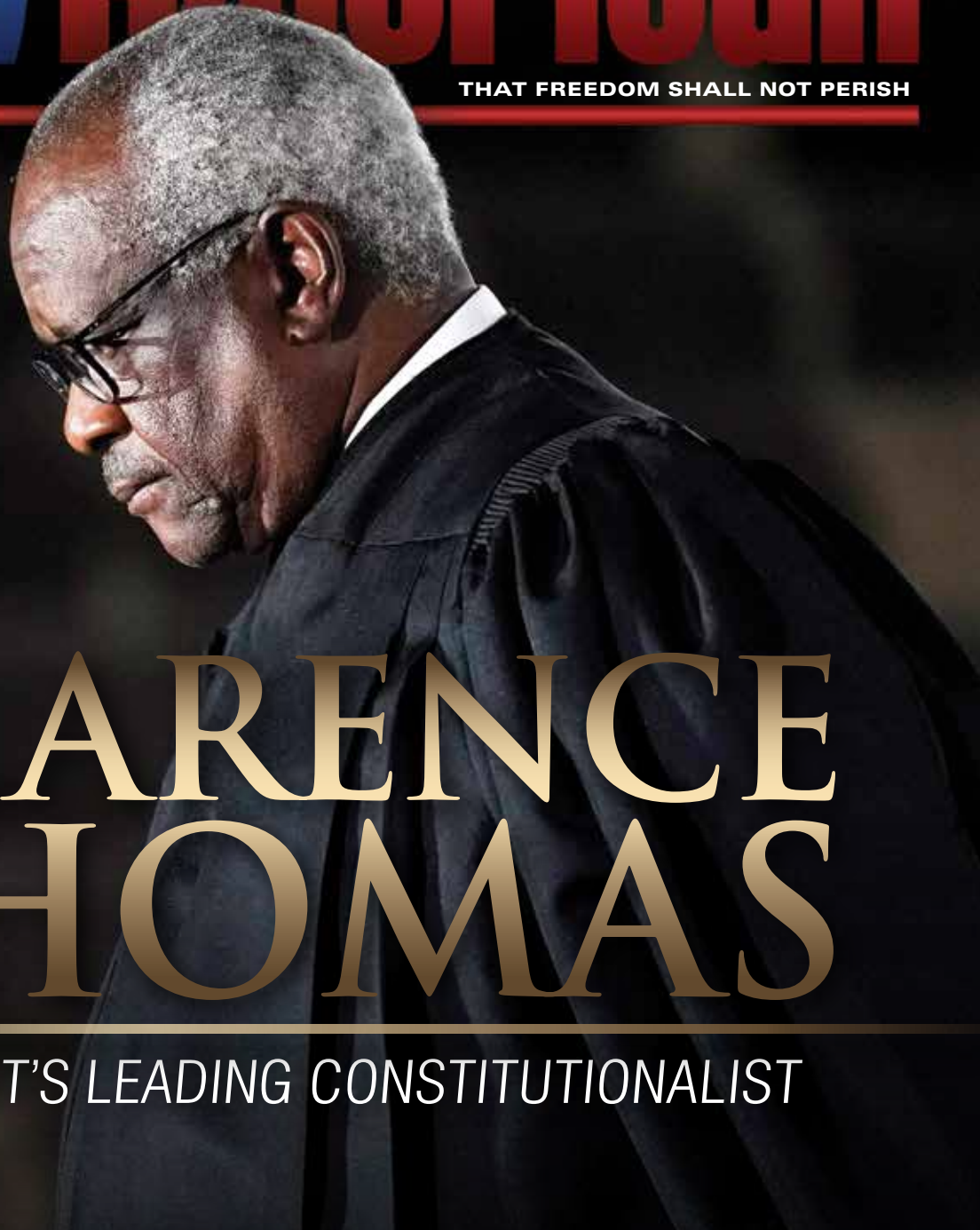


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**Three Mile
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THE NEW AMERICAN

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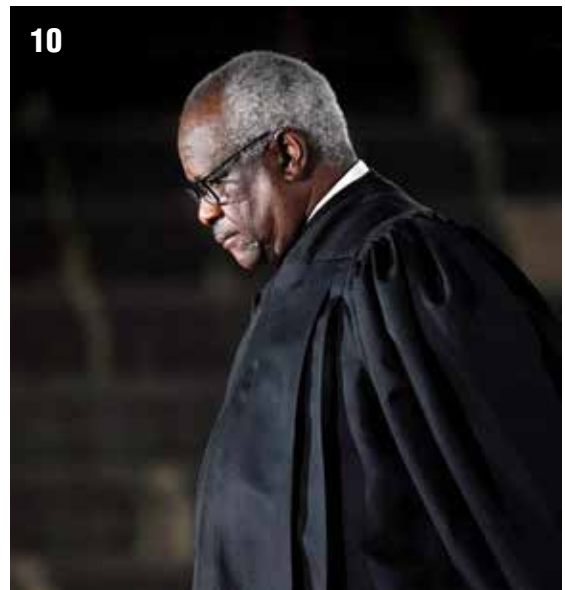
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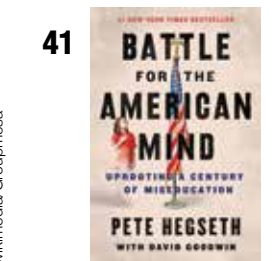
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Financing Illegal Immigration

Why is taxpayer money laundered to finance illegal aliens?

Government uses nonprofit organizations to launder taxpayer money to finance the illegal-alien invasion. This hides the fact that government is actually financing it. FEMA funds these money-laundering operations.

Catholic Charities exemplifies how nonprofits launder taxpayer money to execute the Democrats' agenda. Catholic Charities actively supports the illegal-alien invasion as well as normal charities. Between 2012 and mid-2015, the government gave them more than \$1.6 billion. This was 100-percent taxpayer money, not collection plate money.

Many other nonprofits, including United Way and CARECEN, launder taxpayer funds to comfortably support illegal aliens. This starts in Mexico with debit cards, and continues with extensive support here.

The goal: gain power by replacing American voters with grateful foreign Democratic voters.

Marvin Mathiak
Sent via email

The End of the Age

Scientific theories come a dime a dozen these days — you have a theory, and you interpret all facts in light of that theory, and then it's proven. I've only heard of global warming from others who didn't understand the concept, who say, in essence, "It's a fact, and shut up if you don't believe it." Save the whales, save the trees, now it's save the polar bear habitats.

Yes, there is pollution and waste, and yes, we ought to be good stewards of God's creation, but the greatness of God must be greater than His creation. We need world peace before we can look after the environment. We worry over climate change, but neglect concern for nuclear exchange.

We want to save this world by handing over our freedoms to United Nations authority, immediately halting all births and bringing carbon emissions to naught overnight. This is all great in theory, but when has such power not been abused? When they shall say, "peace and safety, beat your swords into plowshares, one nation under

one flag," then will sudden destruction arise, and they shall not escape.

Instead of global warming being blamed on man, consider it a race to the end of this age. These climate catastrophes are contractions, getting stronger and closer, as upon a woman in the throes of labor. The whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now.

Even so, God is mindful of our plight and knows the end of the world from the beginning. He sent his Son to save us from an eternity of warming: For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. — John 3:16

Luke Morell
Sent via email

Progressive Fourth Reich

Whether they themselves realize it or not, the Progressive Democrats and their wholly suborned press are the Fourth Reich. They have elevated the new Führer into office with shenanigans, but are they entirely pleased? What's next? Will they enjoy the midterms and grant the temporary Führer the last two years of his term? It must be tempting to elevate a "strong black woman" to the presidency.

I had a rather odd notion. Hunter Biden could easily be rehabilitated, perhaps even "see the light" and become a fervent supporter of the progressive doctrine of global warming, racism, and sexism. I hear his repentance building as he contemplates the rewards of absolute power. Hunter did nothing that a lot of the Goebbels-loving media hasn't. They could even have him spout Christian repentance and how he saw the light to sway the few Independent Christian voters left out there in the controlled news-feed of traditional media outlets. Of course, he'd have to hide the narcotics and orgies better until he mounted the throne. Another "world's cleanest election" like 2020, and they are all set.

Tom Worley
Online comment

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"This is a republic, not a democracy — Let's keep it that way!"

Glenn Beck Withdraws Support for Constitutional Convention

Popular talk-show host Glenn Beck announced on September 15 on his show that he no longer supports an Article V Convention to amend the Constitution.

“I have been a supporter of the Article V Convention of States. I’ve been a pretty big supporter, vocal supporter. I’m reversing that today,” he said during the episode titled “Media Praises Biden for Solving a Problem He Created.”

Convention of States (COS), the leading organization lobbying for this dangerous ploy — a group members of The John Birch Society have encountered in state legislatures across the nation and have recently defeated in Ohio, Iowa, Utah, and South Dakota — benefited from Beck’s prior support.

The John Birch Society, the parent organization of *The New American* magazine, has not only long opposed calling a modern-day constitutional convention (Con-Con), but has also played a major role in preventing such a convention from coming about. In his remarks, Beck echoed as a reason for his reversal a major JBS talking point — that we are currently in no position as a populace to open up our Constitution for possible revisions.

“We are not the people to open up this sacred document. We are not the people — that was a God-inspired document,” Beck said. “I withdraw my support. And I’m sorry to say that, but I withdraw my support.... This Constitution is wholly inadequate for anyone other than a religious and moral people. We are not those people.”

This comes on the heels of Dr. Robert Malone sharing with

his large Substack audience an article by JBS research project manager Christian Gomez on the dangers of a Con-Con. That got COS’s attention, and they quickly fired off two posts on their website to contain the damage.



AP Images

Poll: Americans Think Civil War Likely in Next 10 Years

The country is sharply divided today, with growing political tension, partisan rhetoric, economic duress, and woke policies invading everyday life. Now comes an August 24 poll from YouGov and *The Economist* showing that, with the political tension and division, about 43 percent of Americans believe a civil war is at least somewhat likely in the next decade. Only 35 percent of the 1,500 people surveyed said civil war was not likely or not very likely.

According to the survey,

Two-thirds of Americans (66%) believe that political divisions in this country have gotten worse since the beginning

of 2021, compared to only 8% who say the country has grown less divided. Few see things improving in the coming years: 62% expect an increase in political divisions.

A similar share (63%) to the proportion who say political divisions have worsened (66%) say political violence has increased since the start of 2021. Three in five Americans (60%) anticipate an increase in political violence in the next few years and only 9% expect political violence to decline.

The poll then compared Democrats and Republicans on political division in the country. Republicans were more likely to say political division has worsened lately and expect the political divide to widen.

It’s obvious to anyone who has a pulse that the nation is going through some serious political upheaval. Every day, Americans are bombarded with woke, agenda-driven government actions that can only widen the ever-growing political divide that the poll accurately captured.

However you view the results of the poll, the heightened political divisiveness can only mean that more good people are getting active and standing up for what they know is best for our Republic.



Jorge Villalba/Stock/Getty Images Plus

New York Governor Tells Opponents to “Head Down to Florida”

New York Democrat Kathy Hochul, the plastic politician elevated to the governorship after her predecessor resigned in disgrace, has a message for political opponents: Leave the state and relocate to Florida.

At an August 29 evening rally in Kingston, Hochul said that she’s “fighting to bring government back to the people and out of the hands of dictators.” Now there’s a campaign slogan — for her gubernatorial opponent Lee Zeldin (R). New York has been controlled by Democrats for decades.

As for the governor threatening her opponents with a good time, she referenced not just Donald Trump and Zeldin, but also Dutchess County executive Marc Molinaro, saying, “Trump and Zeldin and Molinaro — just jump on a bus and head down to Florida where you belong, okay? Get out of town. Because you don’t represent our values.”

Whether those “values” include lying about Covid data for political reasons, which New York’s government did, was not reported.

Hochul’s predecessor, Andrew Cuomo, had opined likewise, saying that conservatives “who are right-to-life, pro-assault-



AP Images

weapon, [and] anti-gay ... have no place in the state of New York, because that’s not who New Yorkers are.”

This was in 2014 — before Cuomo learned he had no place in the governor’s mansion.

A couple of Hochul’s targets were quick to respond, with Zeldin tweeting, “You’re losing your marbles lady,” and Molinaro calling her statement “shameful.”

Many interpreted the governor’s comments as meaning she

wanted all her state’s 5.4 million Republicans to depart; for Hochul’s part, she might say her unwelcome mat only applies to the few politicians mentioned. Yet the former interpretation is understandable; after all, if *persona non grata* status applies to the “moderate” Zeldin and Molinaro, why wouldn’t millions of their co-ideologists be included?

Of course, this wouldn’t exactly work wonders for the Empire State’s tax base, already eroded by the departure of 1.5 million residents during the last decade. On the plus side, though, New York is getting some new arrivals from Texas — regular busloads of them.

FBI Agents Claim Wray Has “Lost Control” of the Agency

Kurt Siuzdak, a lawyer and former FBI agent who now represents several current FBI “whistleblowers,” told *The Washington Times* on August 31 that “they’re saying, ‘How does this guy [FBI Director Christopher Wray] survive? ... He’s got to leave.’”

Siuzdak, a 25-year veteran of the agency, left in March due to what he perceived to be a strong partisan political bias at the very top of the FBI.

At the “very top” sits a Trump appointee, Christopher Wray, who replaced Jim Comey as head of the agency after Trump fired Comey in May 2017. As Wray is a Yale law graduate and a member of the prestigious Federalist Society, with a long history in both public service and private practice, Trump thought he was

appointing someone who would clean house.

Instead, the man he chose turned out to be part of the problem instead of the solution.

Thanks to numerous FBI whistleblowers, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) has brought the situation to light. Serving as the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, he has been privy to numerous agents’ complaints about that bias and has written repeatedly to Wray asking for explanations.

Grassley mentioned specifically the actions of FBI Assistant Agent in Charge Timothy Thibault, noting that he exhibited a “pattern of active public partisanship” and requesting an investigation into that “pattern.” Thibault exhibited his bias against Donald Trump in a series of social-media posts, which, when Grassley’s letter became public, were deleted.

Thibault also had a hand in dismissing demands that Hunter Biden’s laptop information be investigated, calling any such evidence “disinformation.” Thibault was put on temporary leave following Grassley’s claims, and that temporary leave became permanent when Thibault announced his retirement from the agency in late August.

Sending Thibault off into retirement isn’t going to end the corruption at the very top of the FBI, though. Hopefully he will serve not as the scapegoat, but as the first of many at the top to be exposed. ■



AP Images

Biden Claims MAGA Republicans Are Attacking Democracy

“For a long time, we’ve told ourselves that American democracy is guaranteed. But Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very foundations of our country.”

*In a speech delivered to several hundred people seated in front of Philadelphia’s Independence Hall, **Joe Biden** also pointed to causes he feared would be lost if MAGA succeeds. Our country, Biden warned, would again become “an America where there is no right to choose, no right to privacy, no right to contraception, no right to marry who you love.”*



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Over 1,100 Climate Scientists and Professionals Insist There’s No Climate Emergency

“There is no climate emergency. Therefore, there is no cause for panic and alarm.”

*The independent foundation **Climate Intelligence (CLINTEL)** garnered 1,152 signatures of scientists and professionals from 15 different countries in support of a single-page statement that included the above.*

News Commentator Issues a Colorful Criticism of a Fox Contributor

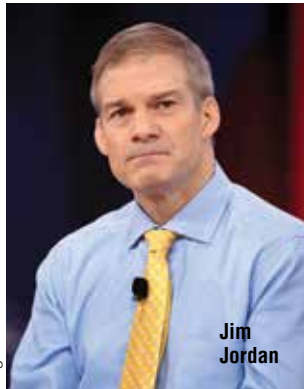
“Publishing an op-ed by Bradley Moss on the Mar-a-Lago raid is like promoting a book on marital fidelity by Hugh Hefner or asking Harvey Weinstein for tips on dating.”

*Fox News provided space for a defense of the FBI’s raid on Mar-a-Lago written by liberal attorney Bradley Moss. It angered former Newsmax reporter **Emerald Robinson**, who no longer believes Fox News is a reliable source of sound perspective.*

Congressman Issues a Response to Joe Biden’s Speech Attacking MAGA Republicans

“Call me extreme if I want stable prices, affordable energy, and a secure border. But think about this: In the past four weeks, Joe Biden has raided the home of a former president, taken the phone of a sitting member of Congress, called one half of the country fascist and extremist, and said to those same people ‘by the way we’re going to make you pay the student loan debt of someone else.’ And, finally, he signed a bill to unleash 87,000 additional IRS agents to come harass you, the American taxpayer. Such a deal!”

*Ohio Republican Congressman **Jim Jordan** found the president’s early September speech not only offensive, but also indicative of an attempt to silence opposition to policies taking America in the direction of national suicide.*



Gage Skidmore

England’s World Stature Suffers a Blow With the Death of Queen Elizabeth II

“My own personal reflection is that there is probably never going to be an occasion in which a British figure is so mourned globally. It is in some way a last moment of British greatness.”

