

California: How Far Left Can It Go? • Why Won't the Ten Commandments Just Go Away?

The

July 9, 2018 • \$3.95

New American

www.TheNewAmerican.com

THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH



**GOLDEN
NO LONGER**

Is California Doomed?

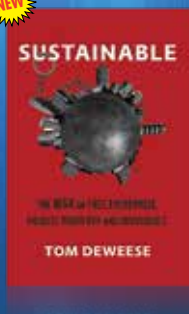


PRODUCTS

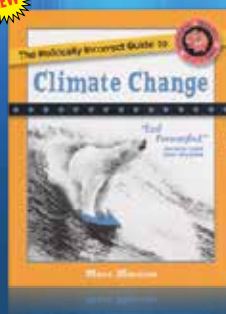
NEW



NEW



NEW



NEW



NEW



Inconvenient Facts: The Science That Al Gore Doesn't Want You to Know

This autographed book is a common-sense rebuttal to the "climate change" zealots' arguments that humanity is to blame for the change in the weather and the Earth's climatic ills. (2017, 158pp, pb) **BKIF**

Sustainable: The War on Free Enterprise, Private Property and Individuals

This book describes in detail the process being used at every level of government to reorganize our society under the excuse of environmental protection. (2018, pb, 206pp, \$19.95) **BKSWFE**

The Politically Incorrect Guide to Climate Change

Less freedom. More regulation. Higher costs. Make no mistake: Those are the surefire consequences of the modern global-warming campaign waged by political and cultural elites, who have long ago abandoned fact-based science for dramatic fearmongering in order to push increased central planning. (2018, 285pp, pb, \$19.95) **BKPIGCH**

Killing the Deep State

In *Killing the Deep State*, Jerome Corsi lays it all out — from alarming evidence that the FBI planned to take out Trump to a plan that will help the commander-in-chief and his allies stop, expose, and destroy this dangerous shadow government. (2018, HB, 256pp; \$29.95ea; 2+/\$27.95ea) **BKKDS**

Exposing Deep State — DVD

The "Deep State" DVD features five videos of Alex Newman reporting on five aspects of the Deep State: 1. Bureaucracy; 2. "Intelligence" Agencies; 3. Behind the Deep State; 4. Secret Societies; and 5. Money Men. (2018, 1-10/\$1.00ea; 11-20/\$0.90ea; 21-49/\$0.80ea; 50-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.70ea; 1000+/\$0.64ea Combined time of 36min, DVD) *Sold in clear plastic sleeve only. **DVDDS**

QUANTITY	TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL PRICE

SUBTOTAL

SHIPPING/HANDLING
(SEE CHART BELOW)

WI RESIDENTS ADD
5% SALES TAX

TOTAL

ShopJBS.org
The Official Store of The John Birch Society

Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org
Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:
ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
APPLETON, WI 54912

1-800-342-6491



Order Online

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ Discover
☐ Money Order ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

180709

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Order Subtotal	Standard Shipping	Rush Shipping
\$0-10.99	\$6.36	\$9.95
\$11.00-19.99	\$7.75	\$12.75
\$20.00-49.99	\$9.95	\$14.95
\$50.00-99.99	\$13.75	\$18.75
\$100.00-149.99	\$15.95	\$20.95
\$150.00+	call	call

Standard: 4-14
business days.
Rush: 3-7 business
days, no P.O. Boxes,
HI/AK add \$10.00



THE MOST COMPLETE LINE FOR THE PLASTIC INDUSTRY

THERMOFORMERS • TOOLING • GRANULATORS

Irwin Research & Development continues to be at the forefront in developing new and innovative machinery for the Thermoforming industry. From our state of the art, high-speed Thermoformers, to our Chesaw granulators, packaging equipment and our new EPS in-line sheet splicer. You can rely on Irwin to provide the most advanced technology for the Thermoforming market.



IRWIN

Research & Development, Inc.

THE ORIGINAL TECHNOLOGY

Phone 509.457.5080 www.irwinresearch.com

SPREAD THE WORD

Golden No Longer: Is California Doomed?

California Democrats say the rest of the country should seek to emulate California socially and economically, but any honest review of California's finances and culture would show how terribly disastrous the state of that state actually is. (July 9, 2018, 48pp) TNA180709



Colleges Igniting Promiscuity

Colleges are actually hosting events such as "Sex Week" that push most types of perversity on youth, dismantling students' morals and making them ideologically vulnerable. (June 18, 2018, 48pp) TNA180618



Their Plans With Your Money

Trump signed an omnibus spending bill that funds the priorities of most people in government and industries and organizations reliant on government funding, but shouldn't there be limits? (May 21, 2018, 48pp) TNA180521



Targeting the NRA — to Get Your Guns

Leftists aim to demean the NRA in the hope that they can make gun ownership itself politically incorrect and socially unacceptable. Toward this end, they put out loads of negative press about the recent NRA convention. (June 4, 2018, 48pp) TNA180604



The Opioid Epidemic: What's the Solution?

Americans are dying in droves from opioid overdoses. Government is going after doctors, saying they're to blame. Government has it wrong, and is making the problem worse. (May 7, 2018, 48pp) TNA180507

QUANTITY	TITLE/DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PRICE
	Golden No Longer:...	Mix or Match <input type="checkbox"/> 1 copy \$3.95 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 copies \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 copies \$31.25 <i>100+ copies*</i>
	Colleges Igniting Promiscuity	
	Their Plans With Your Money	
	Targeting the NRA — to Get Your...	
	The Opioid Epidemic:...	
ENTER MIX OR MATCH QUANTITIES AND SUBTOTAL		

ShopJBS.org
The Official Store of The John Birch Society

Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org
Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:
ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
APPLETON, WI 54912

1-800-342-6491



Order Online

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ Discover
☐ Money Order ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

180709

SUBTOTAL

SHIPPING
(SEE CHART BELOW)

WI RESIDENTS ADD
5% SALES TAX

TOTAL

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Order Subtotal	Standard Shipping	Rush Shipping
\$0-10.99	\$6.36	\$9.95
\$11.00-19.99	\$7.75	\$12.75
\$20.00-49.99	\$9.95	\$14.95

Standard: 4-14 business days.
Rush: 3-7 business days, no P.O. Boxes, HI/AK add \$10.00

*For rush orders and special rates for case lots of 100, call (800) 727-TRUE or go to ShopJBS.org.

COVER STORY

CALIFORNIA

10 Golden No Longer: Is California Doomed?

by William F. Jasper — Beneath the surface of showy glitter, California is becoming a hollow shell, with rising poverty, crumbling infrastructure, sky-high taxes, and a fleeing middle class.

21 California: How Far Left Can It Go?

by William F. Jasper — A new generation of ultra-left ideologues backed by billionaire tech moguls is challenging the “old guard” Democrats in order to push an even more-extreme Marxist agenda.

24 California: Fighting for Freedom — and Survival

by William F. Jasper — “It’s not over ‘til it’s over.” Refusing to submit and surrender to tyrannical government, many Californians are fighting a desperate battle to reclaim their state.

FEATURES

WORLD

27 Fearless Faith

by James Murphy — Though the persecution of Christians worldwide is on the rise, many Christians are keeping their faith — and actually spreading it.

HISTORY — PAST AND PERSPECTIVE

33 Why Won’t the Ten Commandments Just Go Away?

by John A. Eidsmoe — Conflicts over putting Ten Commandments displays on public grounds keep recurring, but they shouldn’t. The Ten Commandments form the foundation of federal and local laws.

THE LAST WORD

44 Bilderberg Discusses Threats to Its Globalist Agenda

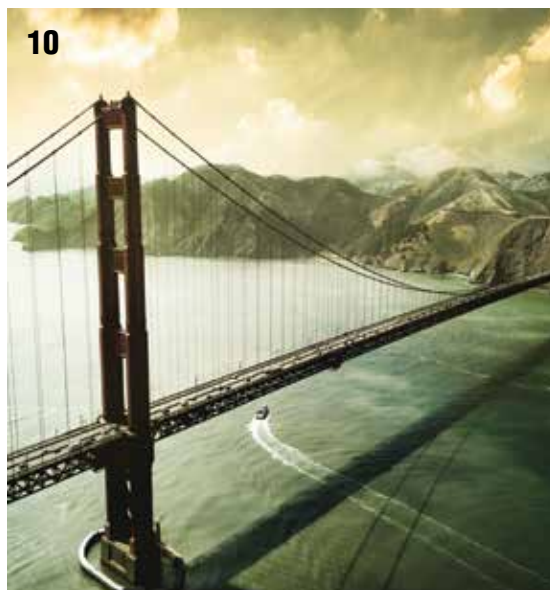
by Alex Newman

DEPARTMENTS

5 Letters to the Editor 32 The Goodness of America

7 Inside Track 40 Exercising the Right

9 QuickQuotes 41 Correction, Please!



frankreporter/GettyImagesPlus



AP Images



AP Images



AP Images



allanswan/GettyImagesPlus

TRAIL WINDS P L A Z A



SPACE AVAILABLE

5,640 square ft.

Call 239-677-7441 or Email dennyfog@aol.com

Cleveland Ave. (Rt. 41) • Ft. Myers, Florida • Stamra Inc.

Publisher & Editor
Gary Benoit

Senior Editor
William F. Jasper

Managing Editor
Kurt Williamsen

Copy Editor
John T. Larabell

Foreign Correspondent
Alex Newman

Contributors

*Bob Adelman • Dennis Behreandt
Steve Byas • Raven Clabough
Selwyn Duke • Brian Farmer
Christian Gomez • Larry Greenley
Gregory A. Hession, J.D.
Ed Hiserodt • William P. Hoar
Patrick Krey, J.D. • Warren Mass
John F. McManus • James Murphy
Dr. Duke Pesta • Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.
C. Mitchell Shaw • Michael Tennant
Rebecca Terrell • Fr. James Thornton
Laurence M. Vance • Joe Wolverton II, J.D.*

Art Director
Joseph W. Kelly

Graphic Designer
Katie Bradley

Research
Bonnie M. Gillis

Vice President of Communications
Bill Hahn

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 • 920-749-3785 (fax)
www.thenewamerican.com
editorial@thenewamerican.com

Rates are \$49 per year (Canada, add \$9; foreign, add \$27) Copyright ©2018 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

THE NEW AMERICAN is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

A Matter of Sovereignty

The current political battle raging in America can be reduced to one issue and one issue only: Do you want the citizen to remain the sovereign in our nation, as defined by our Declaration of Independence and codified in the Constitution (our supreme law of the land), or do you want the government to be the sovereign, as demanded by the American Left, which includes the National Socialist Democratic Party, half of the Republican Party, the global news corporations, and the vast majority of liberal arts professors, labor unions (both public and private), the entertainment industry, athletic entertainment, and, of course, the central government?

Most of the people who want the leftist vision are products of the government schools and victims of a liberal arts degree. Since America turned over control of the liberal arts colleges, the schools that teach our teachers, to the socialists/communists in the 1970s, each generation has more socialist-minded young people, as witnessed by the 30 million or so young supporters of the socialist Bernie Sanders. As the university preaches today, the government will think tomorrow.

On March 24, 2018, the “March for Our Lives” produced hundreds of thousands of well-organized, well-funded protesters demanding gun confiscation and the end to our Constitution. This march was more reminiscent of a march in 1930’s socialist Germany than any rights march as seen in our history. It showed how effective the indoctrination of our youth has been.

We could discuss forms of government until we are blue in the face — Fascist, communist, Nazi (national socialist), democracy, republic — but when we boil the issue down, we have only two forms of government, citizen sovereignty and government sovereignty. For the American Left, global socialism is the goal, and the Left is after our sovereignty. Make no mistake about it.

The 2016 election brought out the wrath of the American Left in full force and its hatred for productive people and citizen sovereignty. Government used to be populated by what we used to call public servants, but they have turned out to be self-serving tax parasites insulating themselves from the fluctuations of

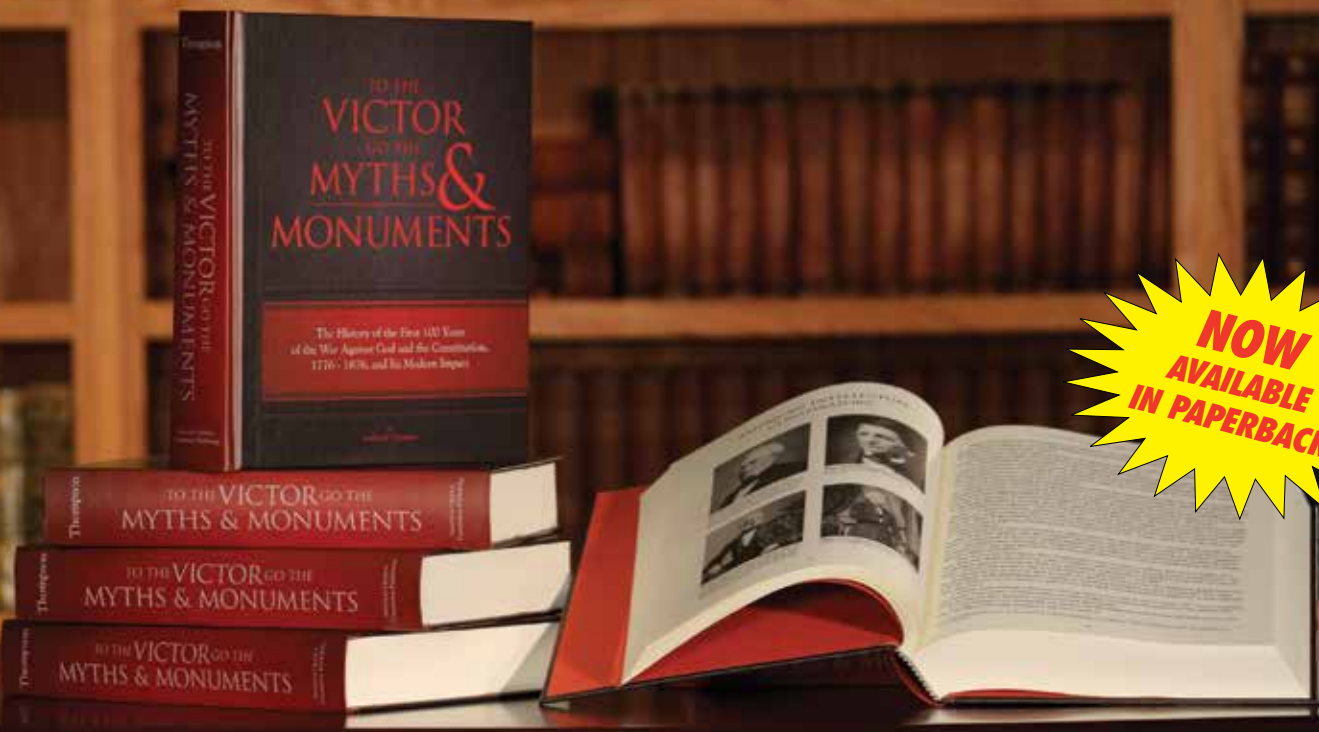
the economy and our society. The well-funded and well-organized leftist organizations worked relentlessly to undermine and disrupt and even destroy the Trump campaign.

It became glaringly apparent that we no longer have a free press but, instead, global news corporations with self-serving interests that conflict with honest reporting of the news. And America has become a two-tiered society, with sovereign citizens on one side and public servants (and welfare recipients) on the other. Private-sector wages have been stagnant for the past 20 years, with diminishing benefits, healthcare, and pensions, while public-servant pay has enjoyed a steady increase with growing benefits, healthcare, and pensions, none of which the public has ever voted on.

In the “Golden State” of California, the greed and self-service displayed by government workers is unprecedented. Last year the chancellor of the University of California system, Mark Yudof, retired after seven grueling years, with a lifetime income (pension) of \$357,000 a year. For you, the taxpayer, to retire on a similar income would require you to save more than \$8,000,000, on which you’re paid four percent. Keep in mind that a new chancellor will be appointed with equal or better pay. How many other chancellors are we paying? Yudof is but one of thousands of government workers who have designated themselves more equal than the peasantry that pays for these golden pensions. The California taxpayer is forced to pay for at least two people for every government job in the state: One to do the job and at least one retired from the job. When the government is paid by something other than the productivity of the people, the role of master and servant is reversed. Unless our public servants live by the same laws, rules, regulations, and pay as the general public, we will never return to a representative form of government.

JIM DAVIS
Prescott, Arizona

Send your letters to: THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912. Or e-mail: editorial@thenewamerican.com. Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.



**NOW
AVAILABLE
IN PAPERBACK**

To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments:
The History of the First 100 Years of the War Against God and the Constitution, 1776-1876, and Its Modern Impact
By Arthur R. Thompson, CEO, The John Birch Society
(2016ed, 492pp, pb, 1/\$14.95ea; 2-14/\$13.95ea; 15+/\$12.95ea) BKTVGMPB

Transforming the Way We Look at American History

Knowing American history is essential to understanding the American system of government and the role citizens are to play. When that education is undermined and replaced with the opposite of our Founders' intent, the ramifications for protecting God-given liberty for current and future generations are great.

To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments details a deliberate, organized opposition working to subvert the American Republic. It's American history that all Americans need to learn so they can understand the proper role of government and their role in the American system.

Based on 45-plus years of research, this groundbreaking book reveals history as you've never seen it before.
Purchase copies for yourself and influential friends and opinion molders in your community.

QUANTITY	TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL PRICE

SUBTOTAL

**SHIPPING/HANDLING
(SEE CHART BELOW)**

**WI RESIDENTS ADD
5% SALES TAX**

TOTAL

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Order Subtotal	Standard Shipping	Rush Shipping
\$0-10.99	\$6.36	\$9.95
\$11.00-19.99	\$7.75	\$12.75
\$20.00-49.99	\$9.95	\$14.95
\$50.00-99.99	\$13.75	\$18.75
\$100.00-149.99	\$15.95	\$20.95
\$150.00+	call	call

**Standard: 4-14
business days.
Rush: 3-7 business
days, no P.O. Boxes,
HI/AK add \$10.00**

ShopJBS.org
The Official Store of The John Birch Society

Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org
Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:
ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
APPLETON, WI 54912

1-800-342-6491



Order Online

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- ☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ Discover
☐ Money Order ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express



Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

180709

Turkish President Warns of War Between Islam and Christianity

The world may be heading “towards a war between the cross and the crescent,” warned Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a June 9 speech in Istanbul. Erdoğan was responding to recent measures Austria took against jihadism, namely, that the Austrian government plans to shut down seven mosques and expel up to 60 Turkish-funded imams as part of a crackdown on “political Islam.”

