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December 26, 2022 • \$3.95

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THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH



Enduring Faith

**Pastors Call for Modern-day
“Black Robed Regiment”**

**Liberty and the
Chains of Virtue**

THE NEW AMERICAN

ISS 24 DEC 26 2022 \$3.95US&CAN



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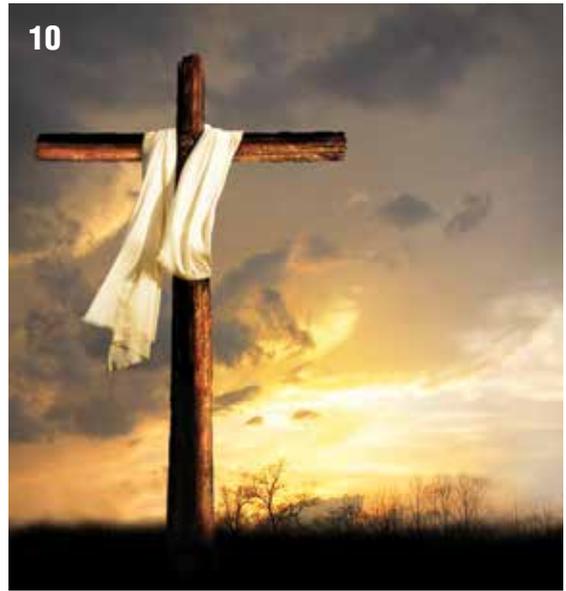
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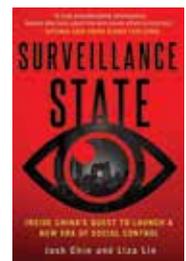
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Publisher
Dennis Behreandt

Editor-in-Chief
Gary Benoit

Executive Senior Editor
Steve Bonta

Senior Editors
William F. Jasper • Veronika Kyrlyenko
Alex Newman • Rebecca Terrell

Managing Editor
John T. Larabell

Associate Editor
Larry Greenley

Copy Editor
Liana Stanley

Contributors
Bob Adelmann • Steve Byas
Raven Clabough
Selwyn Duke • Brian Farmer
Christian Gomez • Gregory A. Hession, J.D.
Ed Hiserodt • William P. Hoar
R. Cort Kirkwood • Patrick Krey, J.D.
John F. McManus • James Murphy
Robert M. Owens, J.D.
Annalisa Pesek • Dr. Duke Pesta
Peter Rykowski • C. Mitchell Shaw
Michael Tennant
Fr. James Thornton • Laurence M. Vance
Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Creative Director
Joseph W. Kelly

Senior Graphic Designer
Katie Bradley

Graphic Designers
Lindsey McConnell
Jacob Vang

Research
Aaron Butkovich

Advertising/Circulation Manager
Julie DuFrane

The New American

Printed in the U.S.A. • ISSN 0885-6540
P.O. Box 8040 • Appleton, WI 54912
920-749-3784 • 920-749-5062 (fax)
www.thenewamerican.com
editorial@thenewamerican.com

Rates are \$49 per year (Canada, add \$9; foreign, add \$27) Copyright ©2022 by American Opinion Publishing, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send any address changes to *The New American*, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912.

JBS.org

owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

The New American is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly

Christmas Gift-giving

Christmas is a time of gift-giving, most strikingly illustrated by the myriad gifts placed under the Christmas tree. But is gift-giving the reason for the holiday? Does it even fit the spirit of Christmas?

Well, that depends.

The commercialization of Christmas, to the extent that the “Christ” in Christmas is lost, certainly does not. But this does not mean that gift-giving is bad; it simply means that material wants should not be allowed to overshadow or supplant spiritual needs. In fact, gift-giving can be a very beneficial and blessed thing, not only for the recipient but also for the gift-giver. Such is the case when a gift is given to a family member out of true love, or to a stranger in need as an act of genuine charity.

The Most Important Gifts

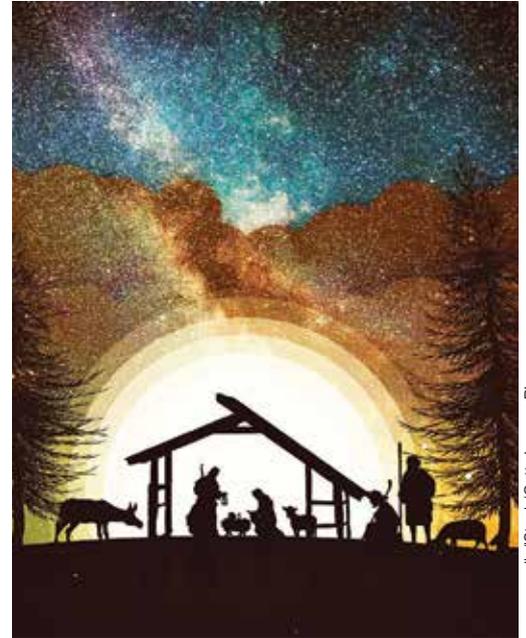
Yet Christmas is also a good time to reflect on the fact that the most important gifts are not those that are put under a tree or dropped into a collection box. They are not the gifts that we customarily give to each other, but the gifts that God has given, and continues to give, to man.

First of all, God has given us the gift of life. He has also given us inalienable rights, which, as described in the Declaration of Independence, include not only life, but also liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Admittedly, the right to life can be transgressed by evildoers, as can other inalienable rights. But God has also given us an eternal soul that cannot be destroyed. Evildoers may torture and break the physical body, but they cannot destroy the soul or deny us eternal life.

They also cannot force us to do evil. After all, God has also given us free will, and we can choose good over evil. He has given us the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, gifts that we can use to govern our lives. In a word, He has given us Truth. And He has given us our conscience and our faculties, including our intellect, so that we can know the difference between right and wrong, and can overcome evil with good works.

But there is one more gift that must be included in our short list: the gift that is



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at the center of Christmas. That gift is the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, 2,000 years ago. Without God becoming man, as Christians believe He did, there could have been no sacrifice on the Cross and no forgiveness for all the sins of humankind. And there could have been no resurrection either. The true meaning of Christmas, properly understood, provides the world great hope, no matter how bad the times may be.

Using Our Gifts for Good

There is no question that the times we are living in today are difficult. This certainly comes across in our cover story on page 10. But also evident in that article is the fact that history shows that there is plenty of reason for optimism.

If we have not already done so, this Christmas is a good time to resolve to use the many precious gifts God has given us to do our duty to the best of our abilities in all aspects of our lives. We should also thank God for our many blessings and trust in Him.

And as for the material gifts that we are given this Christmas, as well as all that we have, we should use and do everything for the Glory of God.

Merry Christmas!

— Gary Benoit

South Pole Temps Refuse to Cooperate With Global-warming Hysteria

Since daily record-keeping began at the South Pole in 1957, three recent November days broke record minimum temperatures in the land of snow and ice. November 16 dropped to -46.0°C with the previous low temperature for that date -45.7°C in 1987; November 17 tied its record cold mark for that date with -45.1°C , the same as in 1999; and November 18 reached -45.2°C , breaking the previous record of -44.7°C in 1985.

The record cold temps come on the heels of a record cold winter in 2021, during which a research station on a high plateau in Antarctica recorded an average temperature of -78°F (-61°C) over a six-month period between April and September of 2021.

And the South Pole is not the only example of cooler-than-normal temperatures across the world. Arctic Sea ice, long considered something that needs to be watched closely lest we see an ice-free North Pole in summer months, has quietly been growing since its low point in 2012. At the end of September 2021, Arctic Sea ice covered 4.92 million square kilometers, according to an October 5, 2021 post at Arctic Sea Ice News and Analysis. That figure is 1.35 million square kilometers higher than the 2012 low.

In addition, Greenland's "shrinking" ice sheet, which many climate alarmists point to as a sure sign of global warming, appears to have grown, according to data from the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI). "According to our calculations, this year the Greenland ice sheet ended with a total SMB (surface

mass balance) of about 471Gt. This means that 2021-22 ranks the 10th highest for SMB in our dataset that goes back 42 years," DMI reported.

And in America, much of western New York was hit by an unusual winter storm in November. Despite the obviously counterintuitive nature of the claim, climate hysterics blamed the freak New York weather on — you guessed it — global warming.



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Macron Calls for "Recalibrated" Capitalism Under Single Global Order



AP Images

In an address at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum in Bangkok, Thailand, on November 18, French President Emmanuel Macron said that the world needs "a single global order" to deal with the trade conflict between Communist China and the United States, a situation that Macron bemoaned as forcing other countries to choose sides.

Macron described the United States and China as "two big

elephants" that needed to be replaced by the "cooperation of a lot of other animals" through a single world order. This trade confrontation, Macron contended, was just one of three situations that have caused the drive for a global order. The other two problems are the Russia-Ukraine war and climate change.

"A dynamic balance is the best way for nations to avoid being forced to choose between superpowers," Macron said. "Countries have to pursue inclusive, sustainable development to address inequality and instability. You compete, all of us want to win. But you have to respect the sovereignty of the other one." It would seem that a respect for national sovereignty and a "single" global order are contradictory.

The big pushes for world government came after World War I, after World War II, and during the Cold War, ostensibly to prevent further world wars. So, it is rather predictable that a globalist such as Macron would cite the need for a single global order when he mentioned the Russia-Ukraine War.

Then there is the problem of "climate change." The theory that human industrial activity is causing the world to warm, allegedly producing all sorts of environmental catastrophes, has caught on the most. Since it is alleged to be a global problem, only a single global order can solve it.

At least that is what Macron argued in his Thailand speech. It was not a speech calling for limited government, for sure, but rather a call for a world government, with world-government limits on economic activity with a recalibrated capitalism.

G20 Vows to Pursue Vaccine Passports

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The Group of 20 (G20) unanimously agreed November 16 to move toward a system of international vaccine passports to “build on the success of . . . digital COVID-19 certificates.”

The G20, which includes the United States, China, Russia, and the European Union, held its latest summit November 15-16 in Bali, Indonesia, with the signing of a 52-point declaration.

While the Covid-19 pandemic and its disruptions to the world economy naturally dominate much of the document, G20 leaders do not, of course, apologize for their role in those disruptions by imposing lockdowns, inflating their currencies, and forcing

their citizens to accept dangerous, unproven vaccines. In fact, the potentates, in their declaration, “recognize that the extensive COVID-19 immunization is a global public good” and promise to “advance [their] effort to ensure timely, equitable and universal access to safe, affordable, quality and effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTDs).”

During the summit, Indonesia’s minister of health, former banker Budi Gunadi Sadikin, argued that G20 countries should adopt a “digital health certificate using WHO [World Health Organization] standards” so that during the next pandemic, the entire world would not have to be locked down again.

The G20 leaders probably didn’t need much convincing, since most of them had already imposed similarly tyrannical policies in their own countries. The Biden administration, in fact, continues to require foreign nationals traveling to the United States to prove that they have been vaccinated against Covid-19.

Anyone who believes these people care a whit about national sovereignty and individual privacy probably also believes in the Tooth Fairy. As Naomi Wolf explained in a 2021 interview with Fox News Channel, “‘Vaccine passport’ sounds like a fine thing if you don’t understand what these platforms can do. . . . It is not about the vaccine or the virus; it is about your data. What people need to understand is that any other functionality can be loaded onto that platform with no problem at all.”

GOP Report Details Biden Corruption, Stonewalling

The Biden administration has worked overtime to stop Republicans on the House Oversight Committee from finding out the full extent of President Joe Biden’s complex web of activities with son Hunter Biden.

On November 17, committee Republicans released an interim report on the administration’s stonewalling their requests for official government documents related to the Biden Family’s global business empire.

Joe Biden claims he knows nothing about it. That’s demonstrably false, the report shows. The report also documents the length to which leftist social media protected Hunter Biden and his father’s campaign when the *New York Post* published the contents of his now-famous laptop.

The report opens by demolishing the claims, oft-made by Biden Sr., that he knew nothing about his family’s planetary business empire, which Hunter built without much trouble despite his sex and drug addictions.

“During the 2020 presidential campaign, then-presidential candidate Joe Biden assured the American people he was not involved in his family members’ multi-million-dollar global business deals,” the 31-page report recalls.

Noting that the administration is obstructing justice, the report says the Treasury Department possesses “at least 150 Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) related to Biden family members’ financial transactions.”

Yet Republicans can’t get their hands on those damning re-

ports. Banks won’t provide the information either, because the GOP minority does not have the power to subpoena the records.

In fact, the White House has not only refused to cooperate with House Republicans, but also spent more than \$265,000 “at taxpayers’ expense . . . specifically assigned to thwart this investigation and other probes.”

Also disturbing (but, again, not news) is the report’s rendition of leftist social media’s role in helping the Biden campaign by spiking the laptop story.

Committee Republicans won’t have to wait long to get answers or documents. Once they take power in January and their investigation begins, they’ll subpoena documents and witnesses. “Accountability is coming,” they tweeted.



AP Images

EXTENDED INSIDE TRACK

Global Wealth Redistribution Approved at UN “Climate” Summit

Under the guise of paying “climate” reparations, governments of wealthier nations attending COP27, the UN climate-change summit held November 6-18 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, agreed to seize potentially unlimited amounts of their citizens’ wealth for redistribution. It was described as a “down payment” on permanent wealth transfers to the UN as well as governments, kleptocrats, and dictatorships ruling over poorer countries.

The promised money, described as payments for climate “loss and damage” supposedly caused by emissions of carbon dioxide from people in “developed” nations, was widely celebrated by tax-funded climate activists and those expecting to receive the funds. But many claimed it was not enough, and that trillions per year would be required even as the West is forced to tear down its economic productivity and energy infrastructure.

“This COP has taken an important step towards justice,” claimed UN Secretary-General António Guterres, former leader of the Socialist International, after the deal was announced. “I welcome the decision to establish a loss and damage fund and to operationalize it in the coming period. Clearly this will not be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust.”

Essentially, the UN and its member governments, along with the legions of tax-funded “climate” activists with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), argue that CO₂ emissions from the United States and Europe are responsible for worsening everything from droughts and floods to hurricanes and storms.

Communist China, which emits more CO₂ than all Western nations combined, is exempt from paying into the fund and from slashing its emissions. In fact, it is currently building hundreds of coal-fired power plants, something nobody at the summit was willing to discuss in any depth on record with *The New American*, for reasons that remain unclear.

Instead, taxpayers in the West, along with international development banks they fund, are expected to fork over the money. Government representatives from Denmark, Austria, Scotland, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, and other Western nations were among those promising to hand over money from their citizens.

But whether the U.S. Congress will agree to provide funding for the scheme remains to be seen. Republican control over federal purse strings will be a reality in January, and many Republicans reject the entire hypothesis that man’s emissions of the “gas of life” are causing climate change. In 2009, then-President Barack Obama and other government leaders from developed nations promised to funnel \$100 billion per year of their citizens’ money into a “Green Climate Fund.” However,



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Republican lawmakers refused to cooperate, rendering Obama’s pledge meaningless.

Then Donald Trump began the process of extricating the U.S. government from the Paris Agreement, rendering it all moot. Nobody at the summit was willing to discuss Trump’s views or his recent announcement of his run for president in any detail — at least not on record.

But even if the \$100 billion were to materialize as the Biden administration undermines the nation’s economy and drives citizens deeper into unpayable and unsustainable debt, that is not enough for leading “climate” experts.

The negotiators argued in the “Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan” that the supposedly necessary “global transformation to a local-carbon economy” is going to require “at least” \$4 trillion to \$6 trillion each year. Part of the plan is to bring the banking sector on board to divert investments and loans away from profitable and necessary economic activity such as reliable power, and into “green” energy schemes such as windmills and solar panels largely produced in Communist China.

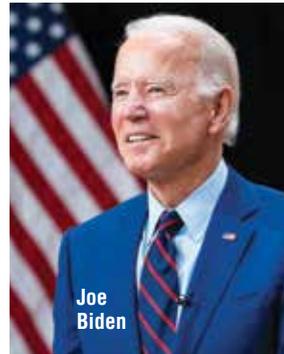
Even before the final deal was reached, a huge range of “initiatives” and “plans” were launched involving the UN, its member governments, and even crony capitalists listed as sponsors of COP27 who will make huge amounts of money from taxpayers. Countless side schemes were announced by governments, (largely tax-funded) nongovernmental organizations, “woke” corporations, and megabanks. One of the most troubling schemes, perhaps, came from Google, which vowed to help track and trace emissions from everybody, everywhere, forever.

The UN and virtually every power center are moving rapidly in the direction of shackling the world under the guise of saving it from “climate change.” Even a new religious and moral system is being developed to facilitate the transition. For liberty and prosperity to survive — and for the world’s poor to have a chance to improve their situation — it is essential that freedom-loving people everywhere get informed and activated. ■

Biden Still Supports Student-loan Forgiveness

“I’m confident that our student debt relief plan is legal. But it’s on hold because Republican officials want to block it.”

President Joe Biden knows that canceling student-loan indebtedness will buy votes in future elections. And his Education Department has extended “the payment pause to no later than June 30, 2023, giving the Supreme Court time to hear the case in its current form.”

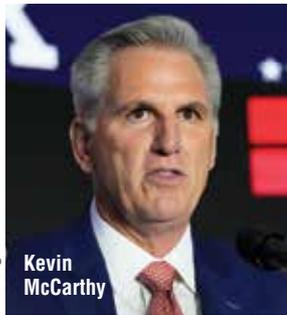


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He Started an Organization Hoping to Reduce the World’s Population

“May we live long and die out.” “Thank you for not breeding.”

These are two of the slogans employed by Les Knight, the founder of the “Voluntary Human Extinction” movement. The Oregon resident claims that eight billion people are too many and are responsible for global warming and other problems. He hopes that spreading his non-forceful methods of reducing population will become more popular among Americans and others, especially young girls.



AP Images

Republican Threatens Impeachment of Homeland Security Secretary

“If Secretary Mayorkas does not resign, House Republicans will investigate every order, every action, and every failure [regarding immigration laws and lies to Congress], and will determine whether we can begin an impeachment inquiry.”