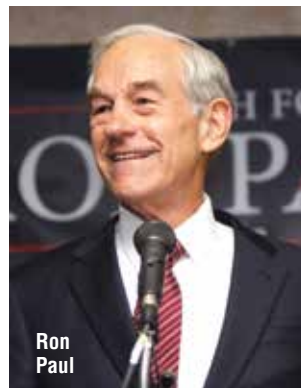
*A professor of European studies at the University of Oxford, **Timothy Garton** pointed to Brexit, Covid, and a very inexperienced new prime minister as evidence of his country’s fading importance.*

Unfairness Inherent in Biden’s Student-debt Forgiveness Plan

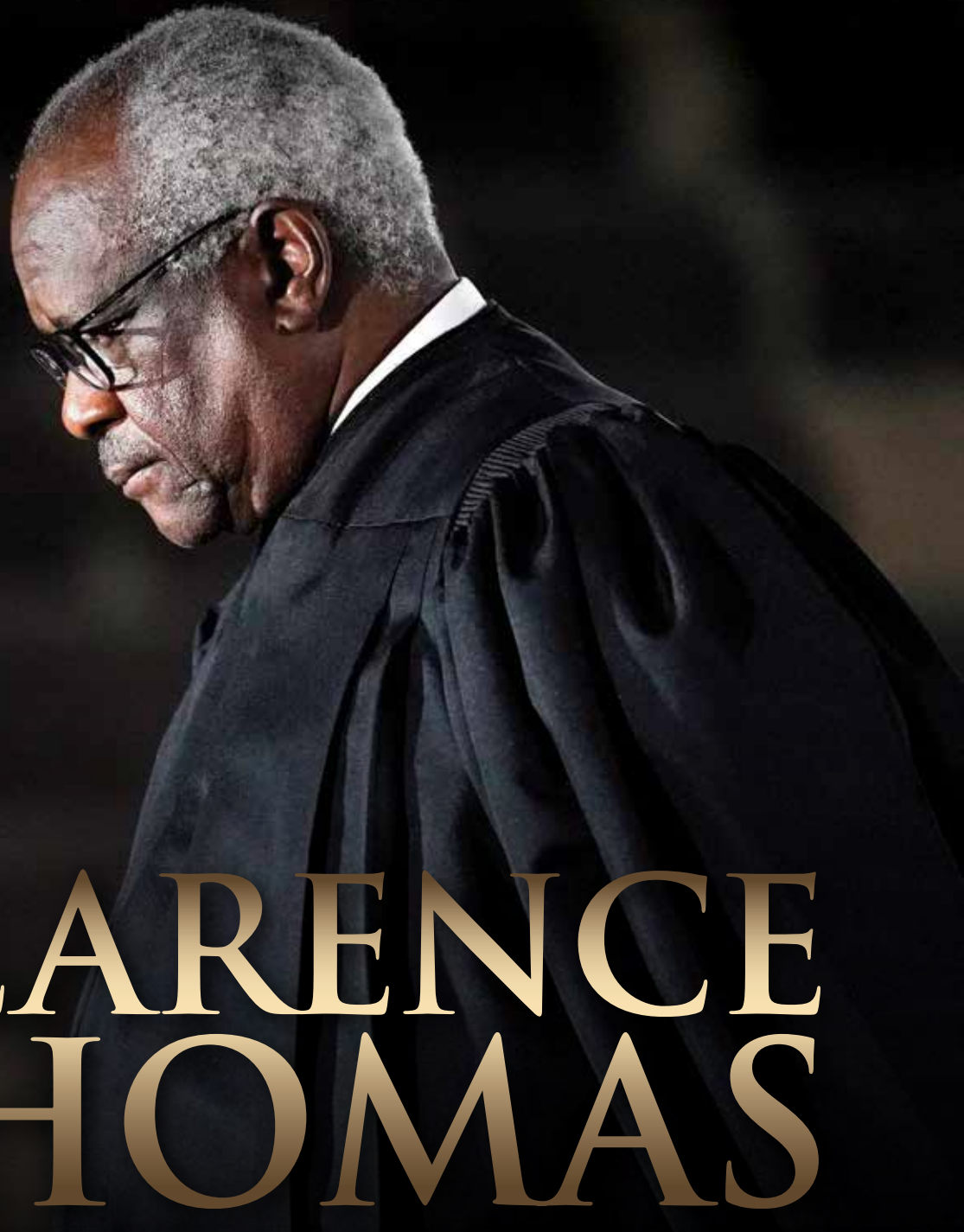
“The ‘forgiven’ debt, now estimated to be \$500 billion, will simply be added to the national debt to be paid by the taxpayers either in the form of direct taxes or the hidden inflation tax. Thus, these loans [if the Biden plan isn’t rejected] will be paid off in part by taxpayers who didn’t go to college, paid their own way through school, or have already paid off their own student loans.”

*Former Texas Congressman **Ron Paul** expressed hope that federal courts will block Biden’s outrageous plan. ■*

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



Gage Skidmore



CLARENCE THOMAS

THE COURT'S LEADING CONSTITUTIONALIST

In an age when activist judges make law rather than abide by it, Justice Clarence Thomas stands out as a jewel on the Supreme Court.

by Steve Byas

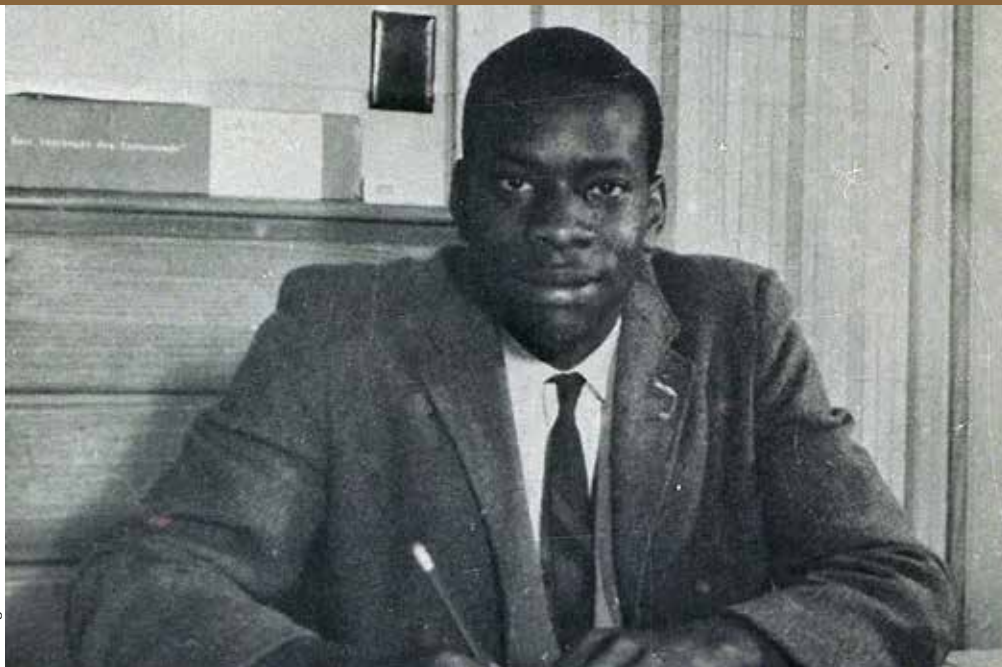
In May 2000, Associate Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas spoke at a dinner function of the Oklahoma Council on Public Affairs, a conservative think tank. His topic was mostly his judicial philosophy.

Answering questions after the speech, Thomas responded to a query from a state politician who asked, “Isn’t the Constitution a living, changing document?” Thomas answered, “His may be living and breathing, but mine’s inanimate.”

Another person asked Justice Thomas which cases he found the most difficult to decide. “The hard case,” Thomas responded, “is where your heart really wants to do something for somebody and the law says you have no authority. That’s when you see whether or not you are a judge or you’re lawless.”

This philosophy — to follow the Constitution and the law, and not substitute one’s own opinion as to what the law should be — is important to know in order to understand Clarence Thomas’ view of his role as a judge on the highest tribunal in the federal system. After more than three decades on the Supreme Court, Thomas has emerged as arguably the leader of those justices who try to follow the Constitution, as their oath of office requires them to do.

Justice Thomas emphatically rejects the idea that *stare decisis* (the legal principle of determining points in litigation according to precedent) should dictate decisions in a case before him, if previous court



AP Images

Destined for greatness: Clarence Thomas came from humble circumstances, but even from an early age, he showed much promise. Here he is shown in his role as the co-editor of his high-school yearbook.

decisions are in conflict with the actual words and meaning of the Constitution. “I think a lot of people,” Thomas explained on a CSPAN program a few years ago, “lack courage, like they know what is right and they are scared to death of doing it and they come up with all of these excuses for not doing it. When someone runs out of arguments, they turn to *stare decisis*.”

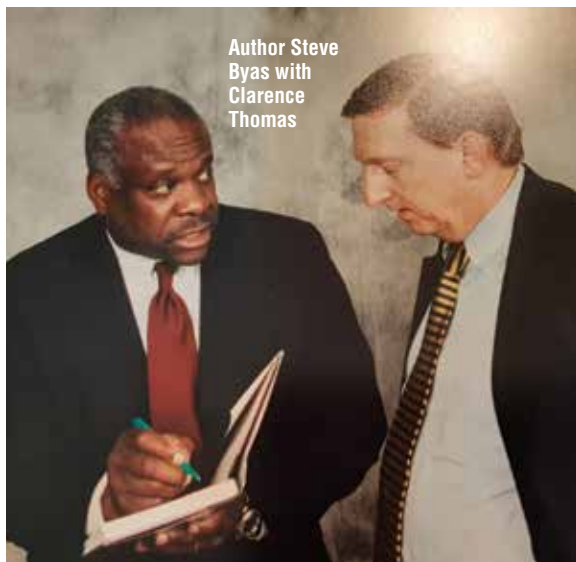
He once said, “When faced with a clash of constitutional principle and a line of unreasoned cases wholly divorced from the text, history, and structure of our founding document, we should not hesitate to resolve the tension in favor of the Constitution’s original meaning.”

While a graduate of Yale Law School, Thomas joked during oral arguments of a case in 2013 that a law degree from either Harvard or Yale might be proof of incompetence. It seems that Thomas did begin to develop his philosophy while at Yale, although not from his professors so much as from his own reading. One author who had

great influence on his thinking was Thomas Sowell, an economist, who, like Clarence Thomas, is a black American.

Clarence Thomas was born in Pin Point, Georgia, in impoverished circumstances. His father had abandoned the family, and he, his mother, and sisters went to live with his grandfather, who instilled in him values of hard work, honesty, and moral behavior. From these humble beginnings, Thomas was eventually named the chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) by President Ronald Reagan. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated him for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.

For all their talk about giving opportunity to blacks, the Democrats in the Senate were not about to give Thomas an opportunity to serve on the Supreme Court. They grilled him mercilessly, even challenging his view that the natural law principles found in the Declaration of Independence are an interpretive grid for the Constitution. When that did not work, they produced an obscure law professor, Anita Hill, from the University of Oklahoma — who had worked with



Author Steve Byas with Clarence Thomas

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

Thomas at the EEOC years earlier — to claim Thomas had sexually harassed her. Hill was an ardent progressive, and her allegations were forcefully denied by Thomas. Eventually, after a bruising battle, he was confirmed, 52-48.

It appears that Thomas was already much more conservative than President Bush had realized, and Thomas has said that his treatment by the committee and the national media during the confirmation hearings, if anything, hardened his judicial philosophy. At the previously mentioned dinner in Oklahoma, which took place less than a decade after those hearings, Thomas touched on that unhappy episode.

As bad as it was, he told the gathering, which included this writer, he would go through the process again because of his commitment to the Constitution. Others had died defending the document, he explained, so “How could I say that I wouldn’t sustain or endure just minor inconveniences to defend that document and interpret it. I think that would be an act of pure cowardice.”

Thomas Changes the Supreme Court

Because Thomas tended to vote the same as the late Justice Antonin Scalia, many observers have assumed that Scalia had great influence on him, but it was actually the other way around: Thomas often brought Scalia and Samuel Alito over to his thinking on cases. In her book on the Supreme Court, Jan Crawford noted that Thomas also influenced then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Even during the Rehnquist years, Thomas advocated overruling precedents he considered poor interpretations of the Constitution, more so than any other justice.

A look at some of the opinions Thomas wrote confirms that, in his mind, he had taken an oath to the Constitution, not to what some previous Supreme Court had said about it.

An example of a case that is only a federal issue because of the Incorporation Doctrine (the idea that the 14th Amendment applied the restrictions of the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause, for example, to the states as well as the federal government) was *Good News Club v. Milford Central School*, a case in which Thomas wrote the majority opinion. At one time, the Incorporation Doctrine was quite controversial, but in the last several decades even some very conservative legal scholars have supported it. The Incorporation Doctrine has led to the transfer of many cases to the federal court system that would — and should — have been left to state courts.

Milford Central School authorized district residents to make use of its facilities

after school hours. Two district residents asked to set up a private Christian organization for children known as the Good News Club, but Milford denied their request, arguing that allowing a religious organization to use the facilities would constitute a government establishment of religion. (Again, the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause only restricted Congress from establishing a national religion — states, on the other hand, were free to do so. But with the Incorporation Doctrine, this was considered a case for the federal courts).

The club filed suit, contending that the school district had denied them the right of free speech, considering that other secular clubs could freely use the facilities.

In his majority opinion, Thomas wrote, “Milford’s restriction violates the Club’s free speech rights and that no Establishment Clause concern justifies that violation.... When Milford denied the Good News Club access to the school’s limited public forum on the ground that the Club was religious in nature, it discriminated against the Club because of its religious viewpoint in violation of the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment.”

Another case that landed in the lap of the U.S. Supreme Court, *Kelo v. The City of New London*, involved the doctrine of eminent domain — the power of a government to take private land. Under the Fifth Amendment, this power is restricted to the taking of land for *public use*, and only with *just compensation*. But in 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the city of New London, Connecticut, to take a working-class neighborhood, not for a public use such as a government building or a public road, but so the city could give it to the Pfizer Corporation.

The New London City



Baseless: Anita Hill, a University of Oklahoma law professor, testified against Thomas during his Supreme Court confirmation hearings. She accused Thomas of sexual harassment, but never offered any evidence other than her testimony. Other women who worked for Thomas came to his defense, and many who have examined Hill’s story believe her liberal views caused her to try to stop him.

AP Images

Council believed this would create more economic activity for the city — and more tax revenue — than the private homes that they bulldozed. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court allowed the taking under the reasoning that the taking served a “public purpose.” Thomas dissented, writing, “The deferential standard this Court has adopted for the Public Use Clause [is] deeply perverse.”

Sixteen years later, the Court refused to hear a case that would challenge the precedent set by *Kelo* — that no public use is necessary, only a public *purpose*. Thomas condemned the refusal to hear a case that would have challenged the “perverse” *Kelo* ruling: “The Constitution’s text, the common-law background, and the early practice of eminent domain all indicate ‘that the Takings Clause authorizes the taking of property only if the public has a right to it, not if the public realizes any conceivable benefit from taking. The majority in *Kelo* strayed from the Constitution to diminish the right to be free from private takings.’”

The effect of a refusal to correct *Kelo*, Thomas said, would “leave in place a legal regime that benefits those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms.”

Protecting the Second Amendment

The recent case of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* demonstrates Thomas’ growing influence on his fellow justices — at least on some of them.

In New York, the state government has long had little regard for the right of individual Americans to enjoy their right to keep and bear arms, dating back to the early 20th century and the Sullivan Law.

Under the anti-gun-rights statutes of New York, it was very difficult for a private citizen to legally carry a firearm. Even after the U.S. Supreme Court rulings of *District of Columbia v. Heller* (which held that the Second Amendment protected the right of *individuals* to own a firearm in federal districts and territories) and *McDonald v. Chicago* (which held that states and local governments also must respect the Second Amendment — again using the Incorporation Doctrine), New York attempted to deny average, law-abiding citizens the right to carry handguns publicly.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett

Applying the First Amendment: Thomas voted in favor of the Good News Club (a Christian club in the elementary schools) and their right to use public-school facilities if those schools allowed secular clubs to do the same. Thomas explained that denying a Good News Club use of a school building was a violation of the group’s religious liberty.

Thomas wrote the majority opinion in *Bruen*, arguing, “We ... now hold, consistent with *Heller* and *McDonald*, that the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual’s right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home.” In New York, citizens had to prove to legal authorities that they had some “special need” to carry a weapon outside the home. “*Heller* and *McDonald* do not support applying the means-end scrutiny in the Second Amendment context.” Thomas noted that those decisions recognized that the Second Amendment only codified a pre-existing right that did not “depend on service in the militia.”

Thus, New York’s “may issue” granting of a license to carry a firearm outside the home was changed to “shall issue,” as in most other states. In other words, the government must issue such licenses — if they issue licenses at all — unless there is reason not to (such as a felony conviction). Under “may issue,” New York could refuse to issue a license, and it was up to the private citizen to convince the authorities to do otherwise.

One might note that Thomas is not opposed to citing precedent, but only if the precedent conforms to the Constitution. While he cited *Heller* and *McDonald*, he opined that they were consistent with a specific portion of the Constitution — the Second Amendment.

Further illustrating the fact that Thomas does not simply issue opinions that conform to his personal standards is his stance on federal marijuana laws. While Thomas does not personally support the use of marijuana, since 2005 he has declared that the federal government regulating marijuana within the borders of a state violates the Constitution, as there is no part of the Constitution that authorizes such regulation. As MSNBC opinion columnist Chris Geidner noted, Thomas’ opinion on this issue is not a pro-legalization statement, but “The reality is far more nuanced — and a part of Thomas’ larger effort to rein in the federal government across the board.”

Thomas said the federal government’s regulation of marijuana “strains basic

principles of federalism and conceals traps for the unwary.” As an example, he noted, “Many marijuana-related businesses operate entirely in cash because federal law prohibits certain financial institutions from knowingly accepting deposits from or providing other bank services to businesses that violate federal law.”

Of course, Thomas is right on the Constitution. There is no provision in the U.S. Constitution that grants Congress the power to regulate marijuana purely within the borders of a state. That is why, in 1918, Congress only moved to regulate alcoholic beverages *after* the passage of the 18th Amendment, which gave Congress the power to do so. Today, when Congress decides to do something, little to no consideration is given to whether there is authorization for it in the Constitution.

Thomas and the Commerce Clause

The Constitution’s “Commerce Clause” — Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 — is often used to argue that the federal government *does* have the power to regulate drugs and alcohol. Thomas, for his part, believes the Commerce Clause has been stretched far beyond its original meaning so as to justify an expansion of federal powers.

Thomas argues that the Commerce

Clause was intended to regulate economic activity across state lines, not activities that might conceivably affect interstate commerce. In *United States v. Lopez*, the Supreme Court held that the Gun Free Zones Act of 1990, which prohibited “any individual knowingly to possess a firearm at a place” a person knows is a school zone, was a case in which Congress had exceeded its authority under the Commerce Clause. The Court ruled that the possession of a gun in a local school zone is in no sense an economic activity. The majority of the justices contended that what Congress was doing, in trying to use the Commerce Clause to justify the *federal* prohibition of gun possession in a local school district, was piling inference upon inference in order to justify using the Commerce Clause to take over general police power that is held only by the states.

Thomas concurred with the ruling, but took the opportunity to assert his view that the only thing the Commerce Clause allows Congress to legislate on is actual trade across state lines. He said, “The power to regulate ‘commerce’ can by no means encompass authority over mere gun possession, any more than it empowers the Federal Government to regulate marriage,

littering, or cruelty to animals, throughout the 50 states. Our Constitution quite properly leaves such matters to the individual States, notwithstanding these activities’ effects on interstate commerce.”

In *Gonzales v. Raich* in 2005, which involved California residents who were growing marijuana for their own medical use, the Supreme Court upheld the authority of the federal government to regulate marijuana. Thomas dissented, writing, “If Congress can regulate this under the Commerce Clause, then it can regulate virtually anything — and the Federal Government is no longer one of limited and enumerated powers.”

