers of political power once and for all. Given the fragile political balance in both houses of Congress, abolition of the filibuster — despite the recent failed vote — remains the key to the Left's entire repugnant legislative agenda. If the Republic is to be salvaged, the filibuster must remain, not only in 2022 but for the foreseeable future. ■



AP Images

Bad precedent: Republican senators, including current Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, decided not to overturn the Democrats' previous action against the filibuster. But Democrats cried foul when the GOP used the new power during the Trump administration to push through hundreds of presidential appointments.



Super Six-year-old Saves Sister

Six-year-old Kayden Reid of Mobile, Alabama, was hit by a car while rescuing his two-year-old sister, and was given a hero's welcome when he left the hospital the following day.

Kayden was riding his hoverboard on the sidewalk during a family function on January 18 when he noticed his little sister, Kaycee, run into the street directly in front of an oncoming car, according to Yahoo News. Kayden immediately ran into the street after her and jumped in front of her in time to save her, but was struck by the car in the process.

According to the children's mother, Kayla Giles, Kayden acted before the family even had a chance to react to the situation.

"By the time everybody else saw [Kaycee] in the street, Kayden was right there.... He ran right into the street to save her. But in the process of getting her out of the way, he got hit by the car," she told *Fox & Friends* as she held both children in her arms. She added she was "thankful" that both kids were home and safe.

Kayden was rushed to the hospital, where he received a few stitches and was admitted overnight.

The next day, he was met with a big surprise as he was released. Mobile Fire Rescue came to greet him and treated him to a tour of the truck. He was escorted home by the fire department, and was happy to see that his house had been decorated with a banner reading, "Kayden Is Our Hero."

Woman Saves Three Kids From Icy Pond

Three Colorado children are alive today thanks to the grace of God and the intervention of one good Samaritan who just happened to be looking out of her window at the precise moment she was needed.

People.com reports that Dusti Talavera was looking out of her apartment window on January 9 when she saw three children, ages four, six, and 11, fall through a frozen pond. She immediately sprang

into action, running to help pull the children to safety.

"Nobody was outside. It was me. I knew it was me that had to do it," Talavera said.

During her rescue, her own safety became jeopardized.

"Before I even realized it, I was out there on the middle of the pond, pulling two kids out [the four-year-old and 11-year-old]," she said during a January press conference. "And that's when I fell in the pond. For the third kid [the six-year-old], I tried to hold her head up. I tried to hold my head up."

Thankfully, the children's cousin, who was nearby, managed to throw a rope to Talavera and helped pull them out of the water.

The six-year-old child had no pulse when paramedics first arrived, but was fortunately able to be revived.

First responders applauded Talavera's actions.

"Putting her life at risk for the kids to make sure that they could make it another day is amazing," said Sheriff's Deputy Blaine Moulton.

Community Celebrates Veteran's 100th Birthday

Americans in Omro, Wisconsin, and beyond ensured World War II veteran Ervin Fay had a memorable 100th birthday on January 20.

Fay's wife, Alice, put out a mail call through the Omro Area Community Center (OACC) of Wisconsin in the hopes that Fay would receive 100 cards for his 100th birthday.

Fay's children said they thought their father would love to get so many cards because getting mail is the highlight of his day.

"My dad looks forward to the mail every day. 'Did the mail come? Did I get any mail? Is there anything for me?'" his daughter, Mary Schuessler, told Fox 11 News.

Within just a few weeks, more than 200 cards and gifts arrived in the mail, just in time to be presented to Fay at his surprise birthday party hosted at the community center.

The OACC posted about Fay's celebration and the generous outpouring of support from everyone who responded to the call. A large chunk of the mail was sent from students in the Omro School District, who created cards and pictures for the Air Force veteran.

Shelter for Ryder

A group of teenagers built a bus shelter for a five-year-old wheelchair-bound boy after learning he had no cover while waiting for the school bus in rain, wind, and snow.

Ryder Killam of Bradford, Rhode Island, was born with spina bifida myelomeningocele and has never been able to walk, *The Epoch Times* reported in January. He has been using a wheelchair since he was two years old.

Ryder waits every day for his school bus, typically for approximately 15 minutes, under a patio umbrella that his parents set up for him at the end of his driveway. However, his parents quickly realized the umbrella provided limited shelter from the New England weather.

Ryder's father, Tim Killiam, reached out to the community on Facebook to see if anyone could spare "an old bus hut."

"I see them here and there on people's property and figured maybe someone had one and had grown children that might not need it anymore," he told *The Epoch Times*.

Eventually, Killiam made contact with Westerly High School, whose construction class expressed interest in building a shelter for Ryder. The teacher, Dan McKena, thought it would prove to be a learning opportunity for three of his classes, and an important altruistic one as well.

Home Depot donated approximately \$300 worth of materials for the project, which was completed in approximately six weeks and delivered to Ryder's home in early November.

Ryder had the chance to meet the students and teacher who helped build his incredible shelter in December, and his dad snapped photos of the meeting and posted them to his Facebook page. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH



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THE DUTCH REPUBLIC

America's Founding Fathers studied and applied the lessons of history when they launched our great experiment in liberty. One such lesson that is now mostly forgotten, but worth revisiting, is the Dutch Republic.



Artistic freedom: The Dutch Golden Age, because of its relative freedom and extraordinary prosperity, attracted and incentivized artistic talent. Many of the world's greatest painters, including Rembrandt, whose painting "The Night Watch" is shown here, were nurtured there.

by Charles Scaliger

“What other country [is there],” a wise man once wondered, “where you can enjoy such a perfect liberty, where you can sleep with more security . . . and where there has survived more of the innocence of our forefathers?” Such sentiments, seemingly proper to de Tocqueville and early America, in fact issued from another Frenchman, in another time and place: René Descartes, in the 17th-century Dutch Republic.

Though born in France, Descartes spent most of his productive years abroad, in the tiny Dutch Republic, prodigy of western Europe's early modern period. As were many other talented people from across Europe, Descartes was drawn to the Dutch political and economic miracle, a thing almost unheard of in an age of absolutism and religious intolerance: a free and prosperous republic that tolerated religious differences, freedom of speech, and an economy based on free enterprise. With its multiethnic cities,

modern finances and international trade, and flourishing science, engineering, and art, the Dutch Republic, otherwise known as the United Provinces, was the first modern Western republic, admired and emulated in later years in England, America, and elsewhere.