In reality, Erdoğan’s gripe is that Austria is resisting a war already raging — a demographic war. It’s a conflict the Turkish leader has been enthusiastic about and has encouraged. For example, after Germany and the Netherlands clamped down on pro-Turkish rallies last year, Erdoğan growled that “Europe will pay for what they have done.” Just prior to this, in March 2017, he expressed demographic-jihadist sentiments, saying to Turks in Europe, “Have five children, not three. You are Europe’s future.”

In this vein, prominent Turkish official Alpaslan Kavaklıoğlu proclaimed earlier this year that “Europe will be Muslim.” Likewise, Erdoğan has called Europe a “sick man,” presumably ripe for conquest. Unfortunately, he’s not all wrong, either. Fertility rates have plummeted to below replacement level throughout the Western world, resulting in a decline in its native populations. This has been used by statist politicians as a pretext for massive Third World immigration into the continent. “We need workers!” is the rallying cry (even though robots are poised to replace them).

But providing workers isn’t exactly what the world’s Erdoğan have in mind. They’re more likely motivated by a cause called the *hijra*, “the migration or journey.” Prescribed by the Koran, the idea is for Muslims to engage in demographic jihad: to move to a land and Islamize it via numerical dominance.

No one articulated this goal more bluntly than late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, when he stated in 2006, “We have 50 million Muslims in Europe. There are signs that Allah will grant Islam victory in Europe — without swords, without guns, without conquest — we will turn it into a Muslim continent within a few decades.”



Recep
Tayyip Erdoğan

AP Images

Pope Francis Lectures Energy Executives About Destroying Civilization



AP Images

Pope Francis and the Vatican hosted the Energy Transition and Care for Our Common Home conference, which ended on June 9, and the pontiff had some strong words for the fossil-fuel industry about so-called man-made climate change and its supposed effects on humanity.

The conference, which was organized by the University of Notre Dame, brought together leading executives from oil giants such as British Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell, Equinor of Norway, Pemex of Mexico, and many others. Also included in the conference were some of the world’s foremost asset managers

and financiers. The event focused on the “necessity” to quickly transition from fossil fuels to “greener” forms of energy in order to combat global warming.

The pope was quite concerned with keeping the irrelevant Paris Climate Accord alive. “As you know,” he said, “in December 2015, 196 Nations negotiated and adopted the Paris Agreement, with a firm resolve to limit the growth in global warming to below 2° centigrade, based on preindustrial levels, and, if possible, to below 1.5° centigrade. Some two-and-a-half years later, carbon dioxide emissions and atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases remain very high. This is disturbing and a cause for real concern.”

The pope has dropped all pretense of any debate on the idea of man-made global warming. He has accepted the apocalyptic notion of it as a fact and has jumped on the pseudo-scientific bandwagon, which conflates CO₂ emissions with air pollution.

While air pollution does indeed kill people each and every day, the pope doesn’t seem to understand that carbon dioxide is not doing this. The conflation of CO₂ emissions with pollution is galling to anyone who understands the relationship between CO₂ and the very food we eat. The pope doesn’t need to listen to climatologists. He needs to listen to agronomists and farmers, who can tell him what the benefits of CO₂ are. “Civilization requires energy but energy use must not destroy civilization,” the pope said, not seeming to understand that the civilization he worries about destroying was largely a product of the fossil fuels he is demonizing.

“Three Californias” Plan Would Multiply Craziness on Left Coast

Come November, California voters will be able to vote on a ballot initiative that proposes to partition their state into three separate states: California, Northern California, and Southern California. Under the proposed plan, the new “California” would be dominated by Los Angeles, “Northern California” would be dominated by San Francisco, and “Southern California” would be dominated by San Diego.

On June 12, the office of California Secretary of State Alex Padilla certified that a sufficient number of voter signatures had been gathered for the ballot initiative, making the measure eligible to appear on the ballot for the general election on November 6, 2018. The initiative, if approved by voters, will call on California’s governor to ask the U.S. Congress to carry out the division.

If “Three Californias” becomes reality, two states and four Senate seats, along with most of the congressional and Electoral College votes, would be delivered to “safe” Democrat strongholds, while the other two Senate seats would be “in play.” This



is another way of saying that the new Southern California and its two Senate seats would have a chance of being Republican — until the continuing influx of illegal aliens could be organized as a voting bloc to vote the Democrats in.

The Three Californias (CAL 3) initiative is the brainchild of billionaire Tim Draper, a Silicon Valley venture capitalist who has bankrolled the efforts with millions of his own dollars. Much of Draper’s CAL 3 rhetoric is aimed at co-opting support of political conservatives, many of whom may see this as a last-ditch chance to salvage an escape from the Democrat-imposed approaching doom. However, the main failure of CAL 3 is that its designers have sculpted the proposed

new states in such a way that the less-populated rural counties will be perpetually at the mercy of the big coastal cities, which are controlled by far-left Democrats. The small cities and towns and farming, ranching, mining, and timber communities of the northern, central, and southern parts of the state will continue to be steamrolled by the big-city political machines.

Trump and Kim Pledge Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula

President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met at a historic summit in Singapore on June 11 and signed a joint statement at the conclusion of their meeting, pledging denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

After meeting with Kim, Trump held a news conference in Singapore with members of the press. At the conference, Trump said, “Chairman Kim and I just signed a joint statement in which he reaffirms his unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” Continuing, he stated: “Chairman Kim has told me that North Korea is already destroying a major missile engine testing site. That’s not in your signed document; we agreed to that after the agreement was signed. That’s a big thing. For the missiles that they were testing, the site is going to be destroyed very soon.”

Trump is very likely aware that communist leaders have not kept such promises in the past, because he said, “In the meantime, the sanctions will remain in effect.”

A reporter asked the president if the assurances he gave to Kim included reducing the U.S. military capabilities in South Korea.

Trump answered, “We’re not reducing anything.... I used to say this during my campaign.... I want to get our soldiers out. I want to bring our soldiers back home.”

“We have right now 32,000 soldiers in South Korea. And I’d like to be able to bring them back home, but that’s not part of the equation right now. At some point I hope it will be, but not right now.”



Though the North Koreans did not make the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea part of the negotiations, it is something that American noninterventionists have been calling for for years, so they will find Trump’s statement disappointing.

Despite the promising rhetoric, a Reuters report cited several unnamed experts who said the summit failed to secure any concrete commitments by North Korea to dismantle its nuclear arsenal. ■

Leader of NASA Flip-flops Regarding Global-warming Claims

"It is extremely likely that human activity is the dominant cause of global warming and I have no reason to doubt the science."

*Admitting that he now believes that greenhouse gases are the primary cause of a warming of the planet, former Oklahoma Congressman **Jim Bridenstine** reversed his former stand on the matter. He only recently won appointment as the leader of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*



Jim
Bridenstine

AP Images

House Democrat Leader Says "No" to Impeachment

"Impeachment is, to me, divisive. If the facts are there, then this would have to be bipartisan to go forward. But if it is viewed as partisan, it will divide the country, and I just don't think that's what we should do."

*Some Democrat congressmen seeking reelection have sought to gain support for their desire to impeach President Trump. But former House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** (D-Calif.) disagrees with their plan.*

Ex-Speaker Claims the GOP Has Become the Trump Party



John
Boehner

AP Images

"There is no Republican Party. There is a Trump Party. The Republican Party is taking a nap somewhere."

*Former House Speaker **John Boehner** reluctantly told a gathering of Republicans in Michigan that the Bush-Boehner style of Republicanism is dead, at least for now.*

Arrests at U.S.-Mexico Border Continue to Rise

"No one expects to reverse years of political inaction overnight or in a month. It is also clear that change will take more than administration action alone."

*Spokesman **Tyler Houlton** of the Department of Homeland Security addressed the situation after the department noted that there were approximately 52,000 arrests at the border in May, the third month in a row when the number of those arrested rose.*

World Government Advocate Laments Turn Away From His Goal

"The European Union is in an existential crisis. Everything that could go wrong has gone wrong."

*Billionaire leftist **George Soros** is worried about several European countries that are threatening to withdraw from the EU. He also saw several "progressive" candidates he financed in races to win U.S. House seats soundly defeated.*

President Admits His Pact With North Korean Leader May Backfire

"I think, honestly, he's going to [abide by his pledges]. I may be wrong. I mean I may stand before you in six months and say, 'Hey, I was wrong.' I don't know that I'll ever admit that, but I'll find some kind of an excuse."

*Speaking after returning home from the meeting with the North Korean dictator, President **Donald Trump** didn't seem overly confident that Kim Jong-un could be trusted.*

China's Actions Toward Taiwan Don't Match Soothing Rhetoric

"The Chinese government always says it wants to win the hearts and minds of the Taiwanese people. But their military threats against Taiwan and the diplomatic assault against Taiwan are not doing that." *Taiwan's Foreign Minister **Joseph Wu** told reporters that actions speak louder than words, and the actions taken by the Beijing government pose a threat to Taiwan's very existence as an entity separate from mainland China. ■*



Joseph
Wu

AP Images

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



GOLDEN NO LONGER

Is California Doomed?

Beneath the surface of showy glitter, California is becoming a hollow shell, with rising poverty, crumbling infrastructure, sky-high taxes, and a fleeing middle class.

About a dozen years ago, on a return flight to California from the East Coast, this writer chanced to be seated next to two lovely elderly ladies. They were sisters, and like most Americans of my parents' generation had been acquainted with hardship during the Great Depression years. That's when their family had headed to California. After their father lost their family dairy farm in Minnesota, the chatty sisters explained, he decided their best option was to join the great migration to "the Golden State." So, they piled all their belongings onto their old farm truck and it was "Westward Ho!"

"To us, California really was the golden state," one of the sisters recounted, her face aglow at the memory. "We didn't have much when we got there. We lived in a tent for quite a while, but we didn't mind. Everything was so new, exciting and magical: palm trees, the ocean, citrus groves — and lots of warm sunshine, not like the blizzards and hard winters we left behind in Minnesota." "Everybody called us 'Okies,'" the other sister chimed in, "but we had never even been to Oklahoma; that's just what they called all of us homeless folks back then." The whole family worked, picking oranges and other produce, and doing whatever odd jobs they could. It was a challenging time, but still a very happy one, they recalled. Their affectionate reminiscences of California in the 1930s, albeit as seen through the eyes of young girls, and evoked fondly in memories softened by age, belie the relentlessly grim images we associate with the *Grapes of Wrath* era. Their father, utilizing his farm machinery-repair skills, eventually landed a steady job as a mechanic. Within a few years, he had his own prosperous auto-mechanic shop in Orange County, and the family soon bought a modest home in a nice middle-class neighborhood. And, said the ladies, most of the other folks they knew in like circumstances also pulled through in similar fashion. That was, indeed, a *golden* time, they said. In more recent years, however, that glow and shine has begun to fade, to the point where now, they opined, the state might be tarnished beyond repair and headed toward collapse.

Why did these 20th-century Califor-

nia "pioneers" hold such a bleak outlook toward the future of their adopted state? The catalog of ills the ladies rattled off was not surprising: out-of-control state government spending, high taxes, drugs, crime, gangs, failing schools, massive illegal immigration, decaying roads and infrastructure, rampant homosexuality and immorality, total erosion of manners and civility, increasing racial animosity, and more. In virtually all of these areas, conditions have worsened in the dozen years or so since that conversation. These afflictions are not unique to California, but the state does magnify and concentrate these ills to such a degree that millions of Americans, including millions of Californians (and ex-Californians), share this pessimistic assessment of the state's future.

Are they wrong to hold such a dismal view of prospects for the once-golden state? Absolutely, says California's Jerry Brown cheering section. Governor

"Moonbeam" Brown, now finishing his second double term as the state's executive, never misses an opportunity to denounce President Donald Trump, defy federal law, and flaunt California's size and economic muscle. Over the past year, he has roamed the world stage as a United Nations "special envoy" on global warming and other environmental issues dear to the hearts of greenies. "The truth of the matter is that California, with its strong renewable energy, its very far-reaching greenhouse gas reduction set of policies — our economy grows faster than the national average," Brown stated at a UN climate conference last November in Bonn, Germany. "So, I think that is very good proof that green energy, wind, solar, new electricity grid, battery storage, electric cars, hydrogen cars — all of these create new jobs, the jobs of the future."

Brown and his fellow Democrats who run California regularly point out that their

The catalog of ills the ladies rattled off was not surprising: out-of-control state government spending, high taxes, drugs, crime, gangs, failing schools, massive illegal immigration, decaying roads and infrastructure, rampant homosexuality and immorality, total erosion of manners and civility, and more.



The undertaker? Lifelong politician Jerry Brown — secretary of state, attorney general, four terms as governor — is responsible more than any other single individual for the laws and policies that are killing California.

Brown and his fellow Democrats who run California regularly point out that their state is the world's sixth-largest economy, surpassed only by the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

state is the world's sixth-largest economy, surpassed only by the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, a radical activist appointed by Governor Brown, told a press conference on March 11, 2018: "When President Trump comes to California, he'll see a state that's No. 1 in manufacturing, agriculture, high-tech, in graduating young people from college." The Brown PR squad makes things appear quite rosy on Planet California, right?

But let's unpack some facts to see if the Democrat narrative is kosher.

As to the first claim — that California's economy grows faster than the national average, largely because of California's strict renewable energy mandates — the facts themselves almost cringe because they are being abused so badly.

First of all, there are some ugly facts about this legend of a "miracle" concerning California's much-hyped booming economy that are conveniently spiked by the Brown gang and its media allies. Nevertheless, the truth seeps out.

California is suffering deleterious effects

of debilitating taxes and regulations, which have been masked by the huge economic rebound of the tech industries and the stock market since the 2008-2009 financial meltdown. But California's tech boom is mainly a one-trick pony that is not replicated in other industries in that state, and it's a show pony that doesn't provide the jobs and income for the masses to be well off.

"The tech boom of the last decade has obscured the decline of California's basic industries, such as energy and manufacturing," notes Joel Kotkin in the *City Journal*. "California's above-average job performance since 2010 is almost entirely a combination of high-income employment growth in the Bay Area and the swelling ranks of low-wage service workers who serve them."

In fact, California's rich-poor divide has been growing, creating a bifurcated society of plutocrats and serfs. A favorite theme of the Left is that under our capitalist system "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer." Their solution to the growing income inequality in our society is bigger government, more government programs, and more government spending. Yet it is in

these deep-blue progressive havens where we see the rich-poor gap at its starkest. A 2016 report by the liberal-globalist Brookings Institution entitled "City and metropolitan inequality on the rise, driven by declining incomes" features San Francisco and Los Angeles among the top 10 metro areas in the nation with the highest household income inequality between the top five percent and the bottom 20 percent. All of the other regressing city metro areas included among the Brookings top 10 — New York, Boston, Bridgeport (Conn.), Houston, Miami, New Orleans, New Haven (Conn.), and McAllen (Texas) — are, with the exception of Miami, ruled by "progressive" Democrats. The economic "boom" in California has been a very uneven and unsustainable one, fueled by investments largely induced by political favoritism and cronyism, not by free-market capitalism. The boom has been very good for the top one to five percent, especially the Silicon Valley tech giants, but not so much for everybody else. As the liberal website Politifact noted, California has "the highest poverty rate in the nation" when comparing states and considering the cost of living.

Two of the big untold parts of the income inequality story as it relates to California concern the impacts of massive investments from China and the enormous influence of imported "coolie labor" in the form of H-1B visa employees, largely from India. Both of these factors have helped to boost the bottom lines of California-based corporations, as well as lift the statistics on "jobs created," but they have not been particularly helpful to California's *American* work force.

"Chinese investment in the US economy was negligible until 2010, when it skyrocketed to \$5 billion. By 2016, annual flows reached more than \$46 billion," according to *Chinese Direct Investment in California: 2017 Update*, a report by the Asia Society and the Rhodium Group. "California became the number one recipient of Chinese FDI [foreign direct investment] in recent years, with more



AP Images

Hi-tech "subsidy entrepreneurs" such as Tesla, which makes high-priced electric cars and solar batteries for the wealthy, have benefited from generous breaks from California political bosses, at taxpayer expense.

than \$16 billion in 2016 alone,” the report continues. “Much of the investment has gone into two important areas — real estate and technology.”

“California leads nationally not only in cumulative Chinese investment dollars, but also in the number of Chinese-owned companies,” the Asia Society/Rhodium Group report states. “At the end of 2016, the Golden State was home to 585 Chinese-owned operations, triple the amount at the end of 2011.... California has more Chinese businesses than any other state and accounts for more than 18% of all Chinese-owned companies nationwide.”

California has also “benefited” from massive Chinese investments in the residential real estate market, if one considers driving the market to unaffordable heights a benefit. Chinese buyers spent \$22 billion on California houses in the first quarter of 2014, according to a July 9, 2014 report in Bloomberg.

According to *Breaking Ground: Chinese Investment in U.S. Real Estate*, another report from the Asia Society, the average home price for Chinese buyers in 2015 was \$831,800, up from \$590,800 in 2014. It was also considerably more than the \$499,600 average home price for all international buyers in 2015. Thirty-five percent of Chinese house purchases in the United States in 2015 were in California, followed by eight percent in Washington, and seven percent in New York.

As should be expected, this enormous infusion of cash has had inflationary consequences on real estate and housing. An average Chinese-buyer home price of \$831,800? Puts a bit of pressure on prospective American home buyers competing for housing in the same market, no? This China cash invasion has made it difficult-to-impossible for working families even to rent, let alone buy, houses in many California communities.

Not to mention that there are additional troubling aspects of this story that are rarely heard, but which should be obvious. In China’s opaque economy, which is tightly controlled by the Communist Party, private businesses and private investors, as well as official State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), are under the thumb of the totalitarian state. As such, they are agents (or potential agents) of the communist state, and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)



H-1B visa game: Google CEO Sundar Pichai speaks during a 2017 news conference about concerns over President Trump’s immigration policies. Google, Facebook, Microsoft, and other tech giants are major importers of foreign workers under the H-1B visa program.

AP Images

has multiple options for inducing them to operate in its interests and against the interests of the United States. This brings up many national security concerns, especially in the area of Beijing’s strategic investments in our high-tech industries.

Additionally, there are human-rights issues to which Governor Brown — “the Great Moralizer” — and his “social justice” activists appear to be oblivious. Like many other politicians — both Republican and Democrat — Brown has made the trek to Communist China, bowing and begging for more of the almighty Chinese yuan. Although he doesn’t hesitate to strike a pugilistic pose and hurl invective at President Trump and his “troglodyte” supporters, “Brown the Pugnacious” becomes “Brown the Obsequious” when he stands before dictator Xi Jinping. Suddenly he becomes Jerry Jello-legs: No mention of torture, political prisoners, religious persecution, executions, forced abortions, Internet surveillance, censorship, or slave labor. His message is: Just give us the money, we’ll look the other way.