This is an example of Thomas focusing on the real issue: the U.S. government’s twisting of the plain wording of the Constitution in order to increase its powers. Critics have expressed concern that should Thomas’ position ever prevail on the Supreme Court, much of what the federal government does in modern America would be invalidated.

One can only wish.

The federal “war on drugs” has led to perverse abuses of the rights of individual American citizens in the form of Civil Asset Forfeiture (CAF). CAF is a perfect example of how federal law enforcement has exceeded its jurisdiction in a manner that tramples on many other rights. Under CAF, federal agents can seize personal and real property that they allege was somehow used to promote drug trading. A person whose property was thus seized must then prove it was not used in drug dealing. The argument is that the case is not criminal, but rather civil, and the government’s case is against the automobile, yacht, or house that was used in the illicit drug trade.

Sometimes, the “fine” in these CAF cases is the seizure of the property. In the case *United States v. Bajakajian*, Thomas wrote the majority opinion, which declared an excessive fine unconstitutional. A person was fined for failing to disclose more than \$300,000 in his luggage on an international flight. Under CAF, the passenger forfeited the entire amount! Thomas’ opinion was that this was a clear violation of the Eighth Amendment’s Excessive Fines Clause and was “grossly disproportional.”

Because Thomas is black, special no-



Shall not be infringed: While on the Supreme Court, Thomas has emerged as a staunch defender of the constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms, and has applied the principle of following the Constitution to his other decisions.

vzwer/istock / Getty Images Plus

tice is often given to his views on issues such as affirmative action — the practice of favoring individuals who belong to a group regarded as having suffered racial discrimination in the past. Among the places that this happens is in employment hiring and promotion, and in college admissions. Thomas opposes this practice, arguing that the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment prohibits any consideration of race. In *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, Thomas wrote, “There is a ‘moral [and] constitutional equivalence’ between laws designed to subjugate a race and those that distribute benefits on the basis of race in order to foster some current notion of equality. Government cannot make us equal; it can only recognize, respect and protect us as equal before the law.”

In another affirmative-action case involving education, Thomas concurred with the opinion of Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote, “The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race,” but then added his own opinion: “If our history has taught us anything, it has taught us to beware of elites bearing racial theories.” He contended that the arguments of those who supported racial discrimination in the name of affirmative action were making remarkably similar arguments about race as did segregationists in the famous case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*.

Substantive Due Process

Perhaps in all of these cases, Thomas’ consistency is found in his desire that Supreme Court justices base their opinions not on what they think law *should be*, but on what the law *actually is*. He made this crystal clear in his concurring opinion in this year’s historic *Dobbs* case, which reversed the *Roe v. Wade* ruling of 1973. In his concurring opinion, Thomas called the practice of “substantive due process” — when justices substitute their opinions for the law because they believe a law is so terrible and unfair that it should be struck down by judicial fiat — an oxymoron that “lacks any basis in the Constitution.” He added, “The notion that a constitutional provision that guarantees only ‘process’ before a person is deprived of life, liberty, or property could define the

Thomas’ consistency is found in his desire that Supreme Court justices base their opinions not on what they think law *should be*, but on what the law *actually is*.



AP Images

Leave it to the states: Thomas does not approve of the use of marijuana, but he is consistent in his fidelity to the Constitution and its principle of federalism. He has argued that there is no constitutional basis for the federal government to regulate the substance, believing that this is a matter left to the states by the Constitution.

substance of those rights strains credulity for even the most casual user of words. The resolution of this case [the *Dobbs* case] is thus straightforward. Because the Due Process Clause does not secure any substantive rights, it does not secure a right to abortion.”

Thomas added that there were three dangers in continuing to decide cases under the “substantive due process” grid. He contended that it “exalts judges at the expense of the people from whom they derive their authority.... In practice, the Court’s approach for identifying those ‘fundamental’ rights unquestionably involves policy making rather than neutral legal analysis.” This leads judges to nullify state laws “that do not align with the judicially created guarantees.”

He cited the infamous *Dred Scott v. Sanford* decision of 1857 as an example of substantive due process, in which Chief Justice Roger Taney substituted his opinion on the question of whether the Fugitive Slave Law was constitutional because he wanted to settle the issue of the expansion of slavery into the territories. Incredibly enough, Taney believed the Constitution protected the right of slave owners to take their slaves into other parts of the country, even if the law there actually disallowed slavery, and that use of substantive due process led to “immeasurable human suffering.” Interestingly, the late Justice Antonin Scalia believed the *Scott* case was the first major example of the idea of substantive due process.

The Left has vociferously opposed the



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Constitution first: Clarence Thomas was among the five justices who voted to strike down the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* with the recent *Dobbs* ruling. Thomas, however, wrote a separate opinion in which he made clear his view that justices should not let adherence to precedent overrule their oath to follow the U.S. Constitution.

Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, implying at times that the *Dobbs* decision somehow "outlawed" abortion on a national scale. Actually, all the *Dobbs* decision did was say that abortion was a matter the Constitution leaves to the states under our federal system of government. But what particularly generated angst among those Americans for which the "right" to an abortion is of paramount importance was Thomas' concurring opinion. Thomas agreed with Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett that *Roe* was wrongly decided, but disagreed with Alito's remarks that *Dobbs*' reasoning should not be considered applicable to other previous rulings favored by the Left.

Alito wrote, "And to ensure that our decision is not misunderstood or mischaracterized, we emphasize that our decision concerns the constitutional right to abortion and no other right. Nothing in this opinion should be understood to cast doubt on precedents that do not concern abortion."

He was responding to the concerns

raised by the dissenting justices that the *Dobbs* decision "calls into question" cases such as *Griswold*, *Lawrence*, or *Obergefell*. *Griswold* was the Supreme Court decision that Connecticut could not ban the use of contraceptives by married couples; *Lawrence* was the ruling that states could not make homosexual relations illegal; and *Obergefell* held that states could not deny marriage between same-sex couples.

Thomas wrote in his concurring opinion, "Because the Court properly applies our substantive due process precedents to reject the fabrication of a constitutional right to abortion, and because this case does not present the opportunity to reject substantive due process entirely, I join in the Court's opinion."

But he then added, "In future cases, we should follow the text of the Constitution.... Substantive due process

conflicts with that textual command and has harmed our country in many ways. Accordingly, we should eliminate it from our jurisprudence at the earliest opportunity." Thomas invited cases that allow the Court to overturn previous rulings based on substantive due process, and many fear he wants to revisit *Griswold*, *Lawrence*, and *Obergefell*.

People holding such fears either misunderstand Thomas' position, or they are knowingly mischaracterizing it. He is not demanding that Connecticut, for example, return to the time when contraception was banned in that state. Thomas argued that even if a law is "stupid," that does not mean that it is necessarily unconstitutional, and it is not within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to strike down a law simply because the justices believe it is stupid.

It is unlikely that Connecticut or any other state would ban contraception today, and the Left knows that, or should know that. They are simply using that "fear" as another way to undermine our federal and republican form of government.

The United States would be better off if all nine justices had the same respect for the Constitution as Clarence Thomas. One valid criticism of Thomas' judicial philosophy, however, is his apparent acceptance of the Incorporation Doctrine — the view that the 14th Amendment "incorporated" the federal Bill of Rights, applied it to the states, and left it in the hands of federal judges to adjudicate a state's obedience to the Bill of Rights.

If that doctrine were repudiated, as Thomas rightly repudiates substantive due process, there would be far fewer cases landing in federal courts.

But it is clear that Thomas is fighting the good fight, that he has clearly emerged as the justice on the bench most dedicated to following the Constitution of the United States, and that he is determined to convert his fellow justices to that view. ■



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COS ENDORSES JBS

— EXCEPT FOR “ONE BLIND SPOT”



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Despite describing JBS as a “stalwart conservative organization” in a response to an article about an Article V Convention, Convention of States continues to get Article V wrong.

by *Christian Gomez*

Recently, Dr. Robert Malone, who pioneered the development of mRNA technology and, at great personal cost, courageously warned the public about the risks associated with taking the Covid-19 vaccines, invited us to submit an article about the topic of an Article V Convention to post on his Substack. Graciously and humbly we accepted the opportunity. On September 3, Dr. Malone published a post on his Substack account titled “What An Article V Convention Might Mean,” which also featured a succinct article written by this author titled “Article V Convention Threatens Liberty.” In his Substack post, Dr. Malone did not endorse The John Birch Society’s stance on an Article V Convention so much as provide his readers with

Christian Gomez is research project manager for The John Birch Society.

an opportunity to “consider a different point of view on this important topic.”

This author and The John Birch Society remain grateful and extend our warmest thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to submit an article to be posted on Dr. Malone’s Substack. We are also humbled by his generous warm words about the Society:

From what I can tell, the JBS organization has actually been at the vanguard of political perspectives that many now accept as mainstream, and has consistently advocated anti-racist positions. In hindsight, it is clear that the JBS has successfully opened the Overton window of acceptable political discourse.

The article received many positive responses and comments, but it was not without its detractors — something that both Dr. Malone and The John Birch Society are all too familiar with.

On September 5, Convention of States (COS) posted an official response on their website titled “John Birch Society Finds Self-Destruct Switch in Constitution,” in which they accused The John Birch Society of having “snookered” (tricked) Dr. Malone into taking the wrong side on the Article V Convention issue.

Founded in 2013, COS is an organization exclusively dedicated to convening a convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution, ostensibly designed to “impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress” — as if the Constitution did not already establish a very limited federal government, restrain Congress from what it can spend money on, define what sound money actually is, provide a way for voters to remove incumbent members of Congress at the ballot box, and enable individual



Unexpected accolades: Convention of States’ response to the JBS article posted on Dr. Malone’s Substack account actually glowingly endorsed The John Birch Society (except for “one blind spot”).

states to nullify any unconstitutional federal acts.

COS claims that these constitutional remedies are ineffective. Yet they accuse The John Birch Society of not believing in the Constitution, because it opposes an Article V Convention that would enable delegates to propose wholesale changes to parts of or the whole Constitution.

However, COS’s official blog response took a slightly different and somewhat refreshing tone. Convention of States’ response actually glowingly endorsed The John Birch Society (except for “one blind spot,” addressed below), saying: “JBS is a stalwart conservative organization founded to oppose and expose communist infiltration of our government and institutions.” This warm endorsement comes as an unexpected surprise. Thank you.

COS has apparently had a sea change in logic and abandoned its typical intellectually bereft arguments, such as nullification being a terrible idea and the existence of numerous other conventions supposedly comparable to an Article V Convention, etc. We applaud COS for moving in the right direction, and would like to make available to them and others our July 11, 2022 Special Report of *The New American* magazine about Article V to help COS continue down the right road.

The COS response also mentions nota-

ble JBS speakers such as “John McManus, Alan Stang, Gen. Singlaub, Larry McDonald’s son, Yuri Bezmenov (Tomas Shuman), Pastor Everett Silevan, Paul Snyder, and so on.” We recommend adding to that list other JBS speakers, such as World War II veteran Don Fotheringham, the founder and chairman of the Constitution Commemoration Foundation Dr. Scott Bradley (Ph.D.), constitutional educator and previous JBS Regional Field Coordinator Robert Brown, and current JBS Field Coordinator Robert Owens, Esq.

Despite the unexpected accolades and endorsement from COS, the response falls flat in its understanding about Article V. For example, it accuses The John Birch Society of having “one blind spot: an Article V Convention of States.”

COS continues to “snooker” many patriotic Americans into believing that the answer to today’s massive national problems is amending the Constitution instead of electing people who obey it. They’ve also been snookering patriots into believing that an Article V Convention is entirely distinct from a “Constitutional Convention.” As we shall explain below, nothing could be further from the truth.

COS Name Game

In a COS video, co-founder Michael Farris explains: “People get confused with a

Constitutional Convention and a Convention of the States, under Article V — properly called a ‘convention for proposing Amendments.’ The processes and procedures and the scope are entirely different.”

COS regurgitates this same unsubstantiated claim in their blog post responding to the Substack article, stating:

The problem is that [Nebraska, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Wisconsin] and other states *have not called for a “Constitutional Convention,” but an Article V Convention of States* “for proposing amendments to the Constitution.” Then in the next sentence [Christian Gomez] *again calls it a constitutional convention.*

This *mislabeling evokes fear* in some minds because it is accompanied by the idea that this is exactly what led to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia that totally rewrote the Articles of Confederation and gave us the Constitution and Bill of Rights. [Emphasis added.]

It is clear that COS firmly believes and wants others to also believe that a Constitutional Convention is different from an Article V Convention, which they ironically mislabel as a “Convention of States.” COS, we hear what you are saying, we understand what you are saying, and it’s utterly false.

COS has never backed up or provided any credible citation for this distinction that they have been hawking since their organization was founded in 2013. The truth is that an Article V Convention is not a “Convention of States,” and in fact there is no such thing as an “Article V Convention of States.”

Neither the language nor the concept of a “Convention of States” appears in Article V. Labeling an Article V Convention as a “Convention of States” can be traced to former University of Montana law professor and self-styled “Article V expert” Robert Natelson. In a speech delivered on September 16, 2010, Natelson said, “I’m going to put the process on reset.” In a modified transcript of that speech published in 2011, Natelson said “we should call it ... an *Article V convention, an amendments convention, or a convention of the states.*” (Emphasis in original.)

Natelson changed the name. Then, in 2013, Mark Meckler founded Citizens for Self-Governance, and later that year launched its Convention of States Project, which parrots Natelson's name change. Since then, the false concept of a state-controlled convention, under the misnomer "Convention of States," has been peddled.

COS fails to mention that the change from calling an Article V Convention a "Constitutional Convention" to calling it a "Convention of States" originated with Natelson. Instead, COS explains on their website: "It is not a convention of delegates but a convention of states.... This is also a matter of history. In 1788, the Virginia legislature correctly called this process a 'convention of states' in the first application ever passed under Article V."

While Virginia's application in 1788 for an Article V Convention did use the phrase "convention of the States," the resolution actually went on to call it a "convention ... of deputies from the several States." Likewise, New York's application in 1789 for an Article V Convention (the second application passed under Article V) also referred to it as a "Convention of Deputies from the several States." The specific phrase "Convention of States" or "convention of the states" did not appear in any other application for an Article V Convention made prior to 2010.

In fact, many state applications to Congress referred to the convention as a "Constitutional convention," and some applications today still call it a Constitutional Convention. But by calling it a "Convention of States," as opposed to the traditional and correct term "Constitutional Convention," Meckler and COS are attempting to distinguish the two terms as having completely different meanings. They define a "Convention of States" as meaning an Article V Convention to amend the Constitution. According to COS, a "Convention of States" is only for amending the Constitution, whereas the term "Constitutional Convention" they have *redefined* to mean a convention *exclusively* for framing or writing a new constitution.

This distinction has gone a long

way toward snookering state legislators into believing that a "Convention of States" could never exceed its "limited" authority and draft an entirely new constitution.

Black's Law Dictionary — the nation's premier legal dictionary used by law students, lawyers, and judges — has, since its second edition printing in 1910, consistently defined the term "constitutional convention" as "A duly constituted assembly of delegates or representatives of the people of a state or nation for the purpose of framing, revising, or *amending its constitution.*" (Emphasis added.)

And the fifth edition of *Black's Law Dictionary*, published in 1979, further states, "Art. V of the U.S. Const. provides that a Constitutional Convention may be called on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the states."

Furthermore, objecting to the use of the phrase "Constitutional Convention" to describe an Article V "convention for proposing Amendments" is rather ridicu-

lous and makes those objecting look rather ignorant about English. The word "constitutional" simply means "relating to a constitution." An Article V Convention is a Constitutional Convention because it is a convention relating to the Constitution.

Simply put, an Article V Convention is in fact a Constitutional Convention. It is *not* a "Convention of States."

The First Convention of States

In actuality, the label "Convention of the States" was *first* applied to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 — the very same convention that COS insists was not a "Convention of States" because it was the Convention that drafted the current Constitution. On March 25, 1787, exactly two months prior to the convening of the Federal Convention in Philadelphia, George Washington, who would go on to be elected president of the Convention and later president of the United States, wrote:

Indeed, the thinking part of the people of this Country are now so well satisfied of this fact that most of the Legislatures have appointed, & the rest it is said will appoint, delegates to meet at Philadelphia the second Monday in May next in general *Convention of the States* to revise, and correct the defects of the federal System. [Emphasis added.]



Name changer: Professor Robert Natelson, a self-styled "Article V expert," admitted in a speech in 2010 that he was "going to put the process on reset," and recommended renaming a "Constitutional Convention" as a "convention of the states."

As recorded in *Secret Debates of the Federal Convention of 1787*, New York Chief Justice Robert Yates, along with another delegate from New York, wrote in the notes for "Friday, May 25th, 1787": "Attended the *Convention of the States* at the State House in Philadelphia when the following States were represented." (Emphasis added.) This was followed by a list of the states and names of the delegates from each one.

Furthermore, Nathan Dane, a delegate from Massachusetts to the Confederation Congress, made a motion on September 26, 1787, stating, "It was expedient that a *Convention of the States* should be held for the Sole and

express purpose of revising the articles of Confederation.” (Emphasis added.) Dane’s motion concluded, “Resolved that there be transmitted to the Supreme executive of each State a copy of the report of the *Convention of the States* lately Assembled in the City of Philadelphia signed by their deputies the seventeenth instant including their resolutions and their letter directed to the president of Congress.” (Emphasis added.)

The Convention of 1787, which gave us our current Constitution, was referred to as a “Convention of the States” numerous times. Therefore, to say that “a convention under Article V is a ‘Convention of the States’ and not a ‘Constitutional Convention,’ because a ‘Convention of States’ is only for amending rather than rewriting the Constitution,” is completely disingenuous and ignores the historical record.

Omitting History

Regarding whether the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 (the one that the Founders actually referred to as being a “Convention of the States”) exceeded its authority when it drafted the current Constitution, the COS blog said: “the Constitutional Convention did exactly what it was charged with by the Annapolis Convention of States of 1786: to update the Articles of Confederation ‘to meet the exigencies of the Union,’ not merely to amend the Articles of Confederation.”