Compared to many of its larger European neighbors, the Dutch Republic, which consisted of seven states corresponding to the modern-day Netherlands, did not enjoy optimal geography for the foundation of an independent republic. Unlike the Swiss Confederation, it had no mountains, and unlike Venice, it was not surrounded by water. It had a mild climate, abundant waterways, and plenty of arable land, to be sure, but it had no natural defenses against the many large and aggressive European states that coveted the lands of the Dutch for their wealth and access to the sea.

Not only that, the Dutch territories in the 16th century were part of an empire belonging to Spain, one of the dominions of the Habsburg dynasty. The seeds of revolt were sown by the Protestant Reformation, which for the Dutch took the form of pious Calvinism that not only objected to Catholic doctrines, but also to what they viewed as the lifestyle of worldly dissipation encouraged by Catholic culture. Dutch Protestants viewed themselves as thrifty, restrained, and otherworldly, while viewing Catholics as irreverently festive; but, perhaps because of mild manners and a penchant for tolerance, Catholics and Protestants managed to coexist more or less peacefully in the Dutch states for some time.

Tumultuous Times

All that changed when Phillip II of Spain, son of the formidable monarch Charles V, ascended to the throne in 1556. Unlike his

polyglot father, Phillip spoke no Dutch and was seen as distant and tyrannical. Phillip soon embarked on a program not only to suppress Dutch Protestantism, but also to wrest power from the Dutch nobility. Adding insult to injury, he also levied steep tax hikes and installed his half-sister, Margaret, as governor. As the campaign to suppress the Calvinists intensified, so did Dutch resistance to Spanish rule. A petition submitted to Margaret to cease the persecution of Protestants was dismissed as the action of beggars (*gueux* in French), which epithet became the source of the Dutch term Geuzen, which the petitioners proudly adopted. It soon became the name for the Dutch noblemen who led what would become an 80-year war of independence against Spain, known to history as the Dutch Revolt or the Eighty Years' War.

In 1566, the revolt crystallized into more and more overt acts of violence against Catholic rule, including the *Beeldenstorm*, an outbreak of iconoclasm that featured attacks on many Catholic churches and monasteries for the purpose of destroying statues.

In response, Phillip sent the Spanish Duke of Alba the following year to Brussels along with 10,000 troops, under orders to crush the Dutch revolt by any means necessary. Alba promptly set up a special inquisitional tribunal tasked with ferreting out all Protestants and rebels — especially among the Dutch nobility. What followed was a reign of terror in which the “Blood Court” tried and executed more than a thousand Dutch citizens. These actions of the “Iron Duke,” calculated to cow the Dutch into submission, only hardened the resolve of the Geuzen.

As usually happens in time of crisis, a leader, in the person of William I of Orange, nicknamed “William the Silent,” stepped forward. A Dutch nobleman who had

fortuitously escaped the wrath of Alba by taking refuge in Saxony, William returned to Dutch territory in 1568 with an army, intending, at least at first, merely to drive Alba back to Spain and restore the legitimate direct rule of Phillip. It is worth noting in this connection that the Dutch Revolt was not, in the beginning, a war of independence; the Dutch sought greater autonomy and religious freedom, but were not necessarily looking for complete independence from Spain.

All of that changed, however, after the Battle of Heiligerlee, fought in the spring of 1568. Although Dutch forces led by William and his allies defeated the Spanish, they lacked the resources to continue the fight. Soon thereafter, William’s army fell apart, and the remnant forces were de-

feated by Alba. Although William himself escaped, the war against Spain appeared to be over. The surviving Geuzen forces took to the sea, with many of them fleeing to the safety of English ports.

Once more in firm control, Alba resumed his oppressive policies, levying a new 10-percent sales tax over the objections of local Dutch leaders, which once again inflamed popular passions. But the critical event that rekindled open hostilities was the surprise expulsion by Queen Elizabeth I of all the Geuzen from English ports. The British government did this to placate Spain, but the expulsion had unexpected consequences. The Geuzen fleet, bereft of their British havens, cast about desperately for a safe port on the European mainland. Led by the Dutch

Lord of Lumey, they decided to hazard a landing at the lightly-defended Dutch town of Brielle. Against all expectations, they defeated the defending force and took possession of the town and its surroundings, thereby giving the Geuzen a foothold on Dutch soil once again.

The surprise victory at Brielle served as a rallying cry for the Dutch. Cities all across Holland promptly declared themselves for the rebellion, and resources poured in. Amsterdam itself tried to stay out of the fray, but finally came over to the side of the rebels six years later. As for the Dutch people, a minority of Catholics remained loyal to Spain, while the majority of Catholics (along with the Protestants) appear to have supported the revolt, wanting nothing more than to return to the peaceful, relatively tolerant, pluralistic society they had enjoyed under the more enlightened rule of Phillip’s predecessors. Meanwhile, a ferocious minority of staunch Calvinist rebels intended to convert every Catholic



Defender of the faith: Under Phillip II, the Spanish Empire reached its greatest heights, motivated in no small part by Phillip’s desire to defend Europe from the Ottoman Turks.

to Protestantism — or else. William of Orange, now the undisputed leader of the revolt, had the unenviable task of trying to unite these factions while strengthening Dutch defenses.

The Spanish, meanwhile, prepared for all-out war — only to find themselves insolvent. After Spain declared bankruptcy in 1575, her foreign armies in northwestern Europe dissolved into mutinous companies. One of these, furious at not being paid wages due, sacked the city of Antwerp, killing at least 8,000 people. Following this so-called Spanish Fury, even the staunchly Catholic southern provinces of the Dutch territory (corresponding to modern-day Belgium and Luxembourg) joined the rebellion, allowing William to broker an agreement at Ghent in 1576 among all 17 of the Dutch states to practice religious tolerance and to unite in resistance to the Spanish forces.

This union was to be short-lived, however. Only three years later, the southern provinces decided to renew their allegiance to the Spanish crown, thereby becoming a haven for Catholics wishing to escape Protestant persecution. The northern provinces, in response, decided to formally sever ties with Spain and seek another sovereign as their patron.