As mentioned above, the H-1B foreign worker visa has also been a largely unreported factor that has allowed the oligarchs of Silicon Valley, Brown’s prime constituency, to flourish by gaming the immigration system — at the expense of American workers. Norman Matloff, a professor of computer science at University of California at Davis, has been fighting for the past two decades to expose this threat to America’s technological leadership. He has been a relentless critic of Google, Oracle, Cisco,

Apple, Microsoft, Facebook, and other tech giants that have been the chief lobbyists for flooding the American IT workforce with lower-wage H-1B employees, primarily from India and China. This not only drives down wages and salaries for qualified American workers in computer and technology sciences, but also discourages American students from pursuing careers in these fields that are vital to our viability as a nation. It also allows the foreign workers to be unfairly exploited. The Big Tech companies not only lobby for increases in H-1B visas (now set at 60,000 per year, plus an additional 20,000 for workers with a master’s degree or higher), but also sponsor the workers. This sponsorship, says Dr. Matloff, “renders the workers de facto indentured servants; though they have the right to move to another employer, they do not dare do so, as it would mean starting the lengthy green card process all over again.” They are trapped, and the corporate CEOs and politicians who support this process — including both “progressive” Democrats and “conservative” Republicans — have no problem with the hardship they cause to the workers involved, whether American or foreign.

Government-pension Madness

Adding to California’s fiscal woes is the fact that it is being held hostage by militant public-employee unions that are demanding — and getting — ever-larger payouts in wages, benefits, and pensions from the state’s already-overburdened taxpayers. For more than a decade, crit-

ics of government pension programs have warned that the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) is a looming mega-disaster that will "eat" California. However, that is "old news," we are told by liberal media commentators, who prove their commitments to recycling by regurgitating Governor Brown's press releases on the "miracle" of California's economy. But the claims that Brown and his Democrat-controlled state legislature have balanced the books are based on "fiscal fraud" and "budget legerdemain," according to the editors of *Investor's Business Daily* (IBD). "There is no economic miracle," the IBD editorial charged, "Just a mirage."

This confirmed what many had suspected: The massive pension gap has not been fixed, but is merely being covered up with accounting trickery. "Unfunded pension liabilities continue to represent a colossal fiscal burden for both the state government and local governments within California," noted Stanford University's Joshua D. Rauh in a January 25, 2018 article for the Hoover Institution entitled "Can California Save Itself From a Pension Disaster?" These unfunded liabilities are, says Rauh, "the reason that taxes are higher than ever, crowding out the services that the state and cities deliver. And it's getting worse."

CalPERS is California's — and the nation's — largest pension fund (managing nearly \$350 billion), but it is not the only one in trouble. The California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS), which manages \$222.5 billion, reported on May 10 of this year that it faces an unfunded actuarial obligation of \$107.3 billion. And that's calculated upon an unrealistically high expectation of seven-percent return on investments, which is ridiculous, to put it mildly.

"Combining all the pension funds in California and recalculating their liabilities

Their solution to the growing income inequality in our society is bigger government, more government programs, and more government spending. Yet it is in these deep-blue progressive havens where we see the rich-poor gap at its starkest.



Out-of-reach housing: California home prices and residential rents are among the highest in the nation, making it increasingly difficult for middle-class families to live there.

ties based on the principles of finance, as opposed to governmental accounting magic," Rauh says, "I find that the collective debts that California taxpayers owe public pension funds is \$769 billion — over \$60,000 per California household."

Dan Walters, often called the "dean of California journalists," is no conservative and has frequently been an advocate of big government and more taxes. However, he has been pointing out the unsustainability of the public-employee pension system for years now. "From one end of California to the other," he wrote in an article for *CALmatters* on February 7, 2018, "hundreds of cities are facing a tsunami of pension costs that officials say is forcing them to reduce vital services and could drive some — perhaps many — into functional insolvency or even bankruptcy. The system that manages pension plans for the state government and thousands of local governments lost a staggering \$100 billion or so in the Great Recession a decade ago and has not recovered."

The "C" word, "crisis," is showing up more and more to describe the pending fi-

nancial dilemma. Some of the more radical unionists actually *welcome* the reference. Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of the 35,000-member United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA), described the union's militant vision in a speech to 800 activists at the UTLA Leadership Conference on July 29, 2016. "The next year-and-a-half must be founded upon building our capacity to strike, and *our capacity to create a state crisis, in early 2018*," Caputo-Pearl declared. (Emphasis added.) "There simply may be no other way to protect our health benefits and to shock the system into investing in the civic institution of public education," he said. UTLA is affiliated with the California Teachers Association (CTA), the National Education Association (NEA), and the American Federation of Teachers/AFL-CIO. While the teachers unions have become one of the most powerful forces in California politics (see our companion article on page 21), they receive much assistance in the push for ever bigger and more costly government from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the police and firefighters unions.

According to the government watchdog group Transparent California, almost 53,000 retired California government employees got annual pensions worth at least \$100,000 in 2016. These unsustainable retirement benefits are in addition to enormous payouts of wages and salaries for "public servants." A 2016 investigation by OpenTheBooks.com found that

218,667 government employees were taking home six-figure paychecks, costing California taxpayers \$35 billion.

Crumbling Infrastructure

And California's list of bad economic news isn't over yet. Because it has over-extended itself with payments to remediate its social-engineering schemes, such as unhindered immigration of poor and unskilled labor, it hasn't been keeping up on necessary infrastructure work. In its *2017 Infrastructure Report Card* on California, the American Society of Civil Engineers cataloged the daunting challenges that the state faces in trying to catch up on a huge backlog of neglected maintenance and service. Among its key findings:

- 1,388 (5.5 percent) of California's 25,431 bridges are "structurally deficient";
- 678 dams are rated as "high hazard";
- Drinking water infrastructure needs over the next 20 years will require an investment of \$44.5 billion;
- Wastewater infrastructure needs over the next 20 years amount to \$26.2 billion;
- Of the state's 195,834 miles of public roads, 50 percent are in "poor condition";
- Driving on roads in need of repair in California costs each driver \$844 per year;
- The state's schools have an estimated capital expenditure gap of \$3.2 billion.

While these and many other essential infrastructure projects — levees, the power grid, seaports, canals, and airports

— languish, Governor Jerry Brown has been mono-maniacally fixated on his pet "Bullet Train" construction project that is years behind schedule and tens of billions of dollars over budget.

"The California High Speed Rail, dubbed by opponents as the 'Train to Nowhere,' has become notorious across the nation for the project's wishful thinking and immense cost overruns," says the California-based Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Foundation. "What began as a \$43 billion project meant to connect Los Angeles to San Francisco has skyrocketed to an overwhelming \$77 billion and pushed back to 2033, and they've only just begun the first section of track ... in rural Kern County." Some of the cost estimates now reach \$100 billion.

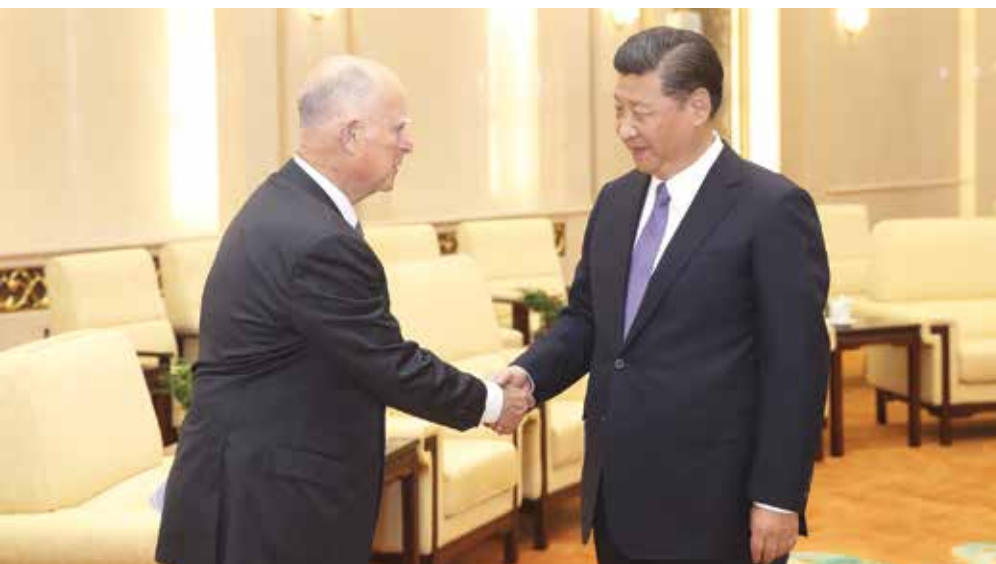
In 2017, Governor Brown signed SB 1 into law, supposedly aimed at solving the infrastructure dilemma by adding a tax hike of 12 cents per gallon on gasoline and 20 cents per gallon on diesel, making California's tax of 53.5 cents per gallon the second highest in the nation (lower only than Pennsylvania's). California's taxes on diesel now amount to 83.47 cents per gallon, according to the American Petroleum Institute. In addition, vehicle registration fees have increased \$25-\$175 depending on the age of the automobile. Even electric-car owners will be hit with a \$100 fee — but not until 2020. Brown promises that *this time* the fuel-tax funds will be spent on in-

frastructure, unlike in the past, when they were spent on a vast array of political buy-off programs. However, the fuel tax/registration fee hikes have caused Trump-sized anger among many state voters, inspiring recall efforts and a ballot proposal to repeal SB 1, which stands a good chance of being passed by voters in November.

Energy Madness

Quite to the contrary of Governor Brown's claims, the state's doubling and tripling down on so-called renewable energy is doing neither the state's poorer residents, nor its environment, nor its bottom line any good. On May 9, 2018, California became the first state to mandate residential solar-energy systems. Beginning on January 1, 2020, all new homes built in the state must come with solar systems installed. The mandate's proponents estimate this will add \$10,000 to the cost of each newly constructed unit. Critics say the cost is likely to be (at least) double that, making California's already-skyrocketing housing costs even more unaffordable. Not surprisingly, "subsidy entrepreneurs" such as First Solar Inc., Sunrun Inc., Tesla Inc., and other solar producers lined up in support of the government mandates, which will force consumers and taxpayers to buy their "green" products.

This new solar residential mandate is the latest move in the "clean power" campaign of Governor Brown and his fellow Earth saviors in the state legislature to "decarbonize." In 2015, California's Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act (SB 350), authored by state Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León, codified Brown's goals requiring 50 percent of the state's electricity to be generated from "renewables" (mostly wind and solar) by 2030. De León and a coalition of enviro-extremists and subsidy-hunting "renewables" producers are now pushing for passage of SB 100, which would require that 100 percent of electricity in the state be produced from renewable resources by the end of 2045. This is hypocritical — and expensive — green virtue-signaling that will bring disastrous consequences. "California imports about 29 percent of its total electricity from out of state, getting it from the Palo Verde nuclear power plant in Phoenix, coal-fired generators in the Four Corners area, and hydroelectric dams in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest," notes Paul Driessen,



AP Images

Partnering with tyrants: Governor Jerry Brown meets with Chinese dictator Xi Jinping in Beijing in 2017. California has been the primary U.S. recipient of China's massive foreign investment strategy.



AP Images

Infrastructure woes: Potholes, hazardous dams, levees, bridges, and water treatment plants are all in desperate need of repair, while California politicians spend the taxpayers' money on political favors.

senior policy advisor to the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow. “Another 50% of its electricity is generated using natural gas that is also brought in from sources outside California, while the state blockades its own enormous gas potential. Its gas is imported via pipelines from Canada, the Rockies and the American Southwest, to power its gas-fired turbines. Those turbines and out-of-state sources also back up its numerous unreliable, bird-killing wind turbines.”

However, rather than moving to decrease its dependency on imported energy, California is making war on its two most dependable clean-energy sources that don't produce CO₂: nuclear power and hydroelectric power.

Michael Shellenberger, founder of Environmental Progress and co-founder of the Breakthrough Institute, says a two-year investigation by Environmental Progress has concluded that “no American politician has killed more clean energy than Governor Jerry Brown — and in ways that often benefited his own family financially.” Shellenberger's exposé, entitled “Jerry Brown's Secret War on Clean Energy,” was published by Environmental Progress on January 11, 2018, which, he notes, was “on the day the Brown-controlled California Public Utilities Commission has voted to kill Diablo Canyon, California's largest single source of clean energy, and the state's last nuclear plant.”

The Diablo Canyon plant, which pro-

vides about nine percent of California's total electricity, has performed well for 34 years and could be expected to provide safe, reliable power 24/7 for another 25 years. It was built in the 1970s with the blessings of the Sierra Club and many other conservation and environmental groups, before most of the greens turned sour on nuclear. Jerry Brown and his allies were also successful in killing the Rancho Seco plant near Sacramento and the San Onofre plant near San Diego, as well as nixing the plans for construction of the SunDesert nuclear plant near San Diego. Nuclear, the most concentrated source of energy, has a relatively minuscule footprint, requiring only 12.71 acres per megawatt produced, as a 2017 study, *The Footprint of Energy*, by Strata Policy pointed out. By comparison, solar requires 43.50 acres per megawatt, and wind requires 70.64 acres per megawatt. Attaining de León's 100-percent “renewables” goal would mean covering the Golden State's landscape (and viewscape) — already cluttered with solar and wind farms — with a huge additional footprint of windmills and solar panels, not exactly an eco-friendly proposition. (Of course, this assumes solar and wind power are feasible industrial power options — they're not. Electricity is used at the moment it is created, and it is created in the amount that is needed — too much or too little could cause the electric grid to shut down. Since solar and wind are intermittent and fluctuating power sources, standard power plants

always have to be running, ready to back up the “renewables” in case they slow down or stop — called “spinning reserves.” So, in essence, the power needed by Californians is being produced by two separate electrical-generating systems at the same time, but only one is used at a time to provide electricity — hardly environmentally advantageous or cost effective.)

Shellenberger, a leading pro-nuclear environmentalist, points out that Governor Brown and his family have financial incentives (in addition to whatever ideological proclivities may influence them) for their anti-nuclear bigotry. Brown's father, Edmund G. “Pat” Brown, Sr., who served as California governor from 1959-1967, developed close ties with Indonesia's military dictatorship and helped the Indonesian state-owned oil company Pertamina raise “an astonishing \$13 billion (\$100 billion in 2017 dollars) mostly from U.S. banks.” As a reward, notes Shellenberger, Pertamina “gave him exclusive and highly valuable rights to sell Indonesian oil in California,” as well as “half-ownership of its office in Hong Kong.” When Jerry Brown ran for governor in 1974, Pertamina executives gave him \$70,000, the equivalent of \$350,000 in 2017 dollars. As governor, Jerry Brown and his appointees not only favored imported Indonesian oil over nuclear power, but over American oil as well.

In 2016, Governor Brown signed an agreement cooked up by the Obama administration and its enviro-extremist allies to tear down four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, part of an ongoing campaign to remove all dams. This will not only heighten California's energy dilemma, but also greatly aggravate the state's perennial water woes. (And inadequate water will surely mean woes for many of the state's farmers — though agriculture is another so-called bright spot that Democrats point to as a sign of their success.) Nuclear and hydro power sources have always been on hand to provide the power grid's “spinning reserves” needed to cover for the energy spikes that are inherent with intermittent sources such as wind and solar. Democrats are ending that scenario. To make matters worse, on May 31, 2018, Governor Brown signed into law two water bills, Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668, that set statewide mandatory water rationing rules even during



AP Images

Half-baked energy plans: California has mandated that all new homes be constructed with solar systems and that 50 percent of the state's electricity be generated from "renewables" (mostly wind and solar). The panels are expected to cost \$2,000 a year, yet cut electric bills by only \$960 per year.

non-drought years. Among other things, the new laws set strict water budgets allowing for 55 gallons per person per day for indoor water use, dropping to 50 gallons by 2030. Cities, counties, and water districts that go over budget could face fines of \$1,000-\$10,000 per day.

Floundering Schools

Even as the Democrats damage California's environment, raise the cost of living, and overspend on entitlements, they are also failing to provide a proper education for California's kids, though the provision of public schooling has always been one of the activities that Democrats are most proud of. (And one that California's radical leftist attorney general, Xavier Becerra, bragged about, saying California was number one in graduating young people from college.)

By virtually every significant assessment of academic achievement, California's public schools are failing California's children — and California's taxpayers. California's 6.2 million K-12 public-school students comprise nearly one-eighth of the United States' public-school population. The latest bi-annual National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) — known as The Nation's Report Card — which came out in 2017, is but one of many indicators that the state's government schools are flunking out. True, much the same can be said about nearly our entire public-school system nationally. However, one area where California's schools excel above others nationally

is in intellectually crippling their charges, usually proving it by posting scores among the bottom 10 states. The NAEP assesses a relatively large sampling of fourth- and eighth-grade students every other year, and periodically assesses academic achievement of 12th graders as well. Among the many dismal findings of the 2017 Report Card was that nationally, a meager 37 percent of public-school fourth-grade students surveyed performed at or above the NAEP's *Proficient* level in reading. California proved it could beat this by going lower still, with only 31 percent of its students reading proficiently. In fourth-grade mathematics, 40 percent of public-school students nationally were at or above *Proficient*, but California students were nine points lower, at 31 percent.

In eighth-grade mathematics, 33 percent of public-school students nationally were at or above *Proficient*, while only 29 percent of California's eighth-graders were at or above the proficiency level. In eighth-grade reading, 35 percent of public-school students nationally were at or above *Proficient*; in California it was 32 percent. These abysmal trends continue through high school, with the result that, of those students who don't drop out, the vast majority who graduate may have a diploma, but they don't have the proficiency in requisite academic skills to take on college or a challenging, well-paying job. Thus, remedial education is a major affair at most colleges and universities.

According to *Overview of Remedial Education at the State's Public Higher Education Segments*, a March 1, 2017 report to the California Senate Education Committee by the Legislative Analyst's Office, three-quarters of first-time California Community College students (more than 150,000) are each fall term deemed unprepared. It also found that more than 40 percent of first-time California State University students (about 25,000 students) and 23 percent of first-time University of California students (about 8,000 students) are each fall term deemed unprepared.