Hoping to win support among GOP members of Congress for his bid to become House Speaker, Representative Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) pointed to his already-heavy criticism of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Republican Representative Warns “Drag Queens” to Stay Out of Her District

“I’m sending a message to all the drag Queens out there to stay away from the children in Colorado’s Third District.”

The murderous attack at a self-advertised haven for homosexuals in Colorado Springs, plus the spread of LGBTQ information to children in government-controlled schools and public libraries, led newly reelected Representative Lauren Boebert to use her influence to stop the spread of pro-LGBTQ recruiting in her area.

Leftist Columnist Gives Her Space in *The New York Times* to Her Right-wing Brother

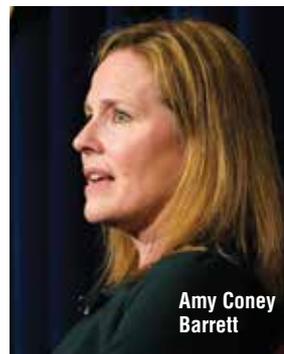
“A red wave did not materialize and the Democrats and President Biden were not made to pay for their actions of the past 22 months. These include the Afghanistan debacle, cashless bail, 40-year high inflation, a two-year invasion of our southern border, record gasoline prices, drawdown of the strategic petroleum reserve, further decline of the education system, weakening of our military, and the fatal embrace of wokeness to divide the country.”

New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd regularly champions Joe Biden and customarily supports liberal positions. Kevin Dowd, her conservative brother, gladly accepted her offer to fill her space in the newspaper with his contrary opinion of our nation’s president and other Democratic leaders.

Justice Barrett Appreciates Having Some, but Not All, Noise Aimed Her Way

“It’s really nice to have a lot of noise made, but not by protesters outside my house.”

At an event held by the Federalist Society in Washington, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett acknowledged the applause she received and then brought the audience to its feet by mentioning the unfriendly noise she and her family endured when protesters paraded outside her home. ■



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— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



Enduring Faith

Believers who despair that Christendom is now in its death throes should look at the ebbs and flows of history and take heart in the fact that faith has always emerged triumphant.

by Selwyn Duke

“Haters of humanity,” the Romans called the early Christians, whom they infamously would sometimes throw to the lions. Much later in history, the French revolutionaries would try eliminating Christianity by, in part, creating a new calendar with 10-day weeks excluding the Lord’s Day. Mexico’s revolutionary government, beginning in 1926, instituted anti-clerical laws that prescribed the arrest of priests for wearing clerical garb in public or criticizing the government. Spain’s “Red Terror” (1936-1939) saw the execution of more than 6,800 clergy and religious people and the persecution of religious communities. The Soviets imprisoned and executed religious leaders and introduced “scientific atheism,” while the Nazis aimed to replace Christianity with neo-paganism and, as a ploy to seduce people away from the authentic faith, trumpeted what they called “Positive Christianity.” (It portrayed Jesus as a Nordic character persecuted by Jewish authorities.)

Yet there’s a notable point of history here: These Roman, French revolutionary, Mexican- and Spanish-leftist, Soviet, and Nazi persecutors are long gone.

Christianity remains.

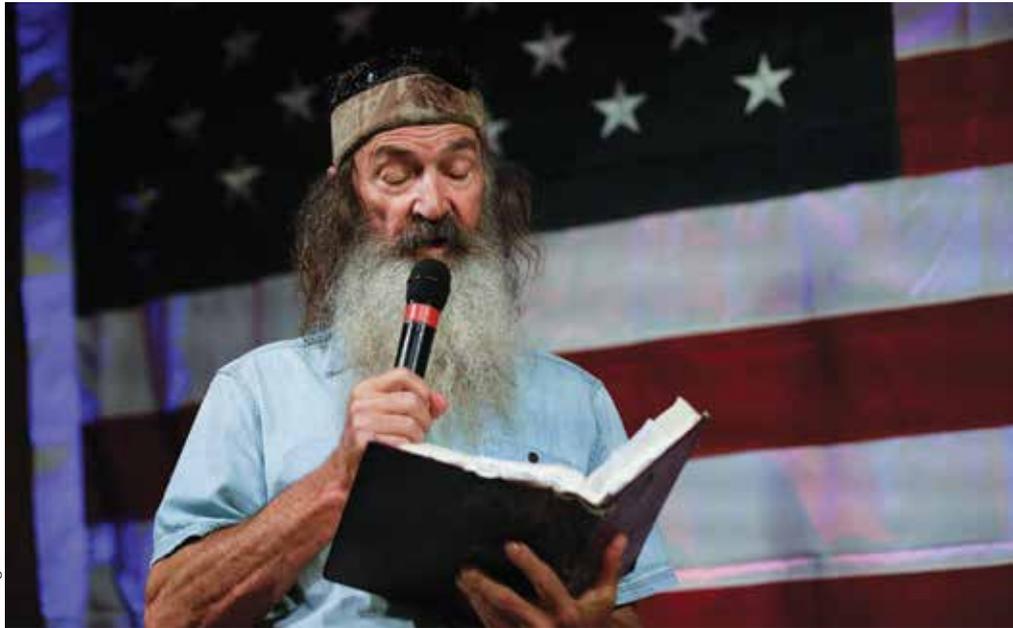
Eternal Faith

Rome’s poets famously dubbed their metropolis the “Eternal City,” but what the persecutors among them didn’t know was that they were tangling with the eternal faith. (Or perhaps some did know — or at least did thus fear.) But all the victimizers became the vanquished and, if we could anthropomorphize these movements, we could say that they form Christianity’s blessed trail of dead bodies.

One of the many things that should give Christians hope and bring them joy is that the saying “Tell me who your friends are and I’ll tell you who you are” has a corollary: Tell me who your enemies are and I’ll tell you who you are. Christianity has never failed to make the right enemies and, relat-

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

The good news about the Good News is now accompanied by bad news that often makes news: Failing to learn from history, partially because they don’t know it, America’s secularists have apparently chosen to become the eternal faith’s latest vanquished foe.



AP Images

They called it: In 1989, two homosexuality activists predicted that a major pro-“gay rights” realignment would ensure the silencing of those opposing their agenda. Fast-forward 24 years, and *Duck Dynasty* star Phil Robertson (shown) would become another one of the sexual devolutionaries’ victims — he was suspended by A&E for saying homosexuality is a sin.

ed to this, has never failed. This good news about the Good News is now accompanied by bad news that often makes news, however: Failing to learn from history, partially because they don’t know it, America’s secularists have apparently chosen to become the eternal faith’s latest vanquished foe.

The attack on Christianity in America is longstanding and intensifying. “In 1987, Andres Serrano won a taxpayer-funded award for his photograph of a crucifix immersed in urine,” wrote *The New American* in “The War on Christianity” (April 2, 2020). “Outraged taxpaying Christians were silenced and told they didn’t have to look at it, but they had to respect the artist’s so-called right of self-expression. In 1996, Chris Ofili created a warped image entitled Holy Virgin Mary and adorned it

with pornographic images and elephant dung. Then-New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani threatened to pull Brooklyn Museum funding over the exhibit, but a U.S. District Court squelched him, claiming violation of the museum’s First Amendment rights.” Of course, artists who draw the Muslim “prophet” Muhammad are attacked, sometimes violently, as happened with the 2015 shooting at the “Draw Muhammad” contest in Garland, Texas. Violence apparently works, too — when exercised by the politically privileged. Why, even Donald Trump, responding to the attack, asked rhetorically, “why are they ... drawing Muhammad? Isn’t there something else they can draw?” Yes: The conclusion that an anti-Christian double standard is at work.

Matters have only gotten worse since '96, too. "Who can forget when A&E suspended Phil Robertson of the hit TV series *Duck Dynasty* in 2013 for expressing his opinion that homosexuality is a sin?" *The New American* continued: "Earlier that same year, Aaron and Melissa Klein, who owned a bakery in Oregon called 'Sweet Cakes,' refused — based on their religious convictions — to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. The lesbians sued ... [and for] their supposed transgressions the Kleins were fined \$135,000, forcing them to shutter the bakery. Today they are still out of business and embroiled in legal appeal battles."

These are just a few examples of a wider pattern and movement, mind you, that aims to put even men of the cloth out of business. As *The New American* also related:

Last fall [2019] the California state Assembly passed a resolution, ACR 99, pressuring clergy and educators to cease preaching against "les-

bian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)" lifestyles and discouraging them from engaging in conversion therapy, a term that refers to biblical counsel for people struggling with same-sex attraction. Though the resolution has no force of law, the next logical step would be for California to enact punitive measures for non-compliance. "It is the goal of ACR 99 to eventually criminalize one's choice to seek counseling and other services," reads a Capitol Resource Institute analysis of the bill.

... Even more disturbing is what's happening in classrooms across the country since the National Education Association (NEA) partnered with the radical pro-sodomy group "Human Rights Campaign" to create "welcoming schools" and force teachers to play along with their students' supposed "gender" confusion. Writing for *The New American*, Alex Newman relates stories of teachers such as Peter Vlaming at West Point

High School in Virginia, who "have already been fired ... for refusing to refer to girls using male pronouns, and vice-versa." A middle-school physical education teacher in Florida, Rob Oppedisano, nearly lost his job and teaching certificate when he resisted school administration for allowing a girl (who "identifies" as a boy) to change clothes and shower in the boys' locker room.

While there's more than one motivation behind this sexual devolutionary agenda, as an attack on Christianity it's exceptionally clever. Just consider what homosexuality activists Hunter Madsen and Marshall Kirk predicted in their book *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the 90's*. If they can "produce a major realignment solidly in favour of gay rights," they wrote, "the intransigents (like the racists of twenty years ago) will eventually be effectively silenced by both law and polite society."

America Today

This has come to pass, too. Even the most "conservative" commentators now balk at criticizing homosexual behavior, and, more to the point, it's not unusual hearing about young people who, alluding to sexual devolutionary concerns, say they're leaving the church because it's "intolerant." This agenda is devilishly effective because authentic Christianity *cannot approve of homosexuality*. This not only would be a violation of the human-sexuality model God established for man, but would collapse that model. After all, what's the church going to say? Entertaining impure thoughts is a sin, viewing porn is a sin, self-gratification is a sin, fornication is a sin, adultery is a sin, cohabitation is a sin, but homosexuality is — what? A lifestyle choice, like living on a houseboat? It would be a "What's wrong with this picture?" situation, akin to making it legal to keep a tiger as a pet, but not a hamster, parakeet, or buff tabby. It would rob the teachings of all seriousness and credibility. So the marketing-of-homosexuality strategy puts Christianity between a rock and a hard place (even as it moves people from the Rock toward a hot place): The church can lose some adherents or, in an effort to keep them, lose its soul. That



Fully constitutional: Secularists might claim that school prayer gatherings, such as the above, are unconstitutional. But that the first Congress opened with prayer in 1789 reflects the truth: The First Amendment dictates that the federal government must stay out of religion — not that religion must stay out of government.

AP Images

is to say, the religio-social engineers will counter that the solution is simple: a great religious reset, a re-imagining of Christianity and the Bible that allows for sexual devolutionary priorities. Some “versions” of “Christianity” have already made this transition, they may say. Yet this is just as with the Nazis’ aforementioned “Positive Christianity”: Once you change the substance of what you are and all that remains is (perhaps) the style, you’ve already been destroyed, reduced to a mere husk. It truly is amazing what man will sacrifice in the name of sex.

Yet the attacks on Christianity take many forms. As *The New American* also reported in the aforementioned essay, “We could add Montana’s refusal to allow religious schools access to its state scholarship program; the new law in New York that forces pro-life groups to hire pro-abortion employees; the Virginia realtor persecuted by her state’s Real Estate Board for using Christian references in digital communication; the Pennsylvania National Guard Unit that tried to ban a Christian scouting group from touring its facility; the Florida soup kitchen told to remove Christian banners and stop giving out Bibles or risk losing USDA funding; two ministers arrested for reading the Bible aloud on the sidewalk outside a Hemet, California, DMV; and the city of San Francisco’s recent commercial blacklist of 22 states with strong pro-life laws. And this list is only the tip of the iceberg; many more examples could be added.”

There are, however, yet *other* attacks on Christianity, ones sometimes so subtle they wouldn’t generally even be regarded as attacks. Consider, for instance, the presentation of *godless* evolution as fact in our schools, entertainment, and media. Its atheological implications were addressed well by, believe it or not, an atheist — New York University law and philosophy professor Thomas Nagel. In his essay “Public Education and Intelligent Design,” Nagel wrote:

From the beginning it has been commonplace to present the theory of evolution by random mutation and natural selection as an alternative to intentional design as an explanation of the functional organization of living organisms. The evidence for the theory is supposed to be evi-



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The Truth is out there: Many today believe that extraterrestrials exist and, furthermore, that this throws faith into question. In reality, though, whether relating to other intelligent life or not, discoveries in the realm of the physical, far from disproving God’s existence, display His handiwork.

dence for the absence of purpose in the causation of the development of life-forms on this planet. It is not just the theory that life evolved over billions of years, and that all species are descended from a common ancestor. Its defining element is the claim that all this happened as the result of the appearance of random and purposeless mutations in the genetic material followed by natural selection due to the resulting heritable variations in reproductive fitness. It displaces design by proposing an alternative.

Of course, displacing design displaces the designer. This isn’t to say that this *must* be an inevitable result of teaching evolution. It’s not the case if it’s allowed that the process could be a divinely authored one, a vehicle through which God increased life’s complexity or a description of that endeavor’s mechanics. In practice, however, evolution is presented and taught as a corollary of atheism. It is the atheology of the atheological.

Alienation

This is all very worldly — but then there’s the other-worldly. “In 2014, [NASA]

awarded \$1.1M to the Center for Theological Inquiry, an ecumenical research institute in New Jersey, to study ‘the societal implications of astrobiology,’” wrote the BBC in 2016. The reason for this is simple: The implications of the search for extraterrestrial life “extend well beyond biology and physics, reaching to the humanities and philosophy and even theology,” the BBC later stated. “As Carl Sagan has pointed out in (the now out-of-print book) *The Cosmic Question*, ‘space exploration leads directly to religious and philosophical questions.’ We would need to consider whether our faiths could accommodate these new beings — or if it should shake our beliefs to the core.” What’s more, it’s not that we’ll only be confronted with this if E.T. shows up in Times Square, as a 2021 Pew Research study found that 65 percent of Americans already believe intelligent alien life exists on other planets.

The BBC addresses how this can affect people’s thinking. The outlet quotes Sagan as having said about the results of astrobiological study, “We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there

are far more galaxies than people.” “But how could a believer reconcile this with their faith that humans are the crowning achievement of God’s creation?” the BBC then asks. “How could humans believe they were the apple of their creator’s eye if their planet was just one of billions?”

The BBC answers this question, writing that “we don’t reserve the word ‘special’ only for unrepeatable, unique, isolated phenomena.” The “discovery of life elsewhere in the Universe would not compromise God’s love for Earth life, ‘just as a parent’s love for a child is not compromised because that child has a brother or sister,’” the outlet continues, quoting Ted Peters, professor emeritus in theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

In point of fact, however, alien-fixation has become a religion for many Americans, perhaps understandably. Extraterrestrials certainly are a titillating topic, and some people believe their existence would explain much. These adherents may put these theoretical aliens in the place of God (though they’d be not even a pale imitation). They’d be superior beings, the theory goes, intellectually, technologically, and morally. This astro-theology provides hope,

too, with many entertaining the idea that at the eleventh hour, maybe when we’re at our most desperate, these extraordinary extraterrestrials would descend from the heavens, intercede, and save us from whatever hell on Earth we’ve authored, be it “climate change,” nuclear war, or Covid on Steroids (or Donald Trump!).

Telling these believers theirs is a vain hope is surely in vain, but the deeper point is this: Inventing an alien-based creation and salvation story merely kicks the theological can down the road. It explains none of the biggest questions. For these aliens would just be material beings, like ourselves. Where would they have come from? What is the meaning and purpose of life? What happens after death? Is there an objective basis for “morality,” or is it just another “social construct”? If the latter, then occultist Aleister Crowley was right: “Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.”

If extraterrestrials did exist, they would be God’s creatures as well. And if they landed on our planet, wouldn’t it shock the astro-theologians if upon exiting their craft their first words were, “Have you heard about Jesus?”

The Greatest Lie Ever Told

Yet what may be most destructive to faith isn’t anything as titillating as little green men with Darth Vader’s technology, but something truly reflecting what author Hannah Arendt called “the banality of evil.”

There have been in recent years numerous lamentations about evangelical youth leaving the faith; their exit no doubt explains why white evangelicals have shrunk from 23 percent of our population in 2006 to just 14 percent today, according to the Public Religion Research Institute’s 2020 Census on American Religion. Mainline Protestant denominations have likely fared even worse, which is why a 2018 Pew Research Center survey found that America’s pagans now actually outnumber her Presbyterians. Observers have propounded numerous theories to explain this, with entertainment, school propaganda, peer pressure, and other obvious factors implicated. Yet what’s perhaps the most significant cause virtually always escapes scrutiny.

I often cite a Barna Group study finding that, in 2002 already, only six percent of teenagers believed in Truth (objective by definition) and that they were most likely to make “moral” decisions based on feelings. Strikingly, the percentage of “born again” youth who suppose likewise was only *nine percent*. Barna, in partnership with the Impact 360 Institute, found similar results via 2020 research. As Impact 360 official Jonathan Morrow put it, the “simple fact of the matter is, moral relativism hasn’t just crept into the worldview of Gen Z — it is now the majority opinion.”

How is this relevant? Moral relativism holds that what we call “morality” is determined by man; what this actually means, however, is that morality (properly defined) doesn’t really exist — only man’s preference does. This strikes at Christianity’s very heart because it renders the sacrifice on the cross incomprehensible. After all, if there’s no Truth and all is preference, there is no sin. If there’s no sin, there was no reason for Jesus to die for us. This means there is no need for salvation and, hence, no need for Christianity.

So given the relativism the young have been marinated in, their departure from faith is entirely rational. Why, if I believed



Can't keep a good faith down: Starting with the Romans, agents of the gates of Hell have tried to prevail against the church. Batting zero, all of them learned that you can fight Heaven, but the only thing you can win is damnation.

all was preference, just a flavor of the day, would I constrain my impulses with the Christian moral standard or any other? I should rather be a hedonist.