In 1581, the States-General — the council composed of representatives of each of the northern provinces that for some years had served as the de facto government — passed the Act of Abjuration formally renouncing all ties to the Spanish crown. While similar in spirit to the American Declaration of Independence, the Act of Abjuration was intended to clear the way for allegiance to a new sovereign. Elizabeth I of England, though Protestant, was loath to interfere in continental affairs. The Dutch therefore turned to a French nobleman, Francis, Duke of Anjou, who had prompted the Dutch to abjure their ties with Spain as a condition for his assuming the crown. Anjou, a French Protestant and fiancé of Elizabeth I, was a natural choice for the Dutch, who still clung to the hope of a benign monarchy. But Anjou, dissatisfied with the limited powers allowed him by the States-General, decided to attempt reconquest of the Catholic southern provinces, beginning at Antwerp in 1583. The campaign was disastrous. Anjou's forces were de-



Clash of wills: Phillip II confronting William the Silent, (right) the founder of the Dutch Republic and chief instigator of the Dutch Revolt. Although William was eventually assassinated by an agent of the Spanish, his name lives on in the Netherlands as *Vader des Vaderlands*, the “Father of the Fatherland.”

stroyed, and Anjou barely escaped. In the wake of the debacle, Elizabeth I called off their engagement, and Anjou returned to Paris a broken man who succumbed the following year to malaria at the age of 29.

Meanwhile, the Dutch had run out of options. With Anjou and Elizabeth out of the picture, they finally decided to govern themselves as a republic, with the States-General as their governing body.

Following the Act of Abjuration, the Spanish, realizing the severity of the situation, sent another army to crush the Dutch once and for all. Although they managed to solidify their hold on Flanders and the southern provinces, they were unable to make any headway in the Dutch heartland. However, they did manage to strike one devastating blow to the fledgling republic: In 1585, William of Orange was assassinated in Delft by a Frenchman who was an agent of the Spanish, Balthasar Gerard, who befriended the Dutch leader in the guise of a sympathetic French nobleman. The assassination was the first of a head of state to be carried out

with a handgun, and Gerard's punishment was in keeping with the brutality of the times: He was burned and maimed before being dismembered and disemboweled while still alive.

Bereft of their leader, the Dutch turned to William's son Maurice, who fortunately turned out to be an extraordinarily able military commander. As the war dragged on through the end of the 16th century and into the early 17th, Maurice of Orange led the Dutch to victory after victory along the borders of Dutch territory, wresting one town after another from the Spanish and in the process defining what would become the borders of the modern-day Netherlands.

A New Government

In their epic struggle against what was at the time the world's mightiest empire, the Dutch were aided by external factors that weakened and distracted the Spanish forces. In 1588, the English defeat of the Spanish Armada at Gravelines (with the help of the Dutch navy) first showed the world that the Spanish were not invincible



Spanish fury: The Dutch Republic flourished for decades while war raged on its periphery. Although the Spanish logged many successes in outlying areas, such as the Flemish town shown here, they were never able to penetrate the Dutch heartland or achieve any decisive conquests of core Dutch population and economic centers such as Amsterdam.

The Dutch economic, social, and cultural miracle is usually ascribed to its extraordinarily limited government.

— and dealt a crippling blow to the Spanish treasury into the bargain. That same fateful year, the Dutch officially formed a confederacy, marking the formal founding of the Dutch Republic. In 1595, France declared war against Spain, requiring the Spanish to focus their energy on the much-more-powerful French state, and allowing the Dutch further opportunities to consolidate their gains.

In 1609, a peace between the still-unrecognized Dutch Republic and Spain was brokered by France and England, leading to a 12-year truce. But in 1621, in the larger context of the Thirty Years' War that had divided most of Europe between Catholics and Protestants, the Eighty Years' War resumed. Still determined to bring the rebellious northern provinces to heel, the Spanish once again sent a large army to attempt a reconquest.

Despite a notable Spanish victory at Breda in 1625 (where Maurice also died), the later phase of the war was mostly marked by Dutch victories on land and sea, including actions against overseas Spanish colonies. The decisive victory for the Dutch finally came in 1639 at the epic naval engagement known as the Battle of the Downs. On October 21 of that year, a Dutch naval force commanded by Maarten Tromp, after surrounding a Spanish armada at anchor off the coast of England, launched an all-out attack featuring fireboats as well as the usual gunships. The Spanish and their Portuguese allies suffered a resounding defeat with heavy casualties, including boats destroyed by fire and other vessels that were deliberately run ashore to avoid a similar fate — only to be picked clean by

English locals. Although the Battle of the Downs did not end the war, it was — like the Battle of Yorktown almost 160 years later — the final decisive engagement that guaranteed the victor. Indeed, the battle permanently broke the power of the once-vaunted Spanish navy, leading to Spain's downfall as the world's naval superpower and the eventual ascent of the French and English in its place.

In January 1648, as part of the broader Peace of Westphalia that ended the long and bitter Thirty Years' War, the Dutch and the Spanish signed the Treaty of Munster formalizing the independence of the Dutch Republic and leading to universal recognition of a sovereign and independent United Provinces, as the Dutch Republic was formally known.

The Eighty Years' War, one of the longest wars of independence in history, had surprisingly little effect on the Dutch heartland through most of its duration, nearly all of its decisive campaigns being fought on the borders and at sea. During most of the war, therefore, even during times of open hostilities, the little Dutch Republic and its estimated population of less than 1.5 million became an unexampled haven of peace, liberty, and prosperity to which talent and oppressed minorities flocked from far and wide. One minority in particular, Spain's Sephardic Jews, having suffered expulsion from Spain in 1492, immigrated in large numbers to Amsterdam, lured by that city's reputation for religious tolerance. There, they formed a very large subculture from which issued a continuous stream of literature published in Hebrew. One of the most eminent of these Jewish immigrants was Baruch Spinoza, a professional lens grinder as well as a philosopher and scientist, whose writings, along with those of Englishman Sir Francis Bacon and Frenchman René Descartes (who spent more than 20 years in the Dutch Republic), laid the philosophical foundations for the modern age of reason and the scientific revolution.

Golden Age

During the period from 1588 until 1672, known as the Dutch Golden Age, the Dutch Republic was the prodigy of Europe. The monarchy and accompanying rigid feudal order having disappeared,

the Dutch Republic fostered the rise of the first modern middle class and became the vaunted “nation of shopkeepers” ideal later realized in England and elsewhere. Life for ordinary people in the Dutch Republic featured a level of luxury and enjoyment not enjoyed by so broad a class of people since at least the Roman era. Food and recreation were plentiful, and labor for many involved the satisfaction of personal capital accumulation instead of the soul-wrenching serfdom that had everywhere been the rule in former ages. Much to the well-documented astonishment of foreign visitors, Dutch cities were almost bereft of the hordes of beggars that inhabited other European cities, and the streets and buildings were everywhere well-maintained.