Clearly, California's schools are not teaching basic academic skills, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic. That's a big problem. But there is an even bigger problem with what they *are* teaching. Many parents are up in arms over the new perversion propaganda invading the classrooms under the state-mandated sex-education provisions of the California Healthy Youth Act. Parents are being told that they have no recourse, that their children may not "opt out" of classroom discussions and lessons regarding "sex toys," homosexual practices, transgender issues, and the like. In a March 29, 2018 memo citing the above-mentioned law, the legal counsel for the Orange County Department of Education stated that parents "may not excuse their children from this instruction." "However," the legal memo continues, "parents are free to advise their children that they disagree with some or all of the information presented in the instructional program and express their views on these subjects to their children." How very decent of the state to give parents *permission* to disagree with the school program and to *permit* them to discuss this with their own children!

That is not the only area where parental rights and parental choice are under assault. On June 30, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law SB 277, the nation's most stringent mandatory vaccine regimen. All children attending public K-12 schools and public day care must be vaccinated, and all previous exemptions based on the religious, moral, or other personal beliefs of parents are overridden.

All of these factors have caused many families to flee the government school system for private schools and homeschooling options. However, those options are

under constant assault also, with legislation regularly proposed to limit, harass, or curtail these parental choices in education.

State of the State: A Closer Look

Democrats claim that the nation should follow its lead both culturally and financially, but California is on life support — both financially as well as culturally — and it is becoming more and more apparent to anyone who really cares to look. And the blame surely goes to “progressive policies.”

Copying California in the hopes of improving America generally, either socially, environmentally, or economically, would be like hoping to improve one’s health by bathing in tuberculosis bacteria.

Many Californians offer a sobering view of on-the-ground reality over at that place critics refer to as the Left Coast. “California has one of the worst failing education systems in the country, the highest income taxes, highest gas tax, highest poverty in the nation, a billion dollar budget deficit, the state pension system is underfunded by \$1 trillion, and violent crime is on the rise,” says Katie Grimes, a veteran investigative reporter, author, columnist — and native Californian. “But we now have transgender bathrooms, and a new law that allows knowingly transmitting HIV to a partner will no longer be a felony offense.”

On April 17, 2018, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Foundation released its critique of the state’s finances, entitled *Follow the Money*. “For a state that is said to have one of the highest-ranked economies in the world, as well as some of the highest taxes in the nation, it seems as if California’s policymakers never have enough funding to provide adequate services to the state’s citizens,” the foundation report states. “Just this year,” it continues, “Governor Jerry Brown proposed a \$190.3 billion spending plan, with a record-breaking \$132 billion general fund budget.”

Follow the Money provides well-documented details to back up the sweeping condemnation of California’s spendthrift government in the report’s introduction. That condemnation charges:

Even with some of the highest taxes in the nation, and the highest state personal income tax by far, California seemingly never has enough money for what matters. California ranks last in quality of life, with outrageous housing prices and more than a quarter of the nation’s homeless population; our children are not receiving the education they need with one of the worst K-12 education systems in the country, ranking in the bottom ten;

and our roads are ranked 49th out of 50, with the only roads judged worse than ours being Rhode Island’s. In a state that ranks as having the fourth highest taxes in the nation, how can it be that states without state income taxes rank higher in quality of life, public education and roads?

Yet despite its financial shortfalls, California’s Democrats still welcome with open arms all the illegal aliens who arrive there, even though they’re costly. According to the liberal Public Policy Institute of California, the state is home to between 2.35 and 2.6 million illegal aliens. By these figures, illegals account for more than six percent of the state’s population and nearly one-quarter of the entire illegal-alien population of the United States. However, the actual totals of illegal aliens — both in the state and the nation — are almost certainly much larger than the standard academic and official estimates. California’s liberal-left politicians court and exploit this population as an important political base to be mobilized for further expansion of government spending and government programs to redraw and transform society. This huge population is a major contributing factor to the growing poverty crisis in the state. A recent United Way study found that “1 in 3 households in California, over 3.2 million families — including those with income well above the Federal Poverty Level — struggle every month to meet basic needs.”

The so-called sanctuary city movement, which was until recently a rogue operation of a relatively few far-left mayors and city councils, received a huge boost in October 2017 when Governor Jerry Brown signed into law legislation making California a “sanctuary state.” The state’s leading politicians have openly announced their defiance of federal law on immigration matters and basically support all efforts to break down our borders and allow open migration.

Since so many California residents (legal and illegal) cannot read or speak English, the state spends millions of dollars on translating signs, instruction manuals, election ballots, textbooks, classroom materials, and government documents into multiple languages. California announced in 2014 that eight new languages would be added to its online



Abusive schools: California schools are failing miserably in teaching basic academic subjects, but radical teachers unions and the militant LGBT lobby are jamming children’s brains with ever more perverse sex-ed.

AP Images



AP Images

Gangland central: California is home to the largest gang population in the country. Photo shows FBI with an arrestee in a sweep against the MS-13 gang in Los Angeles.

voter registration, noting that in addition to English and Spanish, Californians will now be able to choose between Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. The California Department of Motor Vehicles now provides driver tests in Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, Croatian, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Persian/Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino, Thai, Tongan, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

Then there's the crime. "The County and City of Los Angeles are the 'gang capital' of the nation," according to the website of the Los Angeles Police Department. It goes on to note: "There are more than 450 active gangs in the City of Los Angeles. Many of these gangs have been in existence for over 50 years. These gangs have a combined membership of over 45,000 individuals." That's just in the greater Los Angeles area. Most other California cities, as well as even small rural towns, have gang violence and gang crime problems as well. The gang "culture" is one of the other major exports of California to the rest of the nation. The Bloods, Crips, MS-13, Mexican Mafia, Sureños, Norteños, Hells Angels, Devils Disciples, Nuestra Familia, and dozens of other violent gangs call California home — while extending their tentacles into virtually every other state, as well.

And don't count on carrying a gun for

self-protection. In July 2016, Governor Jerry Brown signed five new laws severely restricting civilian ownership of firearms and ammunition. Second Amendment defenders referred to this all-out assault on the right to keep and bear arms in apocalyptic terms, calling it a "Gunmageddon." Over the past several decades, California's Democratic politicians, who control the legislature (and often the governorship as well), have steadily added new laws that make it increasingly difficult for Californians to legally defend themselves and even to own and operate firearms. This one issue alone has been responsible for a sizable exodus of Californians to other states more hospitable to gun rights.

Fight or Flight?

California is the cornerstone in the Left Coast's "Blue Wall" — California, Oregon, and Washington — the wealthy, coastal metro areas controlled by "progressive" Democrats. From Los Angeles to San Francisco and the Silicon Valley, to Portland and Seattle, America's Pacific littoral is deep-blue occupied territory typified by one-party rule enforced by bureaucratic oppression, media beat-downs, and, increasingly, the mob violence of identity politics. The leftward agenda in this crucial region is driven by funding from both

private and public sources. From the private side, politicians and their militant "community organizer" allies can rely on huge contributions from billionaire high-tech oligarchs, hedge-fund titans, and, of course, the Hollywood glitterati. On the public side, there are numerous spigots that spew grants and contracts (read: "activist cash") to the ever-burgeoning welter of social-justice warriors who provide constant pressure for ever more government spending and control. Because of California's horrific political policies, for years, many of California's best and brightest have been exiting the state. Their reasons: economics, politics, social ills, family safety, and personal liberty. "Despite claims that people leaving California are old and poor," writes Joel Kotkin, "the two most recent years' data from the IRS shows larger net losses of people in the 35 to 54 age group. Losses were particularly marked among those making between \$100,000 and \$200,000 annually." Thousands of businesses have also fled.

However, many are staying to fight what others see as a hopeless battle. The stay-and-fighters point to widespread dissatisfaction and anger with the craziness and oppression of the state's current Democratic order, and the galvanizing impact that President Trump's victory has had on formerly dispirited conservatives in the state. They point also to popular outcries over the state fuel tax, sanctuary cities, and other issues that cut across party lines. Then, too, there are the deep divisions and bitter in-fighting among the Left, far-Left, and far-far-Left factions over who will lead the Democratic Party into the future. All of these factors, and others beside, say the stay-and-fighters, mean that California is not a lost cause, that it can be saved from total collapse and destruction. All of America should hope and pray they are right, and give them every encouragement and assistance possible in their heroic effort. ■



EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

◆ Additional copies of this issue of THE NEW AMERICAN are available at quantity-discount prices. To place your order, visit www.shopjbs.org or see the card between pages 34-35.

OUR EMPLOYEES ARE THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS

**MECHANICAL
CONTRACTOR**
CMC008140



**PLUMBING
CONTRACTOR**
CFC09184

MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR, INC.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
TELEPHONE: (904) 388-2696

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
TELEPHONE: (352) 372-3963

ORLANDO, FLORIDA
TELEPHONE: (407) 841-4670

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
TELEPHONE: (904) 810-5918

DAYTONA, FLORIDA
TELEPHONE: (386) 546-6039

**524 STOCKTON STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32204**

SPECIALIZING IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESS AND POWER PIPING,
ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE AND CONTROL,
AUTOMATED TEMPERATURE CONTROL SYSTEMS,
HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING, AND PLUMBING



Gallagher Financial Group, Inc.

Isaiah 40:31

Through his books, seminars, and radio shows, Dr. Gallagher has answered thousands of questions on tax avoidance, lawsuit protection, wealth creation, and the psychology of investing.

- **Retirement Planning Specialist**
- **IRA's/Rollovers**
- **Lifetime Guaranteed Income**
- **Legacy Planning and Long-Term Care**



CALL NOW for your complimentary copy of *The Money Doctor's Guide*, or a complimentary consultation!

Dr. W. Neil Gallagher
FINANCIAL COUNSELOR

"Listen to Dr. Gallagher and read his books. He knows what he's talking about."
— John F. McManus, JBS President Emeritus

817-485-1825 or 800-434-4DOC
www.docgallagher.com
Offices in Dallas & Fort Worth • Clients Nationwide



Left and left: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and State Senator Kevin de León, both Democrats will face off in November for the U.S. Senate seat.

CALIFORNIA

How Far Left Can It Go?

A new generation of ultra-left ideologues backed by billionaire tech moguls is challenging the “old guard” Democrats in order to push an even more-extreme Marxist agenda.

by William F. Jasper

California’s Democratic Party is undergoing a generational change that could push it even further to the left than it already is. How is that possible, you ask, without stepping off the Left Coast pier into the ocean? Well, a key sign that they are in the process of doing just that, metaphorically speaking, came this past February when the California Democratic Party’s annual convention refused to endorse veteran Senator Dianne Feinstein for reelection to a fifth term this November. The 85-year-old Feinstein, who has held her Senate seat since 1992, was challenged in the state’s June 5 primary by 51-year-old State Senator Kevin de León, a popular Democratic Party firebrand and Latino activist. (He was the author of the “sanctuary state” measure signed into law

by Governor Jerry Brown.) The vote at the convention, 54 percent for de León over 37 percent for Feinstein, was a sharp rebuke of the state’s senior Democrat, even though de León fell short of the 60-percent threshold needed to receive the party’s endorsement. However, her name recognition and \$10 million campaign chest proved too much for de León in the June 5 primary, and Feinstein won easily, taking 44.4 percent of the vote, to de León’s 11.8 percent. But de León will be back for a matchup in November, thanks to California’s open “jungle” primary, which sends the top two vote-getters on to the general election, even if they are from the same party. The Feinstein-de León rematch will be California’s second U.S. Senate race between two “progressive” Democrats. In 2016, then-State Attorney General Kamala Harris defeated U.S. Representative

Loretta Sanchez to become the state’s junior senator. De León has the backing of Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire-turned-environmental activist, as well as a rising Latino population that has become increasingly active politically. So even though Feinstein is likely to win in November, she has already moved further to the left to placate the de León-Steyer wing of the party.

In the governor’s race to replace term-limited Jerry Brown, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom came out on top in a crowded primary jungle of 27 candidates. Newsom, who gained national name recognition as the ultra-liberal mayor of San Francisco, will be facing Republican John Cox, a San Diego businessman, in November. Cox, virtually unknown a few months ago, was boosted into second place thanks to anger over the state’s new fuel tax hike, an endorsement from Donald Trump, and a crowded Democratic field. Newsom took 33.9 percent of the primary votes, to Cox’s 25.7 percent. With most of the rest of the vote split among Democrat candidates, it will take a miracle for Cox to win in November.

In addition to holding the governorship, the Democrats control all statewide elective offices (lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, controller, and insurance commissioner), as well as both houses of the legislature. They lost a two-thirds supermajority in each house in late 2017 due to recall efforts and resignations over sexual scandals, but they still enjoy an advantage of 26 seats to 13 over Republicans in the State Senate and 53 seats to 25 in the State Assembly. As in the past couple recent elections, the Republican Party is not even fielding candidates for many of the state and congressional offices, essentially conceding them to be permanent Democrat property.

At the federal level, both U.S. Senate seats are held by Democrats: Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris. California’s delegation to the U.S. House of Represen-

As in the past couple recent elections, the Republican Party is not even fielding candidates for many of the state and congressional offices, essentially conceding them to be permanent Democrat property.



Last GOP race? Under California's "Top Two" primary system, the governor's race between Democrat Gavin Newsom (left) and Republican John Cox could be the last time a Republican runs for statewide office.

tatives, the largest of all 50 states, has 53 members, with 39 Democrats (including minority leader Nancy Pelosi) and 14 Republicans (including majority leader Kevin McCarthy). But in their "Blue Wave" effort to retake the House of Representatives, the Democratic National Committee and the state party are targeting eight of those 14 GOP-held seats. Among the targeted congressional districts are four in Orange County, once a solid Republican stronghold. The 48th district is held now by Representative Dana Rohrabacher, who has earned a 78-percent rating on *THE NEW AMERICAN*'s Freedom Index. Another targeted district is the 45th, held by Representative Mimi Walters (Freedom Index rating 55 percent). The other two, the 39th and the 49th, are held, respectively, by Representatives Edward Royce (Freedom Index 71 percent) and Darrell Issa (Freedom Index 54 percent), both of whom are retiring.

The other California congressional seats the Democrats hope to flip are the 4th District, occupied by Tom McClintock (Free-

dom Index 85 percent); the 25th District, held by Steve Knight (Freedom Index 63 percent); the 10th District, held by Jeff Denham (Freedom Index 55 percent); and the 21st District, held by David Valadao (Freedom Index 46 percent).

The Trump presidency has energized a sustained "Blue resistance," with hardcore demonstrators who relentlessly hound Republican congressmen every single day — at their homes, offices, public appearances, and on social media. A plethora of Democratic candidates, many of them newcomers, have jumped into the congressional races. This enthusiasm, which the Democrats are counting on to bring their voters to the polls, also has a downside for them. In these crowded races with multiple candidates, the Democrats risk knocking each other out. This may turn out to have been the case regarding former Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who many expected to take second place behind Newsom in the governor's race, but who was beaten by Republican upstart John Cox.

"Revolution in Stages"

California's "Blue Wall" was not built overnight; it has been the labor of decades. Rudi Dutschke, the Marxist leader of the 1960s German student movement, coined the phrase "the long march through the institutions" to indicate that Marxist-communist-socialist activists must adopt a long-term strategy of patient, gradual infiltration and co-option of all important institutions. Dutschke was a disciple of Italian communist theorist Antonio Gramsci, and his "long march" strategy is pure Gramscism. Another Gramsci disciple (and friend of Dutschke) was German-American sociologist-political theorist Herbert Marcuse, who worked for the OSS-CIA before launching an influential academic career that included prestigious professorships at Harvard, Columbia, and Brandeis, and ended at the University of California San Diego. Marcuse, known as "the father of the New Left," was a key figure who inspired many of the 1960s student radicals to move from first protesting the Vietnam War and joining the counterculture, to joining the more radical and violent Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and then to adopting the "long march" Gramsci path, which involved boring into the institutions of the American capitalist society — politics, education, business, media — and capturing them to transform American society along socialist lines. Another of their comrades in this effort was Sidney Okun Lens, who coined the similar Gramscian term of "revolution in stages." Lens (1912-1986), a member of the Communist League of America and editor of *The Progressive*, was an important transition figure from the Old Left communists of the 1930s-1950s to the New Left of the 1960s and beyond. In his autobiography, *Unrepentant Radical* (1980), Lens described "a revolution in stages" around issues that would "mobilize large numbers of Americans," is-

sues such as “government-sponsored jobs,” welfare, environmental concerns, “public ownership” of banks and industries, etc. “These steps do not constitute a socialist program per se, but they are *part of* a socialist program, and they can be made acceptable to many millions of people.”

The Gramsci-Dutschke-Marcuse-Lens gradualist program was put into practice in California on a massive scale, as thousands of '60s radicals transitioned from rioting and picketing institutions to infiltrating them and, eventually, running them. Hundreds of organizations, such as Tom Hayden's Santa Monica-based Campaign for Economic Democracy and the San Francisco-based Foundation for National Progress (publisher of the radical *Mother Jones* magazine), funded by Hollywood glitterati and the big tax-exempt foundations (Ford, Rockefeller, Soros, MacArthur), seized on issues that could be used to advance “the revolution” stage by stage. A prime example of a 1960s radical who has carried out this Gramscian agenda in California is “elder statesman” John Burton, who stepped down in 2017 as chairman of the California Democratic Party. He became a member of the California State Assembly in 1965, serving until 1974, whereupon he was elected to the U.S. Congress for

five terms, before returning to the State Assembly from 1988 to 1996. It was Burton, acting as outgoing party chairman at the California Democratic convention in 2017, who infamously (and on camera) delivered a profanity-laced, anti-Trump rant, and then led the assembled Democrats in flipping Trump the middle finger and chanting “F*** Donald Trump.” Elected Democratic officials onstage with Burton, including Representative Nancy Pelosi and Senator Kamala Harris, laughed and clapped, and some even joined in the vile antics.

The Revolution's Ground Troops

The revolution that has turned the once-golden state into a blue sinkhole of socialist corruption is the handiwork of a broad coalition of radical interest groups: militant unions, environmentalists, LGBT activists, feminists, racial activists, social-justice activists, and welfare-rights activists, combined with shock troops composed of open members of various communist and socialist parties, such as the Revolutionary Communist Party, By Any Means Necessary, Workers World Party, Democratic Socialists of America, and the Communist Party USA.