Unfortunately, many “churches” are relativism-ridden themselves, which is why they’re often more concerned with “social justice” than salvation (so-called “leftism” cannot exist in a universe in which Truth is recognized and sought). Even in those not thus afflicted, clergy are virtually never heard addressing the relativism-vs.-Truth matter. This makes them poor physicians who fail in diagnosis and prescription, as they don’t tackle our time’s characteristic philosophical disorder: the greatest lie ever told — that there is no Truth.

The Greatest News Ever Delivered

But then there’s the greatest news ever delivered: There is Truth! Christian apologists are longstanding and legion, and some critics may wonder why the faith must always be defended. The naysaying nonbeliever has his answer: Christianity is bad, or, as the very literate late “anti-theist” Christopher Hitchens put it, “Religion poisons everything.” But the reality is quite different.

“You cannot evade the issue of God,” wrote philosopher G.K. Chesterton in London’s *Daily News* in 1903. “Things can be irrelevant to the proposition that Christianity is false, but nothing can be irrelevant to the proposition that Christianity is true.” You see, Christianity is Truth and, as American Chesterton Society president Dale Ahlquist noted commenting on this, “Truth touches everything, which is exactly why it is attacked from all sides.”

So it has been, is now, and so it shall be. Yet as the Romans and Nazis and every Christophobic barbarian between and since has learned, to set yourself in unrelenting opposition to Christianity is to lose your civilization, perhaps only shortly after you lose your mind. Yes, the faith is waning currently in the United States, with self-identified Christians shrinking from 91 percent of the population in 1948 to 77 percent in 2009 to 64 percent today, a death spiral showing no sign of abating. Yet this has happened before, as Chesterton pointed out in *The Everlasting Man*, one of history’s truly great books. In the chapter “The Five Deaths of the Faith,” he wrote:



“In this sign, conquer”: Christianity eventually conquered the Roman Empire, going from being a persecuted sect to the realm’s official religion. It’s a tribute to how, as Edgar J. Mohn put it, “A lie has speed, but truth has endurance.” And the faith endures still.

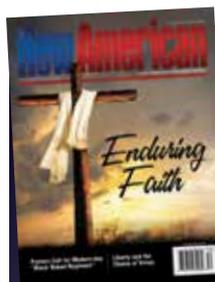
I have said that Asia and the ancient world had an air of being too old to die. Christendom has had the very opposite fate. Christendom has had a series of revolutions and in each one of them Christianity has died. Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a god who knew the way out of the grave. But the first extraordinary fact which marks this history is this: that Europe has been turned upside down over and over again; and that at the end of each of these revolutions the same religion has again been found on top.

... At least five times ... with the Arian and the Albigensian, with the Humanist sceptic, after Voltaire and after Darwin, the Faith has to all appearance gone to the dogs. In each of these five cases it was the dog that died.

Every dog has his day, too, the saying goes, and our current

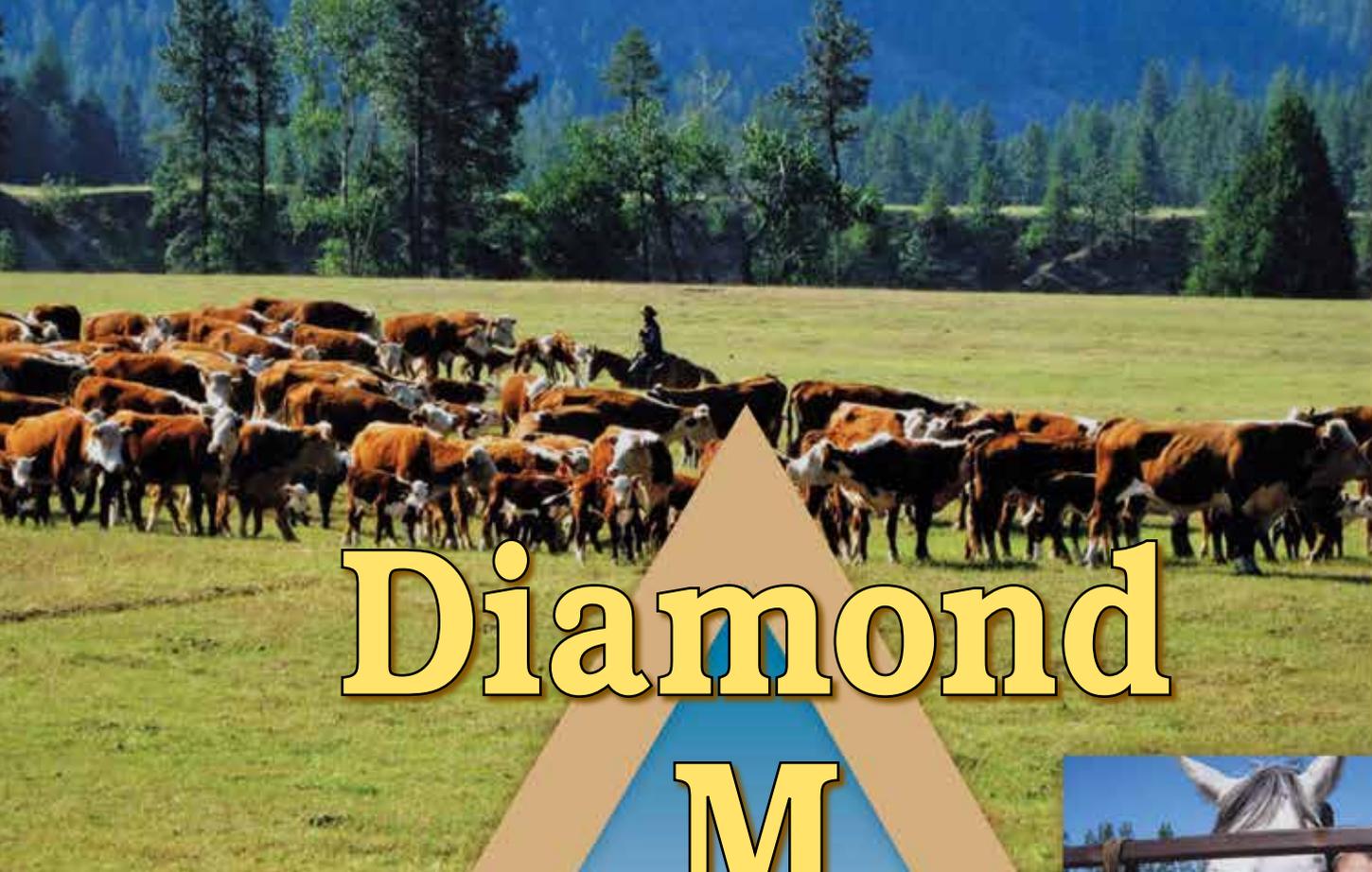
sexual heretics and simpleton secularists are having theirs. But as we wait for the next spiritual rebirth, and suffer political setbacks and cultural degradation in the interim, we should appreciate that while might doesn’t actually make right, right *does* make might. There are blessings and beauty in seeing Truth in a sea of doubters, in being sane in a land gone mad, in having reason for hope in a time of despair, in knowing why Chesterton stated “A man is tallest when he kneels.”

Jesus said in Matthew, “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.” For sure, there certainly is something far worse than being under the thumb of anti-Christian persecutors: being one of them. ■



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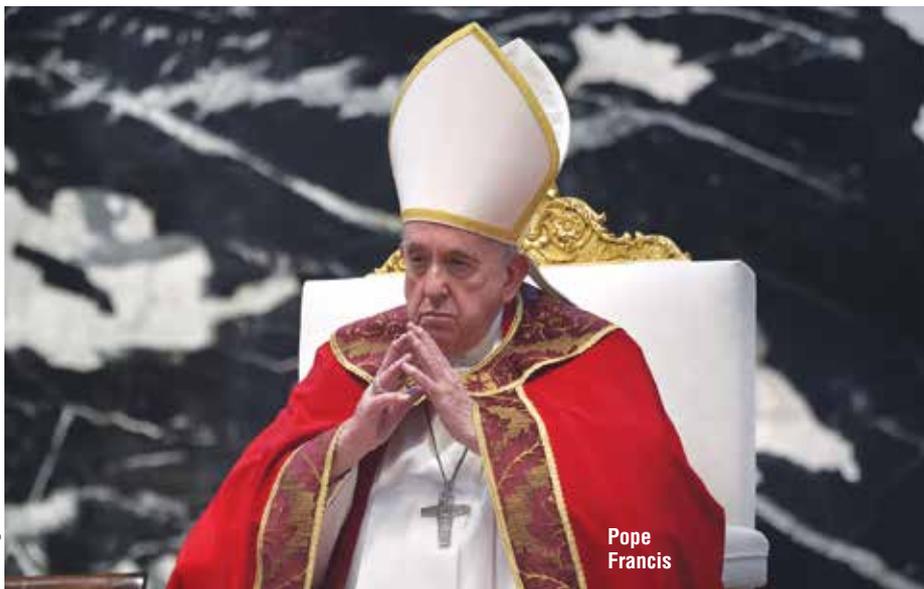
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"This is a republic, not a democracy — Let's keep it that way!"

FAITHFUL CATHOLICS ARE RESISTING POPE FRANCIS' GLOBALISM & SUBVERSION

Is it possible to be more Catholic than the pope? In the case of the current pope, simply remaining faithful to the religion's tenets would make one more Catholic.



AP Images

Francis the Destroyer? Cardinal Gerhard Müller has called Pope Francis' radical Synod on Synodality a "hostile takeover of the Catholic Church" aimed at "the destruction of the Catholic Church." Many of Francis' statements and actions bear this out, according to a growing number of Catholic leaders.

by William F. Jasper

Pope Francis is facing a mounting insurrection within the Catholic prelatry, clergy, and laity in response to his ongoing radical efforts to change Catholic doctrine, moral teachings, Church governance, liturgy, diplomacy, and other matters. A prominent cardinal has characterized Pope Francis' actions as tantamount to "a hostile takeover of the Catholic Church." An archbishop and former Vatican official has accused the pope of being an "authoritarian tyrant" whose "violent and destructive" actions are causing "incalculable" damage to the Church and the faithful. An internationally renowned Catholic profes-

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

sor at Princeton University called a Pope Francis appointment "shocking and scandalous." A conference in October of prominent Catholic lay men and women, featuring a bishop and an archbishop, issued a formal declaration of resistance to Pope Francis. And there is much more.

Among Pope Francis' latest scandals are the outrageous and heretical proposals of his Synod on Synodality; his appointment, on October 15, to the Pontifical Academy for Life of Professor Mariana Mazzucato, an atheist, globalist, pro-abortion feminist, and advocate for the World Economic Forum's Great Reset; his betrayal of China's persecuted Catholics and the aged, heroic Cardinal Joseph Zen with the Vatican's agreement with Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party; and his harsh attacks on

faithful Catholics and suppression of the traditional Latin Mass, while at the same time refusing to root out homosexual clerics and refusing to condemn or rein in wild liturgical abuses.

The pope's Synod on Synodality, a three-year-long process culminating in October 2024, has already stirred widespread opposition for its calls to embrace same-sex marriage, same-sex adoption, radical "inclusion" of LGBTQ groups, and ordination of women, as well as for the synod's inclusion of dissident ex-Catholics and anti-Catholics. In an essay for the (U.S.) *National Catholic Register*, Australia's Cardinal George Pell wrote, "The synodal process has begun disastrously in Germany, and matters will become worse unless we soon have effective papal corrections on, for instance, Christian sexual morality, women priests, etc." "We find no precedents in Catholic history for the active participation of ex-Catholics and anti-Catholics in such bodies," he continued, warning against the synod's allowing of "serious heresies to continue undisturbed."

Germany's Gerhard Ludwig Müller, former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican's oldest department of the Roman Curia, has been even more pointed in his criticism of the synod, calling it "a hostile takeover of the Church of Jesus Christ." The synodal leaders, said Cardinal Müller in an October interview with Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), "are dreaming of another church that has nothing to do with the Catholic faith ... and they want to abuse this process, for shifting the Catholic Church" and for "the destruction of the Catholic Church." In a subsequent interview with LifeSiteNews, Cardinal Müller blasted the introduction of same-sex "blessings" by the bishops of Belgium's

Flanders region as “an absolute heresy and schism.” “No bishop or pope has authority to bless something which is against the will of our Creator and our Redeemer,” the Vatican’s former doctrinal chief said.

In tandem with the destructive Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis’ manifest subversion of the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAL) over the past several years appears to be a concerted effort to destroy the Catholic Church’s global moral opposition to abortion, euthanasia, and other assaults on the sanctity of life, while simultaneously redirecting the Church’s attention to global warming, ecumenism (including “indigenous” pagan religions), “stakeholder” capitalism, Universal Basic Income, and LGBTQ inclusion. He has taken a sledgehammer to the PAL, founded in 1994 by Pope John Paul II, casting out veteran members who are stalwart defenders of life and replacing them with non-Catholics and anti-Catholics who militantly oppose the Catholic Church’s teachings on life issues.

Pope Francis’ appointment of Mariana Mazzucato to PAL is but one of the most recent and obviously strident examples of this subversion. Professor Mazzucato, for those who do not know, is a celebrity economist who has been catapulted to star status over the past few years by the World Economic Forum, Bill Gates, Lynn Forester de Rothschild, the Aspen Institute, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Bank for International Settlements, *The New York Times*, CNN, BBC, *The Economist*, *Politico*, Project Syndicate, and the rest of the usual cabal of globalist malefactors. The globalists have crowned her as one of their “It girls” for their Great Reset, sort of an older Greta Thunberg with a Ph.D.

The folks at Catholic Culture collected a sampling of her many pro-abortion tweets. While Mazzucato has no qualms about killing unborn children — indeed, she enthusiastically supports the practice — she is fanatically passionate about the supposed moral imperatives of “climate change,”

“sustainability,” “inclusivity,” Covid mandates, the Green New Deal, a zero-carbon economy, “stakeholder capitalism,” and all the other trendy, buzzword snares put forward by the elites for whom she shills. How does that qualify her for a slot on the Pontifical Academy for Life? That’s the question that has many faithful Catholics puzzled — and angry. Judie Brown, the founder and president of American Life League and for 15 years a PAL member, says the Mazzucato appointment is further proof that the “Pontifical Academy for Life has abandoned its purpose under Pope Francis.”

“This outrage is only made worse,” says Brown, “when we recognize that the Academy was established to fight against abortion, contraception, euthanasia, and all practices that threaten the life of the innocent. The principles that were held by the Academy’s first members, and that were once the bedrock upon which we all stood, have disappeared from view.” She notes that “regardless of the current debacle involving the pope and his minions, one thing never changes, and that is truth itself. As the academy’s Declaration of Principles once said, ‘Before God and men we bear witness that for us every human being is a person’

and that ‘from the moment the embryo is formed until death it is the same human being which grows to maturity and dies.’”

Dr. Robert P. George, a Catholic and a professor of jurisprudence and constitution and international law at Princeton University, questioned Mazzucato’s appointment in an interview with the Catholic News Agency (CNA), calling it “shocking and scandalous.” “The Pontifical Academy for Life exists to advance the Church’s mission to foster respect for the profound, inherent and equal dignity of each and every member of the human family, beginning with the precious child in the womb,” George said. “Either one believes in this mission or one does not. If one does not, then why would one wish to be part of the Pontifical Academy?” “And why,” he continued, “would someone with appointment authority appoint someone to the academy? I can think of no explanation that is not shocking and scandalous.”

A Disturbing Pattern

The appointment of a militantly pro-abortion atheist to the Catholic Church’s premier pro-life institution would be outrageous and bewildering under any circumstances, but the move has been all the more disturbing because it is not merely a one-off fluke; it has occurred amid a whole series of shake-ups and



Killing pro-life: Pope Francis’ appointment of Mariana Mazzucato, a militant pro-abortion atheist, to the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAL) has shocked Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Unfortunately, he has made many similar appointments to PAL and other offices.

similar appointments to the Pontifical Academy for Life by Pope Francis that appear to be aimed at destroying the very purpose for which it was founded.

According to CNA, among the changes the pope has made to the Pontifical Academy for Life is his removal of the requirement that members sign a declaration that they are pro-life and Christian. His appointments speak to this issue, inasmuch as even his chief appointee, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, has a sketchy background and as president of PAL has made troubling statements and carried out Francis' purges and appointments. President Paglia, for instance, commissioned a homosexual artist to paint a blasphemous homoerotic orgiastic mural in his cathedral church that includes an image of the archbishop himself (naked) in the embrace of a nude man.