Here is yet another COS-ism: the claim that the Convention that birthed our nation’s present Constitution did not run away with its authority and then label anyone who disagrees as being an enemy of the Constitution. COS has also repeatedly accused The John Birch Society of believing that the “Constitution was illegally adopted.” It is a historical fact that the delegates to the Convention of 1787 exceeded the authority from their state commissions when they replaced the Articles of Confederation (rather than amend them) with the current Constitution. Acknowledging that history does not make one an enemy of the Constitution. And no, the Constitution



The New American

Helpful consideration: Dr. Robert W. Malone, M.D., M.S., graciously posted on his Substack account an article from The John Birch Society warning about an Article V Convention in order to encourage his readers to “consider a different point of view on this important topic.”

was *not illegally adopted*. The John Birch Society and *The New American* magazine (a JBS affiliate) have never said and do not believe that the Constitution was “illegally adopted.”

The COS blog, as is typical of COS, omitted any mention of the fact that *many of the Convention delegates likewise acknowledged that they were not sent to the Convention to scrap and replace the Articles of Confederation, but did so anyway.*

They were expressly limited to amending or revising the Articles of Confederation, and were not authorized to replace them. This fact was recognized by James Madison, the father of the Constitution, who, in his diary of what took place at the Convention, recorded New York delegate John Lansing as saying:

The power of the Convention was restrained to amendments of a Federal nature.... The *acts of Congress, the tenor of the acts of the States, the commissions produced by the several Deputations, all proved this....* It was unnecessary and improper to go further. [Emphasis added.]

Does COS accuse Convention delegate John Lansing of believing that the Constitution was illegally adopted?

Or what about Judge Caleb Wallace? On May 3, 1788, he said:

I think the calling [of] another continental Convention should not be delayed ... for [the] single reason, if no other, that *it was done by men who exceeded their Commission*, and whatever may be pleaded in excuse from the necessity of the case, something certainly can be done to *disclaim the dangerous [precedent]* which will otherwise be established. [Emphasis added.]

Convention delegate Luther Martin from Maryland likewise admitted, “We apprehended but one reason to prevent the states meeting again in convention; that, when they discovered the part this Convention had acted,

and how much *its members were abusing the trust* reposed in them, *the states would never trust another convention.*” (Emphasis added.) Those do not sound like the words of a man who believes that the Convention did exactly what it was supposed to do.

Convention delegate Robert Whitehall of Pennsylvania was even more emphatic. On November 28, 1787, Whitehall said:

Can it then be said that the late convention did not assume powers to which they had no legal title? On the contrary, Sir, *it is clear that they set aside the laws under which they were appointed, and under which alone they could derive any legitimate authority they arrogantly exercised any powers that they found convenient to their object, and in the end they have overthrown that government which they were called upon to amend, in order to introduce one of their own fabrication.* [Emphasis added.]

And then there is Convention delegate James Wilson, who also admitted that they

did not act within the powers given to them by the states who sent them when they replaced the Articles of Confederation. On November 26, 1787, he explained:

The Federal convention did not act at all upon the powers given to them by the States, but they proceeded upon original principles, and having framed a constitution which they thought would promote the happiness of their country, they have submitted it to their consideration, who may either adopt or reject it, as they please.
[Emphasis added.]

However, despite lacking the power from the states that sent them, the delegates did not act illegally because they invoked the “original principle” from the Declaration of Independence to “alter or abolish” their government when they drafted the Constitution, as Wilson explained.

Likewise, as this author has previously written and explained in *The New American*:

An Article V Convention also exercises a sovereign function as defined

earlier by *Black's Law Dictionary*. It is a convention with the purpose of proposing modifications (plural) to government, if you will. Seeing as the convention by definition represents the people at large, it has power and scope that supersedes established governments. As such, the convention cannot be limited, because it is the epitome of the sovereign will of the people. The Declaration of Independence clearly reads, “it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security,” referring to the people. James Madison invoked this right in *The Federalist*, No. 40, to justify the actions of the delegates in the 1787 convention, writing that it is “the transcendent and precious right of the people to ‘abolish or alter their governments as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.’”

When assembled at an Article V Constitutional Convention (as in the convention relating to the Constitution in Article V), the delegates ultimately are not sub-

ordinate to the state legislatures or even Congress, but to the sovereign will of the people, whom they ultimately represent. When Virginia and New York applied to Congress for a convention, they both referred to it as a “Convention of Deputies from the several States” because that is precisely what such a convention relating to the constitution (Constitutional Convention) is — a convention of *deputies* (a synonym for *delegates*) who represent the people of the different states. An Article V Convention is not a “Convention of States,” it’s a convention of delegates from each state representing the people of each state for the purpose of amending or *rewriting* the federal Constitution. In other words, it’s a federal Constitutional Convention with delegations representing the people of each state.

The only role guaranteed to the state legislatures in Article V is that of making application to Congress. After that, *Congress calls the convention* (the states do

Runaway convention? COS omits the fact that many of the delegates to the Federal Convention of 1787 admitted that they exceeded the authority from their state commissions when they replaced the Articles of Confederation with a new Constitution.



not call the convention), and in calling the convention, *Congress prescribes* the manner in which the delegates of the people will be selected. If all that the delegates do at the convention is propose amendments to the existing Constitution, then *Congress decides* if either the state legislatures of three-fourths of the states or *special ratifying conventions* (made up of delegates representing the people, *not* state legislators) ratify the proposed amendments.

However, if the delegates, who represent the sovereign will of the people of their respective states, decide to instead scrap the existing Constitution and replace it with a new one that they have drafted, then the new constitution would be ratified *according to the manner described within the proposed new constitution*, just as our current Constitution was ratified by the requirements spelled out in Article VII of the new Constitution as opposed to the manner described in Article XIII of the then-existing Articles of Confederation. The John Birch Society wants to prevent opening this Pandora's box that may lead to an entirely new (and very likely socialist-leaning) constitution embracing modern concepts such as "second generation rights." An Article V Convention is far too risky; we risk losing our Republic.

The John Birch Society completely agrees with the late U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater, who warned from the Senate floor on February 26, 1979:

I think it would be very foolhardy, it would be a tragic mistake, to hold a constitutional convention for this one purpose [to propose a balanced budget amendment]. I say it would be foolhardy and dangerous because if we hold a constitutional convention, every group in the country — majority, minority, middle-of-the-road, left, right, up, down — is going to get its two bits in and we are going to wind up with a Constitution that will be so far different from the one we have



In your heart you know he's right: Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) doubted "that the Republic could continue" if a Constitutional Convention were called, even if it were limited to "one purpose" such as a balanced budget amendment.

lived under for 200 years that I doubt that the Republic could continue.

Senator Goldwater was right; Mark Meckler is not.

If Not Article V, Then What?

Rather than being deceived by COS's flawed understanding of Article V and their efforts to petition Congress for a Constitutional Convention, there *is* a proper solution to our runaway federal government. As we indicated earlier, the Constitution *already limits* the federal government to the powers listed therein. The proper solutions, therefore, are constitutional enforcement and nullification. Nullifying unconstitutional federal usurpations at the state level is firmly grounded in the text of Article VI of the Constitution. Article VI binds state legislators — along with members of Congress, the executive branch, and judges — by their oath "to support this Constitution." Furthermore, the Bill of Rights declares what the federal government *cannot* lawfully do.

Article VI of the Constitution says:

"*This Constitution*, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made *in Pursuance thereof* ... shall be the supreme Law of the Land." (Emphasis added.) Any laws that are made not in "Pursuance" of the Constitution are null and void, and are therefore *unenforceable*. Elected officials at all levels of government, especially state legislators, are duty-bound to *nullify* all unlawful federal acts.

A single state can *immediately* stop unconstitutional federal usurpations and other violations of power. Taking action to hold elected officials accountable to their oath and getting state legislators to nullify unconstitutional acts will stop these lawless acts and abuses. Neither new constitutional amendments nor rewriting the Constitution will stop them. Please ask yourself which of these two approaches to reining in our runaway federal government is logical: changing the rules, or enforcing the existing rules? If the problem is *disobedience* to the

Constitution rather than the Constitution, then the answer to that question is obviously enforcement of the existing rules.

Informed Electorate

Ultimately, there is no substitute for a well-informed electorate that has been educated in the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The John Birch Society provides that education. In addition to being "a stalwart conservative organization founded to oppose and expose communist infiltration of our government and institutions," as COS said, The John Birch Society also provides tools and resources that patriotic Americans can use to stay informed and educate others about what's happening and how our elected officials are voting, and — most importantly — a plan to use that information to remain free. Consider joining The John Birch Society in both opposing an Article V Convention and enforcing the existing Constitution as the Founding Fathers intended. Visit JBS.org/ConCon for more information and resources. ■

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Clarence Thomas: The Court's Leading Constitutionalist

In an age when activist judges make law rather than abide by it, Justice Clarence Thomas stands out as a jewel on the Supreme Court.

(October 17, 2022) TNA221017



*Deep State-Nazi
Hidden Axis*

The invisible government of the Deep State has long worked with the Nazis to accomplish their nefarious objectives, going back to the rise of Hitler. (September 26, 2022) TNA220926



*Imposing the
New World Order*

Biden's pursuit of a "new world order" did not originate with him, but has been the goal of globalists for generations. And now this goal is close to fruition. (August 15, 2022) TNA220815



Life After Roe

As pro-life advocates celebrate the SCOTUS ruling that removes federal protections for abortion, they prepare to defend the unborn in states that enshrine infanticide as a fundamental right. (July 25, 2022) TNA220725



*Article V
Convention:
Will It Work?*

America has not had a Constitutional Convention since 1787. The result then was a blessing. But holding a new convention today could end up being disastrous for the nation. (July 11, 2022) TNA220711



*Biden's
Price Hike*

Biden must share blame with Congress and the Federal Reserve for the policies fueling rapidly rising prices from the gas pump to the grocery store. But his finger-pointing at Putin and Trump is clearly intended to deflect blame. (May 30, 2022) TNA220530

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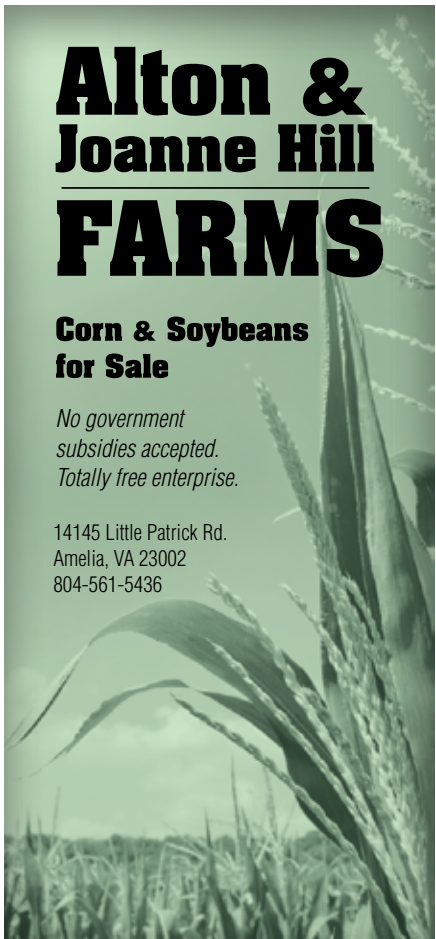
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COS Makes Hay of Dubious National Survey

One way to advance a position is to create the appearance of public support. But often the appearance is far different from the reality.

by *Christian Gomez*

Do most Americans really support a so-called Convention of States, or, more accurately, an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution? Mark Meckler, the president of Convention of States (COS), and former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum want you to believe so based on the findings of a new poll. But a detailed analysis of the published data casts doubts on the poll's results.

In a recent opinion article written for *The Epoch Times*, titled "The Only Path to End the Deep State," Meckler and Santorum said,

We've tried elections. We've supported good candidates who promised to end corruption. But nothing has worked.

That explains why new polling from The Trafalgar Group finds that a majority of Americans (65.7 percent) would support using a Convention of States to propose constitutional amendments.

Understandably, COS has been touting the results of the Trafalgar Group's poll. In a press release posted on its website, COS boasts that "Two-Thirds of American Voters Support a Convention of States to Propose Amendments Requiring Term Limits and Reining in Federal Spending and Overreach." To conduct the poll, COS Action partnered with the Trafalgar Group. They surveyed likely general election voters to gauge support for such a convention.

According to the published results, 65.7 percent said they would support it. Only 16.6 percent said they oppose, and 17.7

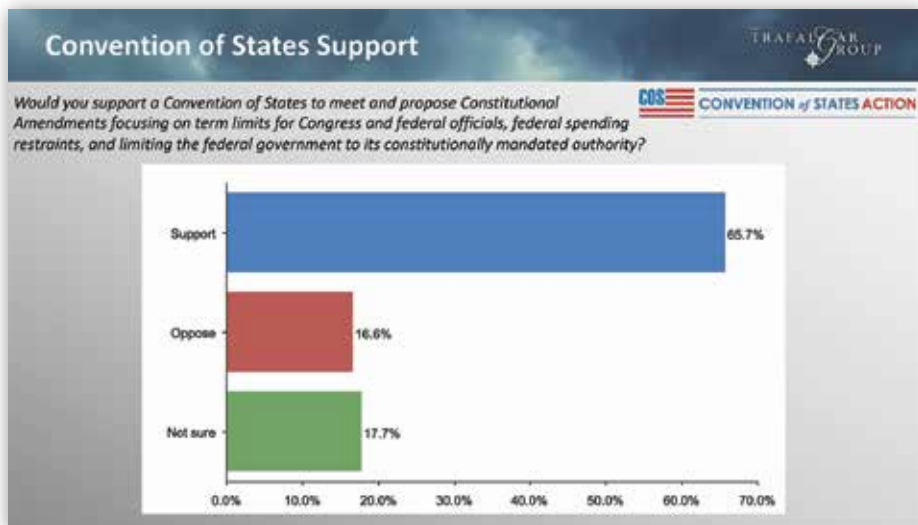
percent said they were not sure. Support for a convention also appears to transcend party lines, with 81.3 percent of Republicans in support, 63.3 of respondents listed as "No Party/Other" in support, and 50.2 percent of Democrats in support.

Is support for such a convention really that universal?

Whenever a poll is conducted, we should always ask the following questions:

- Who carried out the survey?
- What was the population?
- How was the sample selected?
- How large was the sample?
- How were the subjects contacted?
- What was the response rate?
- When was the survey conducted?
- What were the exact questions asked?

We'll examine a few of these questions relative to the Trafalgar Group/COS poll.



Slanted survey: The Trafalgar Group lists six different polling methods, including “Two other proprietary digital methods we don’t share publicly,” and the poll assumes that respondents know what a “Convention of States” is in the first place.

Who Conducted the Poll?

The poll was conducted by the Trafalgar Group, a relatively new polling organization. The Trafalgar Group garnered notoriety for being one of a handful of pollsters to accurately predict the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. However impressive its predictions were, that is not necessarily a marker to indicate the group successfully produces opinion polls. Those are two very different things.

While most pollsters are transparent about who they are and what their mission is, the Trafalgar Group provides very little information about its organization or what its survey methodologies are. How data is obtained is more important than the data itself. This is the most important fact about any statistical study, otherwise the data doesn’t mean anything.

When scrolling down through past polls Trafalgar has published on its homepage, one cannot help but notice the numerous times that the Convention of States Action logo appears on their reports. In fact, over the past year, virtually every poll published that was not an election poll bears the COS logo, as though COS has a special relationship or exclusive partnership with the Trafalgar Group. Between May 12, 2021 and August 2, 2022, the Trafalgar Group pub-

lished the results of 188 surveys — 90 of which (about 48 percent) were in partnership with COS! In fact, COS is the *only* other organization to have its logo appear on any of the national surveys conducted by the Trafalgar Group over the past year.

Considering that COS is primarily a single-issue organization, exclusively dedicated to convincing state legislatures to apply to Congress to call for an Article V Convention, how can such an opinion poll be trusted to not be biased in favor of COS’s desired outcome? One must also wonder if the Trafalgar Group conducted other surveys regarding support for a “Convention of States” that did not yield COS’s desired results and thus, at COS’s request, were not published on the Trafalgar Group’s website so as not to embarrass their biggest (and seemingly only) client.

How Was the Sample Selected?

Unfortunately, the Trafalgar Group provides zero information about this. That is a *huge* piece of information, and its absence prompts even more questions, such as: What is this sample representing? Was this a random sample? Did this include people from all over the country? If so, what was the ratio of people living in rural areas versus those in suburban and urban areas? Is

a particular geographic area being over-sampled or under-sampled in the survey? We simply don’t know.

Instead, the only potential “clue” that we are given is a picture of a map of the United States, which appears on the second slide of their full report. Are we supposed to assume that they sampled all over the country without them doing anything more than simply showing the reader a picture of a map? For all one knows, they could have been given a list from COS and told to sample those people. They simply don’t tell you anything to guarantee the accuracy of the results.

How Were the Subjects Contacted?

According to the “polling methodology” section of the Trafalgar Group’s website, they utilize “a mix of six different methods,” which they list as follows:

- Live callers
- Integrated voice response
- Text messages
- Emails
- *Two other proprietary digital methods we don’t share publicly* (Emphasis added.)

The last bullet raises major red flags for any polls conducted by the Trafalgar Group. Why would they not want to disclose that information? Not disclosing it casts serious doubt on the credibility of their polls. Any polling organization or national survey that is unwilling to disclose its methods for obtaining data cannot be trusted, as there is no way to independently verify the data.

What Was the Response Rate?

Ultimately, whatever methodologies they are using are not that great to begin with because their response rate is very low. Again, according to the second slide of the full report, Trafalgar recorded 1,078 respondents with a response rate of 1.44 percent. This means that they initially reached out to roughly 75,000 people.

Most surveys suffer from low response rates, and at least the Trafalgar Group is transparent about that aspect. Nevertheless, it is actually quite shocking, especially considering that they make the following claim on their website: “Our polls last one to three minutes and are designed to quickly get opinions from those who would not typically participate in political polls.” In fact, the COS poll seems to

have consisted of just five questions, four of which were for statistical purposes (age, ethnicity, political party affiliation, and gender). This leads us to our last question.

What Exactly Was Asked?

The primary question was framed as follows: “Would you support a Convention of States to meet and propose Constitutional Amendments focusing on term limits for Congress and federal officials, federal spending restraints, and limiting the federal government to its constitutionally mandated authority?”

The question assumes that the respondent knows what a “Convention of States” is, or at least what is meant by this deceptive phrase. As this author previously explained in the July 11, 2022 issue of *The New American*:

An Article V Convention is a federal function, called by the federal government to amend the federal Constitution. As such it is not a function, nor under the purview, of the state governments. As stated before, an Article V Convention is a *federal* Constitutional Convention. An Ar-

icle V Convention is not a “Convention of States.” There is no such thing as an “Article V Convention of States.” [Emphasis in original.]