Without a doubt, one of the biggest players in driving California leftward over the past few decades has been the

California Teachers Association (CTA), one of the state's most militant and well-funded unions. It is far and away the biggest lobby and spends the most on political elections. From January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2013, the CTA spent a jaw-dropping \$290,614,400 on lobbying and political campaigns. Nobody else came close. The CTA's massive cash infusions were nearly six times the amount contributed by the California Chamber of Commerce (\$51,291,230.65) over the same period. Immediately below the CTA, in second place, is another union, the California State Council of Service Employees (the state affiliate of the Service Employees International Union), which threw in \$136,791,567.37 during the same period. Also among the top lobbies/donors is California School Employees Association/AFL-CIO (CSEA), which boasts it is “the largest classified school employees labor union in the United States.” The CSEA chipped in \$49,347,917.60 over the same period. These teacher and school employee unions, including the California Federation of Teachers, provide a large army of activist foot soldiers for political campaigns, as well. But perhaps their most important role in “the long march through the institutions” and the “revolution in stages” is in brainwashing millions of students. Yes, we did say “brainwashing”; and so did Governor “Moonbeam” Jerry Brown. During his whirlwind, jet-setting tour through Europe last year preaching the gospel of global warming, Brown declared: “We

need a total, I might say, brainwashing. We need to wash our brains out and see a very different kind of world.” Two years earlier, in Paris, Governor Brown told delegates to the United Nations conference on Climate Change to “never underestimate the coercive power of the central state in the service of good.” “You can be sure California is going to keep innovating, keep regulating,

shall I say, keep taxing,” the celebrity governor told the receptive audience. Brainwashing. Coercion. Regulation. Taxation. That's how the former “Golden State” is being destroyed. ■



Classroom change agents: The radical California Teachers Association pours more money into the state's political races than any other entity.

CALIFORNIA

Fighting for Freedom — and Survival

"It's not over 'til it's over." Refusing to submit and surrender to tyrannical government, many Californians are fighting a desperate battle to reclaim their state.



AP Images

Celebrate sending away criminals: Citizens celebrate at the Orange County Board of Supervisors meeting, after the board voted to join the U.S. Department of Justice lawsuit against the State of California's sanctuary law (SB 54) during their meeting in Santa Ana, California, on March 27, 2018.

by William F. Jasper

The steamroller got steamrolled. California's legislative machine, which intended to roll over the state's homeschooling families, got squished instead, as thousands of homeschool parents and students swamped the Capitol in Sacramento on April 25, 2018. They presented a vigorous (but orderly) demonstration of opposition to AB 2756, authored by Democrat Assemblyman Jose Medina. The Medina bill would have demanded that all homeschool families submit to involuntary home inspections by state agents.

The shocking case of David and Louise Turpin, who were arrested in Riverside County on charges of extreme child abuse, provided the pretext for the legislation. The Turpins' 13 children had been shackled, tortured, and fed starvation rations for years. Media accounts of their horrific

conditions played up the Turpins' claim to be homeschoolers, thus providing the teachers unions and left-wing politicians with an excuse to clamp down. The Turpins, of course, are no more representative of homeschoolers than terrorist Sayfullo Saipov (who intentionally ran over and killed eight people with a truck in New York City) is representative of truckers, or Parkland high-school shooter Nicholas Cruz is of NRA members and gun owners.

Following an enormous outcry from the homeschooling community, Medina removed the inspection requirement, but changed the bill to identify (and publish) the name and address of every homeschooling family in California. This not only would have violated their privacy, but also would have opened them up to potential harassment and endangerment. On April 25, hundreds of parents, grandparents, teachers, attorneys, and children testified

against the bill in a three-hour session before the Assembly Education Committee. AB 2756 died when not a single member of the Democrat-dominated committee was willing to make a motion to vote on the bill. It was a stunning victory for homeschoolers and a stinging defeat for the California Teachers Association (CTA), which calls homeschooling "educational anarchy." David had beaten Goliath. A video posted on the website of the California Family Council provides an impressive view of the massive gathering of homeschoolers filling the halls of the Capitol. AB 2756, which was supposed to have been a slam-dunk for Medina and the CTA, instead got slammed and junked by organized homeschoolers. The Christian Home Educators Association (CHEA) of California, Home School Legal Defense Association, Family Protection Ministries, California Homeschool Network, Homeschool Association of California, Parents United 4 Kids, and dozens of other organizations not only showed up in force in Sacramento, but also besieged legislators by e-mail and telephone for weeks leading up to the hearing. "Homeschoolers are freedom-loving people," CHEA notes on its website, and "California legislators have learned that if you act to compromise the liberty, safety, and privacy of their homeschools, you will find yourself face to face with a mama bear protecting her cubs."

CHEA and the other homeschool activists fully realize that victory over AB 2756 is not the end of the story, and they are urging the "mama bears" to stay vigilant — and ferociously protective. There are many more battles to be fought on this one front alone. But there are many other fronts as well — and many "mama bears" that are being roused on a wide array of issues. And not a moment too soon. The state of the state in California is so dire

that it will require a steadily rising crescendo of roars by angry bears — as well as a fair number of political maulings — to save the Bear Flag state from a headlong plunge into the infernal abyss.

California's "Sanctuary State" law is one of those "last straw" issues that has stirred the ursine wrath of many Californians. It has caused a backlash that has spread to dozens of cities and counties. Signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown as an act of defiance to President Trump's pledge to secure our borders, SB 54 places many restrictions on state and local governments and law-enforcement agencies to prevent them from cooperating with federal immigration authorities. In effect, it tells illegal aliens — even those convicted of serious crimes — that California welcomes them and will protect them from apprehension, detention, and removal by federal authorities. While some big-city police chiefs and sheriffs beholden to Democrat machine politics support the measure, the vast majority of California's sheriffs do not. The *Los Angeles Times* noted "at least 40 of the 58 sheriffs in the state remained staunch opponents of the legislation through its passage." Prodded by outraged citizens and encouraged by President Trump, a growing list of California cities and counties is taking action of one type or another to oppose the state's sanctuary law. By the end of May, at least 40 cities and 10 counties had registered formal opposition, some by supporting the Trump administration's lawsuit against California, some by launching lawsuits of their own against the state, others by passing resolutions of opposition to SB 54 and/or ordering their law-enforcement agencies to ignore the state law.

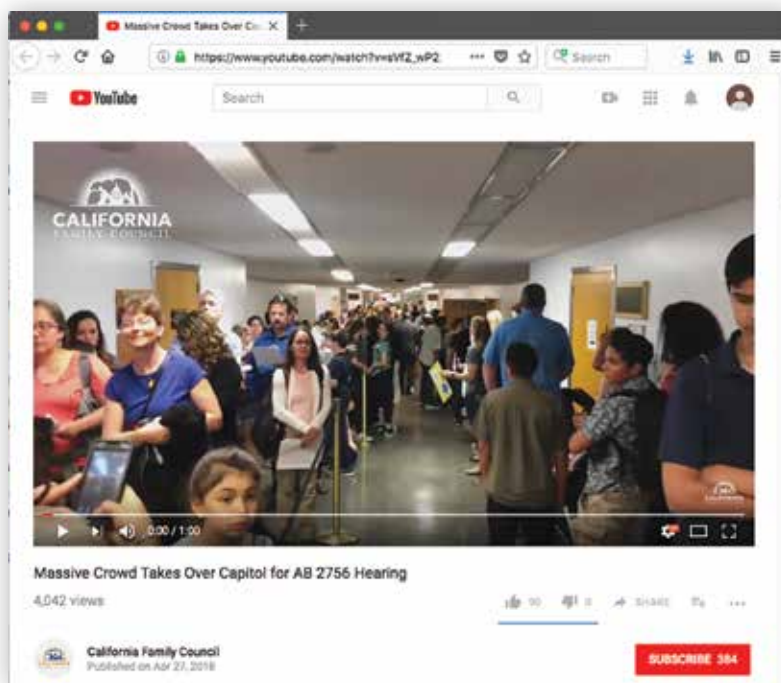
Still another issue that has stirred statewide anger and may end up being hugely important in the November elections, and beyond, is the fuel tax and vehicle

registration fee hike imposed in 2017 by Governor Brown and the Democratic legislature. On June 5, voters recalled State Senator Josh Newman, a Democrat, over his vote for the tax/fee increase, costing the Democrats their two-thirds supermajority in the Senate. More recall efforts are in the works, and this November a ballot initiative to repeal the tax/fee increases is likely to bring out many motivated voters, which has made Democratic Party operatives very nervous.

Joe Panzarello, the full-time field coordinator for California for The John Birch Society, says there is an awakening and a growing sense of urgency and resolve that he has not seen before. "It's amazing to see the huge turnouts and impassioned citizens at city council meetings and county commission hearings over the sanctuary law, the enormous responses to the state efforts aimed at squashing homeschoolers, the huge reaction against the increases for state fuel tax and auto registration fees, massive resistance and outrage over the increasingly oppressive laws against the right to keep and bear arms, widespread anger over the violence used by anti-Trump demonstrators and Antifa leftists, disgust with the

increasingly blatant anti-Christian legislation — all of these things, and a lot more, are causing many Californians who were sitting on the sidelines to finally get activated," he told THE NEW AMERICAN. "We've had many single issues in the past — Prop 13 on property taxes, for instance — that generated a huge statewide response, but nothing like this coming together on a multitude of issues." Just as important, he says, is the fact that President Trump has rejuvenated many liberty-minded activists who had given up after decades of letdown and betrayal by previous state and national Republican politicians. "George Bush, Sr.; George Bush, Jr.; Governors Pete Wilson and Arnold Schwarzenegger; and so many other Republican politicians are infamous for conservative rhetoric followed by liberal policies," Panzarello noted. "They made lots of campaign promises about securing the border, rolling back oppressive government regulation, etc., but once in office did the opposite." However, with President Trump, he says, "Many freedom-loving people are concluding that he actually meant what he said and that he is really fighting for what he — and they — believe in. It is something they've never experienced before,

and it's having an amazing impact, which we are seeing not only at Trump rallies but across the whole gamut of hot-button issues: property rights, parental rights, gun rights, taxes, regulations, energy, water, business, agriculture. People are recognizing that this could be their last chance to prevail against the insanity that rules in Sacramento, and it's refreshing to see so many Californians stepping up and taking a stand. A lot of conservatives have already written the obituary for California, but it is not a corpse — yet. It remains to be seen whether enough people will step up to their responsibilities and throw everything they can into the fight — time, money, effort, prayer, sacrifice — to save this state and make it great again." ■



"Mama Bears" roar! This photo, taken from a California Family Council video, gives barely a glimpse of the thousands of homeschoolers who descended on Sacramento, causing legislators to drop AB 2756, which would have subjected homeschoolers to intrusive home inspections.

*Containerized Storage From
The People Who Invented The Concept*

MARTIN

CONTAINER, INC.

Serving You Since 1976

***Straight From the Harbor to Your Site
Refrigerated Units Always Available***

LENGTHS UP TO 45'

24-HOUR DELIVERY

BUY OR RENT



**REFRIGERATOR/FREEZERS
ALSO AVAILABLE**

www.container.com

1-800-221-3727



RAFFIN
CONSTRUCTION CO.



RAFFIN
PROPERTIES

*... Serving the Chicagoland
area for over 90 years*





AP Images

FEARLESS FAITH

Though the persecution of Christians worldwide is on the rise, many Christians are keeping their faith — and actually spreading it.

by James Murphy

Matthew 24:9 — *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

Not surprisingly, those words of Jesus have been prophetic. More than 2,000 years ago, the Lord Himself warned us that there would be persecution, and He was right.

Worldwide, every month, it is estimated that 255 Christians are killed for their faith; 180 Christian women are raped,

otherwise sexually assaulted, or forced into marriage; and more than a hundred Christians are abducted — many of these are never heard from again; more than 60 churches are attacked; and 160 Christians are imprisoned, having never had a trial.

Every month. And these are low-end estimates.

In America, Christian persecution generally takes the form of mocking and derision from media elites, who see the faith as antiquated, regressive, and bigoted. Christians are easy targets for Hollywood entertainment moguls, who routinely skewer believers as fools or

Hiding from death: Impromptu refugee camps in Iraq, such as this one, have sprung up so that Christians in the war-torn country can escape persecution from extremist Islamic militants.

dangerous, backward-thinking cretins. In a country founded on Judeo-Christian principles, 21st-century American Christians may find themselves forced to bake wedding cakes for “gay marriages” or have their children taught Darwin’s theory of evolution as fact. These are forms of harassment for certain but, as of yet, American Christians are not facing death for their beliefs.

The group Open Doors has documented and fought against worldwide persecution of Christians for more than 60 years. Since 1992, the organization has produced the World Watch List, which ranks the 50 countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian. The list is exhaustive, detailing the difficulties that Christians face from hostile governments and other oppressive forces such as other religions — principally Islam. Open Doors estimates that as many as 250 million Christians face serious persecution, which includes intimidation, violence, imprisonment, and even death.

Worldwide, every month, it is estimated that 255 Christians are killed for their faith; 180 Christian women are raped, otherwise sexually assaulted, or forced into marriage; and more than a hundred Christians are abducted.

In the Middle East, American interventionist foreign policy has done much to exacerbate the problem. Since 2001, with the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, Christian populations in those regions have seen a sharp increase in harassment and discrimination by Muslim majorities. U.S. troops are seen as modern-day crusaders, and the minority Christian populations of these regions take the brunt of the backlash.

The terrible irony in Iraq is that, under the secular rule of Saddam Hussein, Christians and other minority groups were mostly protected from Islamic mob violence. Saddam was a tyrant — no question — but the “democratically elected” governments that have followed in his wake have not shared the relative religious tolerance of Saddam’s Ba’ath Party, by any means.

In present-day Iraq, Christians avoid public displays of their faith, since they are targeted by radical Muslims for kid-

nappings and murder. Government officials encourage Christians to leave the country if practicable but offer no assistance in doing so. If a Christian comes from a Muslim background, he is usually disowned by his family and sometimes even given up to authorities under blasphemy laws. Often, the Muslim family itself will beat, torture, and sometimes kill the Christian convert.

Afghanistan is an Islamic state by its constitution, thus any other religion is considered alien and potentially dangerous. Any Christian in Afghanistan is likely a convert from Islam and, if found out, heavily pressured by families and communities to convert back to Islam or face dire consequences. Sometimes, Christian converts are considered insane and committed to psychiatric facilities. Sometimes all of their property is taken from them. Sometimes, they simply disappear — never to be heard from again.

Revelation 20:4 — *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them: And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus.*

Is there anything more terrifying than the thought of being beheaded? In February of 2015, 21 Coptic Christians — 20 Egyptians and one Ghanaian — were beheaded on a beach in Libya. The gruesome event was carried out by ISIS, which shared a video of the heinous murder. The video was horrifying, showing the Christian men, all wearing orange jumpsuits, led to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, and forced to kneel before having their heads literally sawn off by black-clad savages.

The head monster, dressed in camouflage, then addressed the camera, saying, “Oh people, recently you’ve seen us on the hills of Al-Sham and on Dabiq’s Plain, chopping off the heads that had been carrying the cross delusion for a long time, filled with spite against Islam and Muslims, and today we ... are sending another message: Oh crusaders, safety for you will be only wishes, especially when you’re fighting us all together. Therefore, we will fight you all together until the war lays down its burdens and Jesus, peace be upon Him, will descend, breaking the cross, killing the swine. The sea you’ve hidden Sheikh Osama bin Laden’s body in, we swear to Allah, we will mix it with your blood.”

After some strong words from President Obama, the United States could only manage a tepid response to the incident. President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry both went to great lengths to deny that the United States was “at war with Islam.” The Obama administration’s initial statement regarding the atrocity didn’t mention the victims’ faith at all, as if their Christianity was of no consequence.

After their bodies were discovered in a mass grave by Libyan authorities last September, the remains of the 20 Egyptian martyrs were returned home for burial. The remains of their Ghanaian companion remain in Libya.

Although the practice of beheading has been banned in all but a few Islamic countries, it is still commonly used by thuggish elements of some Muslim communities to instill terror and encourage allegiance to the prophet Muhammad.



Christians being butchered: ISIS terrorists march a group of Ethiopian Christians to be beheaded on a beach along the Mediterranean Sea in Libya, in April of 2015. At the same time, another group of Christians was reportedly shot in another part of Libya.

AP Images

Kenneth
BaeKim
Jong-un

Deference or disappearance: Korean-American Christian Kenneth Bae was released in 2014 after being held by Kim Jong-un in a North Korean labor camp for two years. Bae has founded the Nehemiah Global Initiative to raise awareness of the situation in North Korea.

But Islamic countries are not the only places that Christians face danger for their beliefs.

Psalm 14:1 — *The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*

Communism, that atheistic, godless philosophy that has given the world Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse-tung, and Pol Pot, continues to wreak havoc on people of faith. In China, president Xi Jinping's government has been systematically removing crosses from atop the nation's churches. In a chilling statement that recalls Mao's murderous Cultural Revolution, Xi has said that religions that are not adequately conformed to the country's communist government must become more "Chinese oriented."

But China is not the worst of the communist nations.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is a communist nation of approximately 25 million people. A small percentage of those people, somewhere around 300,000, are Christians. These people live their lives in constant danger for their faith. Of those 300,000 Christians, as many as 75,000 have been imprisoned in labor camps for their beliefs.

"It's unbelievable what they have to face on a daily basis to follow Jesus," said Robert Kenna, the senior director for con-

tent for Open Doors USA. "With the spy networks. With the fact that they could get pulled into a prison camp just because they own a Bible or share or try to meet at a Church. Not just them but their whole families could be at risk."

The only acceptable form of worship in North Korea is that of Kim Jong-un, who has continued the personality cult created first by his grandfather Kim Il-sung and expanded on by his father, Kim Jong-il. Wishing to be seen as god-like by their citizens, the Kim family has created a mythology around themselves, claiming to be superhuman and detailing those claims with absurd stories about themselves, such as Kim Jong-il once having shot a round of golf with 11 holes-in-one. The unstable Kim family has held dictatorial sway over North Korea since the late 1940s, and Christians have suffered because of it.

In 2008, Choi Kwanghyuk escaped from a North Korean work camp, where he had been sent by the government. His crime? He had founded a small underground church with a congregation of nine.

"We couldn't raise our voice during a service, we couldn't sing out loud during a worship.... That was hard," Choi told Fox News. "Also, we had to hide so that other people could not see us."

Choi dodged authorities for many years, going back and forth between his North Korean home in North Hamgyong Prov-

ince and the People's Republic of China. But in 2008, the North Korean government finally caught up with him. Government officials jailed him, and he was interrogated and tortured for his faith.

Choi was on the verge of being sent to a more brutal labor camp known as Camp 22, an 87-square-mile penal colony where those considered enemies of the state are sent. For Choi, who was already infirm due to torture, Camp 22 would have been a death sentence.

Also known as Hoeryong Concentration Camp, Camp 22 is one of the world's most infamous gulags. Prisoners are routinely forced to stand on their toes in water up to their noses for 24 hours at a time; they are beaten while hung upside down and they are fed starvation rations.

Choi, who still bears the scars of torture, escaped to China and then to America, where he lives today. He is one of the lucky ones.