This enormous prosperity can be traced to the implementation of something approaching a free market system, where people were rewarded directly for their industry and thrift, irrespective of race, religion, or social status. Modern banking and finance were invented in Amsterdam during the Golden Age; that city became the site of the world’s first stock exchange, with the Dutch East India Company the world’s first joint-stock corporation. The Bank of Amsterdam, the first modern bank, quickly earned international renown for its stability, and wealth flowed into it from every corner

of Europe. The Bank of Amsterdam was, for nearly 200 years, a full reserve bank, meaning that — unlike all modern banks — no fraction of reserves deposited on demand was loaned out. It instead made money by charging fees for the right to deposit funds, and also created the first-ever international reserve currency, fully backed by specie: the bank guilder.

Along with the stability of its internal finances and the comparatively laissez-faire attitude of its government, the Dutch were the beneficiaries of a worldwide trading empire, including not only their pivotal position as the hub of sea trade between northern and southern Europe, but also growing dominions in the East Indies and in the New World.

The creation of immense wealth allowed the arts and learning to flourish. The Dutch Republic became a republic of books, as the first modern publishing industry sprang up, supplying books for those thirsty for education all across Europe and in many languages, including not only the likes of English, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, and French, but also in less widely spoken languages such as Swedish and Hungarian. A surge of immigrants seeking religious freedom, many of whose skills lay in the publishing of materials deemed blasphemous or seditious in their homelands, created a ready-made

pool of publishing talent that flooded markets both national and international with the first mass-produced books, pamphlets, journals, and newspapers.

Additionally, the Dutch Republic saw the founding of a welter of new universities, including the most eminent, Leiden, founded by William the Silent, to which much of Europe’s top intellectual talent was drawn. Samuel Pufendorf, the great German political philosopher, spent time at Leiden to avoid persecution at home. Pufendorf’s magnum opus, *The Law of Nature and Nations*, scarcely appreciated today, is a magisterial work of political philosophy upon which later thinkers, such as Locke, Montesquieu, Blackstone, and many of the American Founders, drew heavily; it is probably the first European work of political philosophy wherein the practice of chattel slavery is roundly condemned. Other eminent scholars who made their home at Leiden during the Golden Age included John Comenius, the Czech-born philosopher and educator who is regarded as the father of the modern university system; Joseph Scaliger, one of the first Orientalists in Europe and one of the first western

Multinational corporation: The ships of the Dutch East India Company, perhaps the largest company ever to have existed, brought Dutch and European commerce to the farthest corners of the Earth.



As the first modern Western republic, the Dutch Republic showed what was possible in the absence of the overweening influence of nobility and stifling bureaucracy.



Taking stock: In 16th- and 17th-century Amsterdam, joint-stock companies and stock exchanges were invented, along with many other novel financial instruments. These, along with the Bank of Amsterdam's prudent reserve policies, transformed Amsterdam into the trade and financial capital of the entire world.

Europeans to master Arabic; and Justus Lipsius, eminent Classicist and four-time rector of the University of Leiden, under whose leadership the university enjoyed its greatest growth.

Christiaan Huygens, the greatest scientist and mathematician of the age except for Newton, was also a product of Leiden, although he eventually returned to his family home in The Hague to devote himself entirely to a career of independent re-

search that won him international renown for contributions such as the invention of the pendulum clock and the wave theory of light. In his later years, he met the younger Isaac Newton and corresponded with him for the rest of his life.

A different type of scientist altogether, but perhaps no less consequential than Huygens, was the dauntingly named Antonie van Leeuwenhoek. A thoroughgoing amateur, van Leeuwen-

hoek was a successful linen draper in Delft who, in his spare time, invented the microscope, and with it the science of microbiology. It was van Leeuwenhoek who first discovered the teeming world of one-celled "animalcules" inhabiting the water and soil, as well as the cellular structure of plants and many other microscopic novelties. Considering himself a simple businessman, van Leeuwenhoek never published a single scientific paper, but corresponded with scientists for many years. As his fame spread, many eminent Europeans beat a path to his humble home, including Russian Czar Peter the Great, a great patron of the arts and sciences, and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the great German philosopher and scientist.

Nor was van Leeuwenhoek the only world-class talent living in Delft in the 17th century. His contemporary, the great painter Jan Vermeer, also lived there, only one of an impressive array of Golden Age artistic talent that also included Pieter Brueghel the Younger (Pieter Brueghel the Elder belonged more properly to the antecedent Northern Renaissance) and Rembrandt.

On the more practical side, Dutch engineering and architecture were the envy of the world, as the industrious Dutch built up their cities, dug new canals, and reclaimed significant territory from the sea itself thanks to an ever-expanding system of dikes.

The Dutch economic, social, and cultural miracle is usually ascribed to its extraordinarily limited government. The Dutch Republic, or United Provinces, was a confederation of seven mostly autonomous provinces that supplied delegates to the sole national governing body, the States-General. As with the early American government under the Articles of Confederation, the States-General were limited in their authority to foreign affairs and warfare. While not immune to the authoritarian impulses of the age, the Dutch authorities were generally tolerant of religious and political dissent, and were willing to resist the temptation to micromanage business and finance as long as tax revenues flowed into the public coffers.

The Dutch were divided into two political camps, the *Staatsgezinden*, or republ-

licans, and the *Prinsgezinden*, or monarchists, also known as Orangists after the Dutch royal house of Orange. The republicans favored a weak central government composed of the States-General, while the monarchists preferred a system whereby each province appointed an aristocratic Stadtholder, or governor, chosen from the House of Orange, as a counterpoise against the interests of private capital. For two extended periods when republicans held sway, the Dutch Republic, bereft of Stadtholders, had no aristocratic component at all.

The towering political figure of the Dutch Golden Age was Johann de Witt, an extraordinary statesman and accomplished mathematician who was appointed Grand Pensioner of Holland, the most powerful of the United Provinces. As de facto leader of the republic, he guided the Dutch through war and peace, achieving renown for forcing the English to terms in the second of two Anglo-Dutch wars, after the Dutch destroyed a large part of the British navy in a surprise raid masterminded by de Witt himself. A republic-

lican, de Witt opposed the leadership of Stadtholders while seeking continually to mollify the Orangists.