In an interview with one of Italy's largest television networks, Paglia made the stunning statement that Italy's notorious Law 194 legalizing abortion "is now a pillar of our social life," which he (and PAL) will not oppose. Besides Mazzucato, among the new Francis/Paglia appointments to the Pontifical Academy for Life are:

- Roberto Dell'Oro, moral theology and bioethics professor at Loyola Marymount University, who supports abortion up to 16 weeks of pregnancy and has criticized the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*;

- Nigel Biggar, an Anglican clergyman and professor of theology at Oxford University, who supports abortion and euthanasia;

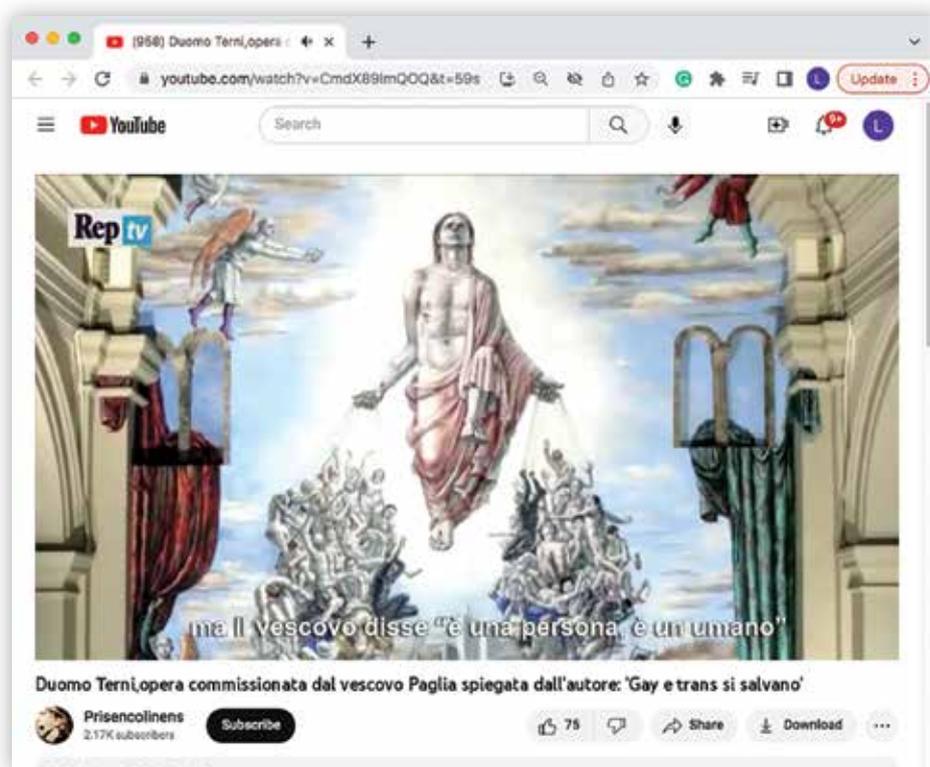
- Father Maurizio Chiodi, who has written and spoken in contradiction to the Church's teaching on contraception, divorce, and adultery;

- Jesuit Father Carlo Casalone, professor of moral theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, who has written in support of assisted suicide;

- Marie-Jo Thiel, professor of ethics at the University of Strasbourg, who has written in support of assisted suicide;

- Monsignor Pierangelo Sequeri, who was reportedly one of the organizers of the secret "Shadow Synod" of revolutionists within the Church that conspired to overturn Church teaching on sexual morality, marriage, divorce, same-sex unions, and more at the 2015 Synod on the Family;

Pope Francis' manifest subversion of the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAL) over the past several years appears to be a concerted effort to destroy the Catholic Church's global moral opposition to abortion, euthanasia, and other assaults on the sanctity of life.



Perversion promoted: This blasphemous, homoerotic painting was commissioned by Archbishop Paglia for his cathedral. Despite Paglia's pro-homosexual history and acceptance of abortion, Pope Francis appointed him as president of the Pontifical Academy.

- Anne-Marie Pelletier, a "biblical scholar" who was a key leader of the pro-gay 2015 Synod on the Family and a participant in the "Shadow Synod"; and

- Laura Palazanni, professor of law at the University of Rome and vice president of Italy's National Committee of Bioethics, who supports giving puberty blockers to children so that they can later "change gender."

A closely related matter is the appointment last year of Monsignor Philippe Bordeyne as the new president of the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences (JPII Insti-

tute) in Rome. The selection of Bordeyne followed a wholesale purging of pro-life loyalists among the institute's leadership and faculty begun in 2019, and the gutting of its curriculum. Shortly after taking up his new post, Bordeyne created fireworks by stating in a media interview that "we theologians cannot continue to assert certainties about the family when we see the transformations it is undergoing today." The meaning behind his words was not mistaken, since he was — along with Anne-Marie Pelletier, mentioned above — one of the Shadow Synod schemers at the Synod on the Family. He has written ex-

tensively in favor of blessing homosexual unions and redefining the family.

An Enemy Hath Done This

In addition to the Francis/Paglia “coups” at the PAL and JPPII Institute, Pope Francis has used the Chair of Peter as a political bully pulpit to criticize and condemn pro-life politicians such as President Donald Trump (whom he compared to Hitler), Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Italy’s Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini, and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, while at the same time embracing, praising, and promoting pro-abortion politicians such as President Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Irish President Michael Higgins, Brazilian President Lula da Silva, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

All of this is too much for many Catholics, who agree with Cardinal Müller that the pontificate of Jorge Bergoglio (Pope Francis) is looking more and more like “a hostile takeover” of the Catholic Church.

Among the many Catholic thought leaders and veteran pro-life activists, including former PAL members, who have condemned the Pope Francis/Paglia sabotage of the PAL and JPPII Institute are:

- Bishop Joseph Strickland of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas;
- Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, who served as Apostolic Nuncio to the United States and President of the Governorate of Vatican City State;
- Dr. José María Simón Castellví, president emeritus of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC), based in Spain;
- Cardinal Willem Eijk, Archbishop of Utrecht and a trained physician;
- Dr. Wanda Poltawska, 101-year-old physician/author, close friend of Pope John Paul II, and survivor of the Nazi concentration camp at Ravensbruck;
- Jean-Marie Le Méné, president of the Lejeune Foundation, named for Catholic physician/scientist Jerome Lejeune, founder of the Pontifical Academy for Life;
- Bishop Athanasius Schneider, auxiliary bishop of Astana in Kazakhstan;
- Dr. Thomas Ward, founder of the U.K.’s National Association of Catholic Families;
- Mercedes Wilson, president of Family of the Americas and also a founding member of the Pontifical Academy for Life;
- John-Henry Weston, co-founder and editor-in-chief of LifeSiteNews;
- Michael J. Matt, editor of *The Rem-*

nant newspaper and host of *The Remnant Underground* at Remnant-TV.com;

- Dr. Taylor Marshall, bestselling author of many books, including *Infiltration: The Plot to Destroy the Church from Within* and host of *The Doctor Taylor Marshall Show* podcast;

- Dr. Steven Mosher, author, China scholar, and president of the Population Research Institute;

- Dr. Brian McCall, author, professor of law at the University of Oklahoma, and editor-in-chief of *Catholic Family News*;

- Joseph Shaw, president of Una Voce International Federation, chairman of the Latin Mass Society of England and Wales, and lecturer in philosophy at the University of Oxford;

- Michael Voris, founder and president of St. Michael’s Media/Church Militant; and

- John Horvat, vice president of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property.

Naturally, the corporate Fake News media that idolizes Pope Francis and completely sympathizes with the direction in which he is leading the Church on moral issues, ecumenism, and politics either smother the voices of these faithful Catholics who dissent from Francis’ heterodoxy or smears them as cranks and schismatics. So, many people, including most Catholics, are completely unaware of Pope Francis’ destructive actions — or that there is a growing resistance to them.

Feeding Christians to the Dragon

Perhaps no action by Pope Francis is more incomprehensibly perverse than his betrayal of the Catholics of China. And not the Catholics only, but also Chinese Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Falun Gong, and all religious believers who are being harassed, viciously persecuted, hunted, imprisoned, tortured, and murdered by the communist Beijing regime. The pope, who is forever proclaiming compassion, mercy, empathy, and the moral obligation to defend the defenseless and assist the poor and the suffering, cannot be bothered to speak up in defense of the Chinese faithful who are suffering the most brutal oppression on the planet. Worse, in 2020 he snubbed Cardinal Joseph Zen, the courageous emeritus bishop of Hong Kong, when



Betraying China’s Catholics: Hong Kong’s 90-year-old Cardinal Joseph Zen was put on trial and found guilty by the Chinese Communist Party over alleged financial malfeasance and fined, but Pope Francis has refused to meet with or support the heroic cardinal.



AP Images

The politically correct pope: While refusing to meet with persecuted Cardinal Zen, Pope Francis regularly meets with the likes of Facebook billionaire Mark Zuckerberg (shown), Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden, rock stars, sports figures, movie stars, and pro-abortion/LGBTQ activists.

the then-88-year-old prelate journeyed to Rome in a desperate effort to convince him not to sell out China's Catholics to the Chinese Communist Party.

The pope of compassion was too busy to meet with the most important Catholic figure in Asia, but always finds time to meet with Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, Leonardo DiCaprio, Angelina Jolie, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gloria Estefan, George Clooney, Martin Scorsese, Sting, Bono, Katy Perry, Greta Thunberg, NBA and NFL athletes, Melinda Gates, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla, Gates-Soros minion Jeffrey Sachs, communist dictators Fidel and Raul Castro, and Facebook billionaire Mark Zuckerberg.

But poor Cardinal Zen is a different story. He has no lucre, fan base, or star power to benefit the falsely humble but immensely vain and ambitious pontiff. Besides, a meeting with Zen would upset Francis' new comrades in Beijing, with whom he continues to work out an agreement to let Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) appoint their own communist apparatchiks as China's "Catholic" bishops. "They're [sending] the flock into the mouths of the wolves. It's

an incredible betrayal," Cardinal Zen said of the Vatican-Beijing deal, the details of which still remain secret. The frail, brave cardinal, now 90 years old, was put on trial, convicted, and fined over alleged financial malfeasance, but Pope Francis was too busy with his CCP pals, Hollywood glitterati, Silicon Valley moguls, Wall Street titans, and Davos/UN globalists to appeal on Zen's behalf or even send him moral support.

"We Resist Him to the Face"

As a result of these and numerous other outrages and betrayals of the Catholic Faith, some 800 Catholic thought leaders — from around the world, but mostly from the United States and Canada — gathered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from September 30 to October 2, 2022 at the Catholic Identity Conference (CIC) and issued a "Declaration of Filial Resistance to Globalist Agenda of Pope Francis."

At a CIC press conference, Michael J. Matt of *The Remnant*, John-Henry Weston of LifeSiteNews, and attorney Eric Frankovich presented articles of resistance listing the papal offenses that compel them to resist Pope Francis. In so doing, Matt

said, they were not seeking to depose him, nor were they engaging in schism.

"The use of the term 'resist' is taken directly from Holy Scripture, Galatians 2:11, wherein St. Paul resisted Peter to his face because he was blameworthy," Matt noted. "But St. Paul did not hate Peter, nor did he deny Peter's petrine office. St. Paul was not committing a schismatic act, and neither are we." He continued:

We resist Francis honorably to his face and in charity, as loyal sons of the Church resist an abusive father.

We neither judge nor condemn him, and we place our filial resistance in the context of the teaching of St. Robert Bellarmine, Doctor of the Church, who in his *On the Sovereign Pontiff* writes the following:

"Therefore, just as it would be lawful to resist a Pontiff invading a body, so is it lawful to resist him invading souls or disturbing a state, *and much more if he should endeavor to destroy the Church*. I say, it is lawful to resist him, by not doing what he commands, and by blocking him, lest he should carry out his will."...

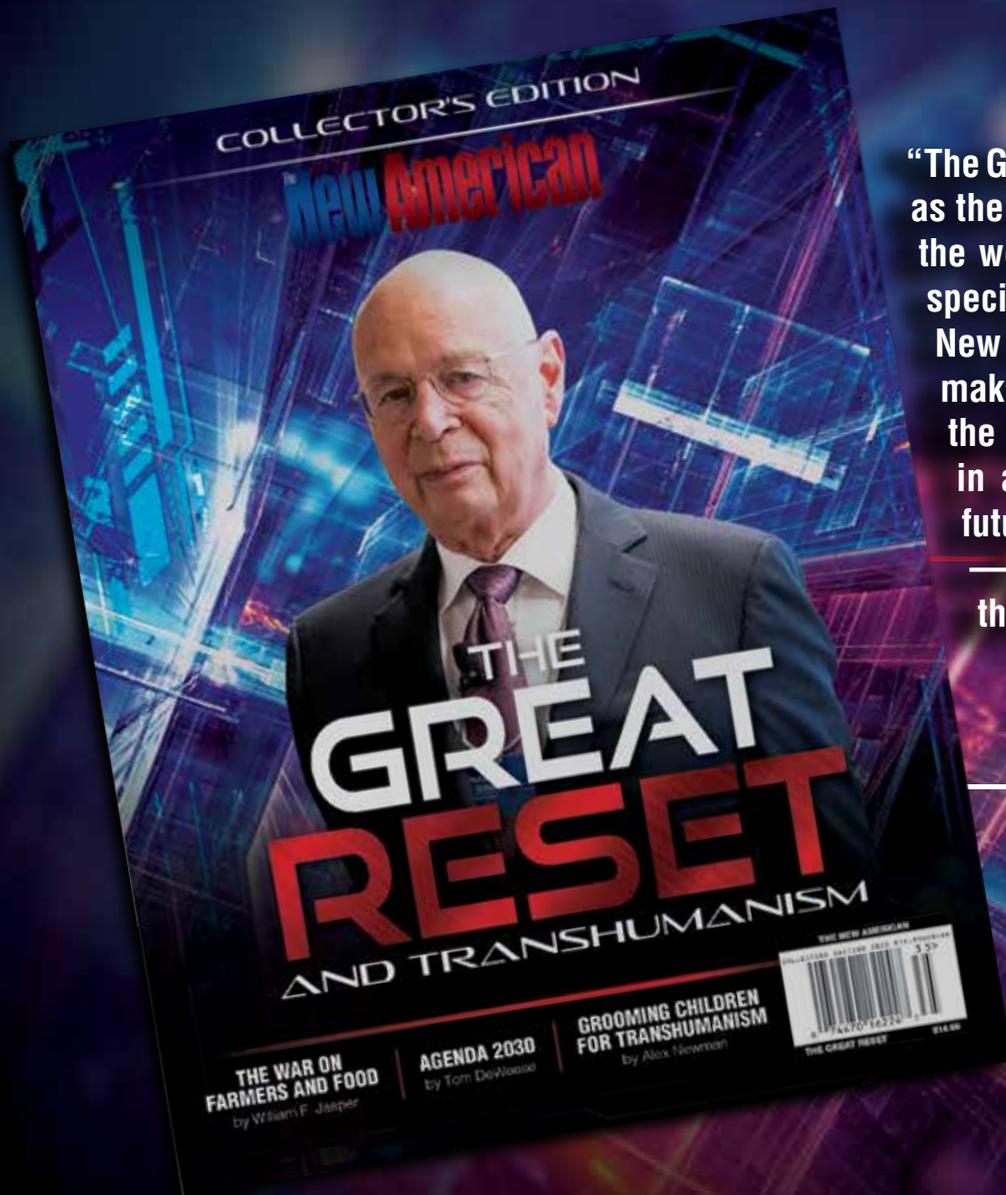
Ladies and gentlemen, we do not judge the pope. We would not seek to depose him even if we had it within our power to do so.

Later in the press conference, Matt stated, "We pray for Francis every day, but we are also bound in conscience, before the dread judgment seat of God Himself, to resist Francis, his novel teachings, and his public alliance with those who deny the very existence of Christ the King — those who would lock down the world in the name of climate change, close the churches, and enslave humanity in a global super state. This is not me theorizing. This is exactly what Francis' friends in Davos have been broadcasting to the world for 50 years, but especially since 2020."

The resistance is growing. A few years ago Cardinal Raymond Burke and Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò were lonely voices challenging the ever-more disturbing path on which Pope Francis was leading the Catholic Church. Today, many more cardinals, bishops, priests, and lay Catholics are standing up and speaking out. It is a hopeful sign. ■

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BACK TO ENERGY'S FUTURE?

Radical environmental net-zero goals rely on so-called renewable energy sources, which promise to return society to pre-Industrial Revolution conditions.



Yitao/Stock/Getty Images Plus

by Jeffrey Mahn

America's energy policy is an unmitigated disaster, being driven by the climate-change hoax. Instead of using nuclear energy to generate abundant, affordable, and reliable electricity, our leaders are turning to archaic resources, inadequate to meet even current needs, let alone future increased demands. A close look at these alterna-

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.

tives also reveals their detrimental environmental impact.

We'll start our assessment by addressing four factors that should be considered when choosing resources for generating electricity: energy density, energy conversion system efficiency, capacity factor, and environmental impact.

Why are these details important? Because they determine 1) how much of an energy resource will be needed to meet electricity demand, 2) how many other resources will be needed to convert that energy resource to electricity, and 3) how the environment will be affected. These

should be the primary drivers of decisions regarding electricity generation.

We'll limit our discussion to coal, natural gas, uranium, solar, and wind, as these resources are the focus of current energy debates. Hydropower will not be addressed because there is no possibility of any significant future expansion of hydroelectric facilities in the United States.

Energy Density

The most important attribute of any resource for generating electricity is energy density. Resources of increasing energy density have enabled the evolution of

Table 1 – Energy Resources Over Time

Era	Pre-Industrial Revolution	Industrial Revolution (roughly 1750-1840)	Post-Industrial Revolution
Energy Resource	Wood, wind, water, animals, humans	Fossil fuels	Uranium, Thorium
Energy Density (kWh/kg)	<0.001†	<15	> 20 million
Resource Benefits	Familiar	24/7 electricity generation; major industrial development; vastly improved world economies; increased lifespan	Most reliable 24/7 electricity generation; essentially inexhaustible energy resource; safe; compact
Resource Shortcomings	Intermittent availability; very localized domains of use	Environmentally damaging waste; finite resource	Moderate waste impact on environment; public fear due to misinformation, poor education

† One hour's work from 800 kg draft horse is about 0.0009 kWh/kg.
 Adapted from Wade Allison, *Nature, Energy and Society — A Scientific Study of the Options Facing Civilization Today*, March 2020; wade.allison@physics.ox.ac.uk

human civilization as shown in Table 1. In ancient times, humans used slaves and animals to do work, and wood for cooking and heating. Mere survival was a daily chore. Later they harnessed water and wind to drive mills, and lighting came from oil lamps. Life expectancy was short. The energy density of resources was anemic — less than 0.001 kilowatt hour per kilogram of material.

Technology developments in the Industrial Revolution provided access to resources of greater energy density, allowing progress beyond a survival mode of existence. Energy-conversion machines such as the steam engine resulted in economic expansion and increased human lifespan. Fossil fuels powered the Industrial Revolution and continue to provide most of our electricity needs.

Without fossil fuels, our modern world would not exist. Modern medicine, communications, transportation, and reliable cooling and heating — these things are possible because the energy density of fossil fuels is about 15,000 times greater than that of resources available prior to the Industrial Revolution.