With all of the serious oppression that Christians face around the world and a seemingly apathetic version of the faith in the Western world, the question must be asked: Can Christianity survive?

Christianity is still the world's largest religion, with approximately 2.3 billion adherents worldwide, according to a 2017 Pew Research poll. However, the same study shows that the growth of Christianity — especially in Western nations — is slowing. Also, it is well known that many



AP Images

Take part or be punished: Pakistani Muslims offer prayers on the first Friday of Ramadan in Karachi on May 18. Christians face increased persecution when they don't participate in the Islamic month of fasting.

Westerners who claim to be Christians are only so by tradition, not necessarily by choice. How many American Christians would still claim the mantle of Jesus under the threat of torture or death?

Islam, on the other hand, is the fastest growing faith, with approximately 1.8 billion followers, according to Pew. Muslims also have the highest fertility rate of any of the groups studied. Sometime in the next decade, Islam will likely become the largest religion in the world.

Psalm 125:1-2 — *They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever.*

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round His people from henceforth, even forever.

Tucked far in the northeast corner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in the Punjab Province, is the City of Faisalabad. Most Americans have never heard of the place. But miracles are happening there.

As the official name suggests, Pakistan is an Islamic country. A full 97 percent of Pakistanis claim Islam as their faith. More than 80 percent are of the Sunni sect; about 15 percent are Shias. The remaining faiths — Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism — consist of a small minority of segregated and mostly impoverished souls. Pakistan is listed as number five on Open Door's World Watch List of the worst places in the world to be a Christian.

Although it is not technically illegal to be a Christian in Pakistan, it might as well be. Walled Christian enclaves, where the faithful must stay, are common there. Evangelizing outside of these walls is both illegal and extremely hazardous to one's health.

Still, even in Pakistan, a remnant of Christ's church soldiers on. The Voice of Gospel (VOG) Ministry routinely ventures outside the walls of its reservation to preach the Gospel to Muslims in Fais-

alabad. Evangelist Arooj Nabeel and her husband, Nabeel Khuram, head the ministry. They literally put their lives in God's hands when they share their testimony with those around them.

"Our vision is to reach unreachable people and bring the message of God; to share the Gospel," Arooj said. "We want to serve our Lord in Pakistan among the Christian and non-Christian."

And serving they are. The ministry has planted 17 house churches in cities, villages, and remote areas of Pakistan. They have four Sunday schools and a large children's ministry, designed to spread the Good News of Christ to the young people of the nation. They offer food to the destitute and free education to children. They arrange for free medical clinics and procure medical necessities for people in need.

Because they minister to the poor and destitute, VOG depends on funding from American partners to do their work. "The kind-hearted people who feel our people's pain stand with us and send their funds," Arooj said. "They send their donations for our Godly mission."

Fully understanding the risks involved in their ministry, the VOG soldiers continue to do what they see as their duty. An unshakeable faith and a belief in their cause drives them forward. They are brazenly doing God's work in a country where doing so can get you imprisoned, tortured, or killed. When asked if she was ever afraid, Arooj said simply, "God is with us. He protects us so nobody can harm us."

Whether you're a Christian or not, that kind of courage deserves respect.

So, even in the most oppressive regions of the world, Christians are working hard, shining their light into the darkness. To be a Christian in a place such as North Korea or Pakistan is difficult; still many choose to do so. Even though it would be much easier, and less hazardous, to follow another "approved" path, they choose Jesus. With dictatorial governments and antagonistic followers of other religions threatening their very existence, they choose Jesus.

With brave souls such as Choi, Arooj, and Khuram working on the front lines, Christianity is in fine shape. Christians in America would do well to follow their example and be fearless for their faith. ■

Sometimes, Christian converts are considered insane and committed to psychiatric facilities. Sometimes all of their property is taken from them. Sometimes, they simply disappear — never to be heard from again.



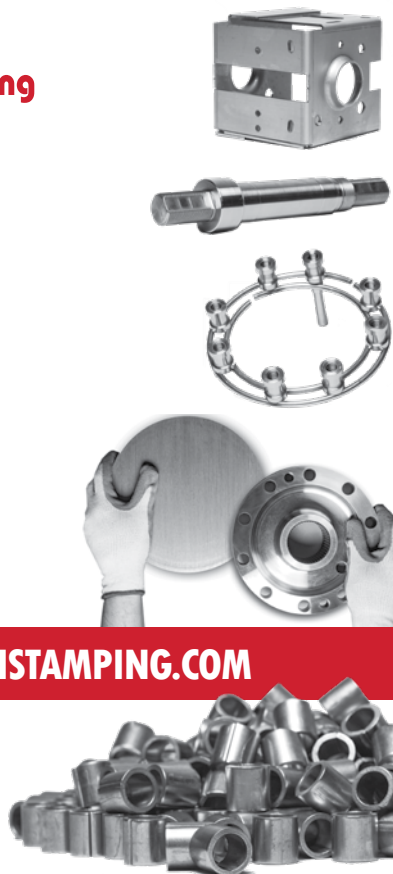
**Wisconsin Stamping
& Manufacturing**

SPECIALIZING IN:

- METAL FABRICATION
- PROGRESSIVE DIE COMPONENTS
- SIMPLE STAMPINGS
- LASER CUTTING
- TUBULAR SOLUTIONS
- RASCHIG RINGS
- COMPLEX WELDMENTS
- SIMPLE & INTRICATE ASSEMBLIES
- CNC WIREFORMING
- MACHINED PRODUCTS
- THREADED RODS & COMPONENTS

CAREERS: HR@WISCONSINSTAMPING.COM

N110 W13455 North Patton Court
Germantown, WI 53022
888-236-8838 (PHONE)
262-236-9291 (FAX)
mcegielski@wisconsinstamping.com
www.wisconsinstamping.com



**CONTRACTORS
POWER & LIGHT CO.**

HIGH VOLTAGE

- High Voltage Splicing
- Terminating Testing
- Fault Locating
- Overhead & Underground Installations



901 N. Williams St., Thornton, IL 60476

Office: 708-331-1422

FAX: 708-331-1466



**HOW DID YOUR
CONGRESSMAN
DO?**



Freedom Index

Voting Records 1999-2017:

The index you've used to track whether your congressman is voting according to the Constitution now features cumulative scores online, as well as scores for former congressmen, at TheNewAmerican.com/freedomindex. **A perfect resource for the online activist!**

How Can I Make a Difference?

GETTING STARTED IS AS EASY AS 1,2,3...

1

Sign up for JBS news and action alerts

- Stay informed with free content
- Visit www.JBS.org/e-newsletter to sign up now

2

Contact your elected representatives

- Local, state, and federal officials represent you
- Visit www.JBS.org/act-now for contact information

3

Join The John Birch Society

- National concerted action multiplies your impact
- Visit www.JBS.org/join to apply for membership today

The John Birch Society



Appleton, WI 54912-8040 • (920) 749-3780 • JBS.org

"Less government, more responsibility, and — with God's help — a better world."



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Mom's Flight Saved by Passenger

A stranger known only as Todd from Lenexa, Kansas, intervened when he saw airline passenger Jessica Rudeen struggling with an infant and toddler on her first-ever flight, and helped make the entire April 14 trip a whole lot easier.

Rudeen was unable to breastfeed her four-month-old infant before boarding a plane to Charlotte, North Carolina, which caused the hungry infant to scream in distress and prompted the three-year-old to follow suit.

Fortunately for Rudeen, Todd was seated next to her, and he immediately came to her aid. "(Todd) reached for the baby and held him while I forced a seatbelt on Caroline, got her tablet and started her movie. Once she was settled and relatively calmed, he distracted her so that I could feed Alexander," says Rudeen. "Finally, while we were taxiing, the back of the plane no longer had screams."

Todd's actions did not stop there, however. He continued to entertain Caroline throughout the flight, coloring with her, talking to her, and pointing out all of the interesting sites outside the window. Jessica recalled that by the end of the flight, Caroline considered Todd her friend and even kissed him on the shoulder.

When Jessica learned that Todd was also booked for the same connecting flight from Charlotte to Wilmington, North Carolina, she thought she just about struck gold.

Todd walked with Jessica and her children through the airport, holding Caroline's hand the entire time. Rudeen was able to snap some photos of the two as they navigated their way through the busy airport.

Todd changed his seat on the flight to Wilmington so that he could sit with Rudeen and continue to offer his assistance through the last leg of Rudeen's trip.

Todd told Rudeen why he was happy to help when he saw she needed it. He explained that his wife had been in a similar situation with their two boys when a stranger intervened and offered the same kindness.

Rudeen later took to her Facebook page to share her experience. "I am blown away

by God's hand in this because we could have been placed next to anyone, but we were seated next to one of the nicest men I have ever met in my life."

Rudeen had hoped that her Facebook page would help her locate Todd so that she could thank him properly for what he did for her. The post was shared more than 8,000 times, and Rudeen was finally connected to Todd's wife. The two families reportedly made plans to meet up.

"It Was an Honor"

It seems lately the news has been dominated by negative stories involving airlines and their treatment of passengers, so it is a refreshing change to hear this story out of Alaska.

A woman named Kathryn was dealing with the death of her beloved "Nan," Concetta Immacolata Mongiardo, and wanted to prepare something beautiful for the wake and funeral. "I made a poster of my favorite picture of her," Kathryn explained, "which is when she turned 100. To me, this picture shows the essence of my grandmother's nature: gratitude."

KTVU reported that Kathryn wrapped the photo in cardboard and brought it to the airport to take it on board her May 10 flight, but was told by Alaska Airlines gate agent Lourdes Pedemonte that the photo would have to go in the cargo hold with the rest of the luggage.

Kathryn became teary-eyed and explained the poster's importance to her and asked if there was some other way it could travel.

Pedemonte reportedly became visibly emotional and assured Kathryn that the poster would not have to fly in the cargo hold.

"A few minutes later, she came up to me, put her hand on my shoulder and said, 'you're all set, the pilots are going to keep Nan in the cockpit,'" Kathryn recalled.

Kathryn was moved by the airline's gesture, and by the kindness shown to her by the staff. "When I boarded the plane, I was greeted by flight attendant Pam Keck who said, 'you must be the woman with some precious cargo.' I smiled at her, with tears in my eyes, and handed Nan over to her."

"The cockpit door was open, and when Ms. Keck handed Nan over to the pilots, they both made eye contact with me and told me not to worry, that they would take good care of Nan as we travelled across the country."

At the end of the flight, Kathryn thanked the pilots for their kindness, to which they replied, "It was an honor."

For Kathryn, the kindness shown by the staff of the airline was a beacon of light in an otherwise dark place.

RIP Medical Debt

Widower Danny Roberson, of Garland, Texas, turned a tragic loss into something positive that will help others.

Danny's wife, Betty, died early this year from a tumor that did not respond to months of chemotherapy. Worse, while Betty was receiving treatment for her cancer, Danny had also been diagnosed with cancer, a tumor that was in his face. Danny refused treatment at the time because he wanted to use all of their finances to fight Betty's cancer.

After Betty's passing, Danny did pursue treatment and is now recovering from surgery that successfully removed the tumor. However, he did not want other families to be confronted by the same difficult decision that he had to make in deciding whether they had the funds to treat both his and Betty's cancer. So Danny did something wonderful.

He donated \$10,000 of Betty's life insurance payout to the charity RIP Medical Debt, which buys people's medical debt for pennies on the dollar. In other words, Danny's \$10,000 donation will forgive approximately \$1 million in medical debt, NBCDFW reported.

Danny told the news outlet that there had been other treatments available that Betty could have pursued, but they simply cost too much to afford. He did not want others to experience the same disappointment.

"When they go out and see that RIP medical envelope in their mail box, I know God is blessing them and I know Betty may have had a little bit to do with that," Danny told NBCDFW. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

Why Won't the Ten Commandments Just Go Away?



allanswart/GettyimagesPlus

Conflicts over putting Ten Commandments displays on public grounds keep recurring, but they shouldn't. The Ten Commandments form the foundation of federal and local laws.

by John A. Eidsmoe

Those Ten Commandments again! Just when the Left thinks they've buried the Decalog fully six feet under, they spring up again like perennial flowers on a courthouse lawn, in a city park, or on the grounds of a state capitol.

During the spring 2018 session, the Alabama Legislature passed a state constitutional amendment that, if approved by the voters in November, will authorize the placement of the Ten Commandments on public property. The amendment states:

Every person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience.

Colonel John A. Eidsmoe, a retired Air Force judge advocate, is professor of constitutional law for Oak Brook College of Law and Government Policy and senior counsel and resident scholar for the Foundation for Moral Law.

No person shall be compelled to attend, or, against his or her consent, to contribute to the erection or support of any place of religious worship, or to pay tithes, taxes, or other rates for the support of any minister of the gospel. Property belonging to the state may be used to display the Ten Commandments, and the right of a public school and public body to display the Ten Commandments on property owned or administered by a public school or public body in this state is not restrained or abridged. The civil and political rights, privileges, and capacities of no person shall be diminished or enlarged on account of his or her religious belief. No public funds may be expended in defense of the constitutionality of this amendment.

The Ten Commandments shall be displayed in a manner that complies with constitutional requirements,

including, but not limited to, being intermingled with historical or educational items, or both, in a larger display within or on property owned or administered by a public school or public body.

If Alabama voters approve this amendment, it will likely face a court challenge. The challengers will argue that the Decalog is a religious document that has no place in the public arena, and that this amendment singles out the Ten Commandments for legal protection, thus preferring the Ten Commandments over other religious documents.

But there are valid grounds for defending and upholding the Ten Commandments Amendment:

- The Ten Commandments do not belong to any single religion. Today they are sometimes identified with Christianity, but Moses received them on behalf of the Hebrews on Mt. Sinai, and Muslims and other religious people accept them, as well. Martin Luther contended that the Ten Commandments summarize natural law principles that were written on the heart at the time of Creation:

The Decalog is not of Moses, nor did God give it to him first. On the contrary, the Decalog belongs to the whole world; it was written and engraved in the minds of all human beings from the beginning of the world.

- The Ten Commandments are not exclusively religious. Radical separationists simplistically assume that everything must be 100-percent religious or 100-percent secular. But a document may have both religious and secular components. In *Van Orden v. Perry* (2005), the Supreme Court upheld a Ten Commandments display on the lawn of the Texas State Capitol. In the plurality opinion, Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote: "Of course, the Ten Commandments are religious. . . . But Moses was a lawgiver as well as a religious leader. And the Ten Commandments have an undeniable historical meaning." Justice Stephen Breyer observed in a concurring opinion in the same case:

In certain contexts, a display of the tablets of the Ten Commandments

Radical separationists simplistically assume that everything must be 100-percent religious or 100-percent secular. But a document may have both religious and secular components.

can convey not simply a religious message but also a secular moral message (about proper standards of social conduct). And in certain contexts, a display of the tablets can also convey a historical message (about a historic relation between those standards and the law) — a fact that helps to explain the display of those tablets in dozens of courthouses throughout the Nation, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

Ten years earlier, in *Oliverson v. West Valley City*, a federal district court made the same observation about the role of the Ten Commandments in governing social conduct:

The codes are often referred to for their religious importance, however, in fact, in Hebraic history they were in part legal codes governing the social conduct of the societies to which they applied. The Biblical books are ancient legal codes

and histories. It would be wrong to assume the Hebraic references are merely religious commands.

Clearly, the Ten Commandments are a moral, civil, and criminal code, as well as a religious document.

- The proposed amendment requires that Ten Commandments displays conform to U.S. constitutional requirements. Presumably this includes considerations imposed by various court decisions, such as that the commandments must be displayed in context with other historical documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, or the Mayflower Compact.

- The proposed amendment prohibits the use of public funds for the legal defense of Ten Commandments displays. Presumably that defense would be undertaken by private organizations such as the Foundation for Moral Law, Alliance Defending Freedom, or Liberty Counsel.

- The amendment does not prohibit other displays. It singles out the Ten Commandments for protection because the Ten

Commandments have been singled out for attack. The Decalog is one of the most, if not the most, censored documents in America today.

- Most importantly, other documents are not on an equal footing with the Ten Commandments. Whatever merits there may be in the display of the Code of Hammurabi, the Koran, the Bhagavad Gita, the Laws of Manu, or the Analects of Confucius, none of these have influenced Western jurisprudence as have the Ten Commandments.

Clearly, the Ten Commandments deserve a place, even a special place, in America's public life, because the Ten Commandments and the Mosaic Law they represent have played a formative role in the development of Western jurisprudence and Western culture. They represent the American political philosophy expressed in the Declaration of Independence and other founding documents: that our nation is established under the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" and that God created us in a state of equality and endowed us with unalienable rights.

The Decalog Sets America's Tone

Evidence that the Ten Commandments are an intrinsic part of our nation's political model and philosophy can be illustrated in several ways:

They are basic principles of Western law: The Decalog provided the foundation upon which American laws were built. In fact, at the same time that the point is being made that the Ten Commandments are a component of U.S. laws, the same arguments show that governments themselves have a religious component, thereby ridiculing the contention that government and religion should be kept completely separate.

American *respect for life* is found in the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" and mirrored in the homicide laws of all states, while *respect for property* — enacted in the theft and property laws of all jurisdictions — is found in the commandments "Thou shalt not steal" and "Thou shalt not covet."

Unlike in many societies around the world, especially socialist ones, the American recognition that *the family* is the basic unit of society is found in the commandments "Honor thy father and mother" and "Thou shalt not commit adultery." It's likewise with American *respect for truth* — found in our laws against perjury, defa-



ChrisRyan/OJOImages/GettyImagesPlus

How can something integral to the law be banned? In over 1,000 cases, American courts of record have cited the Ten Commandments to support their legal rulings.

mation, and other false and misleading statements — which has its foundation in the commandments “Thou shalt not bear false witness” and “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain” (which prohibits not only blasphemy but also perjury and all speech that places God’s Name in disrespect).

Meanwhile, the fact that God is the supreme authority (as is stated in three commandments), hence the source of governmental authority, is recognized in the Declaration of Independence (“that separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them”) and in the constitutions of all 50 states. Also, the Declaration recognizes God as the Source of human rights: “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.”

The Supreme Court has also recognized this fact. In *Zorach v. Clauson* (1952), Justice William Douglas wrote, “We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being.” And in *McGowan v. Maryland* (1961), Justice Douglas stated in dissent:

The institutions of our society are founded on the belief that there is an authority higher than the authority of the State; that there is a moral law which the State is powerless to alter; that the individual possesses rights, conferred by the Creator, which government must respect.

This view of human rights did not derive from Greek philosophy or Roman jurisprudence. It comes from the ancient Hebrews. It was the political philosophy of most if not all of the Founding Fathers, and it is the belief of a large segment of the American people today.