Abrupt End

The Dutch Golden Age came to an abrupt and terrible end in the year 1672, known to Dutch history as the *Rampjaar* (“Disaster Year”). It was in that year that France and England jointly declared war on and invaded the Dutch Republic, overrunning most of its territory before allies in the Holy Roman Empire, Denmark, and (ironically) Spain came to the aid of the Dutch and, after several years of bitter fighting, forced the reinstatement of the republic’s borders. But the Dutch Arcadia had been spoiled. At the outset of the crisis, the Orangists turned on de Witt and lynched him in The Hague, with the bloodthirsty mob hideously mutilating his corpse. After that, political power oscillated between Orangists and republicans, fatally weakening the body politic even as the Dutch Republic’s finances were strained by maintaining a huge navy to protect

against the growing French and English menaces.

The last hurrah for the Dutch republicans came in the 1780s with the *Patriottentijd* (“Time of Patriots”), in which the Dutch, inspired by the American and Swiss examples, organized popular militias to restore and safeguard republicanism. Unfortunately, an invasion by the Prussians in support of the monarchist cause suppressed the movement in 1787. Only eight years later, the Dutch Republic fell to French Revolutionaries, who expelled the last Stadtholder and set up the Batavian Republic, a militantly secular revolutionary state modeled after radical revolutionary France, and wholly subservient to it.

The lessons of the Dutch Republic were not lost on the American Founders. Although widely admired for its remarkable achievements (John de Witt was the pen name chosen by one of the Anti-federalists), the Dutch Republic was seen as flawed for the haphazard construction of its government. Of the United Provinces James Madison wrote, in *The Federalist*, No. 20:

What are the characters which practice has stamped upon [the United Provinces]? Imbecility in the government; discord among the provinces; foreign influence and indignities; a precarious existence in peace, and peculiar calamities from war. It was long ago remarked by Grotius, that nothing but the hatred of his countrymen to the House of Austria, kept them from being ruined by the vices of their constitution.

As the first modern Western republic, the Dutch Republic showed what was possible in the absence of the overweening influence of nobility and stifling bureaucracy. Despite, or perhaps because of, the ever-present peril of destruction by its many more-powerful foreign enemies, the republic — with its pluralism, free markets, advances in the arts and sciences, encouragement of free thought, and burgeoning middle class — became a template for the modern Western state, prefiguring centuries in advance the limited popular governments that have become the order of the day across the Western world and beyond. ■



David Teniers the Younger

War without end: One of the longest wars of independence in history, the Eighty Years’ War, or Dutch War of Independence, was waged against the Spanish Empire at the height of the latter’s power, a David and Goliath story that served as backdrop for the Golden Age of the Dutch Republic.

Nightmare Attack on Elderly Couple

A horrific incident unfolded in Adams County, Pennsylvania, in which a man terrorized an elderly couple in the middle of the day. The *York Daily Record* reported on December 23 that a man, later identified by authorities as 54-year-old Steven David Shaffer, was reported by witnesses in the rural area as acting erratically. Witnesses say Shaffer was trying to enter houses and was banging on cars, forcing traffic to stop. He had also removed his clothing, including his underwear, and was only wearing a t-shirt as he aggressively tried entering homes.

He was able to break in through the front door of the house of an elderly couple, after which the husband tried stopping him. Shaffer violently beat the husband, who yelled for his wife to get a gun from the bedroom. Shaffer then chased after the wife, and attacked her in the bedroom. The husband was badly beaten, but was able to make it to the bedroom and retrieve his firearm, which he used to shoot Shaffer multiple times. Shaffer was fatally wounded from the shots and died at the scene.

Police were already on the way due to calls about Shaffer’s earlier wild behavior, and they soon arrived at the elderly couple’s house. The wife suffered critical injuries and was taken by helicopter to the nearest medical facility, while the husband was transported by ambulance to the same hospital. Police expect both victims to survive, although the extent of their injuries is still not clear.

Neighbors in the area were shaken up over what transpired, and told the *York Daily Record* that this type of violent crime never happens in their quiet rural community. Roy Reed, who has lived in the community for 35 years, said, “I never did think anything like this would happen.” Reed said Shaffer lived on the same block as the elderly couple, but thought the attack was totally random since he didn’t believe they knew each other.

Resident Terry Bankert told the paper that it’s a quiet neighborhood where many of the residents keep to themselves, and

she never thought something like this would happen. Bankert supported the husband’s actions and expressed gratitude that he was armed. “I’m glad he had a gun.... He did the right thing,” she said.

Chinese Restaurant Closes After Shooting

York City, Pennsylvania, recorded its first homicide of 2022 after a man tried robbing a Chinese restaurant. Fox53 reported on January 5 that the suspect entered the Asian Best Chinese and Thai Cuisine Restaurant armed with a handgun and demanded money from the occupants. The owner of the restaurant was in the back making food when he heard the commotion. He retrieved a firearm and fatally shot the suspect, who was standing near the counter. The suspect died at the scene, and was identified by authorities as 33-year-old Rickey Cox, Jr., who had a lengthy criminal record.

The owner of the restaurant was so shocked and upset over the incident that he decided to close his restaurant permanently. In a Facebook post, the owner thanked his supporters but explained that, “due to the recent traumatic event on 4 JAN 2022, we have decided not to reopen Asian Best for business. This decision was made with a heavy heart and many tears but it is the right decision for our family.” The restaurant owner was cleared of any wrongdoing in the shooting when the local district attorney declared that it was a justifiable homicide.

Robbery in Park Ends Badly

Patch.com reported on December 28 about a shooting at Takomah Trail Park in Tampa, where would-be burglars had the tables turned on them by their intended victim, who was lawfully carrying a concealed firearm.

Police investigators say that a group of young robbers went to the park with a gun and tried robbing a man they encountered there. One member of the

group, later identified as 16-year-old Ian D. Thomas, actually shot the victim in cold blood, but the victim was able to pull out his own gun and return fire, fatally wounding Thomas. The crowd of teenage thugs scattered as soon as the victim returned fire, leaving their accomplice’s lifeless body lying on the ground. The injured victim also fled, as he was in fear of being attacked a second time.

Responding officers did not find any of the other suspects or the victim at the scene of the shooting, only Thomas’ body. Police later located the wounded victim and made sure he received medical treatment.

It is tragic to hear about a 16-year-old dying in this manner, but this is the inevitable result of committing a violent felony. All the details uncovered by law enforcement so far show that the victim was well within his rights to use deadly force to defend himself.