The post-Industrial Revolution era saw energy harnessed from the atomic nucleus of heavy elements such as uranium. Its energy density is more than a million times greater than that of fossil fuels and more than 20 billion times greater than that of pre-Industrial Revolution resources. Consequently, a relatively small amount of nuclear fuel can provide the electricity needs of very large populations. Nuclear's enormous energy

density also means it has far less impact on the environment than other sources, especially wind and solar, as we shall see.

Energy Conversion Efficiency

Most energy forms cannot be converted completely into work, even under ideal conditions. When one form is converted to another, some energy will always be wasted as heat. The portion that can theoretically be converted into work is called available energy, whereas the portion actually converted is called useful energy. The ratio of useful to available energy is the energy conversion efficiency, which will always be less than 100 percent. The efficiency of an electricity-generating system is found by multiplying the efficiencies of the system's energy conversion devices.

Coal-fired and nuclear power plants generate electricity using a conventional steam cycle. Both fuels provide the heat that creates steam under high pressure, which drives a turbine connected to an electrical generator. The electricity-generating efficiency of these power plants is typically about 33 percent, while that of a simple gas-turbine power plant is typically around 35 percent.

A photovoltaic (PV) facility generates electricity by converting sunlight into direct current, which is then converted to alternating current by a DC-to-AC inverter. Solar-cell efficiency is a measure of how much of the electromagnetic radiation (photons) incident on the cell is converted to electrical current. Photons above a certain energy level will cre-

ate an electrical current in a PV panel, while photons of less energy will deposit thermal energy in the panel that is ultimately lost to the environment. The physics boundary for silicon PV cells, the Shockley-Queisser Limit, is a maximum conversion of 33 percent of photons into electrons. Most PV panels are between 15 and 20 percent efficient; high-quality panels rarely exceed 22 percent. A typical DC-to-AC inverter has an efficiency of greater than 94 percent. Therefore, a PV facility has a maximum efficiency of about 20 percent.

A wind turbine generates electricity by converting wind energy into mechanical energy via a rotating shaft. A gearbox increases the shaft speed to drive a permanent magnet generator. Typically, wind turbines have a maximum efficiency around 40 percent. If a maximum gearbox efficiency of 95 percent is assumed, together with a maximum permanent magnet generator efficiency of 95 percent, then the system would have a maximum efficiency of about 36 percent.

These efficiencies would be expected for electricity-generating systems at the beginning of life. Equipment performance generally degrades over time, so system efficiencies would also be expected to decline.

While battery storage systems have been proposed to compensate for the intermittency of solar and wind, they are inefficient. The efficiency of storing and recovering wind and solar energy is 60 to 70 percent for lead-acid storage batteries and 87 to 94 percent for lithium-ion batteries. Assuming an average of 90 percent for the latter, round-trip efficiencies for generating and storing electricity are about 18 percent for solar and 32 percent for wind.

Electricity-generating Facility Capacity Factor

The capacity factor of an electricity-generating system is the ratio of actual electrical energy output over a given time period to the maximum possible electrical energy output over that period. The primary influences on a system's capacity factor are equipment failures, routine maintenance, electricity demand (for load-following systems), "fuel" availability, and environmental regulations.

Table 2 – Energy Resource Comparisons

Electricity-Generating System	Resource Energy Density (kWh/kg)	System Energy Conversion Efficiency	System Average Capacity Factor	Equivalent Full-power Days per Year
Nuclear	> 20 million	33%	92%	336
Natural Gas	< 15	35%	56%	204
Coal	< 15	33%	40%	146
Wind Turbine	< 0.001	36%	35%	128
Photovoltaic	< 0.001	20%	25%	91

Solar and wind facilities are subject to “fuel” availability constraints since the sun doesn’t shine 24 hours a day and wind speed can vary significantly. Wind turbines don’t produce rated power until a sustained wind speed of 12 meters per second (26 miles per hour) is achieved, and such conditions are uncommon across most of the United States.

Furthermore, wind turbines become consumers of electricity at wind speeds that yield less than 20 percent of capacity rating because the electricity for the various pumps and accessories (which amounts to about 12 to 13 percent of capacity rating) cannot be drawn from the reduced wind turbine-generated electricity without compromising safety. Therefore, the electricity for this equipment must be supplied from the grid.

Finally, some coal-fired power plants are required to operate at less than 100-percent power to comply with environmental air-quality regulations.

According to 2020 data from the Energy Information Administration, listed in Table 2, nuclear is the clear leader and should lead the pack in electricity generation. Note that the significance of solar’s 25-percent capacity factor is that obtaining a year-round average of 100 megawatts of electricity requires a facility with an installed capacity of 400 megawatts.

The Energy Resource Lifecycle & Environmental Impact

The environmental impact of generating electricity must be considered across the energy resource’s entire lifecycle, not just the electricity-generating phase. This includes the manufacturing of machines and devices needed to convert the resource to electricity, transmitting elec-

tricity to the grid, and dispositioning of all lifecycle wastes.

Some details of the energy resource lifecycle are rarely addressed, especially regarding “renewables.” Solar and wind are touted as both “free and clean,” a claim that is only true about their initial states (i.e., photons and kinetic energy of air molecules). They cease to be free and clean when converted to any other form of energy.

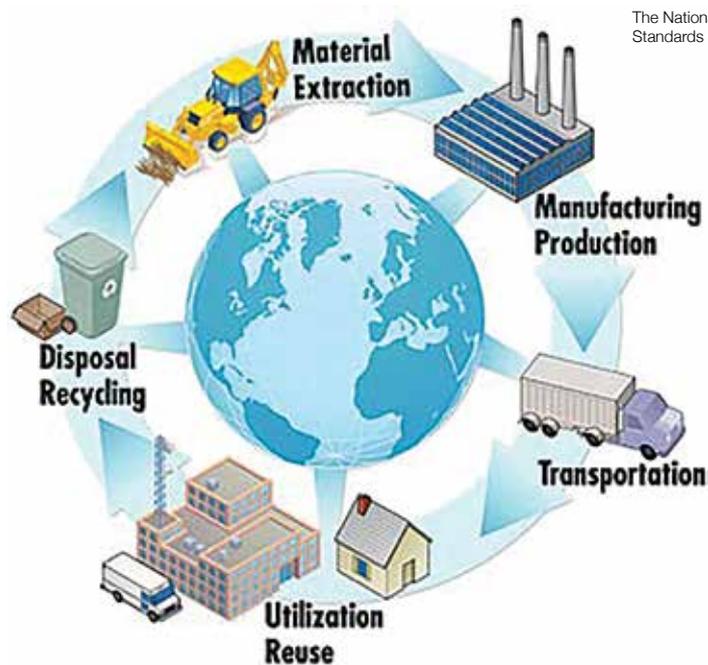
An exhaustive list of all material, processing, transportation, and transmission requirements of each energy resource is beyond the scope of this article, but solar and wind are far more demanding than their hydrocarbon counterparts. Realizing net-zero carbon dreams “would require the biggest expansion in mining

the world has seen and would produce huge quantities of waste,” relates The International Chronicles in its 2019 article, “The Destructive Myth of Green Energy: If You Want ‘Renewable Energy’ Get Ready to Destroy the Environment.”

Eliminating fossil fuels and nuclear power in favor of solar and wind energy systems would require a massive worldwide increase in mining for lithium, cobalt, copper, iron, aluminum, and numerous other raw materials. According to 2020 research published by The Manhattan Institute, building wind turbines and solar panels to generate electricity, as well as batteries to fuel electric vehicles, requires on average more than 10 times the quantity of materials compared with building machines for hydrocarbons to deliver the same amount of energy.

In addition to the mineral requirements shown in Figure 1, an onshore wind turbine requires hundreds of tons of concrete to anchor the base and hundreds of tons of steel, made from hundreds of tons of iron using hundreds of tons of coking coal, as detailed by CFACT senior science analyst Jay Lehr in his 2021 article “Wind Does Not Meaningfully Add Power, but Imposes Huge Costs on Ratepayers and the Environment.”

Additionally, much of the material in



The National Institute of Standards and Technology

renewable-energy devices cannot be recycled when they reach end of life. Even technology for their disposal has yet to be developed. Since wind turbines have only a 20-year lifespan, scientists at America’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado, warn that in the next few decades, the world faces a tidal wave of used, non-recyclable turbine blades. With an average lifespan of 25 years, solar panels pose similar challenges.

Battery storage systems to back up wind and solar also pack a punch when it comes to environmental impact, from production through end of life. Currently, there is no market for recycling industrial batteries.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that the demand for lithium used to produce lithium-ion batteries

will increase 100-fold by 2050, followed by soaring new demand for graphite, cobalt, manganese, nickel, and copper.

Additionally, most equipment needed to mine and transport “green” energy materials must run on diesel fuel made from oil because it’s too big and heavy to be powered efficiently by batteries. In addition, hydrocarbons are needed to produce the concrete, steel, plastics, and purified minerals used to build “green” machines.

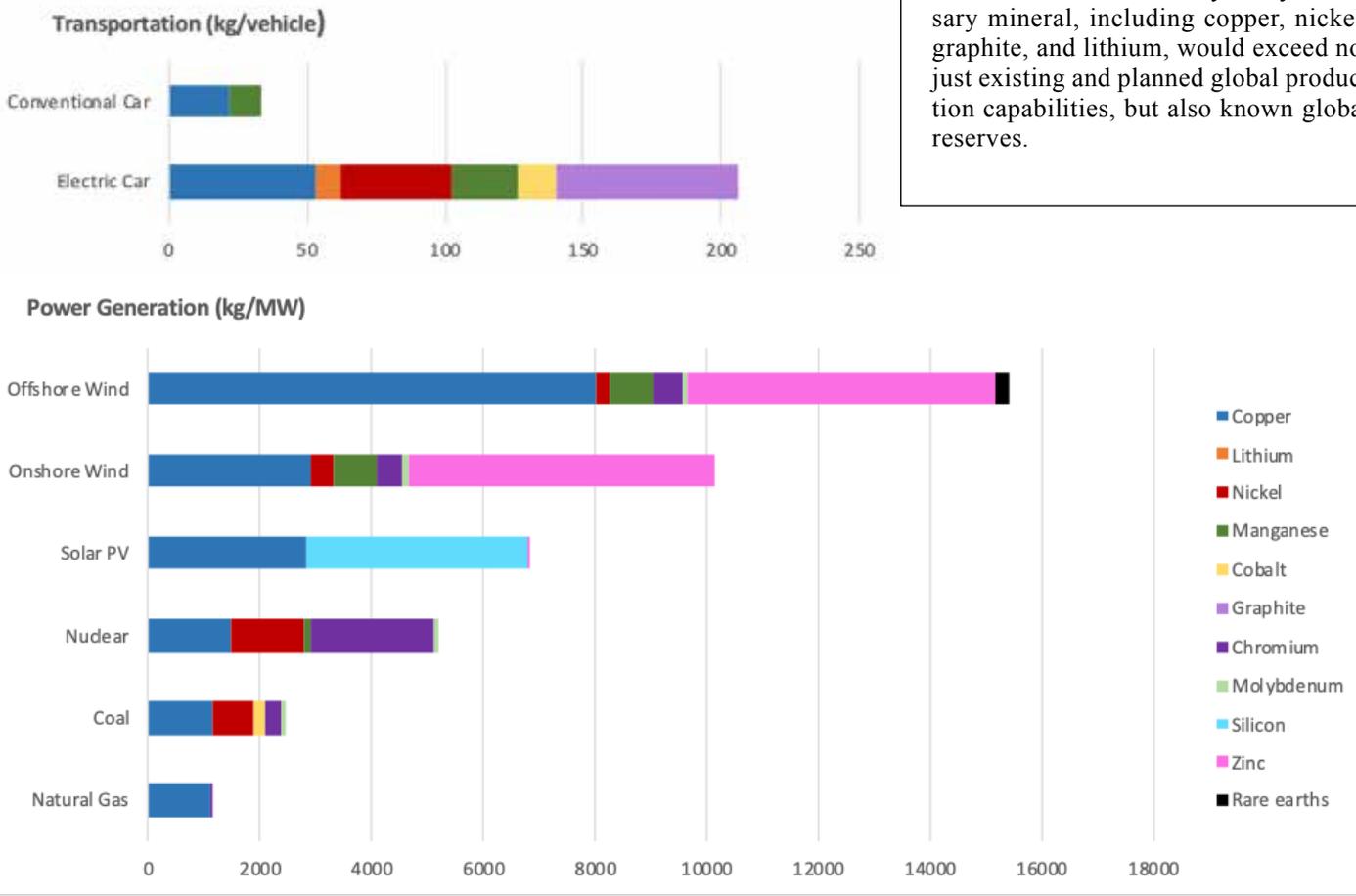
Another factor prominently missing from most renewable-energy discussions but featured in the 2017 book *Roadmap to Nowhere: The Myth of Powering the Nation with Renewable Energy* by Mike Conley and Tim Maloney, is the \$500 billion (or more) cost associated with at least 500,000 miles of new transmission lines required to connect 50,000-plus wind

and solar facilities for an all-renewables grid. A 2021 Princeton University study entitled “Net-Zero America” reveals that achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century through renewables alone would require a tripling of electricity-transmission systems to move energy generated in far-flung solar and wind farms to population centers.

Then there is transportation. Electric vehicles require many more metals and minerals than internal combustion engine-powered vehicles. Most importantly, mining and processing infrastructure capacities don’t yet exist to meet the demand for essentially every category of mineral necessary for these power-generation and transportation transition paths.

Worse yet, a 2021 report from the Geological Survey of Finland, *Assessment of the Extra Capacity Required of Alternative Energy Electrical Power Systems to Completely Replace Fossil Fuels*, considered the mineral implications of a “green” future and concluded that the demand for nearly every necessary mineral, including copper, nickel, graphite, and lithium, would exceed not just existing and planned global production capabilities, but also known global reserves.

Figure 1: Quantity of minerals required for various transportation and power-generation technologies. Based on IEA 2019 data from *The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions*.



https://www.iea.org/reports

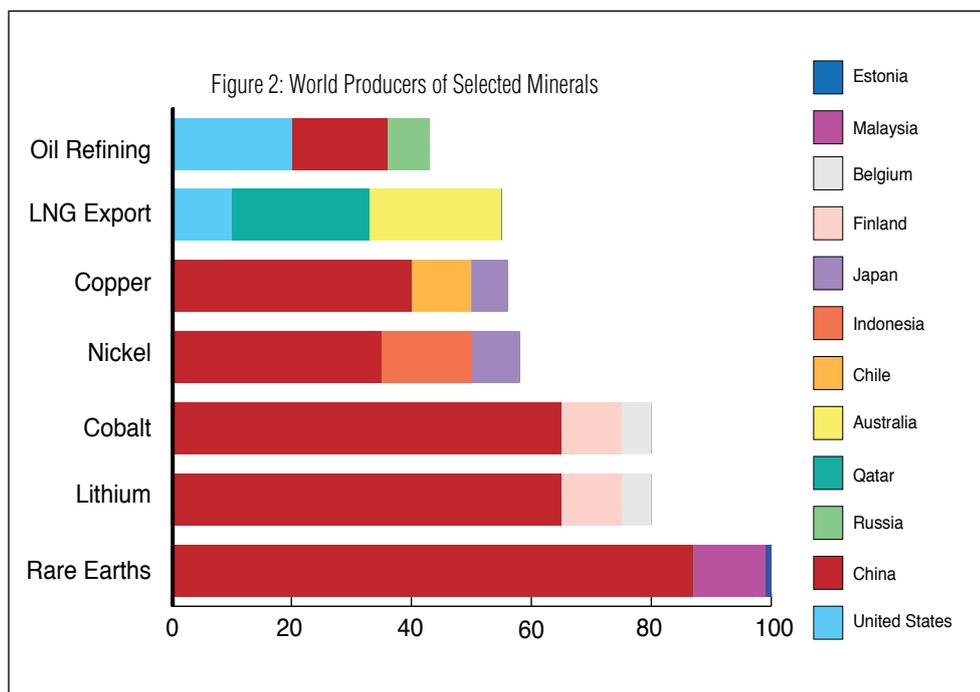
Foreign Reliance

The United States is, unfortunately, dependent on foreign nations for the mining and processing of many raw materials needed for renewable energy, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. In 1954, the United States was 100-percent dependent on imports for eight minerals listed in the Strategic Minerals Act of 1939. Today that list has grown to 17 strategic minerals, and we also depend on imports for more than half of 28 other widely used minerals.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) mines 68 percent of the world's cobalt. As of 2020, Chinese companies own or invest in 15 of 19 Congolese mines, and China supplies about 60 percent of rare-earth elements for the world. Nearly 87 percent of cobalt ore leaving the Congo is refined in China. In addition to providing cobalt for wind-turbine permanent magnets, China also provides almost 90 percent of the cobalt used in manufacturing lithium-ion batteries. Australia, the top miner of lithium, exports most of it to China, which accounts for about 60 percent of the world's lithium refining capacity.

Several of the 35 mineral commodities listed as critical by the Department of the Interior play an important role in the production of solar panels and backup energy storage batteries. The U.S. Geological Survey reports that in 2018 the United States was reliant on foreign sources for 100 percent of the arsenic, gallium, and indium, 75 percent of the tellurium, and half of the germanium used in manufacturing solar panels. Similarly, the United States relies on foreign sources for 61 percent of the cobalt, 50 percent of the lithium, and 100 percent of the graphite used in manufacturing batteries for backup energy storage.

China runs the show in manufacturing, too. Nine of the world's top 10 solar panel manufacturers are Chinese-owned or operated. Our strongest adversary owns the vast majority of the world's solar panel supply chain, controlling about 80 percent of every single key stage of solar photovoltaic panel manufacturing and processing. As of 2020, seven of the world's top 10



wind-turbine manufacturers are Chinese-owned or operated, as well.

Wind Turbine Issues

There are significant environmental costs associated with mining and refining rare earth elements for wind turbines. Writing for MIT News, D.L. Chandler explains in "Clean Energy Could Lead to Scarce Materials" that approximately one ton of neodymium magnets is needed for each five-megawatt wind turbine.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg. Generating all of America's power currently provided by fossil fuels and nuclear (> 8 billion megawatt hours) with wind energy would require 2.12 million turbines on 500,682 square miles of farm, wildlife habitat, and scenic lands. This area is equivalent to the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, and West Virginia combined, according to *Protecting the Environment from the Green New Deal* published in 2019 by The Heartland Institute.