Nevertheless, what COS and the Trafalgar poll mean by the term “Convention of States” is a convention, called under Article V of the Constitution, ostensibly limited to amending the Constitution, the process of which, COS claims, will be controlled entirely by the state legislatures. For more information about why this is not true, COS’s deceptive use of the phrase “Convention of States,” and how and why they falsely distinguish it from the historically accepted and accurate term “Constitutional Convention,” read the article titled “Article V Convention: Will It Work?,” published in the July 11, 2022 issue of *The New American*.

The respondents should have first been asked if they even knew what an Article V Convention, or so-called “Convention of States” is, rather than assuming such information on the part of the respondent. When a survey question assumes information on the part of the respondent, that creates a possible false response in that the re-

spondent does not understand the question (or a key aspect of it) and may guess at an answer rather than appear to be ignorant about the subject matter.

Furthermore, term limits for “federal officials” could easily be interpreted to mean term limits for Supreme Court justices, which may, in part, account for the high number of self-identified Democrats who support a convention for that purpose. The same could be said about the part of the question framed as “limiting the federal government to its *constitutionally mandated authority*.” (Emphasis added.) Again, this assumes that every respondent knows what the federal government’s “constitutionally mandated authority” is, which to most liberals, progressives, and socialists, who believe that the Constitution is a “living document,” means something entirely different than it does to strict constructionists or constitutionalists. The question is framed vaguely enough to easily garner a positive response, even if the respondent is not familiar with what a “Convention of [the] States” is.

All of this needs to be taken into account when deciding on whether or not to accept the results of this COS national survey.

However, the real problem is that most American voters do not know or understand the Constitution. To fix this underlying issue, there is no substitute for a well-informed electorate that is coordinated to act in an organized manner. This is what The John Birch Society (the parent organization of this publication) is all about.

Proper educational materials, action tools, and an organizational structure are necessary to expose and stop the deliberate acts against Americans’ individual liberties and the Constitution, including the current push for a Constitutional Convention under any name. The John Birch Society provides these essential resources.

Those interested in safeguarding American liberty and the Constitution should instead consider membership in The John Birch Society. The John Birch Society provides the leadership and tools necessary to stop any and all attempts to open up the Constitution at a convention, and to enforce the Constitution as the Founding Fathers intended. Visit JBS.org/ConCon for more information and resources. ■



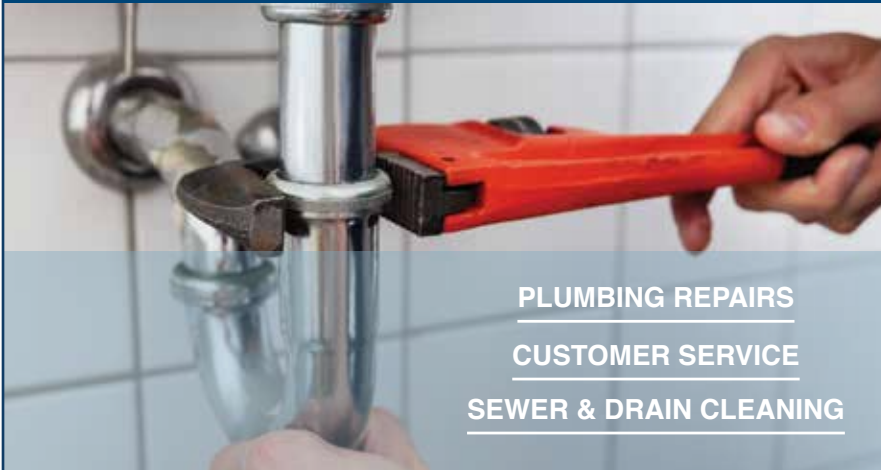
Informed electorate: The John Birch Society’s “Stop a Constitutional Convention” action project webpage (JBS.org/concon) contains many educational resources, including articles, historical documents, and videos about an Article V Convention.



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TAKING ACTION TO DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION

by Peter Rykowski

The U.S. Constitution is under attack. On one hand, the federal government is blatantly ignoring its constitutional limitations, usurping power not delegated to it by the Constitution. On the other hand, certain individuals and groups — many of whom are well-meaning — are pushing false solutions such as an Article V Convention, or Con-Con, that threatens the Constitution and the God-given rights it protects.

Thankfully, members of The John Birch Society (JBS) and other concerned patriots are standing up to defend the Constitution from this two-pronged attack. And as they inform Americans about the dangers of a Con-Con, along with the proper solution to federal usurpations, they are seeing an increasing number of victories in this battle.

Defeating the Con-Con in Ohio

One such victory occurred this year in Ohio. On May 24, the state Senate General Government Budget Committee held a hearing on Senate Joint Resolution 4, which follows the wording of Mark Meckler's Convention of States (COS) application, urging Congress to call a convention to propose amendments "that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress of the United States."

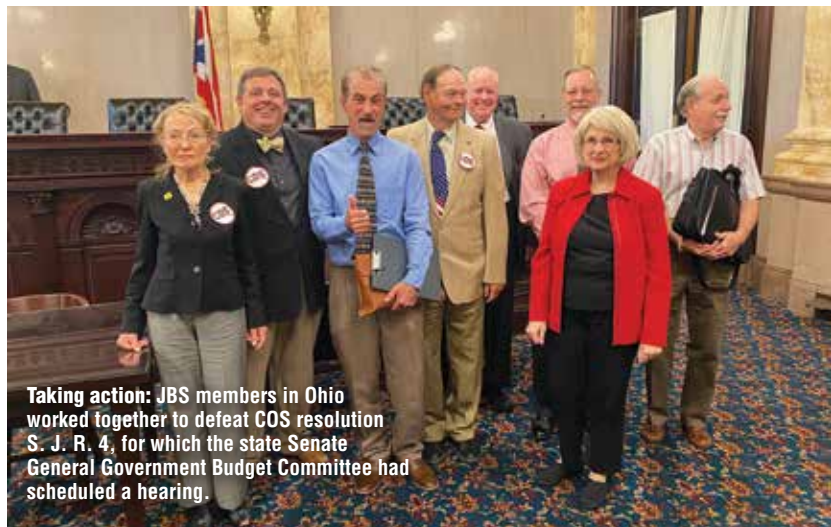
COS had put considerable effort into passing S. J. R. 4. For example, it had held multiple events advocating for a Con-Con and ensured that the resolutions went to a committee that it viewed as COS-friendly. Additionally, although the hearing was devoted to opposition testimony, the committee allowed COS President Mark Meckler and another COS supporter to give rebuttal testimony, an uncommon occurrence.

However, these actions were no match for the efforts of

JBS members, led by Ohio citizen and JBS Field Coordinator Robert Owens, and other Ohio patriots. In total, 16 opponents testified at the hearing, systematically shredding Meckler's claims. Most testimonies were concise and focused on a particular aspect of the debate over an Article V Convention, further strengthening their impact.

Among other points, the witnesses noted the precedent set by the 1787 Constitutional Convention, which went beyond its original purpose to merely revise the Articles of Confederation, did its work in secret, and changed the ratification rules. Others noted the Left's desire to change or abolish the Constitution, while others highlighted multiple legal experts who have warned against a convention. "This Convention is fraught with risk and uncertainty, and the stakes are extremely high," one witness noted.

The witnesses also highlighted nullification as a more effective and less-risky solution. Rather than seeking to change the Constitution — which the federal government ignores in the first place — state legislators should enforce it by nullifying unconstitutional federal actions. As some witnesses emphasized, fortitude is needed to stand up against the federal government.



Taking action: JBS members in Ohio worked together to defeat COS resolution S. J. R. 4, for which the state Senate General Government Budget Committee had scheduled a hearing.

Peter Rykowski is a research associate for The John Birch Society, manages JBS's legislative alerts, and is editor of the JBS Bulletin.

Ultimately, the coordinated efforts of Ohio Birchers succeeded; the General Assembly recessed without acting on S. J. R. 4, despite the Con-Con proponents' expectations that the resolution would pass before the recess. Although the committee could possibly take up the resolution in the November/December lame-duck session, the likelihood of this is low, and Ohio Birchers scored a large victory by preventing its passage in the regular session.



citizens, using COS's own words to expose the dangers of a convention, and ensuring that constitutionalists became delegates, we won!" And in a separate statement to *The New American*, Kobza noted, "As more and more Iowans have joined a JBS chapter and have had access" to the resources provided by JBS and *The New American*, "it's created the confidence to approach state legislators" about this topic.

Defending the Constitution in Iowa

The pro-Constitution victory in Ohio was not the only one this year. In Iowa, Birchers and other patriots succeeded for the first time in adding an anti-Con-Con plank to the state Republican Party's platform. The plank, adopted at the Iowa GOP State Convention on June 11, states:

We believe the United States Constitution, when properly obeyed and enforced, is an effective and timeless guiding instrument for the governing of our nation. Therefore, in view of the dire warnings from James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, four US Supreme Court Justices, and other eminent Jurists and scholars, we are opposed to the proposals of organizations such as "Convention of States" to ask Congress to call an Article V Convention.

This was not the only pro-Constitution modification of the party platform. In its 2020 platform, the Iowa GOP had stated that "we advocate a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution." (Currently, a so-called BBA is the focus of Con-Con applications in 26 states.) However, it removed this declaration in the 2022 platform, instead stating, "we advocate limiting federal expenditures to those enumerated powers under the United States Constitution."

Furthermore, the state party declared its support for enforcing the Constitution's existing provisions to rein in government. Another newly added plank states, "We support elected officials applying the 10th Amendment to limit the overreach of the federal government."

COS had heavily lobbied Iowa legislators to pass its favored application for an Article V Convention. Not only did the Iowa GOP effectively repudiate its efforts, but the General Assembly did not act on any Con-Con resolutions this year.

The efforts of JBS members and other patriots played an essential role in this victory. Writing in the August JBS *Bulletin*, Iowa field coordinator Tammy Kobza stated that "through educating

Influencing State Legislators in Wisconsin

By informing state legislators on a given issue or topic, it is possible to change their opinion on that topic. That is something JBS members in Wisconsin found this summer.

State Representative Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R-Fox Crossing) had previously voted in favor of a COS Con-Con application and had endorsed convening a convention to propose a congressional term-limits amendment.

However, area JBS members, including this writer and led by Dave Kempen, took the initiative to inform Cabral-Guevara about the dangers of a convention. This involved sending articles and videos on this topic, contacting her office in opposition to a Con-Con, meeting in person, and speaking up at town-hall meetings.

At a local Tea Party meeting on August 1, Representative Cabral-Guevara announced that after reviewing the information and points that Kempen and the other members had given, she had decided to change her position and oppose a Con-Con. The nominee to replace her in the Assembly (Cabral-Guevara is running for state Senate), Nate Gustafson, also announced he would oppose a Con-Con. Although more work still needs to be done — for example, a resolution to rescind Wisconsin's existing Con-Con applications must be introduced — this is a significant victory that illustrates the impact of actively reaching out to and informing state legislators.

Keeping Up the Struggle

These are just a selection of the many instances of JBS members and other patriots working in their states and communities to defend the Constitution. Elsewhere in the United States, they are working to stop new Con-Con applications and rescind existing ones — and since early 2021, Colorado, Illinois, and New Jersey have all rescinded their existing applications.

Several legislators and candidates who have continued to support a Con-Con were defeated in primary elections this year, including in Kentucky and South Dakota.

These victories will continue and accelerate if patriots continue and double down on their educational and activist efforts. ■

DON'T GLORIFY GORBACHEV

Gushing eulogies for the former Soviet leader hide the significant role he played in the globalist-communist "Great Reset."

by *William F. Jasper*

“Mikhail Gorbachev was a man of remarkable vision,” declared President Joe Biden, who also extolled the “courage” of the former Soviet dictator, whom he described as “a rare leader.”

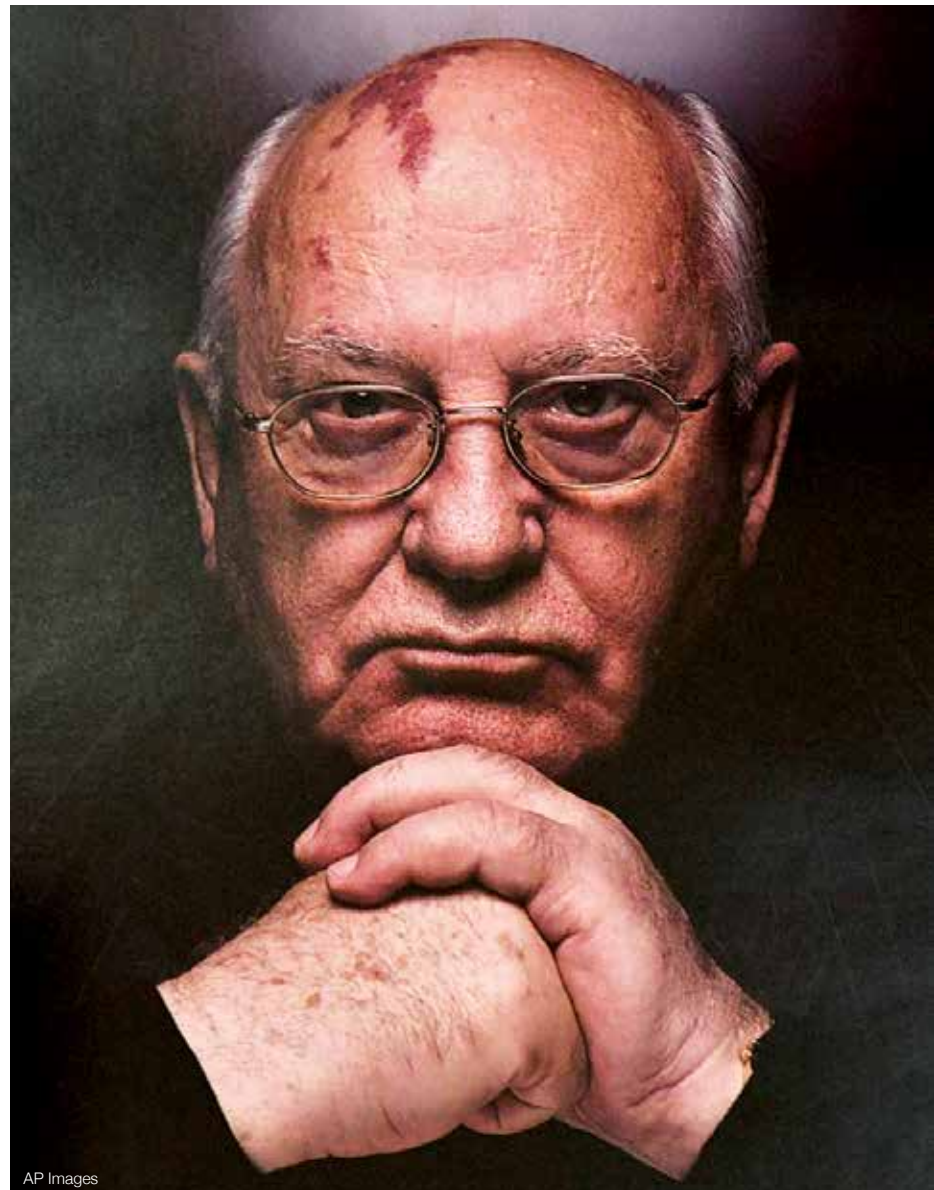
According to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Mikhail Gorbachev was “a one-of-a-kind statesman who changed the course of history. He did more than any other individual to bring about the peaceful end of the Cold War.” “The world has lost a towering global leader, committed multilateralist, and tireless advocate for peace,” Guterres said.

“Gorbachev wrote world history. He exemplified how a single statesman can change the world for the better,” said former German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed Gorbachev’s “humanitarian” side. “I will especially note the great humanitarian, charitable, and educational activities that Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has been conducting in recent years,” Putin said in a statement released by the Kremlin.

Former U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III averred that Gorbachev was “a giant” and “an honest broker” whom he could trust. “History will remember Mikhail Gorbachev as a giant who steered his great nation toward democracy,” Baker said. “The free world misses him greatly.”

So it has gone with the garish gushings for Gorbach from the great and the good of the globalist chorus since it was announced that the sainted communist leader had passed to his eternal re-



AP Images

William F. Jasper is a senior editor of The New American.

As we have documented at *The New American* many times over the years, Gorbachev has been an unstinting and explicit proponent of a “New World Order” and “world government” under an empowered United Nations.

ward on August 30. The media-driven Cult of Gorby reached its zenith in the 1980s and '90s, but then continued with impressive spurts in the early 2000s. The Gorbachev cult far exceeded the infamous cult of personality campaigns of mass-murdering dictators Joseph Stalin and Mao Tse-tung, which were directed by their respective communist parties and carried out by their state-owned-and-controlled media/propaganda organs. The Gorby cult phenomenon is different in that it is *global* and is shamelessly nurtured and promoted by *free world* politicians, academics, think tanks, and — especially — the media.

But not everyone has joined the adulation. “Lithuanians will not glorify Gorbachev,” said Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis. “We will never forget the simple fact that his army murdered civilians to prolong his regime’s occupation of our country. His soldiers fired on our unarmed protestors and crushed them under his tanks. That is how we will remember him.”

Comments like those of Landsbergis by the victims of Soviet atrocities and Soviet occupation are dismissed by the Gorby adoration choir as the bitter rantings of zealots still stuck in the Cold War mentality. However, the effusive, reverent panegyrics to Gorbachev by the globalist elites are providing a major clue to millions of awakening people around the world regarding Gorbachev’s *real* role in the decades-long joint

effort by communists and globalists to bring about “convergence” of the communist and non-communist nations under a world government.