Kyle’s Law

Kyle Rittenhouse garnered the support of Second Amendment proponents everywhere when he lawfully defended himself from dangerous rioters who were violently assaulting him. WSMV.com reported on January 19 that a state representative in Tennessee was so inspired by Kyle that he proposed new legislation named after him. Tennessee House Representative Bruce Griffey (R-Paris) introduced a law named “Kyle’s Law” that strengthens “protection of self-defense and second amendment rights in Tennessee.”

WSMV explained that the legislation requires that “anyone accused of murder who was found not guilty, but determined to have acted in lawful self-defense, would be reimbursed by the state for certain costs, such as lost wages and legal fees.” It is not clear what the bill’s chances are of being signed into law, but it’s certainly an interesting idea that gun-rights enthusiasts hopefully will champion in the future in some form. As for Kyle Rittenhouse, Representative Griffey already plans to recognize him with a state proclamation that honors him as a hero. ■

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THE REVIEW

Laughing in the Face of Cancel Culture

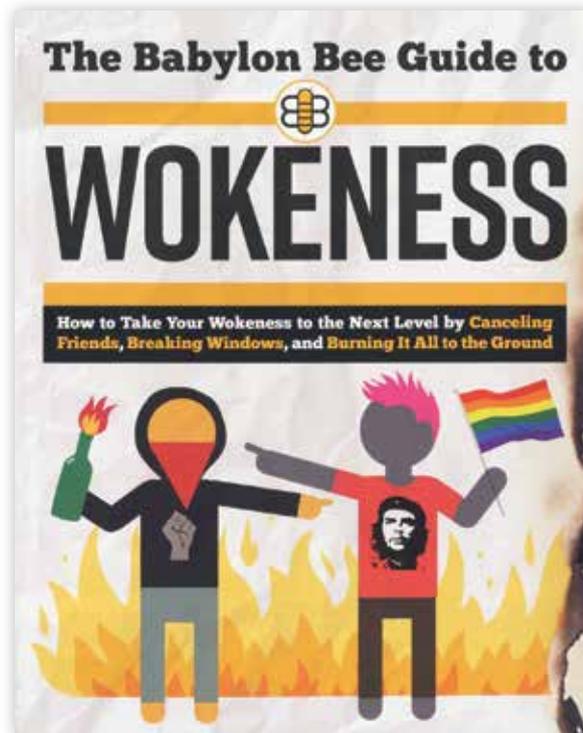
by William P. Hoar

The Babylon Bee Guide to Wokeness: How to Take Your Wokeness to the Next Level by Canceling Friends, Breaking Windows, and Burning It All to the Ground, by Kyle Mann, et al., Washington, D.C.: Salem Books (an imprint of Regnery Publishing), 2021, 208 pages, paperback.

This book makes a pretense of being a how-to manual for fugitives from the brain gang, sages who have been educated beyond their intelligence, and prodigies who think the Kentucky Derby is a hat. If the reader passes this advocated course, he or she or it will go through life believing everything — which no doubt saves thinking.

In short: It devastates the enlightened woke crowd with apt and witty ridicule.

Woke activists, the targets of this satirical guidebook, have taken political correctness to preposterous, even dangerous, heights. They assuredly deserve the knife-



edge hand slashes they receive herein — albeit (to mix metaphors) in a tongue-in-cheek fashion.

The Babylon Bee Guide to Wokeness is a creation of personnel from the eponymous satirical website that boasts of being “fake news that you can trust.” The Babylon Bee website is more than a place where people laugh and knowingly nod in agreement;

it has become a political force of its own. (The website gets about 20 million page views monthly.) The book’s co-authors are Kyle Mann, the Bee’s editor-in-chief; Ethan Nicolle, the site’s creative director; Joel Berry, managing editor; and Gavin Yee, who deals with graphics and animation.

The illustrations are an integral component of the book. In this way, we can better grasp, assisted by a “microaggression deadliness rating” — which is needed because woke people can be “offended by absolutely everything” — why such microaggressions are more lethal than hand grenades.

We can also picture clearly why a headless treesexual elf on a unicycle should be considered a hero of oppression.

It’s one thing to read in an American history chapter, as we do, that “Before

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there was Hitler, there was someone even worse: Christopher Columbus.” Yet, the art drives home the point, picturing the hated Chris’s dastardly accoutrements, including “leftist tears tumbler,” “rosary nunchucks,” and boots (“for stomping on the necks of marginalized groups”).

The feminism and gender section includes lesser-known letters in LGBTQ+. And we certainly don’t want to ignore the “P” and “U” folks who, we learn, are “Potatogendered” and the “Umbrellaphillic.” Also shown — with their very own symbols — is a “sampling of the many genders you may transition to at any given time.” Among these are the “Elvish,” “Ubertrans,” “Trans-Former,” and “Twixsexual.”

Meanwhile, there is a plethora of pronouns to choose from because, as the authors point out, “Pronouns are everything. They are your badge — the identifying marker that will separate you from the outsiders, the science deniers, and the unbelievers.” These days, we are way beyond simple parts of speech.

On the other hand, we learn that certain “bad pronouns” should be avoided; in this vile category we find “He/Him,” “Thee/Thine,” “Dude/Bro,” “Ptera/Dactyl,” and “MA/GA.” One can imagine — though the kindly Bee people don’t mention this — a not-so-distant future that includes

Humor and satire are potentially hazardous tools. What makes one guffaw makes another gasp. When you add politics to the mix, some folks will undoubtedly be offended.