Preparation of land for many wind farms often does extensive environmental damage, including removing trees and bulldozing hills and valleys. Since 2015, from Maine to Hawaii, there have been more than 300 rejections or restrictions of wind projects, wrote Robert Bryce for *Forbes* last year.

Many wind-turbine projects invariably encounter the NIMBY response (not in my backyard) from potential neighbors. Wind turbines generate both audible and inaudible low-frequency noise, which can cause problems such as sleep disturbance and headaches. Wind projects are invariably targeted for low-income counties where opponents don't have as much money to fight back.

Actual electricity output is rarely as advertised, often hitting 20 percent or lower depending on location, according to the Centre for Sustainable Energy — and failing completely on the hottest and coldest days when electricity is most urgently needed. Electricity output declines by 16 percent per decade of operation — and worse than that offshore, because of storms and salt spray — warns the Renewable Energy Foundation. Whereas onshore turbines last roughly 20 years, their offshore cousins can only survive about 10 years, states *Environment & Climate News*.

Solar-panel Issues

A future with solar is even less bright. Replacing our energy needs with solar would require 18.7 billion PV panels on 57,024 square miles of land, equivalent to the states of New York and Vermont combined, explains The Heartland Institute.

Writing for *Sciencing*, David Nguyen explains that solar panels and their manufacturing processes necessitate many toxic chemicals, including lead, cadmium telluride, copper indium selenide, cadmium gallium (di)selenide, copper indium gallium (di)selenide, hexafluoroethane, and polyvinyl fluoride. These processes generate 300 times more toxic waste per unit of energy than nuclear power plants, according to Jemin Desai and Mark Nelson in their 2017 article “Are We Headed for a Solar Waste Crisis?” in *Environmental Progress News*.

Robert Monroe of the University of California at San Diego pointed out in “Potent Greenhouse Gas More Prevalent in Atmosphere than Previously Assumed” that the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) deems toxic nitrogen trifluoride (NF3), used in some solar panel construction, more than 17,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Solar panels last about 25 years, according to the *Journal of Energy Research and Reviews*, but high temperatures can accelerate the aging process for solar cells. Snow, dust, and other natural events can cause material fatigue on the surface and in internal electric circuits, gradually reducing a panel’s power output.

The International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that by 2050, up to 78 million tons of solar panels will have reached the end of their life and the world will create another six million tons of photovoltaic waste every year. Disposal of solar panels in landfills is not appropriate, as they contain toxic materials, and the cost of recycled materials is significantly more than raw material cost. Currently, U.S. solar-panel manufacturers are not even required to, and do not, collect and dispose of solar-panel manufacturing toxic waste.

Battery Issues

Battery energy storage issues have yet to be seriously addressed. There is an almost complete disconnect between current efforts of small research grants and pilot programs to investigate which of various new energy-storage technologies might work in a 100-percent renewables scenario. Furthermore, technology is not yet invented, let alone demonstrated at scale, to accomplish the multi-hundred-trillion-dollar total transformation of the entire energy economy that will supposedly be accomplished by 2035, reads a 2022 “Report on the Status of the U.S. Energy Storage Project” by Francis Menton.

Backup batteries are generally proposed as the solution to the intermittency

problem of solar and wind energy. Batteries are not electricity generators, they must be recharged constantly, and the mechanism for charging them is the very solar and wind generators whose intermittency causes the energy deficiency in the first place. The off-grid system must be designed to provide a charge current capable of recharging batteries quickly and efficiently, and within the window of time the on-grid system is generating peak power. Battery energy storage systems generally can’t sustain output for more than several hours, at best.

Backup battery storage requirements for the electricity demands of the entire United States would be absolutely staggering. Issues currently ignored by net-zero proponents include:

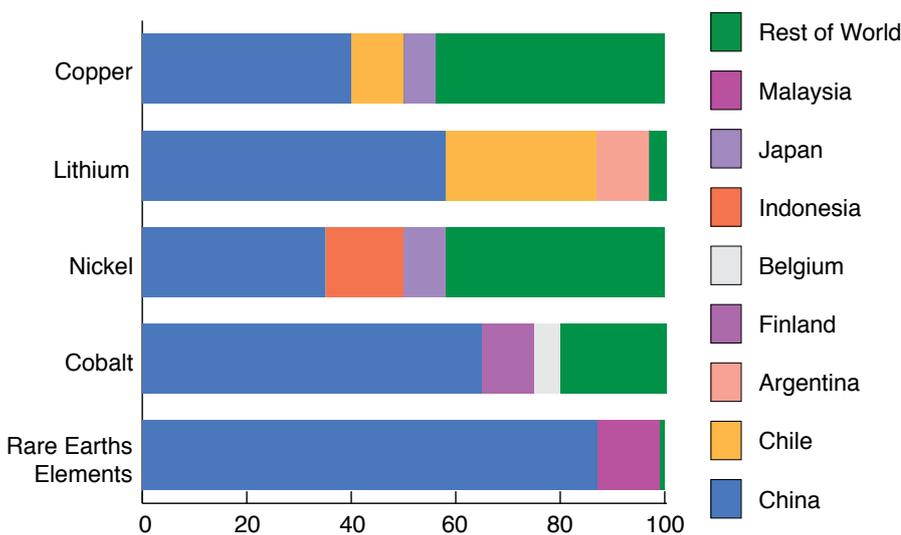
- How many batteries would be required to provide adequate backup electricity to the “green” grid when parts of the United States experience extended wind and sun deficits?
- Do sufficient raw materials exist?
- How would we dispose of huge amounts of toxic waste from battery manufacturing?

Lithium batteries contain both oxidizers and fuel within the enclosed battery space, and therefore carry risk of fire and explosion in case of overcharging, over-discharging, excess current, or short circuits. Currently there is no single standard or parameter for assessing battery safety and no fire-prevention system design standards or test criteria for battery energy storage systems.

The February 2020 issue of *Environment & Climate News* reports that, at the scale necessary to supplement on-demand “renewable” generated electricity, the cost of backup battery storage systems makes anything even close to 100-percent renewables economically impossible.

The obvious rational conclusion is that solar, wind, and energy-storage technologies cannot fulfill net-zero hopes of a rapid and wholesale replacement of fossil fuels. The idea ignores the underlying physics, engineering, and economics. The only serious discussion with respect to replacing fossil fuels is nuclear energy. A 100-percent renewables economy is not even remotely possible. ■

Figure 3: Percentage processing volume by country for minerals critical to a renewable-energy economy



https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/

Faith FAMILY FREEDOM



PASTORS CALL FOR MODERN-DAY “BLACK ROBED REGIMENT”

by *Annalisa Pesek*

“If today’s church does not stand as our founding generation stood, we will not only lose our republic, but our liberties as well.”

— Pastor Dan Fisher, founder of
“Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment”

Wake up, church, wake up! America is in decline, and the people are fighting for what is true and for what is right. Shepherds, it’s time to take responsibility and protect your flocks, as few have entered the battle to “fan the flames” of true revival and change.

So say Paul Blair and Dan Fisher, co-pastors of Fairview Baptist Church in Edmond, Oklahoma, reminding us that “so goes the pulpit, so goes the church. Everything hinges on the church. The answers are never coming from Washington, D.C. The answers will come from the state and local levels.”

The dynamic duo has served in Christian ministry for decades, yet many people will know them not by their sermons but from their esteemed positions in public service and major-league sports.

Blair, the son of an Edmond, Oklahoma, preacher, was a rising NFL star who played for the Oklahoma State Cowboys and then the Chicago Bears. At age 26, he became “serious with God” upon reflection of his Christian life, which, up until that point, he felt he was living in name only. On a winter’s evening in February 1989, he fell on his knees and prayed, and ever since God has moved in his heart and he has “truly been a new creation in Jesus Christ.”

Fisher, a former two-term Oklahoma state legislator, delivered his first sermon as a teen and was a full-time pastor by age 23. In 2008, he founded what has become the renowned “Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment” production, which traces the underreported story of the “Patriot Pastors” of the 18th century who preached the bib-

lical principles of liberty and government from the pulpits and led the men of their congregations to defend those principles on the battlefields of the American War for Independence.

Together, Blair and Fisher form a powerful team driven by the nation’s history and filled with abundant hope for her future. Their depth of understanding of America’s past has helped them develop a ministry that engages all areas of society rather than compartmentalizing the Christian faith into separate areas of the “secular” and the “sacred.”

In Defense of Liberty and Truth

In an interview with *The New American*, Blair explained that unlike the courageous “Patriot Pastors” of the American Revolution, who led the Colonists in breaking free from the stranglehold of Britain’s King George III to gain America her independence, many of today’s pastors are negligent in providing evangelism, discipleship, and protection for their people. Using their passion

Consistency: Pastors Paul Blair and Dan Fisher did not change a thing about the way they preached pre- or post-Covid, but were still villainized for speaking out.



Annalisa Pesek is a writer, editor, and librarian. She joins The New American after spending nearly a decade in New York publishing.



and imagination, Blair and Fisher have launched several ministries centered on themes of defending truth and freedom.

Fisher, for example, travels all around the country performing his one-man Broadway-like act of “Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment” in full period costume. Their nonprofit Liberty Pastors trains preachers to learn the biblical principles the “Patriot Pastors” knew and took for granted.

Invoking the writings of the late historian Alice Mary Baldwin, best remembered for her research of the influence of the New England clergy on the constitutional doctrines of the American Revolution, Liberty Pastors teaches how the early American preachers influenced the Colonists about politics via a comprehensive biblical worldview.

“The Puritans and the Pilgrims of New England recognized that God had information about everything,” exclaimed Blair. “God established the home, God established the church, God established this realm that we call civil government. We need to be looking to the Bible for proper

instruction and limitations of the civil governing authority.”

Running Toward, Not Away From, Real-world Issues

Changing the way pastors look at preaching is the primary mission of Liberty Pastors. Each year, the group holds a three-day conference that famously kicks off with a type of trick question for attendees, who are asked to reflect upon that area of their lives that Jesus is no longer ruling over.

The only aspects of life not permissible for the pulpit, explained Blair and Fisher, are those areas in which God does not play a role. But, since the Lord rules over *every* part of a believer’s life, no part of life is off-limits for the church.

Pastors wrestle with all the hot-button issues, and must be the salt and light in *all* areas of society, including politics and government. Consider how much the Bible has to say about economics and the role of civil government, and what to do when government becomes tyrannical, asserted the pastors.

Unlike megachurch leaders such as “America’s Pastor” Rick Warren, or Harvest Christian Fellowship’s Greg Laurie, Blair and Fisher have engaged the insidious culture battles that many influential pastors have chosen to ignore.

Liberty Pastors are uniquely trained to understand the evils of Marxism as well as the biblical foundations of a republican form of government and free-market economics. Liberty also teaches leaders how to expose the lies behind billion-dollar agencies such as Planned Parenthood and the Marxist Black Lives Matter (BLM) — which raked in millions of dollars in donations spent on high-end real estate for BLM founders instead of helping black communities.

Censoring Christian Voices

Yet for challenging the status quo and for providing information through their podcast *Ridin’ the Storm Out* that dispelled the myths of the efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccine, Liberty Pastors was permanently banned from video platform Vimeo for “repeated violations” of “health misinformation and vaccine misinformation.”

In a letter informing the pastors of their termination from the platform, a Vimeo employee named Ryan from the Orwellian-sounding “Trust and Safety” department explained that owing to repeated violations, the group would not be allowed to re-register with Vimeo and would lose a significant portion of their paid subscription.

A member of Liberty Pastors staff told *The New American* that broadcasts of church sermons and podcast episodes are deleted so often from YouTube and Twitter that the church no longer posts on those sites. This means less traffic for the church, of course; but isn’t that the point, to cancel Christian voices so they are eventually not heard at all?

“Too many things were wrong with the COVID response and the shut-downs,” observed Blair, admitting that although he moved church services online for a brief time, he reopened his doors when he started investigating



duckycards/Getty Images Plus

Stick to the basics: All areas of a Christian’s life should adhere to biblical principles, preach Blair and Fisher. Unfortunately, many pastors today act like CEOs of large corporations rather than men called by God to speak the truth.



Covid and began addressing the issues with his congregation.

“A lot of pastors are afraid because they’ve been taught to be afraid,” remarked Fisher. “They’ve been taught strict separation of church and state. They’ve been taught they’re going to lose their nonprofit status if they speak out, and that the IRS will come and close them down.”

Fisher feels that many pastors today are compromised and act more like CEOs of major, for-profit corporations rather than men called by God to speak the truth and bring people to know His Son Jesus Christ. “Paul and I have not changed a lot since before COVID. We’ve been doing the same thing for years,” said Fisher. “It’s just that COVID put a big spotlight on us and made us look more rebellious even though we’re not trying to be at all. We’re just trying to be faithful.”

Many pastors who refuse to engage in the culture wars do so because they are afforded the luxury of their God-given freedoms and the abundant blessings of American liberty. And while Christians today are censored by Big Government and Big Tech, they are hardly persecuted for their faith in the same way as the Christians of previous centuries.

A Prayer for the American Church

Similarly, pastors of the 18th century performed their duties a bit differently than the pastors of today. For instance, they preached the “whole counsel of God,” explained Fisher, applying biblical prin-

ciples to civil government, the church, and the family. Their message spread and had the power to change the culture, even as King George III tightened his grip on the Colonies.

“We want the people God has entrusted to us to have healthy homes, strong families. We want them to make good wages and to be able to provide for their families,” said Blair, who cannot believe the lies his church family has been told about masks and experimental “vaccines.”

“Pastors need to be savvy enough to protect their flocks,” he continued. “Hopefully those who have refused to evangelize, disciple, and shepherd will be out of the ministry soon, and only the pastors who are doing what God has called them to do will remain.”

Blair and Fisher believe their congregation desires to hear God’s perspective on cultural issues and that it is their job to provide the people with insight into what God has to say on any given subject, whether abortion or the LGBTQ agenda. They also believe that real change is possible and call on Christians to perform their civic duty and to be held accountable. They inspire active engagement in the defense of truth and liberty in the fight against modern-day tyranny.

“For years, the Left decried book censorship, yet now if anyone disagrees with anything they are in control of, they will censor those differing opinions,” said Fisher. “Of course, I don’t care about

Liberty Pastors send a simple message:

Teach the “whole counsel of God,” applying biblical principles to civil government, the church, and the family.

my opinion, this is what God says, this is God’s opinion. If you dare have an opinion different from the Left then all of a sudden freedom of speech, freedom of the press, none of those rights matter.”

To win this war—and it *is* a war—Christians, Jews, and (in general) traditionalists must do their duty as citizens and get out and vote and change America for the better. Consider the number of people who have lost their jobs, and that the battle has only increased in scope. People do not realize that vaccine mandates and lockdowns are an iteration of the next step, and that next step is going to be much worse. No longer can lives of believers be separated into the “secular” and the “sacred.” All areas of our lives must adhere to biblical principles, including politics and government.

“Lies fear the truth,” concluded Blair. “The only thing that can destroy lies is the truth. Anyone who cannot defend their position with facts, often wants to suppress or attack the facts from being presented. So, we continue to find other avenues to get our message out. There are plenty of free sources out there, and YouTube is not one of them. We need to weaponize where we spend our money. You never know who is going to cancel you next.”

To find “canceled” pastors fearlessly preaching against the tyrannical overreach of the state, visit libertypastors.fairviewbaptistedmond.org. ■

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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

A Season for Miracles

What's in a name? As Shakespeare once posed the question, the naming of things and people can be irrelevant, but not so for 10-year-old Miracle Moore of Jennings, Missouri, who helped deliver her "miracle" baby sister after her mom went into a fast and premature labor at home.

Jayla Moore was born healthy but three weeks early on October 23, after 30-year-old Viola Fair started the delivery with no time to get to a hospital. Fair's eldest daughter, Miracle, acted quickly, dialing 911 and telling dispatcher Scott Stranghoener, "Hi, I think my mom is in labor," as reported by TODAY.com.

Stranghoener stayed on the line with the fourth grader, guiding her through instructions for her mom, which he said she "followed to a T." The call lasted for 11 minutes, and while waiting for the first responders, Miracle told her mom, "Don't sit on the toilet," and "Mama, they said lay on your back in the center of the bed or on the floor."

As her mother's cries of pain could be heard over the recorded call, Miracle kept comforting Fair and reminding her help was on the way. "It's OK, Mama, it's OK!" Miracle said, then telling Stranghoener: "I think her water broke ... She's coming! She's coming!" The child encouraged her mother to lie down, and then she saw her sister: "She's here!... Her head is here," screamed Miracle.

With help from Stranghoener, Miracle did as instructed and helped deliver baby Jayla. "Be very careful, don't drop the baby, OK?" Stranghoener said.

Jayla's birth was a "miracle," said her mother. Of her extraordinary eldest daughter, Fair said "I am very thankful."

Farmers Rally to Save Neighbor's Harvest

Paul Baker wasn't a master harvester, but he sowed his seed in faith, and even after he passed he reaped a bountiful harvest. With the help of more than 100 farmers and community members in the tightknit town of Creston, Iowa, Paul's crops were

saved after he tragically and unexpectedly died from lung cancer at the age of 66.

A native of Creston, Paul had owned and operated more than 500 acres of farmland in this small city of less than 10,000 residents. He and his wife of 46 years, Lynn Baker, raised cattle and grew soybeans and corn. In March, Paul fell gravely ill and doctors discovered fluid had developed on his lungs. A biopsy told the unthinkable: Paul had lung cancer. "He passed away about four days later," Lynn said in an interview with *The Epoch Times*. "We didn't expect it to be anything like that.... I think we were all very sad and shocked."

At the center of Paul's life was his Catholic faith, explained Lynn. He trusted God and worked the farm up until the day he was admitted to the hospital. He died on October 20 at age 66.