Gorbachev and UN: Pushing Enviro-Leninism

Gorbachev played a starring role in this extended drama to create a communist-style global regime, the most recent ex-

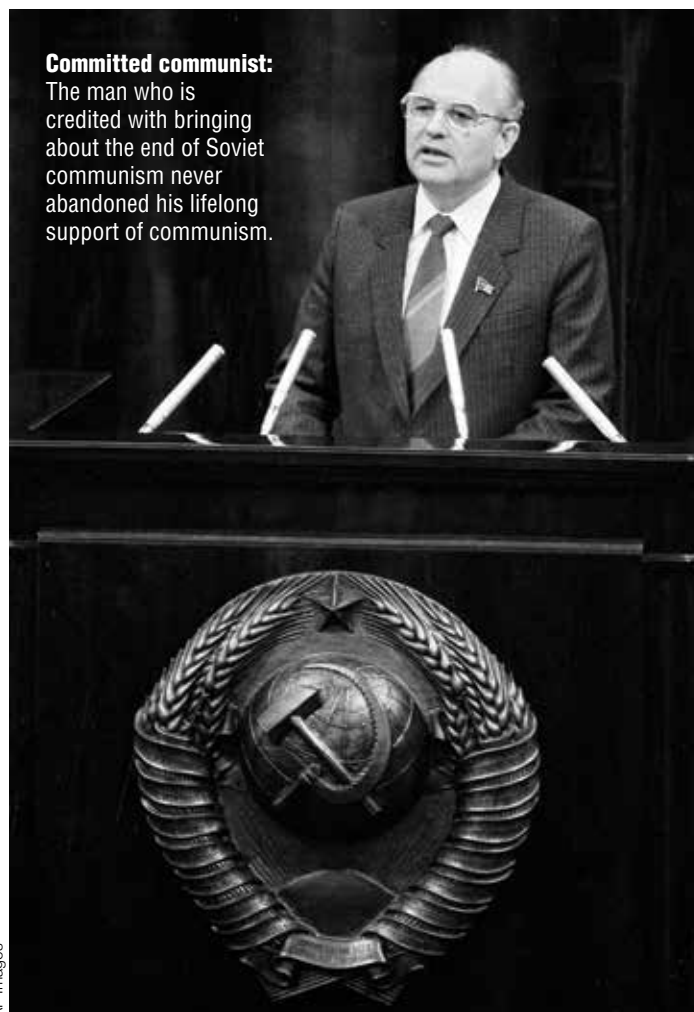
pression of which is the Great Reset announced by the billionaires club known as the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2020. Their Great Reset intends to “reset” the planet and all humanity — economically, politically, socially, biologically, morally, and spiritually — along communist lines, with central planning, control, and regimentation of every aspect of human life.

Klaus Schwab, the guttural-voiced James Bond-style villain who runs the WEF from Davos, Switzerland, has been a key Gorbachev promoter among the Western business and banking elites for decades. The late Canadian billionaire Maurice Strong, a co-founder with Schwab of the WEF, became Gorbachev’s boon companion. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appointed Strong to be secretary-general of the UN Conference on Environment and

Development, better known as the Earth Summit, which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The globalists used the Earth Summit to stoke the fears of environmental apocalypse and promote the idea that only *global governance* could save us. Out of the Earth Summit came a slew of UN treaties to implement a Soviet-style global green regime to respond to the “existential crises”: global warming, acid rain, deforestation, ozone depletion, extinctions, etc.

To deliver on these objectives, Maurice Strong and Mikhail Gorbachev became a globalist lobbying tag team. Together with Steven Rockefeller, they drafted the UN’s Earth Charter to be a spiritual/environmental guide for humanity. “My hope is that this charter will be a kind of Ten Commandments, a ‘Sermon on the Mount,’ that provides a guide for human behavior toward the environment in the next century and beyond,” Gorbachev stated in a 1997 interview with the *Los Angeles Times*.



Committed communist:

The man who is credited with bringing about the end of Soviet communism never abandoned his lifelong support of communism.

AP Images

Not that the Earth Charter is in any way compatible with orthodox Judeo-Christian understandings of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. Quite the opposite; the Earth Charter is intended to *replace* the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount with a new, pantheistic, “green” spirituality, which was telegraphed in the Earth Summit’s “Declaration of the Sacred Earth” that endorsed “the superior laws of Divine Nature.”

Following the Earth Summit, Gorbachev launched Green Cross International and Strong established the Earth Council, which the dynamic duo jointly used to propel the schemes for global control.

To truly grasp the seminal role Mikhail Gorbachev has played in the global Deep State’s convergence game plan, one must read the works of Soviet KGB defector Anatoliy Golitsyn, *New Lies for Old* (1984) and *The Perestroika Deception* (1998). We have written about Golitsyn and his warnings to the West many times over the years. For a summary of the

Golitsyn theses, we recommend reading the three-part interview *The New American* conducted in 1995 with Christopher Story, publisher of the U.K.-based *Soviet Analyst* and official publisher of Golitsyn’s works (Part One: Dispelling Disinformation, Part Two: Leninists Still Leading, and Part Three: Red March to Global Tyranny), available at The-NewAmerican.com.

As a researcher and journalist, I have over the decades covered Mikhail Gorbachev’s rise, speeches, writings, official actions, and global peregrinations. I have also seen him up-close and personal at the United Nations and, particularly, at his high-level State of the World Forum events (sponsored by the Gorbachev Foundation), which have drawn glittering constellations of presidents, prime ministers, potentates, princes, poobahs, and celebrity poseurs. At two of his State of the World Forums (San Francisco in 1995 and New York City in 2000), I was one of only five journalists admitted into the inner sanctum, where I could mix freely with the Gorbby

glitterati. (And I confess that, under the circumstances, I even shook the hand of the Exalted One).

As we have documented at *The New American* many times over the years, Gorbachev has been an unstinting and explicit proponent of a “New World Order” and “world government” under an empowered United Nations.

He also remained, as far as we know, a committed atheist and Marxist-Leninist. On December 23, 1989, Gorbachev declared to the Congress of People’s Deputies assembled in Moscow, “I am a communist. For some that may be a fantasy. But for me it is my main goal.” During a trip to Byelorussia on February 26, 1991, Gorbachev said, “I am not ashamed to say that I am a communist and adhere to the communist idea, and with this I will leave for the other world.”

Well, he has left for that “other world,” and it is not likely that he was received by God Almighty and the Heavenly Host with the same hosannahs that were lavished on him by earthly sycophants and fellow conspirators. ■



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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

How to Save a Life

Tomika Johnson of Cleveland was in the right place at the right time, and her intervention helped save the life of a local police officer during a back-to-school event on August 24.

Sergeant Ray O'Connor was playing football with some school children when he was stung by two bees, WOIO reported. Deathly allergic to bees, O'Connor collapsed. Unfortunately, he did not have his EpiPen with him.

O'Connor's partner, Officer Brooklyn Barnes, and another officer carried O'Connor to a police cruiser, where they began to perform first aid, but without the EpiPen, things were looking dire.

Witnessing the ordeal unfold, Johnson ran to her house to grab her son's EpiPen, rushed back to the scene, and injected O'Connor with the medication.

Johnson told WKYC that the incident happened so fast that she can barely recall who injected O'Connor with the life-saving medication. "I don't even know who I gave the EpiPen to that was tending to the officer, Sergeant O'Connor. But I kept yelling, 'Hit him in the hip! Hit him in the hip!'" she told WKYC.

Medical staff at St. Vincent Hospital said Johnson's actions saved the sergeant's life, KKTV reported.

On October 6, Johnson will be recognized with a "Citizen Award" during the City of Cleveland's Fourth District Awards Ceremony.

Strangers Helping Strangers

A December prayer request in the Facebook group The Laughing Christian resulted in a New Jersey man receiving a life-changing gift from a complete stranger in Texas.

Roy McIntosh was in desperate need of a living kidney donor, CBN News reported, prompting his wife, Toshira, to ask for prayers on The Laughing Christian.

"Please pray for my husband that God sends a type B+ living kidney donor to him," she wrote, adding, "We believe in God for a miracle. Please pray for him."

The post struck a chord with Heather Shaefer, a military wife who lives 1,700 miles away from the McIntosh family.

Shaefer recalled, "I read the message and thought, 'That's for me.' Somehow I just knew I had a part to play. So, I messaged the lady about 30 minutes later and wrote, 'I am B+ [blood type] and I'd like to look into if I can donate my kidney.'"

After months of tests determined that Shaefer and McIntosh were indeed a perfect match, Shaefer generously donated her kidney to McIntosh on June 8.

Shaefer chronicled the months leading up to the kidney donation in a YouTube video series called "Adventures with My Kidney," hoping to inspire others to consider organ donation.

A video posted on August 16 shows the McIntosh and Schaefer families meeting after the surgery, and McIntosh could not resist hugging his life-saving donor more than once. McIntosh and his wife presented Shaefer with a necklace and a ring as a show of gratitude, but emphasized there was "no gift to match what she has done for their family."

Community Supports Local Officer

When Wichita police officer Daniel Gumm was diagnosed with metastatic esophageal cancer in July, the local community came forward in a big way to show their support.

An August 20 fundraising dinner and auction was organized by the Honore Adversis Foundation and area residents for Officer Gumm and his family, and the turnout was enormous. Nearly 1,000 people gathered to support Gumm, KWCH reported.

As a K-9 handler and 18-year veteran with the police department, Gumm is well known in the community. He has been involved in some significant news stories, including one in which his K-9 partner, Rooster, had been shot and killed. Rooster was the first K-9 officer to be killed in the line of duty in the history of the Wichita Police Department, and the tragedy brought the community together.

So when news of Gumm's cancer diag-

nosis circulated, area residents wanted to show their support.

"He was in the army at one point and protecting our country. Now he's in our city, protecting our city," said Steve Jerrrell of the Honore Adversis Foundation. "He's a very well respected nationwide K-9 handler."

The Honore Adversis Foundation also hosted a 5K run and one-mile family run for Gumm on September 3, and will continue to lead fundraising efforts to support the Gumm family at this difficult time.

Strangers Attend Veteran's Funeral

When Vietnam War veteran Glenn Cook died without family and friends to mourn him, dozens of strangers in St. Louis turned up at his funeral to honor his life.

Prior to his death, Cook donated many of his belongings to BackStoppers, an organization providing financial assistance to families of emergency responders who died in the line of duty. When BackStoppers learned that Cook had died without any surviving family, they contacted Michel Funeral Home to help coordinate and plan his funeral.

The day before Cook's funeral, Michel Funeral Home posted on Facebook, inviting members of the community to pay their respects.

On the day of Cook's funeral, dozens of strangers appeared at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, where Cook received full military honors, including a gun salute and a motorcycle escort, Fox 2 reported.

BackStoppers board member Dan Raniere said he expected approximately five or six people to show up for the funeral, but was astonished by the turnout.

One of the people in attendance was Mickey Terry, who brought her grandson to show him what it means to show respect for our veterans.

"I love the veterans," she told KSDK. "We are only able to do what we do now because of them." ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

THREE MILE ISLAND REVISITED

Modern bias against nuclear power traces its origin to the partial meltdown of a reactor at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in 1979. Fallacies surrounding the event still cripple the industry today.



Three Mile Island: TMI's Unit 1 continued service until 2019. In this archived picture, its cooling towers released pure water vapor as the towers of Unit 2 stood dormant following a 1979 partial reactor meltdown accident.

wikimedia/Groupmesea

by Jeffrey Mahn and Rebecca Terrell

These days, “TMI” stands for “too much information,” a tweeted warning for friends who divulge uncomfortably personal news. But prior to the age of texting acronyms, TMI conjured images of atomic doom. It stood for Three Mile Island and referred to “the most serious accident in U.S. commercial nuclear power plant operating history.”

Jeffrey Mahn is a retired nuclear engineer who has worked in various capacities in the nuclear power industry as well as on the U.S. nuclear weapons program. Rebecca Terrell is a senior editor of The New American.

That’s how the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) remembers the 1979 partial meltdown of a reactor south of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. At the time, media screeched of potential nuclear nightmare. The public was primed for panic from the release just 12 days earlier of *The China Syndrome*, Hollywood hyperbole about a nuclear meltdown that nearly renders southern California a ruined wasteland.

People feared TMI was a case of life imitating art. The accident “brought about sweeping changes” and “caused the NRC to tighten and heighten its regulatory oversight.” Today, the International Atomic Energy Agency rates TMI as a

five out of seven on its radiological event scale, comparable to the Richter scale for earthquakes.

However, NRC admits that the accident’s “small radioactive releases had no detectable health effects on plant workers or the public.” Area residents “received an average radiation dose of only about 1 millirem above the usual background dose,” which people receive daily from natural sources. “To put this into context, exposure from a chest X-ray is about 6 millirem.” Almost 20 years of follow-up with area residents by the Pennsylvania Department of Health produced results published in the March 2003 journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*. Researchers found no link between the accident and disease trends.

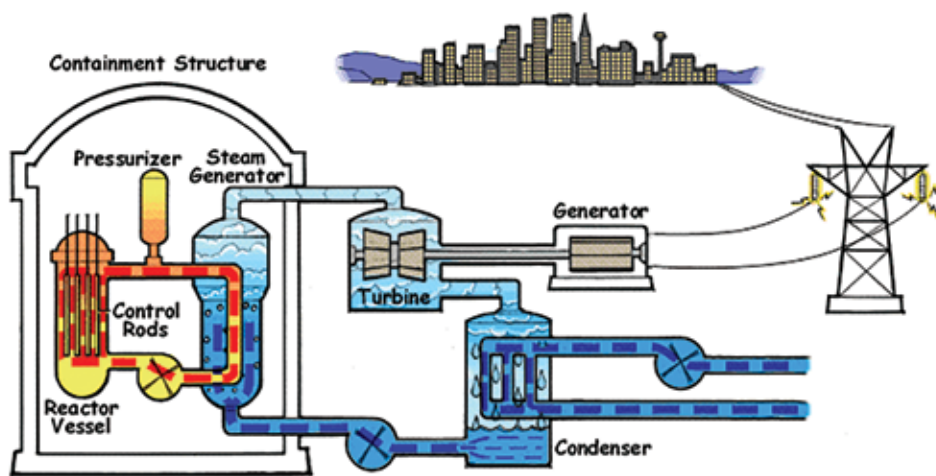
What explains the dichotomy? To answer this question, we need to understand how nuclear reactors work and what went wrong at TMI. Then we’ll discuss the undeserved repercussions that still afflict the nuclear industry today.

How a Nuclear Reactor Works

The TMI power plant included two pressurized water reactors (PWR), and the 1979 meltdown happened in Unit 2. The graphic on the next page provides a simplified visual of its construct.

Reactors split atoms — a process called nuclear fission — within the reactor vessel to generate heat. In a PWR, the heat from the primary loop (pictured in red) is exchanged with water flowing through a secondary loop (pictured in blue), turning that water into steam. The steam spins a turbine, which generates electricity.

Predictions of increased cancer mortality rates were just that — predictions — and history has proven them to be grossly untrue. They are mistaken because they are based on a radiation dose-response model known as linear no-threshold (LNT), which erroneously holds that all radiation exposures are harmful, no matter how small.



Pressurized water reactor: The primary loop (red) of a PWR keeps water under high pressure to prevent boiling. It heats low-pressure water in the secondary loop (blue) without transmitting radioactivity in the process.

Water in the primary loop acts as a moderator for the nuclear reaction and keeps the fuel rods from overheating and melting. (There is also an emergency core cooling system not pictured here, but we'll discuss that later.)

A PWR maintains water at a very high pressure in the primary loop — around 2,000 pounds per square inch (psig). The high pressure keeps this water from boiling at very high operating temperatures, around 600 degrees Fahrenheit. It's the same concept behind a pressure cooker, but at much higher temperatures.

The pressurizer, located at the highest point in the reactor coolant system, is a vessel that under normal operating conditions contains a water reservoir at its bottom and a steam bubble in its top. Since water is incompressible, the steam bubble controls reactor coolant system pressure.

Should that get too high, a pilot-operated relief valve (PORV) at the top of the pressurizer automatically opens, directing steam to a reactor coolant drain tank. Once the pressure drops back within an acceptable range, the PORV automatically closes.

Meanwhile, in the secondary loop, main feedwater pumps provide low pressure water from the condenser to the steam generators.

There are two other terms needed in a discussion of what happened at TMI. First is a *loss-of-coolant accident*, which is any condition in which the coolant system's boundary is compromised so that reactor coolant is lost. In plain terms, it's a leak. Second, is *reactor scram*, a fast insertion of control rods into the reactor core to stop all chain reactions almost instantaneously.

What Went Wrong?

Numerous factors contributed to the meltdown at TMI on March 28, 1979. Paramount among them were a failure of the pressurizer PORV and a couple of poorly maintained plant conditions.

TMI is the subject of many studies and reports, but most are not written for the public. After all, nuclear power plant operation and safety are complex subjects. The discussion below is an attempt to provide a reader-friendly explanation with information gleaned from various government reports in the months following the accident, a 2004 book about TMI by nuclear-age historian J. Samuel Walker, a 2011 textbook on lessons in accident management from TMI written by former NRC commissioner Robert E. Henry, and an article on TMI by former American Nuclear Society President William E. Burchill, published by *Nuclear News* in 2019.

Evolving Accident Sequence

The accident began at 4:00 a.m. in the secondary loop, when a clogged feedwater deionization tank reduced flow to the main feedwater pumps, causing the pumps to shut down and stopping the flow of water from the condenser to the steam generators. That loss of cooling water caused the plant safety system to automatically trip the steam turbine off-line.

With nothing to cool it, the primary loop's pressure and temperature rapidly began to rise. The plant's redundant reactor protection system commands caused an instant reactor scram.

The situation also caused a rise in the pressurizer water level. Hence, the PORV opened. That, in conjunction with the reactor scram, caused a rapid pressure drop. Once the pressure dipped to 1,600 psig, the emergency core cooling system's high-pressure safety injection pumps automatically actuated, adding water to the primary loop to increase the system pressure and prevent boiling.

So far, so good. Everything happened as it should have for recovery from a loss of feedwater to the steam generators. Even the emergency feedwater system automatically activated in response to the loss of the main feedwater pumps.

However, a human error prevented the emergency feedwater from reaching the steam generators. Someone had mistak-

NRC

only left the emergency feedwater isolation valves closed following recent system maintenance. Why did none of the operators notice? Likely because many components on control room panels were “tagged out” for maintenance. Those dangling tags obscured many indicator warning lights. Thus, about two minutes after the main feedwater pumps tripped, the steam generators boiled dry.

Loss of Coolant

Everything described so far happened within the first three minutes of the accident. But there was another combination of mechanical and human error that lasted much longer and sealed TMI’s fate.

It involved the PORV atop the pressurizer. After the main feedwater pumps tripped, the PORV opened to release pressure building in the reactor coolant system. However, it failed to automatically close once pressure dropped below the relief setpoint, and it remained open for nearly two and a half hours.

No one realized the problem. A control room indicator showed that a signal had been sent to close the valve, but nothing alerted operators to the fact that it was stuck open. The pressurizer steam bubble was expelled and reactor coolant continued to flow through the valve, creating a loss-of-coolant accident.