The Ten Commandments belong in the public arena because they are the source of



Philippe de Champaigne

Hebrew law was foundational: Because the Greek and Roman republics failed to prevent totalitarianism, our Founders looked to the Hebrews for a legal model. Moses was one of the most influential lawgivers the world has ever known.

our fundamental principles of law. In an era of ever-expanding government power, we need this public reminder that our rights are unalienable because they are the gift of God. As Jefferson asked, “Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are ... the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?”

The commandments are often quoted and cited by American courts: A Lexis computer search by this writer in March 2002 revealed at least 1,100 cases on record in which the terms “Ten Commandments,” or “Decalog,” or individual commandments by number were cited by American courts of record, that is, by federal courts or state supreme or appellate courts.

As just one of many examples, a West Virginia public official was fired for having solicited a prostitute. He argued that under state law he could be fired only for a crime that constituted moral turpitude. In *Moore*

v. Strickling (1899), the West Virginia Supreme Court concluded that his offense did indeed constitute moral turpitude, citing the Decalog’s prohibition of adultery:

These commandments, which, like a collection of diamonds, bear testimony to their own intrinsic worth, in themselves appeal to us as coming from a superhuman or divine source, and no conscientious or reasonable man has yet been able to find a flaw in them. Absolutely flawless, negative in terms, but positive in meaning, they easily stand at the head of our whole moral system, and no nation or people can long continue a happy existence in open violation of them.

If the Ten Commandments are of such legal and historical significance that courts frequently cite them as legal authority in judicial opinions, they certainly are

of such legal and historical significance that they may be displayed in front of the halls of government.

They are the inspiration and model for republican government: Though many look to Greece and Rome for the roots of the American Republic, they really came from the Hebrews.

John Adams wrote: “As much as I love, esteem and admire the Greeks, I believe the Hebrews have done more to civilize the world. Moses did more than all their legislators and philosophers.” Moses was a prophet, but he was much more: He was a judge, military commander, statesman, and lawgiver whose legal code has exerted great influence on the Western world.

The Renaissance brought renewed interest in Greek and Roman thought, but that included bad ideas as well as good, including the Roman concept of *impe-rium* (right to rule). As feudalism faded, the modern absolutist state emerged with powerful kings such as Henry VIII; the

The Alabama amendment singles out the Ten Commandments for protection because the Ten Commandments have been singled out for attack. The Decalog is one of the most, if not the most, censored documents in America today.

Stuart kings with their belief in divine right to rule; Louis XIV of France, who allegedly declared “L’etat c’est moi” (“I am the state”); and Thomas Hobbes’ *Leviathan*. Western political philosophers sought to develop as an alternative to absolute monarchy and the all-powerful State the ideal of a republic.

But the Greek and Roman models proved unsatisfactory. The Greek democracies had been unstable and short-lived, and the Roman republic had degenerated into an empire. Western political philosophers turned for guidance to a governmental model more ancient and more republican than either Greece or Rome. They looked a thousand years earlier to the Hebrew republic.

When St. Patrick (A.D. fifth century) evangelized Ireland, he left his converts with a writing called *Liber ex Lege Moisi* (“The Book of the Law of Moses”). When the High King of Ireland ordered Patrick to lead a commission to draft the *Senchus Mor*, or written legal code of Ireland, his commission employed Druid law, but only insofar as it was consistent with the Old and New Testaments.

When Alfred the Great drafted the Book of Dooms (A.D. 890), the first written legal code to govern all of England, he began with the Ten Commandments and integrated into the code scriptural passages from the Old and New Testaments.

Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides) (A.D. 1135-1204) was a towering medieval intellect whose *Mishneh Torah* codified the Torah, the Talmud, and the writings of early medieval Jewish scholars. Maimonides’ works, which made Jewish law more readily available to Western scholars,

formed the basis for the commercial codes in much of Europe.

The Protestant Reformation fostered republican thinking, and many of its leaders were influenced by rabbinical Old Testament scholarship. Martin Luther (1483-1546), who had studied law before becoming a priest, defended the old Teutonic Anglo-Saxon common law that emphasized decentralized government and was based upon natural law and natural rights. Luther believed the Ten Commandments were the perfect expression of natural law:

Natural law is the Ten Commandments. It is written in the heart of

every human being by creation. It was clearly and comprehensively put on Mount Sinai, finer indeed than any philosopher has ever stated it. Natural law, then, is created and written in the heart; it does not come from men but is a created Law to which everyone who hears it cannot but consent.

Carolus Sigonius (c. 1524-1584), an Italian Renaissance scholar of Roman and Greek political systems, wrote a treatise entitled *The Hebrew Republic* that enjoyed wide circulation and profoundly influenced later writers.

Petrus Cunaeus (1586-1638) is remembered for *De Republica Hebraeorum* (*The Hebrew Republic*), called by Richard Tuck “the most powerful statement of republican theory in the early years of the Dutch Republic.” Cunaeus described Moses as the great lawgiver who was the “first to write and publish laws so that the people might learn what was right and what was wrong, and which sanctions might steady the state Almighty God had ordered to be set up in Palestine.”

Johannes Althusius (c. 1557-1638) was a professor of law, theology, and philosophy. His classic work, *Politica*, offered a legal and theological justification for the Dutch secession from Spain and a grand design for federalism based on scripture and natural law. In the 1614 preface he stated:

The precepts of the Decalogue are included to the extent that they infuse a vital spirit into the association and symbiotic life that we seek, and that they prescribe and constitute a way, rule, guiding star, and boundary for human society. If anyone would take them out of politics, he would destroy it; indeed, he would destroy all symbiosis and social life among men. For what would human life be without the piety of the first table of the Decalogue, and without the justice of the second? What would a commonwealth be without communion and communication of things useful and necessary to human life? By means of these precepts, charity becomes effective in various good works.



Not just Christian text: Martin Luther, who had studied law before becoming a priest, believed God gave the Decalog to the whole world as the perfect expression of natural law, which protects against centralized government.

Hugo Grotius (1583-1645) is often called the “father of international law,” but along with his classic *The Rights of War and Peace*, he also published a work of Christian apologetics, *The Truth of the Christian Religion*. In this latter work he argues that “the most ancient Attick Laws, from whence the Roman were afterwards taken, owe their Origins to the Law of Moses.” In *War and Peace*, he argued that international law could be binding on both Christian and non-Christian nations because of their common understanding of natural law. The Mosaic Law can be useful in understanding natural law and international law because

what it enjoins is not contrary to the law of nature. For since the law of nature is perpetual and unchangeable, nothing contrary to it could be commanded by God, who is never unjust. Besides the law of Moses is called in the xix. Psalm an undefiled and right law, and St. Paul, Rom. Vii. 12, describes it to be holy, just, and good.

An English jurist who carried this idea forward was John Selden (1584-1654), described by John Milton as “the chief of learned men reputed in this land.” A member of Parliament, Selden drafted the Petition of Right in 1628 and is well known for his works on English legal history and constitutionalism. But although he was a Christian, he was first and foremost a Hebrew scholar. He concluded that the English common law reflected eternal principles of natural law. In fact, King James I imprisoned Selden in the Tower of London for five weeks for arguing that the Parliament was an ancient institution descended from the Anglo-Saxon Witenagemot and therefore not dependent upon the king for its existence and authority. Although he is not given enough attention today, John Selden’s work was foundational for future republican theorists. His Hebraic scholarship provided a foundation in Hebrew law upon which later jurists constructed republican models of government.



Dcoetzee/the National Portrait Gallery

One code for freedom: Sir William Blackstone, one of the most influential legal minds of the Founding era, said all human law must conform to the Law of Nature and the Revealed Law, which is found only in the Holy Scriptures.

Finally, Sir William Blackstone (1723-1780), whose *Commentaries on the Laws of England* sold widely in America as well as in England, saw the English common law as ancient, rooted in the Anglo-Saxon laws and much earlier. He believed that human laws, to be valid, had to conform to the higher laws of God, which consisted of “the revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the Holy Scriptures.” He also recognized that the “law of nature [was] coeval with mankind, and dictated by God himself.” The revealed law and the law of nature, he said, are of “equal strength and perpetuity.”

Blackstone emphasized that the revealed law and the law of nature are the foundations of law: “Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation, depend all human laws; that is to say, no human law should be suffered to contradict these.”

Hebrew law, symbolized by the Ten Commandments, had a major formative

influence in early America: The early English colonists in America used Mosaic Law as the basis of their legal codes.

Jamestown’s *Articles, Lawes, and Orders, Divine, Politique, and Martial for the Colony in Virginia*, most likely the first English-language legal code in the Western Hemisphere, contains all of the Ten Commandments except the prohibition of graven images.

Reverend Nathaniel Ward (1578-1652), a clergyman who had legal training, drafted *The Massachusetts Body of Liberties* (1641), which served as a model for legal codes throughout New England. Numerous sections were taken directly from the Mosaic Law. As John Winthrop recorded, when Indian nations sought the protection of the Massachusetts colony, the colony did not demand that they become Christians but did ask them to agree to follow the Ten Commandments, to which they assented.

The American colonies looked back upon their Hebrew heritage. In *American Zion: The Old Testament as a Political Text from the Revolution to the Civil War* (2013), Dr. Eran Shalev of the University of Haifa concludes:

The fingerprints of the Old Testament were — still are — particularly evident in the language of chosenness, itself, of course, a Hebrew concept. What has widely become known as the American ‘mission,’ the idea that the United States is endowed with an errand to promote liberty, was formed closely related to the belief that the United States was the Israel of its time.

Those who insist that the American Republic was founded upon a Greco-Roman model rather than a Hebraic model would do well to study Michael Novak’s *On Two Wings: Humble Faith and Common Sense at the American Founding* (2002). Novak dispassionately demonstrates that America’s Founders drew from both Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman traditions and did not consider them incompatible. Sermons of the founding era frequently

quoted from the Bible and Greco-Roman sources in the same paragraph.

Many other works explore the Hebraic origin of modern legal doctrines: E.C. Wines' *Commentaries on the Laws of the Ancient Hebrews* (1853), Edward J. White's *The Law in the Scriptures with Explanations of the Law Terms and Legal References in Both the Old and the New Testaments* (1935), J.W. Erlich's *The Holy Bible and the Law* (1962), H.B. Clark's *Biblical Law* (2011), Howard B. Rand's *Digest of the Divine Law* (1943), R.J. Rushdoony's *Institutes of Biblical Law* (1973), and Walter Harrelson's *The Ten Commandments and Human Rights* (1980).

Current scholars are rediscovering the influence of the Mosaic Law upon modern republicanism. Joshua Berman, senior lecturer at Bar-Ilan University, in his book *Created Equal: How the Bible Broke With Ancient Political Thought* (2008), contends that the Pentateuch is the world's first model of a society in which politics and economics embrace egalitarian ideals. Berman states flatly:

If there was one truth the ancients held to be self-evident it was that all men were not created equal. If we maintain today that, in fact, they are

endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, then it is because we have inherited as part of our cultural heritage notions of equality that were deeply entrenched in the ancient passages of the Pentateuch.

Eric Nelson, professor of government at Harvard, in *The Hebrew Republic: Jewish Sources and the Transformation of European Political Thought* (2010), traces the development of European political thought based on the Hebrew model from Maimonides to the *Catalogus omnium praeceptorum legis Moisaicae* (*Catalogue of All of the Precepts and Laws of Moses*) (1533), through the works of Lively, Ainsworth, Lightfoot, Pococke, Coleman, Spencer, Selden, Bodin, Grotius, Bertram, Junius, Zepper, Stephani, Harrington, Spinoza, and Hobbes. He explains that earlier jurists saw good and bad aspects in monarchy, oligarchy, and democracy; “in the middle of the seventeenth century, however, we find republican authors making a new and revolutionary argument: they now begin to claim that monarchy per se is an illicit constitutional form and that all legitimate constitutions are republican.” “This rupture,” he states, “was provoked by the Protestant reception of a radical tradition of rabbinic Biblical exegesis, which understood the Israelite request for a king in I Samuel as an instance of the sin of idolatry. This embrace of ‘republican exclusivism’ ... marks a crucial turning point in the history of European political thought.” Nelson concludes:

For roughly 100 years — from the time of Bertram

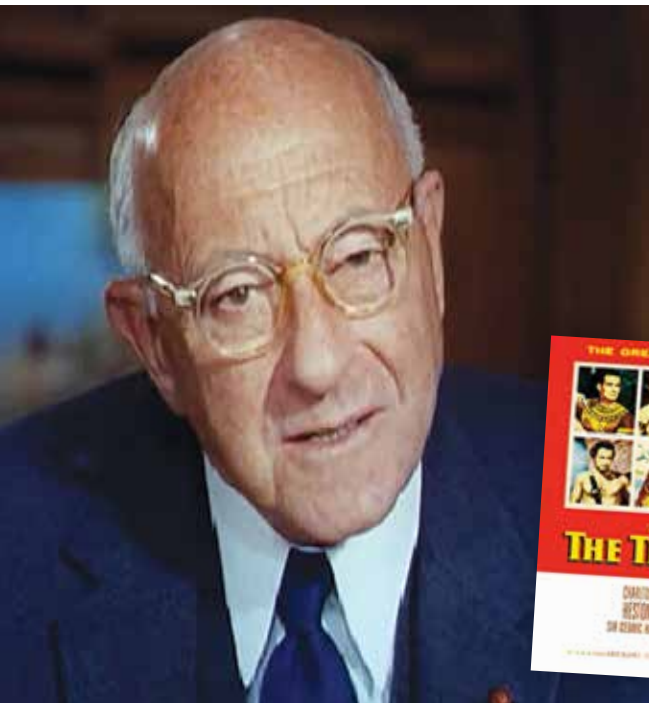
until the time of Spinoza — European Protestants made the Hebrew Bible the measure of their politics. They believed that the same God who thundered from Sinai, and who later sent his son into the world, had revealed to Israel the form of a perfect republic. They labored with the help of their rabbinic authorities to interpret his design and attempted in their own societies to replicate it as closely as possible. In the process, they made crucial contributions to the political thought of the modern world. Republican exclusivism, redistribution, and toleration have all been defended on different grounds in the intervening centuries; but in the beginning, all were authorized by the divine will made manifest in the constitution of the Hebrew republic.

These and numerous other works demonstrate the relevance of the Ten Commandments and Old Testament law in general from the beginnings of American history to the current day. And to the best of my knowledge, most of this evidence has never been considered by a court of law in determining the constitutionality of Ten Commandments displays.

Philosophy Illustrated

The Ten Commandments and similar displays represent a philosophy of government based on higher law and unalienable God-given rights. The Alabama Ten Commandments Amendment constitutes a recognition of the political philosophy upon which this nation was founded. Robert J. Barth, associate dean and professor at the Oak Brook College of Law and Government Policy, explains:

If you combine the philosophy of government of our Founders with the form of government chosen, you create a republican form of government that presupposes a Creator as the source of unalienable rights and the definer of human dignity and equality. This form of government acknowledges the existence of the Creator as a self-evident truth and yet recognizes the distinct differences between the jurisdiction of the church and the civil government.... This jurisdictional separation



True in real life, too: Movie man Cecil B. DeMille understood that the Ten Commandments are the laws of a free people under God, and are unlike laws of a totalitarian dictator such as Ramses.

between the acknowledgement of God as an essential presupposition of good government (unalienable rights, equal protection, due process) and matters of worship, faith, and religious practices, is the essence of the legitimate separation between church and state.

The Ten Commandments, as an expression of Hebrew political philosophy, reflect the “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,” that “all men are created equal” and have unalienable, God-given rights, and that government is to be by consent of the governed. These principles find overt expression in the founding document of the American nation, the *Declaration of Independence*, which invokes “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God” and attributes our unalienable rights to the Creator.

The Decalog stands at the very heart of Western civilization. Therefore, their placement in the public arena is entirely consistent with the legal relationship of the Decalog to the foundational principles of American government.

In the original, uncut version of the

1956 epic film *The Ten Commandments*, producer Cecil B. DeMille stepped out on stage and addressed the cinema audience with these words:

Ladies and Gentlemen, young and old. This may seem an unusual procedure, but we have an unusual subject: The birth of freedom. The story of Moses. The theme of this picture is whether men ought to be ruled by God’s laws or whether they are to be ruled by the whims of a dictator like Ramses. Are men the property of the State or are they free souls under God? This same battle continues throughout the world today.

In *Van Orden v. Perry*, the court found that the Ten Commandments have both religious and secular significance. They symbolize an American philosophy of law and government: That civil governments are ordained by the “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,” that God has created us in a state of equality and has endowed us with unalienable rights, and that God has a spe-

cial plan for America that includes blessing and prosperity, a plan that will be realized if we are faithful to Him and His Laws.

These principles were embedded in the *Declaration of Independence*. In arguing for ratification of the Constitution, James Madison in 1788 invoked “the transcendent law of nature and of nature’s God” in *The Federalist*, No. 43.

The Alabama Ten Commandments Amendment is a salutary reminder that American constitutional government owes much to its Hebraic origins in the laws of Moses. The Ten Commandments represent the laws of the Hebrew republic that were instrumental in the development of Western republican thought and American constitutional government. In harmony with this history, courts have repeatedly cited the Ten Commandments as authoritative and illustrative of American legal principles.

No wonder those Ten Commandments just won’t go away! They stand at the foundation of Western law and Western civilization. Alabama voters would do well to remember this when they go to the polls in November. ■

ULINE

SHIPPING SUPPLY SPECIALISTS

CLEANING ESSENTIALS

OVER 2,400 JANITORIAL
PRODUCTS IN STOCK

ORDER BY 6 PM FOR
SAME DAY SHIPPING

COMPLETE CATALOG
1-800-295-5510





EXERCISING THE RIGHT

“... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Good Worker With a Gun

The mainstream media allowed one shooting story recently to fly below their radar, perhaps because it supported the contention that a “good guy with a gun” can help prevent gun violence.

Winknews.com reported on June 3 out of Cape Coral, Florida, about how a crime at a roofing business was foiled when an armed worker intervened. Police say the worker was a concealed-carry permit holder, and authorities do not expect any charges for the shooting since his actions appeared to be justified. The suspect, Kevin Bruzos, is a convicted felon who illegally had a gun.

Details are still sketchy about what preceded the shooting, but Bruzos was charged with criminal assault, so it appears that he pulled his gun in an attempt to menace and threaten some of the roofing business employees. A worker who was standing beside the people that Bruzos pointed his gun at witnessed Bruzos pull his gun, so he immediately drew his own firearm and shot Bruzos. Surveillance video of the incident revealed Bruzos being shot almost immediately after pulling out a gun, which shows the speed with which the armed worker acted. The suspect is in stable condition at Lee Memorial Hospital. Bruzos had prior convictions for third-degree battery, drug possession, and criminal mischief.