The couple's daughter, Melissa Baker, said the community knew something was wrong. "Farmers and friends had already worked with my uncle John to harvest the soybeans while [Paul] was in the hospital. They just volunteered, nobody asked them to do it.... That's what happened with the corn, too."

The charity and goodwill of some 100 people who volunteered their time and equipment showered the Bakers with blessings and kindness during a time of great personal loss. From the local businesses that donated breakfasts and lunches to the working farmers to the town's St. Malachy Catholic School, where students crafted thank-you cards, people showed up and showed they really cared.

"It was really emotional. Of course we cried a lot, but we were just overwhelmed and felt very loved," said Lynn. Truly, there is something very special about a small-town community.

Strangers Celebrate Seventh Thanksgiving Together

What are the odds that a text message sent to the wrong person could unite two total strangers? Likely pretty small, but for accidental



AlexRathes/Stock/Getty Images Plus

friends Jamal Hinton and Wanda Dench, that one-of-a-kind encounter would change their lives and remain an indelible memory in their hearts forever.

The grandmother and high-school senior met in 2016, when Dench, of Mesa, Arizona, texted Hinton, then 17 years old, inviting him to Thanksgiving dinner at her house at 3:00 p.m. The message was meant for Dench's grandson, who had a new number, and Hinton was in class in Phoenix when he received it.

Dench then sent a selfie to Hinton when he asked her to prove that she was his grandma. To that message, Hinton replied with a photo of his face, stating that in fact she was not his grandma, but could he "still get a plate tho?"

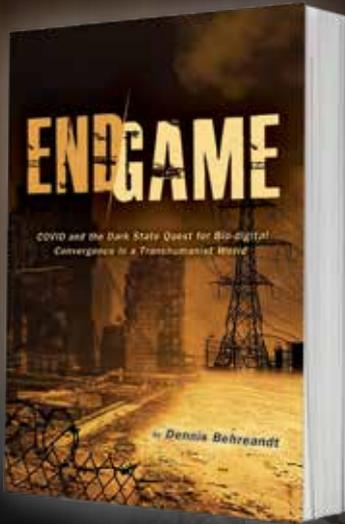
"Of course you can. That's what grandma's do ... feed everyone," Dench replied, with a piece of cake emoji, according to Breitbart News, which first published the heartwarming story.

Since their first Thanksgiving together, Dench and Hinton have captivated a growing social-media audience, who have been following their friendship over the years. They told *azfamily.com* that one of the great benefits of the gift of friendship is asking nothing in return.

"I would have missed out on a wonderful relationship," Dench said when asked what would have happened if she hadn't invited Hinton over years ago. "I've changed my view so much on the younger generation, and now that I've reflected back on all these years, I didn't change their life; they changed mine."

This year, the two celebrated their seventh Thanksgiving together, and their viral friendship may even have inspired a Netflix film, portraying a rare bond set to last well beyond the holidays. ■

— ANNALISA PESEK



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— Ron Paul, former congressman and presidential candidate

by Dennis Behreandt



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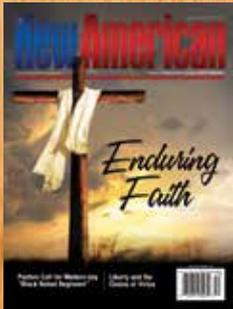
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LIBERTY AND THE CHAINS OF VIRTUE

The Founding Fathers clearly understood that only a citizenry educated in morality and willingly bound by the self-forged chains of virtue can remain free of the chains of tyranny.



Exemplar: George Washington, a Christian and the very embodiment of virtue, recognized the unique importance of religion in the cultivation of morality. Noting the importance of morality to “political prosperity,” he cautioned: “Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

by *Steve Bonta*

Edmund Burke, 18th-century British statesman and admirer of the American Founding Fathers, once observed:

Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains on their appetites; in proportion as their love of justice is above their rapacity; in proportion as their soundness and sobriety of understanding is above their vanity and presumption; in proportion as they are more disposed to listen to

the counsels of the wise and good, in preference to the flattery of knaves. Society cannot exist unless a controlling power upon the will and appetite be placed somewhere, and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.

The always eloquent Burke was reciting a fact that had not escaped the notice of America’s Founding Fathers. Those great men understood this as a bedrock principle, that public virtue and morality are necessary preconditions for political freedom. Necessary also to the successful establishment and subsequent longevity of a republican government is the achievement

among the populace of a certain quality of education. This too the Founding Fathers, in their uncanny wisdom, took to heart as they created the American republic.

Ancient Roots

The Founding Fathers learned from Montesquieu that each form of government is predicated upon a certain fundamental condition or principle. Despots, he taught, derive their powers from fear, while monarchs depend on honor to rule. But republican government is dependent on virtue — virtue within a specific class whenever the primary power reposes with an aristocracy, and virtue among the general public wherever power resides with the people.

The notion of virtue in government was not new. Cicero, for example, saw virtue or piety as the reason for the spectacular success of the Roman republic. “The early Romans,” says Russell Kirk, “were a pious people, even though their religion itself was a simple faith.... They were earnest, tenacious, well-disciplined, frugal, often self-sacrificing when the state was in peril. A sense of duty and an attachment to honesty and honor worked upon their leading men.”

The Founding Fathers, learned men all, were certainly familiar with the lessons to be learned from Rome’s history. Even more importantly, however, the Founders’ understanding of the importance of virtue was informed not just by the example of the pre-Christian Romans, but by their own Christian heritage. They and their contemporaries in colonial America conceived of virtue in terms of unswerving adherence to Christian morals, combined with a reverence for Deity and a recognition of His role in the affairs of men.

Since the earliest days of the colonial period, an emphasis on Christian piety and

Steve Bonta is executive senior editor of The New American. This article originally appeared in our August 14, 2000 issue.

Most of the Founders were deeply religious, believing that nothing short of Christian virtue and morality were necessary for the American republic to endure.



Fulfilling destiny: In building the New World, the colonists sought to provide an example through virtue and liberty to light the way for the salvation of the Old World. “We must consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us,” said Puritan leader John Winthrop.

morality had permeated the American colonies. According to historian Clinton Rossiter, this early emphasis on virtue “was a practical philosophy of huge consequences for the American future.” Elsewhere he added: “Few people in history have been more given to public moralizing, to proclaiming a catalogue of virtues and exhorting one another to exhibit them, than the American colonists.... Practical morality was an important by-product of Puritanism and rationalism as well as the actual experiences of the colonists. Yet so prevalent was this pattern of thought, so universal and self-generating was the urge to preach the solid values, that we may consider it an independent working philosophy to which thousands of colonists subscribed directly.”

The early American colonists saw Christian virtue not merely as a restraint — though as such it played a critical role in reining in the excesses of “fallen

man” — but also as a stimulator of action, an inner source of light that encouraged men to discard the chains of passivity and bondage to baser appetites and strive to accomplish good and enduring works.

It was virtue, for instance, that moved men to make covenants with the Almighty. The notion of covenant was pervasive in colonial America, since many groups fleeing religious persecution in Europe, such as the Pilgrims, saw themselves, like the ancient Israelites, as covenant peoples guided by the hand of the Almighty to a Land of Promise.

This was the case, for example, with the expedition to America led by Puritan John Winthrop. “As the fleet set off, on Easter Monday 1630,” historian Paul Johnson tells us in his 1997 study, *A History of the American People*, “Winthrop was in a mood of exaltation, seeing himself and his companions taking part in what seemed

a Biblical episode — a new flight from Egypt into the Promised Land.” Winthrop and his fellow travelers, though, were not simply undertaking the perilous journey for their own sake. Indeed, notes Johnson, “the New England colony was to be a pilot church and state, which would create an ideal spiritual and secular community, whose example should in turn convert and save the Old World too.” In a shipboard sermon, Winthrop shared his vision with his companions: “We must consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us.”

By the time of the Founding Period, according to historians Richard Vetterli and Gary Bryner, “the general belief or acceptance that America had been singled out to perform a great mission and that the nation rested, as it were, in the bosom of Providence” had become “one of the most important ingredients of the American public religion or philosophy.”

Faith of the Founders

Most of the Founders were deeply religious, believing that nothing short of Christian virtue and morality were necessary for the American republic to endure. Though some of them were skeptical of certain aspects of Christian orthodoxy and sectarianism, their political writings and speeches were suffused with evidence of their belief in God and in their Christian heritage. Benjamin Franklin, for example, during a stalemate in deliberations at the Constitutional Convention, observed:

In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of Lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of the danger we had daily prayer in this room for divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were frequently answered.... And have we now forgotten our powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I

see of this truth — that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?

James Madison's background was typical of the Founders and of his time; in the words of biographer Ralph Ketcham: "Certain elements of Christian thought had almost universal acceptance in colonial America and are important to an understanding of Madison's intellectual growth. The Christian affirmation ... that each human soul has infinite worth ... [was] of vast significance. There were, therefore, limits to the claim the state could make upon the individual.... Madison acknowledged that there is a nontemporal source of values; he insisted that the state live up to them, and he affirmed that individuals in a society were bound by more-than-earthly obligations." Such beliefs were to have profound consequences for the form of government the Founders set up. They understood governments to be amenable to a higher Authority, and they considered the "primary" institutions in society — churches, communities, families, volunteer organizations, and the like — to be as essential to republican government as the state.

Importantly, the Founding Fathers rejected the claim that governments may be a source of virtue, for virtue in the Christian sense cannot be compelled. Further, the Founders were neither blindly optimistic nor unduly pessimistic regarding man's essential nature. While they incorporated into their system of government numerous refinements intended to limit the mischief men could cause by misuse of the machinery of state, they understood that the republic they had founded could endure only so long as the greater part of its citizens maintained their virtue.

The importance of a virtuous citizenry to the success of a republican government was stressed by James Madison in *The Federalist*, No. 55. "As there is a degree of depravity in mankind which requires a certain degree of circumspection and distrust," the father of the

Constitution observed, "so there are other qualities in human nature which justify a certain portion of esteem and confidence. Republican government presupposes the existence of these qualities in a higher degree than any other form."

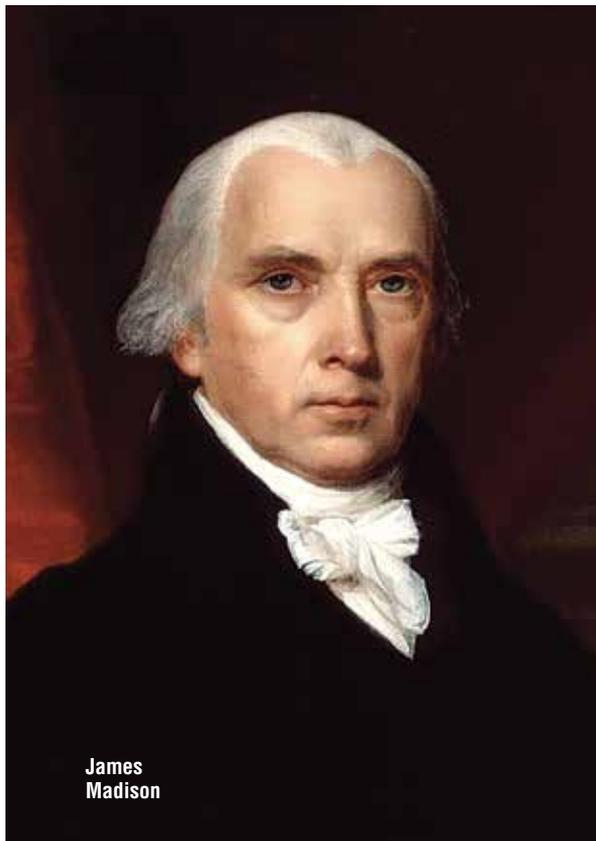
John Adams, too, stressed the importance of virtue. "Our Constitution," he said, "was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Joseph Story, Madison's Chief Justice, added that "piety, religion and morality are intimately connected with the well-being of the state, and are indispensable to the administration of civil justice." Franklin wrote: "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." And Samuel Adams warned that "neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt. He therefore is the truest friend to the liberty of his country who tries most to promote its virtue, and who, so far as his power and influence ex-

tend, will not suffer a man to be chosen into any office of power and trust who is not a wise and virtuous man."

Religion and Republic

But how could public virtue and morality be maintained? Widespread modern misconceptions to the contrary, neither was the republic contemplated by the Founding Fathers based on secular "ethics" nor was it an enemy of churches, despite the First Amendment proscription against Congress establishing a state religion. Unlike the French Revolution, whose leaders were militantly hostile to Christianity, as well as later, secularized traditions of "liberty," such as Benthamite Utilitarianism and radical democratic populism, which tended to glorify and even deify Man as the ultimate source of state authority, the system envisioned by the Founders welcomed religion as performing tasks complementary to government. Religion, for example, was the primary fount of morality, as George Washington explained in his Farewell Address:

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness — these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation *desert* the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education ... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality



can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

The Founders assumed that, precisely because of the absence of a national religion, men would be encouraged to honor God according to the dictates of their own consciences, which would give rise to a flourishing culture of diverse sects united, in the main, by their acceptance of core Judeo-Christian values. In large measure, they succeeded. French traveler and philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville marveled at the collective piety he saw in America 50 years after the Revolution. Even in our comparatively secular age, religion is still a dominant component in American life: More than 40 percent of all Americans attend church every week. In fact, more people go to church each week in America than vote in a typical presidential election or attend sporting events in an entire year. Clearly, there is still a substantial reservoir of the virtue upon which our republic is predicated.

Role of Education

In addition to morality, education is another general trait absolutely crucial for preserving republican government. As Thomas Jefferson so trenchantly put it: “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never can be.” In his

Farewell Address, Washington also urged that education not be neglected: “It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government.... Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion be enlightened.” Benjamin Rush noted the interdependence of virtue and education, stating: “There is but one method of preventing crimes, and of rendering a republican form of government durable, and that is, by disseminating the seeds of virtue and knowledge through every part of the state.”

By “education” the Founders did not mean the glorified technical training that passes for education in our day. The Founders were all cultured, educated, multitalented men; their education encompassed a thorough grounding in history and classical languages, coupled with a profound appreciation for the traditions and ideas associated with what is known as “Western civilization.” As with all truly learned men, much of their erudition was a result of tireless self-education; they read the ideas of philosophers ancient and modern, of statesmen, economists, and jurists. They studied the languages and histories of other cultures that had experimented in human liberty.

From all of these they pruned and synthesized, adopted and rejected. Ultimately, they became innovators in their own right. Moreover, because of the educational climate of early America, the ideas they debated and defended were grasped and pondered by the general American public, most of whom were far more literate and well-educated than Europe’s downtrodden, ignorant peasant classes.

At least as worrisome in our day as the obvious decline in virtue is the appalling lack of education in the traditional sense of the term. Public schools, rather than instilling an appreciation for the ideas and traditions of our Western heritage, instead deride the alleged cultural hegemony of “dead white males” and slander the reputations of the Founders themselves. Our great colleges and universities, besides promoting various subversive social and political agendas, pour their energies into training docile subalterns to carry out “practical” tasks that promise handsome rewards but teach little of the eternal truths to be learned from the lessons of history, philosophy, the arts, and other “impractical” disciplines. In the words of essayist Fr. James Thornton, these “‘technological functionaries’ ... are frequently little more than fools and dilettantes when they step outside of their chosen professions. And a society led by technological functionaries is ... ignorant of the lessons of the past and ignorant most particularly of its own ignorance. While the technological functionaries may well be brilliant in their own fields, they are not truly educated since they have been stunted in the ... acquisition of a useful base of knowledge.” The Founding Fathers, by way of contrast, were both educated and practical men; they were, in addition to their formidable intellectual attainments, merchants, doctors, lawyers, investors, farmers, and landowners. Yet it was their education that kindled in their breasts the informed patriotism that produced our Constitution.

If our republic is to be preserved, we must renew our commitment to private and public virtue, and resolve to educate ourselves in the sweet doctrines of human liberty. For virtue, as Thomas Jefferson warned, “is not hereditary.” Each generation of Americans must relearn the lessons of the past; each must build on the example set by the Founders to keep fertile the soil of public virtue in which the seeds of freedom are sown anew in every age. ■



Educating for liberty: The proper correctives for the attacks on our moral and cultural foundations include self-education, homeschooling, and the creation of centers of education that shore up, rather than erode, our noble Western and Judeo-Christian heritage.

Deranged Man Terrorizes Neighborhood

The *Sun Gazette* reported on November 15 about a terrifying incident in Oakton, Virginia, in which a man who was terrorizing a small community ended up getting shot by a homeowner.

The suspect was identified as 24-year-old Eduardo Santos, who detectives believe was in the neighborhood for several hours during the afternoon of November 9 acting suspiciously. Police were called to the neighborhood due to Santos' bizarre behavior, but could not find any evidence of a crime at that time. Santos refused to talk to police, and walked away from them when they tried to intervene. When cops were called back to the scene due to reports of Santos once again disturbing people, the officers could not find him when they arrived.

As day turned to night, Santos' odd behavior escalated into a violent outburst when a homeowner discovered him wandering around on his property. The homeowner told the suspect to leave, but Santos became angered and hit the homeowner with a stick. The homeowner wisely tried to flee toward his house, but Santos tackled the man, injuring him. The homeowner was able to get to his feet and get inside his house, but Santos followed. Fortunately, the homeowner was able to retrieve a firearm to defend himself and his family. By this point, Santos had grabbed a large landscaping rock and forcibly entered the house wielding the rock in a deadly manner, but the homeowner shot him before he could get too far. The homeowner called 911 and the police soon arrived, where they discovered Santos mortally injured with gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

Detectives are not entirely sure what led to Santos' wild behavior that day and whether he had mental problems or was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Law enforcement is still investigating, but they believe there was no connection between Santos and the homeowner and that it was a completely random attack.

What Not to Do in a “Self-defense” Shooting

Tulsa World reported on November 16 about a homeowner in Tulsa who made several bad decisions in the early morning of November 14 that got him in legal trouble. The Tulsa Police Department posted on its Facebook page about homeowner David Roland's arrest and wrote, “We understand that this incident will spark many conversations about the use of firearms in similar situations and what is legally allowed.”