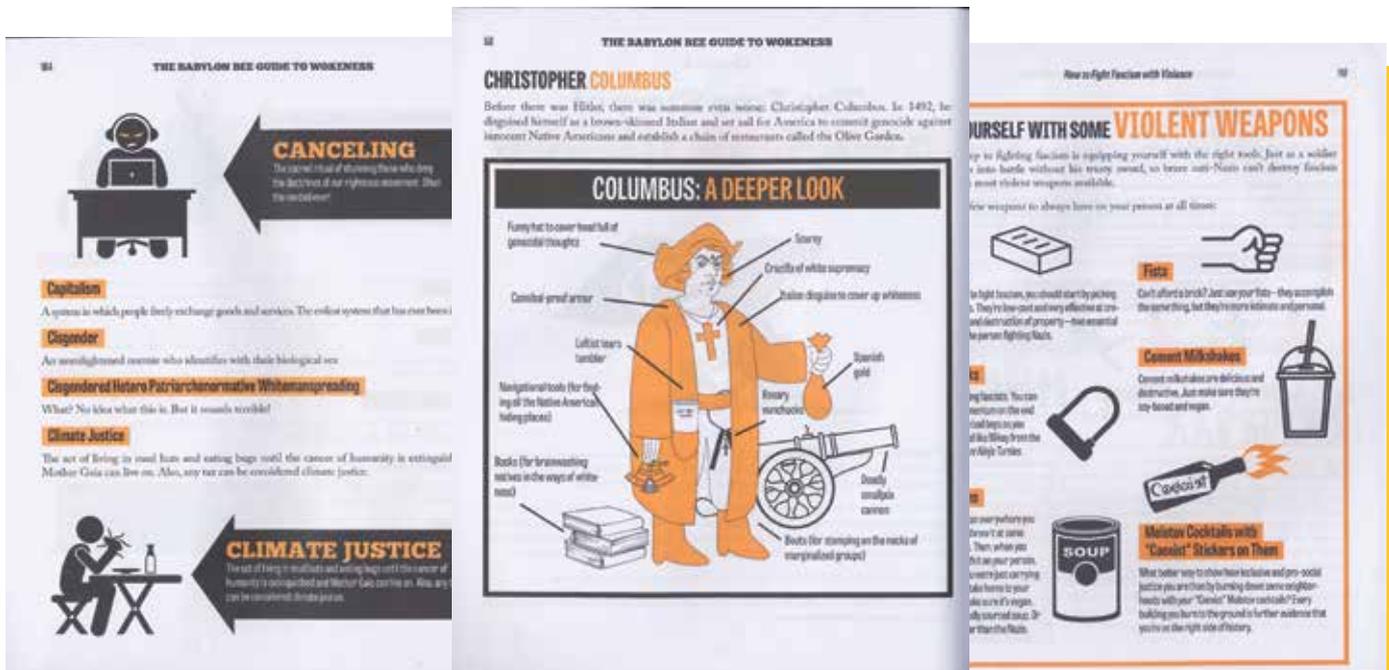
giving such unmanageable creatures a taste of something similar to *1984*’s Two Minutes Hate — the ritualistic loathing by good members to express revulsion for enemies of the Party.

Humor and satire are potentially hazardous tools. What makes one guffaw makes another gasp. When you add politics to the mix, some folks will undoubtedly be offended. But humor does have its purposes. There are reasons why *Reader’s Digest* has long had a section called “Laughter, the Best Medicine.” While jesting can hurt, it can also heal. Consider President Ronald Reagan’s comment to the surgeons on his way to the operating room after being shot. “Please tell me,” said Reagan, that “you’re Republicans.” After hearing about that quip, the nation (largely) smiled in relief.

Not long ago, the *Deseret News* quoted Seth Dillon — the current owner of The Babylon Bee — and his comments to a group of conservatives in Orlando. Dillon

mentioned one of his favorite G.K. Chesterton quotes: “The world has become too absurd to be satirized.” So it often seems. Indeed, Dillon is known to get laughs when he points out how frequently the Bee has been erroneously “fact-checked” by the mainstream media as if it were a newspaper of record. If Chesterton, who died in 1936, thought the world was overly absurd in his day, what would he make of TikTokers with pink hair? Or, even more unhinged, the ludicrous so-called progressive “Squad” in the U.S. Congress?!

What is real? And what is satire? The differences can be difficult to discern. *The Babylon Bee Guide to Wokeness* asks: “What better way to show how inclusive and pro-social justice you are than by burning down some neighborhoods with our ‘Coexist’ Molotov cocktails?” It also depicts “The Stool of Justice” with the three legs of “Racist Guilt,” “LGBTQ Solidarity,” and “Climate Change Activism.” You cannot, the guide preaches to



The guide to wokeness is saying out loud what the radicals silently believe. Would-be woke readers are instructed accordingly.

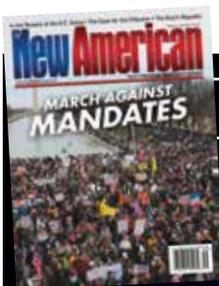


Kyle Mann

facebook/kylemann

disciples, “be a true anti-racist ally without also being a climate activist. You can’t be a true climate activist until you also stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ movement.”

Absurd? Sure. But is it too much of a stretch? Consider a recent satirical Bee headline that cited a San Francisco store clerk who was said to be confused because a shopper actually tried to pay for merchandise. Is the parodied event more far-fetched than a true-life report (a typical one) from *Law Enforcement Today*? The latter account described how, as a result of “criminal justice reform,” shoplifters had been “walking into stores, filling bags, walking out doors in San Francisco.” That city’s district attorney disdains prosecuting criminals who commit “low-level” crimes, and is, as the law-enforcement



account pointed out, “one of a number of radicals that were elected to the office of district attorney across the country, helped in no small part by radical billionaire George Soros money.”

It can indeed be hard to differentiate the satirical farce from the factually bizarre. Can’t you see an obsessive leftist activist picking up this book and being triggered about, say, certain Disney movies because of their questionable content? Take *Winnie the Pooh*. Please. After all, as the wokeness guide informs us, there “is a lack of gender/ethnic diversity among the human cast, which consists of a single white male character named Christopher Robin.” Surely *Lady and the Tramp* involves “slut-shaming.” And there is the horror in *Sleeping Beauty* that “depicts kissing without consent.” (In the real world — if that is how you describe California — two San Francisco critics last year publicly got their panties in a twist because Disneyland’s “Snow White” ride still included Prince Charming’s kiss while she sleeps and “without her consent.”)

There’s no end to the brainwashing. Because being woke is a long game, the next generation must also be targeted. This involves, as our guidebook instructs us, separating kids from the “oppressive parents.” Madness? Crackpot? Daft? Yep, but it’s analogous to last fall’s gubernatorial debate in Virginia when Democratic nominee Terry McAuliffe insisted that he didn’t “think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.” (This may have cost him the election.)

The guide to wokeness is saying out loud what the radicals silently believe. Would-be woke readers are instructed accordingly. “The number one rule of education is this: Parents are the worst. They must be treated as an adversary and obstacle to your students’ woke enlightenment. Your job as a woke educator is to liberate kids from the unfair parent/child power dynamic.”

There are ulterior reasons why the brainwashers want to keep so many parents in the dark about what their children are being force-fed. As the handbook explains: “If a child takes away one thing from their K-12 education, it should be a state of constant horror that the earth is dying and all life as we know it ... will face extinction because all parents are capitalists who drive minivans.”