It was a malfunction and error that would not have happened had communication failures not plagued the industry. The *Report of the President’s Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island*, published October 30, 1979, complained that PORVs identical to the one that malfunctioned at TMI had failed in other locations. Among these, events at the NOK-1 plant in Switzerland in 1974, the Oconee-3 plant in South Carolina in 1975, and the Davis-Besse-1 plant in Ohio in 1977 mimicked the situation at TMI. The difference was that operators quickly recognized and solved the problem. Had their experiences been broadcast, the information could have significantly mitigated the duration and outcome of TMI.

Yet both the reactor vendor and the NRC failed to warn PWR owners/operators. Their rationale was the existence of a PORV discharge temperature monitor that would indicate failure of the valve to reclose and an isolation valve in the PORV discharge piping that could be remotely closed to terminate a loss of coolant. However, the likelihood of PORV failure should have been reason enough for the NRC to issue a Preliminary Notification Report.

Also ignored was a 1978 Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) engineer’s analy-

sis of loss-of-coolant accidents in plants like TMI manufactured by the Babcock & Wilcox Company. The study concluded that pressurizer water level was not a reliable indicator of reactor coolant system conditions and that operators should not rely on it to dictate their actions. The TVA, the NRC, and Babcock & Wilcox all share responsibility for downplaying (or ignoring) the significance of an analysis that would likely have helped avoid the TMI reactor core melt. In the next section, we’ll describe how this played a part.

A Perfect Storm

With both the main and emergency feedwater systems disabled, and with the PORV stuck open, the reactor coolant system was hemorrhaging water and heating rapidly. Operators were in uncharted territory. The accident began to involve aspects that were not anticipated in the plant’s original safety analysis. In industry terms, it was “beyond-design basis.”

After about five and a half minutes, remaining water in the reactor core began boiling. The decreased heat removal from the reactor fuel resulted in overheating of the fuel and rupturing of the fuel rod cladding. The damaged cladding reacted with steam to produce combustible hydrogen gas, and the gas leaked into the containment building through the open PORV.

Meanwhile, the loss of the steam bubble in the pressurizer caused operators to believe that the core was covered with water and to throttle the emergency core cooling system’s high-pressure injection pumps to prevent over-pressurizing the reactor coolant system. Unbeknownst to them, however, the core was not flooded. The persistently high pressurizer water level was due to an obscure thermal-hydraulic phenomenon whereby the upward flow of a gas (steam) prevents the downward flow of a liquid (water). It’s called “countercurrent flooding”; steam rising from the reactor core through the pressurizer inlet piping literally suspended water in the pressurizer. (This was part of the TVA engineer’s ignored warning discussed earlier.)

Eight minutes after the accident began, staff discovered that the secondary loop’s emergency feedwater isolation valves were closed. They opened them, restoring cooling capability of the steam generators.

However, they would not realize the



In no danger: President Jimmy Carter visited the TMI Unit 2 control room to assess damage four days after an accident resulted in partial meltdown of the reactor core.

AP Images

PORV problem until more than two hours later. False containment-building radiation monitor readings led operators to believe that a loss-of-coolant accident wasn't happening. About an hour and a half later, someone discovered the monitor's charcoal filter was water-logged, rendering the monitor non-functional. That's when staff started looking for a loss-of-coolant source and found it by shutting the PORV isolation valve that functioned as a safeguard in case of PORV malfunction.

There were other unexpected conditions that led to operator actions that further aggravated the accident response, including misinterpretation of many instrumentation readings resulting from reactor coolant system conditions that were not fully understood by plant operators or management.

As a result, the reactor coolant system lost roughly two-thirds of its coolant into the reactor containment building. The temperature in the reactor core rose to around 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit. After about four hours, the upper part of the core melted and slumped to the bottom of the reactor pressure vessel. Despite fuel melting, the debris "froze" quickly upon contact with the bottom of the vessel, as illustrated in the graphic. Operators restored primary system coolant flow after 16 hours, essentially terminating the accident.

Radiological Consequences

Radiological consequences of the accident to humans and the environment were insignificant because the ultimate fission product retention barrier, the reactor containment building, remained intact. Not only did it retain fission products released

from the damaged reactor fuel, but it also withstood a hydrogen burn that occurred around 10 hours after accident initiation. The burn produced a pressure spike of approximately 28 psig in the containment building, which was only about one-half of its maximum design pressure.

The release of volatile fission products was three to four orders of magnitude smaller than limits set by the Atomic Energy Commission when it originally licensed TMI in 1962.

The only radiation released outside of the containment building was from radioactive krypton and xenon gases. It happened during a transfer of the gases to a decay tank and was intentional, not acci-

dental. These releases had the *potential* to expose area residents to the one-millirem background dose recorded by the NRC, or about the average daily dose from natural background radiation in that part of Pennsylvania.

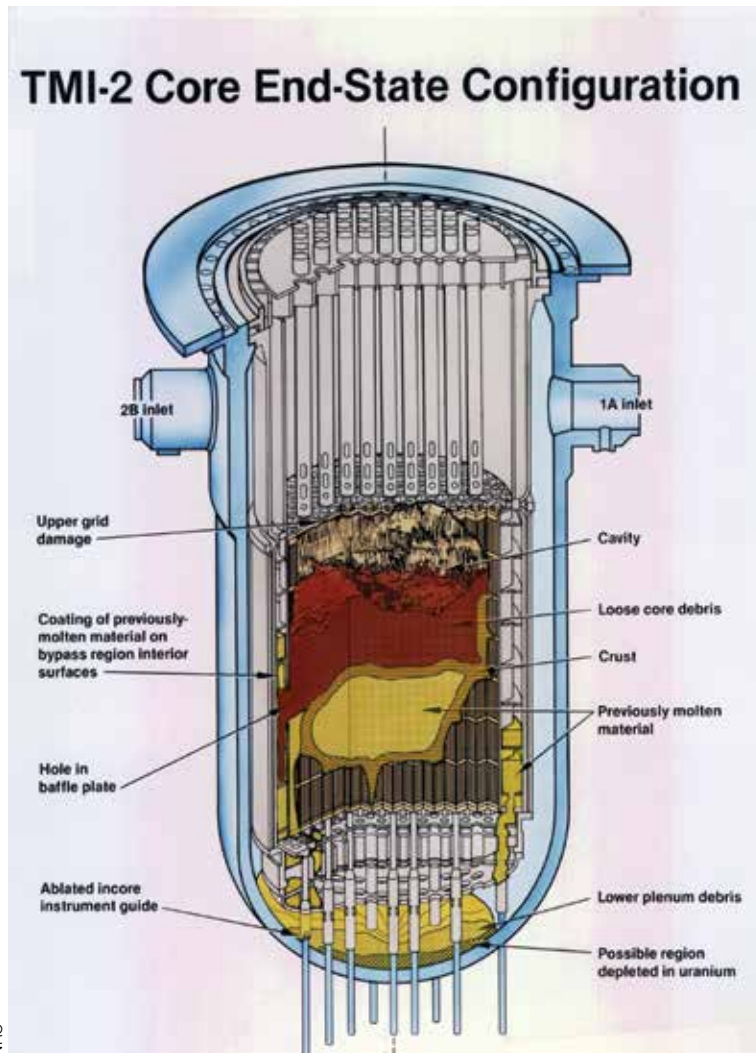
The Aftermath

Positive post-TMI changes within the industry involved enhanced monitoring and maintenance, control room redesign, upgraded operator training, better risk assessments, and improved industry communication, especially for abnormal event reporting. However, the TMI accident severely damaged public perception of nuclear power.

"The truth is that one of the most covered stories of the 1970s was so poorly communicated to the public that today, history remembers Three Mile Island as an unmitigated disaster, and not what it actually was: an inevitable series of human errors that resulted in a harmless failure." So says science journalist Kyle Hill in an educational video on his YouTube channel. He calls TMI one of the "worst PR disasters of all time."

For example, two days after the accident, Pennsylvania's governor "encouraged" pregnant women and preschool children within five miles of the plant to leave the area "until further notice," while the state emergency management agency drew up evacuation plans for a 20-mile radius affecting six counties and 650,000 people. No evacuation was ever ordered, but panic ensued regardless. Schools closed, and many residents fled.

The report of the President's Commission would later reveal that NRC had erred in its calculations of risk related to the accident but "made no announce-



Partial meltdown: The TMI accident in March of 1979 resulted in a partial meltdown of the reactor core, as graphically depicted here, but no damage to the reactor containment building in which it was housed.

"I was the only victim of Three-Mile Island."

"On May 7, a few weeks after the accident at Three-Mile Island, I was in Washington. I was there to refute some of the propaganda that Ralph Nader, Jane Fonda and their *Food* are spreading to the news media in their attempt to frighten people away from nuclear power. I am 71 years old, and I was working 20 hours a day. The strain was too much. The next day, I suffered a heart attack. You might say that I was the only one whose health was affected by that reactor near Harrisburg. No, that would be wrong. It was not the reactor. It was Jane Fonda. Reactors are not dangerous.

Now that I am recovering, I feel compelled to use whatever time and strength are left to me to speak out on the energy problem. Nuclear power is part of the answer to that problem, only a part, but a very important part. I have worked on the hydrogen bomb and on the safety of nuclear reactors. I did both for the same reasons. Both are needed for the survival of a free society. If we are to avoid war, we must be strong and we must help to generate the progress that makes it possible for all nations to grow and prosper.

And what is the greatest present-day threat to the prosperity and even the survival of nations? A lack of energy. Both developed and developing nations are threatened. The citizens of the United States have just begun to recognize the impact of the world's growing energy shortage. Coalmine fires, electrical blackouts and higher prices are minor irritants. They are nothing compared to what may be ahead. In a struggle for survival, politics, law, religion and even humanity may be forgotten. When the objective is to stay alive, the end may seem to justify the means. In that event, the world may indeed return to the "simpler" life of the past, but millions of us will not be alive to discover its disadvantages.

When our existence is at stake, we cannot afford to turn our backs on any source of energy. We need them all.



- Q. Can a nuclear reactor explode like an atomic bomb?
- A. No. Energy cannot increase fast enough in the heart. Therefore, it is absolutely impossible for a nuclear power plant to explode like a bomb. For this to happen, the laws of nature would have to be repealed.
- Q. What is the risk of nuclear power compared to other sources of producing electricity?
- A. It is far safer than coal or hydroelectric power, but all three are necessary to meet our need for energy. It may sound strange to say so, because coal has been around so long, but we know more about controlling radiation than we do about controlling the poisonous effects of burning coal. And, of course, a dam has no backup system to protect those who live below it. Indeed, many of those people have lost their lives and more their homes.
- Q. How many miles from a nuclear power plant. What are...

When it comes to generating electricity, we especially need just one power. Contrary to what Nader and Fonda, and their friends say in *Strangeland*, Wald and Kerbel, would have you believe, nuclear power is the safest, cleanest way to generate large amounts of electrical power. This is not merely my opinion—it is a fact. Due to the lessons learned at Three-Mile Island, the nuclear way of generating electricity will be made even safer.

I have attempted to respond briefly to some of the questions which people ask about nuclear power. The problems that these questions raise are problems because of political indoctrination or public fear. Technically, they are not problems, because the dangers they imply either do not exist or else we have the know-how to solve them. I am absolutely convinced of this, after a lifetime of work as a nuclear scientist.

I was once asked how I would like for my grandson, Eric, to think of me and my life's work after I am gone. Eric is nine years old. He is a terrible guy—he beats me at the game of "GO." I was an enormously fond of him, but I have not given much thought to what he will someday think of my life's work. I have given a great deal of thought to whether he will be alive in the next century, and what he will be living in freedom or in slavery. If he is living under communism, he will know I was a failure.

I believe that we have reached a turning point in history. The anti-nuclear propaganda we see hearing just democracy to a severe test. Unless the political trend toward energy development in this country changes rapidly, there may not be a United States in the twenty-first century.

The President has recognized the danger of the energy shortage. As yet, he has given only some of the answers I think—I hope—that democracy has enough vitality to explore the risks and to recognize the great benefits of nuclear power to human health and well-being, and to the survival of our free society.

- Q. How dangerous is the release of low-level radiation from a nuclear power plant?
- A. If you are next to a nuclear power plant for a whole year, you would be exposed to less radiation than you would receive during a round-trip flight in a 747 from New York to Los Angeles.
- Let me put it another way. The allowable radiation from a nuclear plant is five mrem per year. In Dallas, people get about 80 mrem per year from the natural background of building, rocks, etc. In Colorado, people get as much as 180 mrem per year from the natural background. Therefore, just by moving from Dallas to Boulder you would receive ten times more radiation per year than the person gets who lives next to a nuclear power plant.
- Q. How much radiation were the people around Three-Mile Island exposed to during the accident?
- Q. Will the expansion of nuclear power by other countries enable them to produce nuclear weapons?
- A. Uniformly, yes. This is already happening. Two-thirds of the reactors in operation in the free world today are outside the United States. Since we can't stop other nations from building nuclear plants or weapons, what we must do is find better solutions to international problems. An energy starved nation is much more likely to make and use nuclear weapons as a last resort to survival. The only way to prevent that is to see to it that there is enough energy to go around, and to strengthen cooperation and confidence among the nations.
- Q. What have we learned from the accident at Three-Mile Island?
- A. Two things. First, that nuclear reactors are even safer than we thought. Despite many human errors and a few mechanical failures at Three-Mile Island, the damage

ment," leaving the "good news unshared with the public."

Even President Jimmy Carter, who arrived April 1 to assess the site, and whose opinion mattered due to his nuclear experience in the U.S. Navy, "told his staff after visiting the plant ... that he didn't think it was even a disaster. He thought it was minor," relates Hill. Yet Carter reportedly "refused to tell the public this at the time, for fear of offending anti-nuclear Democrats in the U.S. House and Senate."

Stress, not radiation, injured people. "The conspiracy theories and anecdotal evidence and anti-nuclear panic that Three Mile Island generated, and still generates, have likely done more to harm public health through stress than any radiation released in 1979," speculates Hill. Indeed, four months after the accident, physicist Edward Teller, known as the "father of the hydrogen bomb," wrote a two-page spread in *The Wall Street Journal* in defense of nuclear power's safety and reliability. "I was the only victim of Three-Mile Island," ran the headline, and Teller revealed that under the strain of refuting propaganda frightening people "away from nuclear power," the 71-year-old suffered a heart attack.

Lessons Not Learned

Teller was wrong only in that he was certainly not the sole victim. Others suffered debilitating stress, and everyone who pays a utility bill today suffers from damage to the industry by anti-nuclear forces and hostile media.

"After TMI, the number of reactors under construction in the U.S. started to decline for the first time since 1963," Hill says. "Fifty-one nuclear reactors were canceled between 1980 and 1984. No new nuclear power plant would be authorized for construction in the United States until 2012. What took their place were coal-fired power plants which would soon contribute to more preventable deaths by pollution than all nuclear accidents ever, combined."

TMI also revealed some facts still ignored and still not adequately communicated to the public, even though the experiences at Chernobyl in 1986 and Fukushima in 2011 underscore their validity. These have to do with the modest public consequences of reactor core meltdown accidents.

There are two reasons for those modest results. The first is that Western nuclear power plants, unlike Chernobyl, are designed with reactor containment structures that retain radioactive fission products from damaged nuclear fuel. The second, as revealed in the TMI and Fukushima accidents, is that the more volatile fission products plate out on containment structure surfaces and therefore become immobilized.

Most importantly, there is no observed incidence of radiation-induced disease from either TMI or Fukushima. Predictions of increased cancer mortality were just that — predictions — and history has proven them to be grossly untrue. They are mistaken because they are based on a

Nuclear casualty: Physicist Edward Teller suffered a heart attack shortly after the TMI accident. He blamed it on stress he endured while defending nuclear power against propaganda from hostile leftists.

radiation dose-response model known as linear no-threshold (LNT), which erroneously holds that all radiation exposures are harmful, no matter how small.

Even Chernobyl proves the fallacy of LNT. Except for doses received by first responders, public exposure did not result in significant adverse health consequences. In fact, many elderly people returned to their homes in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, in violation of government orders, and experienced no adverse health effects. Furthermore, the increased number of thyroid cancers detected in the population of the contaminated area shortly following the accident was not in agreement with thyroid cancer latency of eight to 10 years after irradiation. Increased post-Chernobyl testing accounts for an increase in thyroid cancer diagnosis in the 1980s.

Until these facts are widely understood, irrational fear holds sway and prevents the expansion of nuclear power. Fear is an underappreciated emotional driver in today's America, and the fearmongers are using it to their advantage. The Covid debacle showed that many Americans are apparently content to live their lives in fear. It is hoped that, regarding nuclear power, rising concerns about energy security and costs will help overcome unfounded phobias and misconceptions. ■

Hero Mom Defends Children

WTMJ-TV, the NBC affiliate in Milwaukee, reported on August 17 about a mother who sprang into action and defended her children from an intruder. The woman was in the shower when she heard her children screaming that someone had broken into the house. The mother had bought a gun 10 years ago after finding an intruder sleeping under her child's bed.

The mother was now prepared, and grabbed the gun from her bedroom and rushed into the living room. Once there, she witnessed an intruder fighting with her two dogs. She yelled for the man to stop, but he kept advancing, so she fired her gun at him. The suspect died at the scene from the gunshot wound. The mother, who did not want to be identified, told WTMJ-TV, "It all happened so fast — an adrenaline rush.... I knew I'd be able to do it [shoot the intruder] ... to protect my kids."

The investigation is still ongoing, but neighbors lauded her actions, with one even going so far as to call her a "hero."

Tips for Dealing With a Home Intruder

Newsweek reported August 18 about the above-mentioned Milwaukee shooting, but added some guidance for homeowners in terms of what to do when faced with a home intruder. *Newsweek* reprinted guidance from Military.com, which suggested that you "develop a code word that will tell your entire family that it's time to spring into action." Upon hearing this word, your family should immediately retreat to the "safe room" you've set up in your house, which should be "stocked with several specific items that will help you survive the upcoming fight."

Military.com recommended that a mandatory item for the safe room is a phone that you can use to call 911. The article also suggested to remain in the safe room and resist the urge to confront the intruder. Most importantly, the article advised homeowners to create a "fatal funnel,"

which describes how to position oneself in the safe room if the intruder is about to break in. "If you are using a gun for home defense, position yourself in a corner of the safe room that is on the opposite side of the door. This will give you the maximum amount of time to decide if you're going to shoot, because you'll be the last thing the intruders see when they burst through the door. In this instance, you have the advantage because they will have to make an assessment of the room before they make a move. You only have to decide if you're going to shoot or not. You will know that it's either the police coming to your rescue or the bad guys coming to harm you. Just make sure you don't shoot the police."