One mistake that Roland made after being involved in the shooting was talking to the police without an attorney present. Roland told police who arrived on the scene that he heard a car drive down his street at 3:00 a.m. and immediately suspected foul play. The arrest and booking report contained many damning admissions that Roland made that he most likely wouldn't have if he had had an attorney present to stop him from making incriminating statements.

The arrest report showed that Roland suspected the person in the car was up to no good because, as he told police officers, “no one drives through the neighborhood at that time unless it is a thief.” Roland's suspicions would prove to be spot-on, as the suspect was later determined to have property in his possession that investigators believe he stole from a neighbor. But the fact that Roland's hunch was correct did not justify his actions that followed.

Roland also made a mistake when he exited his home with a flashlight and a gun and went to confront the person whom he suspected was a thief. While it's admirable that Roland was brave enough to want to deal with a criminal stealing from his neighbors, he voluntarily inserted himself into the role of deputized law enforcement and subjected himself to all the dangers that come with that. He told police officers that he approached the suspect, who fled back to his car. Roland chased after him to try to stop him from escaping. This was another bad admission, because it showed that Roland was pursuing the suspect, and not the other way around. A typical requirement of a justified self-defense shooting is that the shooter be in fear for

his life, and some states even have a “duty to retreat” before using deadly force. In this case, Roland was the one in pursuit and, from Roland's own words, it does not appear that the suspect ever threatened any type of violence toward him.

Roland used his body to block the suspect's car from driving away so he could not escape. This was when Roland crossed the line from making unwise decisions to engaging in conduct that opened him up to criminal charges. Roland pointed his gun at the suspect and ordered him to surrender. Based on this situation as related to the police, it did not appear that Roland was in fear for his life, and therefore was not justified in pointing his firearm at the suspect.

The final mistake Roland made was that he apparently fired at the suspect when the suspect mocked him and said “you won't shoot me” before walking toward Roland. Roland shot the suspect in the stomach, and the wounded burglar crumpled to the ground. Police soon arrived, and the wounded suspect was transported to a nearby medical facility for treatment. Authorities say the suspect's injuries are not life-threatening, and he will be arrested and charged with burglary after he is discharged from the hospital. Sadly, even though Roland stopped a crime while it was being committed, he was arrested on a complaint of assault with a deadly weapon and released on \$15,000 bail.

While neighbors might appreciate Roland's efforts to enforce a neighborhood watch and prevent crime in their community, he unnecessarily exposed himself to a costly criminal prosecution that might result in him serving time in prison.

Another important takeaway from this story is that, if you have been involved in a shooting, you should immediately contact an experienced attorney who knows your state's self-defense laws. Most importantly, you have a right to remain silent and you should never talk directly to police without your attorney present. Unfortunately, Roland's trusting nature led him to give the police too much information, which county prosecutors are now using against him. ■

— PATRICK KREY

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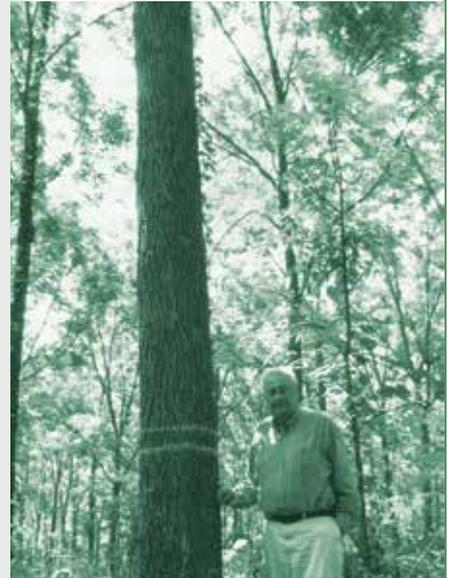
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THE REVIEW

China's Digitally Engineered Society

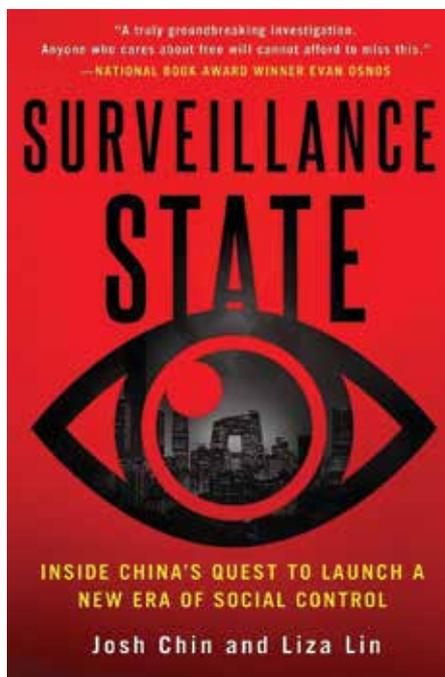
by William P. Hoar

Surveillance State: Inside China's Quest to Launch a New Era of Social Control, by Josh Chin and Liza Lin, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2022, 312 pages, hardcover.

Xi Jinping, the leader of Communist China, is convinced that the East is rising and the West is declining, and that time and momentum are on his side. He is also, like his predecessors, deadly serious about keeping a close eye on the masses. That is a major undergirding theme of *Surveillance State: Inside China's Quest to Launch a New Era of Social Control*.

In this straightforward and generally hard-hitting volume, the authors recognize that under Xi, "the Party" — which is usually the reference used (as opposed to the "Chinese government" or "Beijing") — thinks that it has designed the blueprint

William P. Hoar is a longtime writer for The New American and its predecessor magazines, and has served as editor-in-chief and contributor for other publications.



only dreamed of by its rivals. "By mining insight from surveillance data," the Party believes that it can "predict what people want without having to give them a vote or a voice. By solving social problems before they occur and quashing dissent before it spills out onto the streets, it believes it can strangle opposition in the crib," they write.

If nonconformists need some additional convincing, there are ways to handle that — including interrogation in torturous "tiger chairs" or lengthy sessions of the process called *xiniao* (literally "washing of the brains"). (For more

on the latter practice to elicit confessions, as it occurred against American and other POWs during the Korean War in Communist Chinese prison camps, see Edward Hunter's eponymous book *Brainwashing*, first published in 1958.)

A line illustration of a tiger chair for detainees, as well as a picture of a typical internment camp — where perhaps 1.5 million people in China have been sent — is included in a photograph section of *Surveillance State*. There's also a copy of a mandatory personnel questionnaire for residents in Uyghur districts, used to categorize individuals as "safe," "average," or "unsafe."

Wider Aspects of Digital Authoritarianism

A central aspect of the volume focuses on China's western Xinjiang province, where Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities have suffered mass internments and other human-rights abuses. The Party has justified its actions as necessary to contain the (very exaggerated) threat of Turkic Muslim Uyghur terrorism.

The book also covers other parts of China, as well as African countries (Uganda in particular), where China's Belt and Road Initiative and exports by Chinese companies have had an impact. We get details on China's ubiquitous social credit system — where the credit scoring includes "political compliance, as well as hobbies, lifestyle, and the behavior of friends." The Western growth and export-

ing of facial and voice recognition technology is examined, and also covered is how the Covid pandemic and lockdown was a boon to China’s surveillance industry, which has included using temperature-detecting drones, allegedly to see if targeted people had a fever.

The authors have not made this a one-track story about oppression. They look at the other side of technology, such as in the more prosperous city of Hangzhou, where the elite seem to get relatively utopian treatment. As the writers note, they have covered both the “totalitarian darkness” of Xinjiang and the wealthy coast area “to show how the same algorithmic controls can terrorize or coddle depending on who and where you are.”

Co-author Josh Chin is deputy bureau chief in China for *The Wall Street Journal*; he previously served as a reporter for that paper for more than a decade, leading an award-winning team exposing China’s digital surveillance in 2017 and 2018. Co-author Liza Lin, a member of that team, covers data use and privacy for *The Wall Street Journal* from Singapore. For this book, they take a deep and broad dive — conducting interviews of 150 people in 14 countries. (Within the text, the authors don’t usually become part of the narrative, using the pronoun “we” when it is necessary to make observations.)

Repression in Xinjiang

Their concentrating on one family, led by Tahir Hamut in Urumqi (nearly 2,000 miles from Beijing), helps to give faces to the many who are suffering. The family escaped from Xinjiang in 2017 and now lives in the United States. Hamut, a poet and filmmaker, became a target of the state because he was seen to represent an independent Uyghur identity.

Readers get a taste of why widely instituted facial-recognition technology became a threat to him. It was now possible for the state

to automatically and simultaneously compare face prints from thousands of camera feeds and security checkpoints against a blacklist with tens of thousands of names in just a few seconds — swift enough to track people in real time as they moved across the city [of Urumqi]. In China, the tech-



AP Images

Xi Jinping

nology could be linked to the country’s national ID database to create what was in effect a digital lineup of more than a billion people.

The creation of the surveillance state came in stages. People started to disappear. Cell-phones became one means for the Party to keep control. Police officials at desks on sidewalks could demand that pedestrians surrender their smartphones, which could then be plugged into scanning devices that were given the labels of “Anti-Terrorism Swords.” These devices, we read,

searched for more than 53,000 identifiers of Islamic or political activity. Anyone whose phone has a copy of the Koran, encrypted chat apps like WhatsApp, or a virtual private network for getting around the country’s internet filters would be taken in for interrogation. Even photos of Turkish film characters were enough to get someone dragged into a police station.

Homes weren’t much safer. Police had started making daily visits to some families to scan their QR codes and search for unapproved guests.

Eventually, Hamut and his family wound up in a Uyghur community in northern Virginia. As a result, five remaining relatives

of Hamut and his wife were sent to reeducation camps in China, and only released in late 2019. Photographs of them, say the authors, evoke pictures of “Japanese POW camps or Jews rescued from Auschwitz, pale and gaunt.”

Reprogramming Uyghurs

The horrendous mistreatment of the Muslim Uyghurs is not unique. In fact, to lead the effort against the Uyghurs, the communists leaned on the same official (Chen Quanguo) who had helped secure ultimate control over Tibet. Chen also burned the books of the Falun Gong movement and led the purging of errant Party members in Henan province, where the Party constructed “Reeducation Through Labor” camps. (It would have improved the book to have had a better map — there is one — showing details in such areas.)

Part of the anti-Uyghur campaign in Xinjiang included the introduction of widely scattered, euphemistically named “convenience police stations.” As the authors note, the beneficiaries of this “convenience” were “Party leaders looking for a more efficient way to exert control over the Uyghur population.”

The first official to be given the top slot in both Tibet and Xinjiang, Chen “wasted little time” in the latter, write the authors. During his

first four months in charge, he built 4,900 convenience police stations — giving Xinjiang twenty times as many police stations per capita as Chicago — the vast majority in neighborhoods dominated by Uyghurs. He would order construction of at least 2,800 more over the following year and a half. Each police station was connected to a network of surveillance cameras.

Surveillance led to construction of “transformation through education” centers. We learn how, assisted by government documents, “suspicious” people got flagged (24,000 during one week in 2017); two-thirds of those were detained (some arrested and sent to prison); and around 15,000 were dispatched to the new facilities.

The Party bosses are not trying to “erad-

icate” the Uyghurs, write the authors, but rather are “attempting to reprogram them.”

What’s going on in such places? Ethnic Kazakhs, who had been held in the camps and later made it across the border to Kazakhstan, told what happened to them. One former detainee, we read,

described being bound to a chair for up to nine hours at a time and interrogated about links to religious groups abroad. Afterward, he and other inmates would be roused at 4:00 A.M. and forced to go on forty-five-minute runs, shouting, “The Communist Party is good!” Breakfast was bread and barely flavored soup. The rest of the day was taken up by political study, which involved reading Communist Party documents, watching videos of Xi Jinping, and singing patriotic songs. They were told to not pray or fast during Ramadan.

There’s much more in that vein. All activities are constantly monitored. Others from other camps gave similar accounts. Various estimates put the numbers of those interned at a million or more, perhaps a tenth of Xinjiang’s Muslim population.

Western Partners

The scope of the book goes beyond China’s borders; it also reviews some not-so-distant history. It brings to mind the oft-apt Santayana aphorism about those who can-

not remember the past being condemned to repeat it.

Recalling IBM’s early collaboration with Nazi Germany, the authors draw some similar parallels between Western companies and investors and the Chinese Communist Party’s surveillance state. In this regard, the authors make use of research by, among others, Greg Walton in his 2001 book *China’s Golden Shield: Corporations and the Development of Surveillance Technology in the People’s Republic of China*.

For example, Chin and Lin mention the Golden Shield project by which the Ministry of State Security in China sought to upgrade the Great Firewall of internet filtering. Western firms flocked for a piece of the action; the authors point to American companies Cisco Systems, Motorola, and Sun Microsystems; Germany’s Siemens; and Canada’s Nortel Networks.

Here were some of the big players serving as midwives at the beginning of the Party’s surveillance state. At the time, we read, China was

already buying close to \$20 billion of Silicon Valley’s original telecommunications equipment from foreign firms, according to Walton’s calculations. Sun Microsystems, one of Silicon Valley’s original computer and software success stories, helped the Ministry of Public Security build a national fingerprint database. Nortel, one of North America’s dominant

makers of networking gear at the time, provided state-owned Shanghai Telecom with state-of-the-art equipment that allowed the Chinese Telecom to filter out unwanted URLs at the point where individual subscribers accessed the internet, allowing for fine-tuned censorship.

American academe also boosted the Party, and/or was exploited by it.

Years later, under the Trump administration, as the authors point out, American officials did try “to prohibit sales of advanced American companies, with limited success.”

One of the book’s relatively few weaknesses is in its conclusions, which mention, among others, the “allure of algorithmic simplicity.” After marshalling scads of evidence as ammunition, there’s more of a whimper than a bang at the end.

The authors suggest that the answer for the abuses of surveillance technology might be found in “Europe’s privacy law,” which is rooted, we are assured, in “international human rights law.” They don’t seem that credulous, if it is indeed naïvete, in other regards.

Book schedules are long-term propositions and can’t cover events that happen after publication. But there are some recent “international human rights” actions worthy of mention. The Chinese Communist Party continues to abuse the Uyghurs and others, yet the United Nations Human Rights Council in October voted to not even discuss the findings of abuse made by its own commissioner. China is one of the council’s big dogs, and its lobbying worked. Lapdogs such as Cuba and Venezuela took Beijing’s side. Ukraine was one of the abstentions. Several nations with Muslim majorities (Indonesia, Pakistan, Qatar, and the United Arab Republic) were among those voting “no.”

Those latter countries, suggested the editors of *The Wall Street Journal*, either “don’t want to offend China or are on the hook as part of its Belt and Road Initiative.” If that Human Rights Council cannot pass a “motion merely to open discussion on China’s abuses in Xinjiang,” continued the editors, “there’s no reason for it to exist, or for the United States to continue to be a member.” Better yet would be getting out of the United Nations itself — a story for another day. ■



Uyghur people in Xinjiang Autonomous Region

wikipedia/ Todenhoft

BY WILLIAM S. HAHN, CEO OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Truth: **The Pillars of Civilization**

The struggle of humanity has always been one of good versus evil, beginning with a spiritual war. The Bible's books of Ezekiel and Isaiah detail the creation and character of Lucifer. Ezekiel 28:17 partially reads, "Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor."

Isaiah 14:13-15 declares, "You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit."

Lucifer was created as a perfect angel but corrupted himself through pride, started a war in Heaven to overthrow God, and was thrown down to Earth along with those angels that took part in the rebellion. The book of Genesis records what Lucifer, now called Satan after his fall, did to corrupt mankind, introducing sin, death, disease, and a hard life of toiling and pain. All of this based on pride — thinking, planning, and scheming that a created being could ascend higher than the Creator.

Robert Welch, founder of The John Birch Society, reminded us in December 1970 of this principle in his John Birch Resolutions. He wrote, "We are being induced to 'call evil good, and good evil' — while we pat ourselves on the back over our sophistication — exactly as did those who were so 'modern' in the days of Isaiah."

You might recognize Welch's reference to Isaiah 5:20, about a time when civilization was experiencing a downward slide similar to that of modern-day America. Welch also explained why this was happening: "What had taken place was an insidiously conducted rationalization, to befuddle the public and make sin seem merely a sophisticated fashion.... It is because the collectivist conspirators of all eras really learn something from history — which the rest of the human race generally refuses to do — that we have looked briefly at these episodes and epigrams from the past. For they serve as at least partial prototypes and guides for what is happening right now."

History is repeating itself because of a lack of knowledge among the masses, who are easily led by their own ignorance and pride. Doesn't that about sum up today's world? There are



those who know the truth and those who don't. The latter are easily manipulated into thinking that we can play "god" and transform human civilization in order to stop the planet from warming, freezing, burning up, being flooded, or whatever other climate crisis or pandemic they come up with; that a man can become a woman, or that marriage is no longer according to God's design; and that our constitutional Republic is really a democracy.

Thank God for Robert Welch. His answer to this insidious plot was to create an organization of concerned

Americans to expose the agenda behind this conspiracy and educate the electorate in the principled pillars of truth that comprise Americanism. This remains the mission of The John Birch Society today. The JBS is committed to placing the shining beacon of truth on a pedestal for all to see, and to removing the blinders and shackles that globalists are forging for every nation.

Since 1958, members of The John Birch Society have accomplished this by organizing locally into chapters and then getting out into the community to inform people of various threats to our liberty and how these can be overcome. JBS efforts include community outreach through shows, fairs, events, and general gatherings; organizing support for or opposition to specific legislation; and encouraging nullification of unconstitutional actions in order to strengthen and protect God-given rights. Our fingerprints have been all over the history of this country for the last 64 years. It's our firm belief that if they hadn't been, then the United States would have already been lost to the New World Order.

We can restore the great civilization that we've inherited. Those who seek to bring us low in their pursuit of absolute power will only succeed in their plans if the citizens of this great nation do not reclaim the parapets of our culture. This includes reinvigorating and restoring our churches and acquiring again the reverence for God that was the core of the faith of our fathers. The John Birch Society is not a religious organization, but we stand with George Washington, who reminded us in his Farewell Address, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports."

If you're on the side of truth, it's time to join The John Birch Society. Start at JBS.org. ■



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