Views Can Change

Surprisingly, not all opinions about the Second Amendment are set in stone. In a May 30 editorial in the *Daily Caller*, H.A. Goodman wrote about his journey from a staunch advocate of gun control to a defender of the Second Amendment. Goodman detailed his past as a liberal writer for the *Huffington Post* who regularly attacked gun ownership and tried shooting holes through arguments in defense of the Second Amendment. One argument in particular that Goodman had fixated on was the ability of private citizens to overthrow their government through the use of firearms. Goodman had cited the failed Whiskey Rebellion in his rationale as an example of a time when an armed popu-

lace was unable to overthrow its government. This argument led to a rebuttal in the *American Conservative* by Grayson Quay, who pointed out that Goodman only had to look back a little further to see an example of when an armed populace successfully rebelled against their government. Quay wrote, “Since he never mentions it, I can only assume Mr. Goodman hasn’t heard of the successful American Revolution, which just a few years earlier had succeeded in throwing off British rule and establishing the very nation against which the Whiskey rebels revolted.”

It was this simple response that made Goodman reevaluate his original position, along with some current events that seemed to support the need for an armed populace. Those other events included the continuing derangement being expressed by the FBI and their mouthpieces in the media, which gave Goodman pause to consider whether he really trusted federal agents to be the only ones who have access to firearms. “After witnessing the union of the Democratic Party and former spy chiefs James Clapper, James Comey and John Brennan, I slowly realized my trust in the federal government had been naive. Of course, I’d never advocate an armed rebellion, but the fact [that] 37 percent of American families own some type of firearm ensures that unelected officials think twice about the extent of their schemes. If intelligence chiefs like Brennan and Clapper can lie under oath without perjury charges, or James Comey can overlook Clinton’s private server (storing SAP intelligence) because of ‘intent,’ imagine the extent of their chicanery with a disarmed population. The Second Amendment isn’t necessarily a call to arms — it’s an inconvenient reality for unelected officials who continually act with impunity and without government oversight,” Goodman wrote in the *Daily Caller*.

Goodman also noted that the proposed gun-control measures trumpeted by the Democrats and the media would not have even prevented many of these recent high-profile shootings. As a matter of fact, Goodman noted how it was actually the feds who had missed many red flags or completely botched the job when it came to preventing these attacks using laws

that are already on the books. Goodman even went so far as to agree with President Trump and the NRA that schools need armed guards to prevent mass shootings. “The NRA is correct; schools need armed guards, like the heroic resource officers in Illinois and Florida, who prevented massacres and stopped armed killers before they reached innocent lives,” Goodman wrote.

Goodman was so energized by his newfound conversion that he recently joined both the NRA and Gun Owners of America and denounced the “groupthink” he ascribed to that, he said, “hurts law-abiding citizens and does nothing to prevent the next deranged copycat criminal.”

Killer Clown

In a really bizarre story out of Holly Hill, Florida, the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* reported on May 27 about a man in a clown mask who attacked a Little Caesar’s pizza shop employee. Surveillance video from the store showed the mask-wearing man pacing the parking lot before the employee left for the night. As soon as the employee exited the store, the clown mask-wearing man began assaulting him. The clown mask the suspect was wearing looked like a demonic monster with blood on its face. The suspect also was armed with a wooden pole and a pair of scissors, which he used in his attack on his victim. Fortunately, the employee was a licensed concealed-carry permit holder and had his firearm on him. The employee said he was in fear for his life, and he fired at his attacker multiple times at a close range.

The employee suffered injuries to his face and shoulder area and needed medical treatment. Police arrived on the scene to discover the suspect lying on the ground. The suspect was transported to a nearby medical facility, where he was later pronounced dead. Holly Hill police are still investigating the incident but are treating it as an attempted robbery. The investigation did reveal that the deceased suspect had a criminal history, including a recent crime wherein he attempted to rob a pizza delivery driver. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Populist Rise Fueled by Resentment Over EU Policies

ITEM: *The Associated Press* reported on June 1 about Italy's new coalition government — led by the hard-right League (formerly Northern League) and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement. The wire service noted that this is both Italy's and Western Europe's first populist government. Said the AP: "Public resentment [among Italians] over what was perceived as fellow EU nations' failure to help ease the financial and logistical burden on Italy in caring for the flood of migrants helped boost the League's popularity."

ITEM: "Europe Day" in early May is "an occasion known only to employees of the European Union, who get the day off," according to the London-based *Economist*. This year, it launched with an online questionnaire about the European experience. The publication's tilt is exemplified by its subhead: "We have built Europe. Now we must build Europeans."

The questionnaire "will form a basis for Europe-wide 'citizens' consultations' designed in turn to inform meetings of EU leaders later this year and next. Meanwhile, each government will hold its own form of consultation on European matters."

The *Economist* acknowledged that "contemporary attempts to foster a common European spirit" quite "often seem to flounder." It also admitted, "Participation in European elections has steadily fallen since their introduction in 1979, even as the parliament has accumulated powers."

ITEM: The liberal *New York Times* for June 3 carried a worried piece entitled "Slovenia Elections Tilt Another European Country to the Right." The *Times* was concerned that voters in Slovenia "gave victory to a populist party led by a firebrand former prime minister [Janez Jansa]." The paper noted that Slovenia, "a European Union member since 2004 and a user of the euro since 2007, could line up politically with Hungary, which re-elected the right-wing populist Victor Orbán as prime minister in April, and Aus-



Overflow: Italy is the disembarkation point for boatloads of illegal immigrants, and though the EU has promised to offset Italy's costs of the immigrants' care, such help has been lacking.

tria, where a far-right party has emerged as a strong political force. Mr. Jansa has closely allied himself with Mr. Orbán."

ITEM: The left-wing *Washington Post* commented on May 31 that "European leaders thought they had broken free from doubts about the future of the European Union that plagued them after Britain voted to leave two years ago. Instead, a fast-moving political crisis in Italy this week has come as a gut punch, reviving fears of a fresh assault on unity."

CORRECTION: The globalist establishment is all for the "will of the people" and "democracy" as long as the electorate does what it is supposed to do. When that doesn't happen, the elitists get exceedingly anxious.

Italian voters are among those who have gotten fed up with the disdain of their alleged betters — especially those sitting in the backrooms of Brussels. Significant numbers of "populist" Slovenes, Austrians, and Hungarians are also getting out of line — obviously for varied reasons, but including anti-establishment viewpoints, nationalistic preferences, and opposition to being forced to welcome hordes of illegal migrants.

The *New York Times* coverage of Italy's new government has continued to fret. In its June 1 issue, that paper reported: "After a long electoral campaign in

which Five Star and their governing partners, the anti-immigrant League, riled up anger and electoral support with vitriolic attacks on the European Union, illegal migrants and their rivals in the Democratic Party, the question turned to how they would actually govern."

The establishment paper went on to say, "The leaders of the [Italian] alliance seemed intent on renegotiating Italy's relationship with Brussels and cracking down on migration. Their early statements in power do not indicate a sudden change of heart."

Similar were the prominent comments by Sebastian Mallaby in the *Washington Post* for May 23, wherein he said: "Europe has weathered so many shocks — the near-breakup of the euro zone, the chaotic influx of 2.5 million refugees, the Brexit referendum — that it is tempting to dismiss the latest existential crisis unfolding in Rome. But Italy's emerging radical-populist government could be the force that finally breaks the continent's cohesion." Mallaby is an author, a contributing columnist for the *Post*, and the Paul A. Volcker senior fellow for international economics at the influential Council on Foreign Relations. He is echoing the establishment's party line.

And Bloomberg for June 6 also parroted the international elitists' qualms in a piece that described how German Chancel-



Correction, Please!

lor Angela Merkel was urging Europe to unite in what was called, not surprisingly, a “New World Order.” She told German lawmakers that U.S. President Donald “Trump’s ‘America First’ doctrine shows that ‘we have a serious problem with multilateral agreements.’”

At the same time, national politicians in other parts of Europe see which way the wind is blowing — with parties being successful when they demonstrate that they stand up for, *inter alia*, Hungary First, Italy First, Austria First, and Slovenia First. Though the EU internationalists still try futilely to change the hearts and minds of the plebs in the other direction (as noted above), there is no “common European spirit.”

And money matters certainly appear to show cracks in the EU infrastructure.

That is especially true in Berlin. Germans in particular, as the *Wall Street Journal* recently reminded readers, are “deeply uncomfortable” about the new Italian coalition’s “plans for a huge budget deficit,” ignoring EU rules. This is not without meaning: EU members have had to give up considerable sovereignty to the supranation. Indeed, the European Commission can fine members if their spending levels don’t meet the supranation’s approval. And it is the European Central Bank that determines how much “stimulus” might be allowed for EU countries.

It has been membership of the eurozone that has made it easy for some of the worst-managed economies in Europe to expand their debt, massively, over a long period. Moreover, notes economist Peter Morici, the single currency, the vaunted euro, at first helped governments, businesses, and individuals to borrow more easily and create the “illusion of a sustainable prosperity.” Ultimately, however, says the business professor from the University of Maryland,

government finances and banks collapsed in Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Iceland, Ireland and Cyprus. Then EU financial rescues imposed Germany [sic] imperial prescriptions — perpetual trade and budget surpluses for Germany and burdensome taxes, crushing debt service and economic servitude for Mediterranean and other peripheral states.

If Italy insists on yet more-reckless spending, it may undermine the entire system.

And how about the wondrous single currency employed in most of the managed market, which acts as a protectionist bloc versus those who are not part of the EU? Well, consider the findings of “50 leading economists,” meeting not long

ago under the auspices of the London-based (and pro-EU) think tank Centre for European Reform. They determined that “there was a broad consensus that the euro had been a disappointment: the currency union’s economic performance was very poor, and rather than bringing EU member-states together and fostering a closer sense of unity and common identity, the euro had divided countries and eroded confidence in the EU.”

While Italy has the third-largest economy in the eurozone, in recent years its performance has been dismal. Rome’s spending has produced a huge public debt — about 132 percent of GDP. The Italian economy is about five percent smaller, per capita, than it was in 2001. It has been the only nation in the EU (with the exception of Greece) to shrink during that period, according to think tank Promotor.

Yet the EU elitists thought they could control Italian balloting, as was demonstrated before the recent government in Rome was formed. European Budget Commissioner Günther Oettinger told German media company Deutsche Welle that the reaction of financial markets would give Italian voters a signal not to vote for populists (of the Left or Right). After the backlash in Italy — with locals being offended that an EU bureaucrat would deign to instruct Italians how to vote — he was forced to apologize. This was not his first such “gaffe” (which generally means an official has said publicly what he really thinks); Oettinger opined in 2013 that Italy is “essentially barely governable.”

Meanwhile, though it is true that the populist parties in Italy that have formed a coalition government are both leery of the EU and (at the very least) skeptical of the euro, they have vast differences, too. The rightist League, for instance, backs



Attempt to stem the tide of immigrants: Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini is stopping some new immigrants from entering the country and promising to push out ones who are already there.

AP Images

a pro-growth flat tax, while the leftist Five Star seems to imagine that prosperity is created through massive government spending.

Josef Joffe — a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution in California and publisher/editor of the German weekly *Die Zeit* — has compared the coalition partners to an American counterpart that would pair followers of socialist Bernie Sanders and the Tea Party. Or as he put it: “We can eat our pizza and have it too. While 5 Star seeks a guaranteed income of €780 (around \$900) a month, the League will pursue its suggested flat tax of 15%.”

Since Italy has had at least 64 governments since World War II, it would not be astonishing to see the latest one fail as well. But the partners have found themselves allied in particular over what the EU has done (and not done) concerning the migration crisis that has brought about 750,000 people to Italy since 2011. Even the pro-European Union *Economist* admits that the “EU promised to help Italy cope with the refugees that arrive on its coast, but broke its word.”

Matteo Salvini, the leader of the League and now the new interior ministry in Italy, has found many nodding in agreement with his message that “unchecked immigration brings chaos, anger, theft, rape and violence.” Polls indicate that he is now the most popular politician in the country.

In the case of Hungary, its populist leader has also become stronger because of his opposition to the migrant inundation (though the Hungarian economy is doing better than Italy’s). Left-wingers may have many beefs with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, comments the Heritage Foundation’s Mike Gonzalez, but their disputes should be addressed to “the Hungarian electorate, which keeps re-electing him democratically by ever-increasing numbers.”

Orbán has delivered to Hungarians, as Gonzalez wrote in April,

growth the likes of which have not been seen in Western Europe in generations (4 percent growth last year



and 3 percent in 2016). He’s also stood up to the unelected and distant European Union bureaucrats in Brussels, rejecting their demands that Hungary take in more immigrants.

And notably, Orbán has led a campaign against the Hungarian-born American billionaire George Soros, who funds far-left causes around the world.

Meanwhile, the European Union may be its own worst enemy. Though it is not the EU’s intention, its ham-handedness has been behind the rise of several populist parties that oppose Brussels. As well they might, because Brussels has plans for the hoi polloi.

The EU is playing a long game. What follows is the description (made in 2013) by Jean-Claude Juncker, a Luxembourgish politician and the current president of the European Commission, about how Brussels makes decisions. “We decide on something, leave it lying around and wait and see what happens. If no one kicks up a fuss, because most people don’t understand what has been decided, we continue step by step until there is no turning back.”

How quaint. That sounds suspiciously like the boiling frog metaphor: Plunk him

in a pot of cold water and turn up the heat slowly. He is cooked to death before recognizing the danger.

Marian Tupy, a senior policy analyst at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., has offered an example about how the EU ducks the electorate in practice: “When the French and the Dutch rebelled and voted against the EU Constitution in their 2005 referenda, they were ignored — and the EU Constitution, relabeled as the Lisbon Treaty, was adopted nevertheless.”

The European Union, as it happens, pays less attention to “law” and more to centralizing power. That Lisbon Treaty supposedly banned national bailouts. Never mind. Five sovereign bailouts have been aimed at the euro: three of Greece, as well as the rescues of Spanish and Cypriot banks. In 2010, then-French Economy Minister Christine Lagarde admitted that the European Union simply “violated all the rules because we wanted to close ranks and really rescue the eurozone.”

Now we are being told, by no less than the CFR’s Sebastian Mallaby, that when the next debt crisis comes, the EU may be faced with a “basket case” that is much larger than in Greece. Italy, he warns, “will be too big to fail, and perhaps too big to save.” ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

Bilderberg Discusses Threats to Its **Globalist Agenda**

The annual Bilderberg meeting, which happened in early June in Turin, Italy, brought together key Deep State actors and potential useful idiots from across North America and Western Europe to discuss threats to their own agenda and power. Among the many topics of discussion, the globalist insiders and collaborators focused on growing populist movements in Europe and what the network described in a press release as the “post-truth” world — presumably a reference to the fact that their propaganda organs are no longer able to control the narrative. Indeed, it may be too late to save their globalist agenda.

As in most years, more than 130 insiders in business, government, military, foundations, banking, central banking, royalty, academia, technology, journalism, intelligence, etc., attended the 2018 secret meeting. A top Catholic official, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, was there this year as an emissary of left-wing Pope Francis, a fervent supporter of globalism and environmentalism. Also in attendance were senior leaders of international institutions such as NATO and the United Nations. Democrat Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper was there as well. Multiple prime ministers attended, too.

Aside from populism and the “post-truth” world, subjects listed on Bilderberg’s website include the “inequality challenge,” the “future of work,” artificial intelligence, the United States before the midterm elections, free trade (which for globalists means undermining sovereignty using transnational governance), U.S. world leadership, Russia, quantum computing, Saudi Arabia and Iran, and “current events.” How closely the actual agenda conformed to what was announced publicly was not clear.

While the secrecy-obsessed globalists pretend the meetings are simply for informal discussions, the reality is quite different. In fact, more than a few attendees have publicly boasted that the meetings are used to help set policy worldwide, potentially in violation of the U.S. Logan Act for American attendees. Numerous attendees have admitted publicly that furthering globalism is the goal — though they generally claim it is for humanity’s benefit, rather than their own.

Analysts suggested that the 2016 election of President Donald Trump has drastically shifted the discourse at Bilderberg. The *War Room* on Infowars, which featured longtime Trump advisor Roger Stone, declared that Bilderberg’s primary concern would be “destroying Donald Trump.” As CNBC put it, Trump’s ar-



rival in the White House has “thrown out the old way of doing politics and heralded a renegade style of politics.” Either way, there is no doubt that Trump was a hot topic of conversation.

While some members of Trump’s Cabinet have attended Bilderberg in the past, the reason for hostility to Trump is not mysterious. In addition to speaking out against globalism, the president has announced a U.S. withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the UN Paris Agreement on “climate,” and the UN Educational, Scien-

tific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), whose chief was at Bilderberg. And that was just during Trump’s first year in office. Considering that globalism is what unites Bilderberg, it is no surprise attendees would be alarmed.

In 2001, former British chancellor of the exchequer and Bilderberg bigwig Denis Healey told the U.K. *Guardian* that it was a little “exaggerated, but not wholly unfair” to say the overall goal was global government. “Those of us in Bilderberg felt we couldn’t go on forever fighting one another for nothing,” he claimed, as if they were destroying nationhood and self-government for humanity’s benefit. “So we felt that a single community throughout the world would be a good thing.” Remember, the European Union was a “community” before becoming a full-blown superstate.

As far as the “post-truth” world is concerned, it is no surprise that Bilderberg is concerned about the rise of European populism. In Italy, where the meeting took place behind heavy taxpayer-funded security, voters recently delivered a crushing blow to the establishment. In its place, Italians elected populists who vowed to take on the globalist EU and deport hundreds of thousands of immigrants. Similar trends are emerging across Europe. In Sweden, an anti-immigration party recently became the largest political party based on public support. And in the United Kingdom, voters decided to leave the totalitarian EU altogether.

Bilderberg discussions may remain secret for a time — potentially even years. But it does seem that Bilderberg and other Deep State institutions are concerned about growing hostility toward their agenda. Everybody can do their part in preserving liberty and self-government. A good place to start is becoming informed and educating others about the shadowy forces such as Bilderberg bosses who would rule humanity if they could. Sunshine is an excellent disinfectant. ■

The New American

THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

www.TheNewAmerican.com • (800) 727-8783



PRISM MANAGEMENT

PRISM: Any medium that resolves a seemingly simple matter into its elements

CONSULTANTS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Specializing in Tax Deductions for Dental Practices • Post Office Box 7007 • Porter Ranch, CA 91327