The guide keeps up its well-aimed fire throughout — starting with its dedication to Joseph Stalin, “a woke hero and champion to the oppressed proletariat” — right to the final entry in its glossary. There, it is emphasized that the “woke” are the “good guys.” Their ranks have “woken up to the plight of the oppressed and done something about it by posting virtue signals on Instagram.” Since you have finished the book, say the congratulating authors, you too are truly woke. ■

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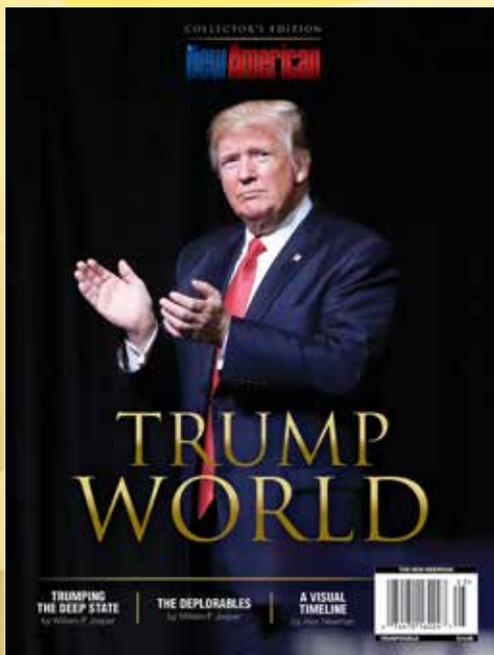
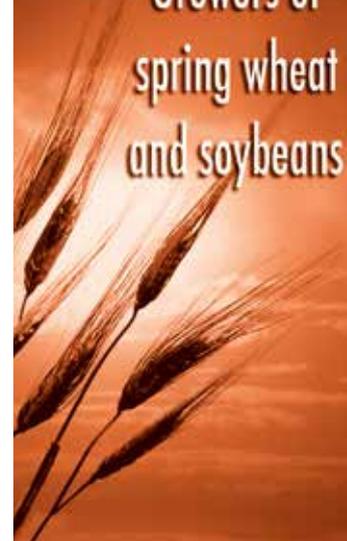


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Truckers, Davos Elites, & Collapsing COVID Lies

Ottawa has fallen. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is in hiding. As we go to press, Trudeau is issuing defiant press statements from an undisclosed location, where he and his family were taken “for protection.” Was Canada invaded by the Taliban, ISIS, or North Korea? Have Islamic State mujaheddin turned the Canadian capital into their new caliphate? Of course not; if any of those scenarios had occurred, Trudeau, the pompous, petulant, perpetually preening prime minister of “diversity and inclusion,” might have been more welcoming.

No, Ottawa was “invaded” by tens of thousands of ordinary, patriotic Canadians and a convoy of thousands of trucks. They had come from across Canada to send an unmistakable message to Trudeau: They have had enough of his COVID tyranny.

The proximate cause of the truckers’ grievance is Trudeau’s most recent vaccine mandate for truckers coming from the United States. Although the unprecedented, massive convoys were all but invisible on the Canadian state-controlled media (as well as the globalist-controlled commercial media), the word got out through independent social-media efforts. Millions of Canadians lined the nation’s highways, freeways, bridges, and overpasses in sub-zero weather to cheer, wave their maple-leaf flags, and voice their support for the mammoth big-rig parade, which stretched on for more than 50 miles.

Canadians, like freedom-loving people everywhere, are not just suffering from “pandemic fatigue,” they are fed up with the two-year campaign of fear and the ever-changing “science” lies from the politicians and medical bureaucrats that are taking them into a COVID gulag. And with their lives dependent on food, medicine, and other necessities from the United States, Canadians can see that the trucker vaccine mandate would further disrupt that supply-chain lifeline and could be the final nail in the coffin for their freedoms — and their lives.

The convoy “invasion” and thousands of its supporters arrived in Ottawa on January 29. Some have vowed to stay there until Trudeau backs off his draconian COVID agenda. And what does Supreme Leader Trudeau say? In a virtual press conference from his hiding place, the pusillanimous PM charged that the convoy protesters are “a fringe minority” spewing “hateful rhetoric.” He dug into his threadbare “progressive” tool bag and accused them of employing “Nazi symbolism” and “racist imagery.” By all *reliable* news reports the protest-



AP Images

ers were peaceful, orderly, and respectful of property.

No one knows what the ultimate impact of the Freedom Convoy will be, but there is no question it is a very important addition to many recent signs that are causing the nervous Covidian globalists to tap the brakes on their pandemic express. While Trudeau, Joe Biden, French President Emanuel Macron, and other politicians have continued or even hardened their COVID controls, massive pushback from outraged citizens has caused a significant shift in the other direction in

the U.K., Denmark, Norway, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere. On January 19, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that mask mandates, vaccine passports, and most other restrictions would end on January 26. Spain’s leftist President Pedro Sanchez appears to be following suit.

Huge protests against the COVID lockdowns, vaccine mandates, passports, and fines have rocked Britain, Australia, France, Germany, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Israel, Denmark, Croatia, Macedonia, Luxembourg, Belgium, Spain, Poland, Slovakia, Argentina, Ukraine, and Sweden. However, it is not only mass resistance that is throwing a monkey wrench into the globalists’ push for a Beijing-style medical dictatorship. Over the past year we have seen a groundswell of genuine experts — physicians, epidemiologists, virologists, immunologists, and renowned vaccine scientists — speaking out against the mass administration of the COVID jabs, all of which are still *experimental*, with known and unknown dangers.

It’s not just “far-right extremists” opposing the jab and the despotic Covidian regime. Liberals, lefties, moderates, apolitical types, entertainers, athletes, and more, across the spectrum, are refusing to go along with the Orwellian agenda: Joe Rogan, Elon Musk, Jordan Peterson, Eric Clapton, Russell Brand, Naomi Wolf, Aaron Rogers, Dave Chapelle, Bryson DeChambeau, Novak Djokovic, Matthew McConaughey, Jessica Biel, Bill Maher, Nicki Minaj, Rob Schneider, Kirstie Alley, Kyrie Irving, and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (to name a few).

Little Justin Trudeau has thrown in his lot with Bill Gates, Klaus Schwab, George Soros, and their Davos billionaire cabal at the World Economic Forum, which is the driving force behind the *plandemic* tyranny. But the “little people” of the world are refusing to submit to these would-be global tyrants. Remember: You are not alone, and resistance is *not* futile! ■

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