Military.com advised readers to remain in the safe room "until the police have cleared the house and tell you to come out before you decide the home invasion is over."

Man With Gunshot Wound to the Head Still Stops Attacker

Fox News reported on September 7 about a shooting at a house party in the Phoenix suburb of Surprise, Arizona, that was ended by a "good guy with a gun." Raul Mendez was at a party with his pregnant wife and two daughters when out of nowhere he heard gunshots. Unbeknownst to Mendez, a neighbor of the party's host came to the party armed and randomly started shooting party-goers.

The shooter was later identified as 46-year-old Jason Hunt. Mendez was standing by his wife when the chaos started, and got shot right in the face by Hunt. Mendez explained to Fox News Digital, "My back was turned. I heard the first gunshot and that's what made me, kind of turn my head.... But by the time I even was able to look and see what was going on, a bullet already had struck the side of my face."

Mendez' wife thought her husband was dead due to the amount of blood on his face, so she grabbed the kids and ran into a room deeper into the house. Mendez ex-

plained, "She barricaded the door with the dresser. There were three other children in there, not including my two daughters. A total of five kids. She ... throws them in the closet, throws clothes over them. Tells them, 'Be quiet. Do not make a peep if you hear loud noises in this room.'"

While the wife was rushing to protect the children, two other women in the house began fighting with Hunt and yelling for Mendez, who they knew was a concealed carry holder. Mendez heard their cries and jumped right into action. "By the glory of God or the adrenaline and just everything, just the will to live and the will to protect my family, I was able to hear those pleas, those yells for help. I heard my name. And I was able to get up." Mendez told Fox. Mendez rose to his feet, pulled out his firearm, and shot Hunt four times in the chest. When all the violence was finally ended, Hunt's rampage had killed two party-goers and seriously injured four others, including Mendez.

Local authorities investigated and determined that both the women and Mendez were acting in self-defense.

Mendez was seriously injured in the shooting. He received treatment at a hospital and is slated for future surgeries. He lost his left eye and his sense of smell, and also suffered from a torn eardrum and fractured jaw. Mendez made a point to stress that the reason he and his family are alive is because of the Second Amendment. "I fully back up the Second Amendment and ... this is why I'm speaking up.... This world is unpredictable. And honestly, at the end of the day, the people that want to ban guns, they're only banning it from good people, not criminals. Because again, there [are] no gun laws for criminals," Mendez told Fox News Digital.

Mendez is a lifetime National Rifle Association (NRA) member, and filmed a video for the NRA explaining what happened and criticizing the media for not reporting on his story. In the NRA video, Mendez states, "If I didn't have my gun with me, everyone in the house would have died. The news vans would've been front and center. But because I did, you never even heard about it." ■

— PATRICK KREY

THE REVIEW

A Call to Arms for Classical Christian Education

by William P. Hoar

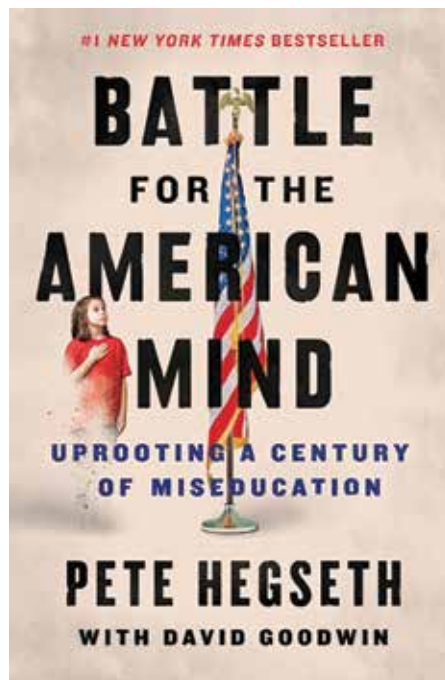
Battle for the American Mind: Uprooting a Century of Miseducation, by Pete Hegseth with David Goodwin, New York: Broadside Books, 2022, 288 pages, hardcover.

Something is not true education unless it has taught you life's true values. While that sentence isn't specifically from the book under review, that is one of its key underlying messages.

This is a collaboration in many regards, including drawing from distinguished personages from the past. Many are quoted. For instance, Plato, who said, "Education is teaching our children to desire the right things," and G.K. Chesterton, who wrote, "Education is not a subject and does not deal with subjects. It is instead a transfer of a way of life."

Of course, *Battle for the American Mind* is much more than selected quotations. It

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both exposes the indoctrination that has infected most of American education and serves as a clarion call for its solution: classical Christian schools.

Serving as the volume's narrator, in the first person, is Pete Hegseth, co-host of cable television's *Fox & Friends Weekend*; author of other well-received books (this one is also listed as a *New York Times* best-seller as we write); a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government; and a U.S. Army veteran with two Bronze Stars from service in Afghanistan, Iraq,

and Guantanamo Bay. Military analogies, appropriate to the theme, are sprinkled throughout the book, many associated with Hegseth's experience with counter-insurgency.

In this book, Hegseth acknowledges several times how little he knew about the subject until recent years. During that period, he worked on a Fox Nation documentary (*The MisEducation of America*) with consultant David Goodwin, the co-author of this volume.

Goodwin, according to his bio, was raised on an Idaho farm, earned an M.B.A., and traveled the world with a Fortune 500 tech company, before quitting so he could invest in classical Christian education, founding the Ambrose School in Boise. Goodwin's knowledge and expertise — he is the editor of *The Classical Difference* magazine and president of the Association of Classical Christian Schools — clearly inform the book. Hegseth refers to Goodwin as "my Sherpa."

How the Left Took Over

Readers accompanying their trek learn how the Left in this country attained the "commanding heights" (quoting a phrase by Lenin), to the point that "more than 90 percent of students are educated in progressive public schools."

And what do we find therein? We are inundated with "diversity, equity, and inclusion." Teachers, notes *Battle for the American Mind*, demand "conformity to the woke lexicon, lest the students' grade

take a hit.” As such, this becomes the “woke” language of the students.

Sitting above are the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA), which, as we read,

control who becomes a teacher, what teachers are taught, who gets accredited as teachers, what curriculum is taught, the school board that oversee teachers, and which teachers get advancement. Teachers in teachers’ colleges teaching other teachers what they are allowed to teach — all controlled by Progressives. This is not an understatement: education unions in America *fully* control our classrooms. [Emphasis in original.]

Yes, the book can be polemical. It’s also generally on target.

Some of the names involved may be familiar, such as John Dewey (the father of progressive schooling in the United States) and Horace Mann (father of public education in the nation). (Hegseth and Goodwin recall that, by the early 1900s, that pair, along with George Washington, appeared in portraits in classrooms.)

Perhaps readers also know of Howard Zinn, author of *A People’s History of the United States* (who called himself “something of an anarchist, something of a socialist. Maybe a democratic socialist”). His book is described (without exaggeration) as being American history “written from the perspective of the Soviet Union.” No other book, they maintain, “has had a greater impact on the minds of American youth for the past forty years.”

The Power of *Paideia*

A concept vital to the case being made in *Battle for the American Mind* is that of *paideia*, a Greek word that doesn’t translate simply into English. According to proponents of Christian classical views, it motivates our decisions and behavior. It is, at its core, a blueprint of thought, affection, and narrative through which we view everything. It could be called a building block of culture. While the term was used in the United States in the early 1900s,

Battlefield for the American Mind notes, “Western Christian *Paideia*” (WCP) was “buried by the Progressives a century ago.”

The culture can be transferred through education in a broad sense, as well as in formal education. Other schools reinforce some type of *paideia*, but classical Christian schools assert that they design their programs to form a Christian *paideia*, based on around 2,000 years of experience. *Paideia* may also be transferred through family life and society.

The book makes stark distinctions between the WCP and the “American Progressive *Paideia*” that took its place; it has been succeeded in recent years by what is termed the “Cultural Marxist *Paideia*” (CMP). The authors also take note of other experts and observers who have decried the symptoms of the new *paideia*, many of whom will be familiar to our readers — including Allan Bloom, C.S. Lewis, Richard Weaver, Dorothy Sayers, and Jacques Barzun.

The Founding Fathers, recount Hegseth and Goodwin, “leaned heavily on the WCP in their debates as they formed the American Republic.” John Agresto, the former president of St. John’s College (and author of the recent *The Death of Learning*), makes a similar argument (not mentioned in *Battlefield for the American Mind*). As Agresto says of the Founders:

Without their philosophical, political, and historical studies of the preconditions of popular governments and the nature of tyrannical rule, [James] Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay could not have written The Federalist Papers, nor could the populace have read and understood them.

It was hardly modern political science that was behind the making of America — it was the liberal arts.

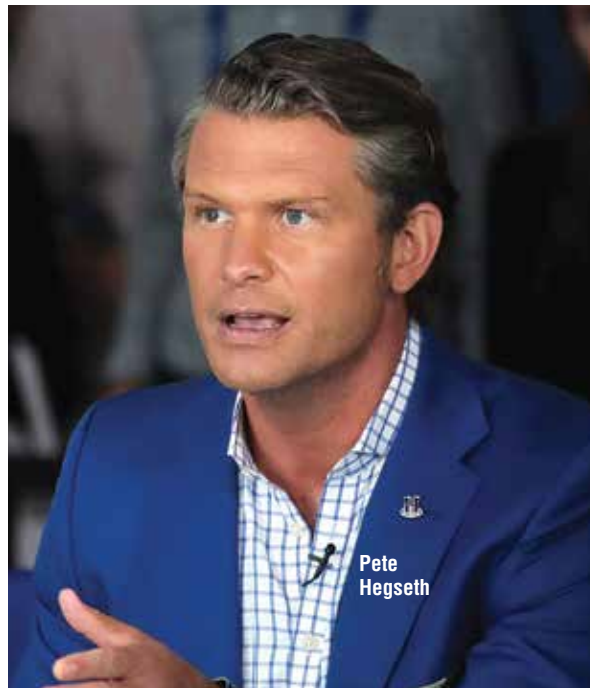
Our Founders were crucial in establishing the character of our country and, as such, also play important roles in classical Christian education. They integrated “politics” and “theology,” write Goodwin and Hegseth,

when they realized that sinful nature (a Christian idea) leads to tyranny whenever power is concentrated (a political reality). As a result, we got divided powers in government, a republic not a democracy, and a Bill of Rights. Social studies do not integrate, so they give democracy an open, unlimited pass. This leads to the pure foolishness of mob rule — something our classically educated founders understood, and warned against.

Years ago, when Goodwin was starting his examination of the progressives (as he describes in the book’s preface), he went through every issue of the progressive (and very influential) journal *The New Republic* between 1914 and 1940, discovering that “education” was covered in almost all of them, including articles by John Dewey. Yet, he also found that the editorial board was virtually as active in this regard, discovering that “Progressives were far more interested in K-12 education than I thought. I later found out they essentially invented it, at least as we know it today.”

Need for Dramatic Reorientation

The Founders knew what they were talking about, with James Madison, for example, observing that the



Gage Skidmore



Teaching the classics: The Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho, founded by *Battle for the American Mind* co-author David Goodwin, is an example of a K-12 classical Christian school offering students a far better education than can be found in government schools.

“advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty.”

The Founding Fathers, on the one hand, as recounted in *Battle for the American Mind*,

immersed themselves in the classical thinkers like Plato, Cato, and Cicero, while on the other, they were influenced by ... Christian thinkers like John Locke, Edmund Burke, John Calvin, and John Milton. All of these figures agree: liberty was dependent on citizens with “reason and virtue.” Moreover, this was cultivated though “liberty education” and Christianity — in the form of classical Christian education.

Little wonder that the Great Books are fundamental ingredients in classical Christian education.

Under Progressivism, by contrast, the idea of a universal classical education for free Americans became passé. For instance, Goodwin and Hegseth quote an article written for the High School Teachers Association of New York by prominent progressive Woodrow Wilson in 1909. Wrote Wilson:

We want one class of persons to have a liberal education, and we want another class of persons, a very larger

class of necessity in every society, to forgo the privilege of a liberal education and fit themselves to perform specific difficult manual tasks.

The impact of the progressive Warren Court is also dissected, with the reminder that later Chief Justice Earl Warren had been an admirer and follower of the progressive Robert La Follette. This inclination had an ultimate impact on American schools.

Perhaps older readers recall Bible reading and prayers in public schools (as this reviewer does, even in deep-blue Massachusetts). This changed in large part because the Warren Court, as is correctly noted, considered our founding documents to be “an *impediment* to progress.” (Emphasis in original.) Three of its decisions, in 1962, 1963, and 1965, respectively, found it unconstitutional to start the day in public schools with a nondenominational prayer; banned Bible reading in public schools; and ruled against praying aloud over lunch. “In three rulings — and more to come,” we read, “the Supreme Court removed any remaining vestiges of the WCP in American classrooms.”

There’s a goodly amount of the book spent on “a solution as big as the problem” — describing how a classical Christian education works. The specifics are too lengthy and detailed to recount in depth

in our limited space. But be assured that the authors do not pull punches about the challenges such a transformation faces.

As valuable as the book is, there are a few places that are going to throw up obstacles for some, which may limit its potential audience. Some are not going to get past the initial criticism of STEM backers or “vocational” education before they get deeper into the authors’ reasoning. There’s also an all-too-typical blind spot about Martin Luther King, Jr. — who is lauded, in a largely extraneous aside, for one line in one speech — and an extolling nod that his March on Washington was not violent.

Overall, however, the book does an admirable job in describing how our American system has been poisoned and offering an effective antidote. This includes a valuable “battlefield assessment” on retaking the American mind, with details on groups and books to lean on and what progress has been made. Here’s one scorecard about how things are going:

In 2002, a modest 17,420 students were enrolled in roughly 125 classical Christian schools across America. A decade later, in 2012, that number had doubled. In 2020, there were 50,000 students in classical schools. In the 2021-22 school year — the year this book was written — that number jumped to over 60,000 students, filling more than 300 schools across America, including schools in 44 of the 50 states.

Three of Hegseth’s children, he says, now attend a Christian classical academy in Minnesota. He acknowledges, however, that the numbers of others doing so are “dwarfed by the 48,100,000 American kids currently enrolled — trapped — in government schools.”

The co-authors’ closing directive to parents is straightforward, if controversial, in these tense times: “*Join the insurgency!* And then spread the word.” ■

Though not mentioned in the book, the “insurgency” includes FreedomProject Academy, an affiliate of The John Birch Society (the parent organization of this magazine) that offers an online classical education rooted in Judeo-Christian values for kindergarten through high school. Readers are encouraged to explore FPA at fpeusa.org.

Courageous Stands **for the Constitution**

Coupling education and action is an art form. For those in The John Birch Society, we call it “Birching,” and it can have some exciting outcomes.

Readers of *The New American* are familiar with Dr. Robert Malone, an inventor of mRNA technologies, and his courageous stand against the Deep State’s deliberate misinformation campaign to get Americans to comply with Covid policies. As the JBS is the parent organization of *The New American*, we used that connection to invite him and his wife, Dr.



Jill Malone, to our Leadership Conference in Florence, Kentucky, in August, with the request that Robert give the keynote address as well as a private briefing to our National Council. Both graciously accepted.

As we sat around the dinner table just prior to his speech, the topic of their Substack account came up, and Robert mentioned his 500,000-plus subscribers, no doubt fueled by the multiple media interviews Dr. Robert does day in and day out. We suggested to him that an article on the dangers of a Constitutional Convention might be of interest to his audience. He agreed and a month later published an article written by JBS research project manager and frequent *TNA* contributor Christian Gomez. As we predicted and warned the good Drs. Malone, pushback could be heavy.

The main instigator of a Con-Con, Convention of States (COS), countered with three weak, glancing blows, suggesting that their supporters email Dr. Malone and leave a comment on the article, and then smeared JBS with articles that didn’t counter our main points. Instead, COS generally chose to ridicule our stance, although one of the articles actually endorsed The John Birch Society except for “one blind spot.” And yes, you guessed it, that “blind spot” is our opposition to a modern-day Constitutional Convention. (For more on this COS article, see Christian Gomez’s response to it on page 17.)

In their three-article salvo, COS sophomorphically argued that the convention they advocate is not a Constitutional Convention and that JBS must be colluding with the Left. After all, COS noted, liberal former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, who is anti-Con-Con, credited JBS effectiveness in opposing the Con-Con.

COS even laughingly concluded that Dr. Malone must have been “snookered” by us.

We’ll let Dr. Robert share his opinion of JBS, as posted on Substack:

- “... the JBS organization has actually been at the vanguard of political perspectives that many now accept as mainstream.”

- “In my opinion, it is time to recognize that JBS members have been American thought leaders for many decades now.”

- “But at a minimum I believe that their opinion and insights on US Constitutional matters deserve to be considered with an open mind.”

Many of JBS’s “opinion and insights” on constitutional matters have appeared in *The New American* over

the years. This magazine serves as a very effective educational and outreach tool, and JBS staff have greatly contributed to its groundbreaking content.

It’s coincidental that the last paragraph in this issue’s cover story describes the efforts of the JBS. With some editorial latitude and apologies to the good justice and to the author, let’s adapt it slightly: “But it is clear that Thomas [The John Birch Society] is fighting the good fight, that he [it] has clearly emerged as the justice [organization] on the bench [American landscape] most dedicated to following the Constitution of the United States, and that he [it] is determined to convert his [its] fellow justices [Americans] to that view.”

“That view” is one that couples education and action to see that government is once more held to its proper role, and that an educated electorate keeps it accountable. Much like *The New American’s* tireless and undying efforts to ensure “That Freedom Shall Not Perish,” the JBS offers insight on the Constitution, how it’s supposed to work, and how it should be obeyed to protect the God-given rights of every American.

My oldest daughter asked me about being a good citizen for a class project. Part of my answer was that citizenship is not a spectator sport. Our responsibilities run deep in this Republic, and if we are not engaged, then we are part of the problem, allowing the vacuum we have created by our absence to be filled by the opposition.

Considering what we’ve learned in this issue regarding Justice Thomas’ stand for the Constitution, the dangers of a Constitutional Convention, and the courageous stand for the Constitution by Dr. Malone, let’s not be spectators, but participants in saving the founding Americanist principles, utilizing the tools the Founders gave us, including nullification. Simply start at JBS.org. ■



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