

Eye on the World

Jan. 7, 2017

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigsandy.com for the weekend of Jan. 7, 2017.

Compiled by Dave Havar

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



An article titled "Duterte Seeks 'Strategic Shift' From U.S. to China: Envoy" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 2, 2017. Following is the article.

The Philippines is tilting away from its traditional ally the United States towards China in a bid to "normalise" relations following a longstanding territorial dispute, the country's incoming ambassador to Beijing said Monday.

Manila has been one of Washington's most loyal allies in Asia, but Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has threatened to end the decades-long alliance after the US criticised his bloody war on drugs that has killed over 5,000 people since he took office in June.

His fiery rhetoric against the US has been followed by overtures to China as he has sought to assuage Beijing's concerns over Manila's competing claims to the South China Sea.

The new Philippine ambassador to China, Jose "Chito" Sta. Romana, told AFP the move represented "a strategic shift in our foreign policy."

"We were one-sidedly imbalanced in favour of the US," he said.

"We are not abandoning our alliance with the US . . . We are basically trying to normalise our relations with China."

Beijing claims most of the South China Sea despite competing claims from the Philippines and other Asian countries, but a UN-backed tribunal ruled in July that China's claims had no legal basis in a resounding victory for Manila.

Duterte's decision to set aside the territorial conflict in exchange for Chinese investment and aid has given Beijing a boost in its quest for more control over the strategically vital waters.

The incoming envoy, a former Beijing-based journalist, said Manila was open to working with China to access resources in the disputed region.

"The Chinese viewed the Philippines as a geopolitical pawn or Trojan horse of the US. Now they look at us as a friendly neighbour."

He added that relations with the US plunged after Washington criticised Duterte's crackdown on crime.

"The problem came after they began lecturing him. The president considers it an internal affair," he said.

"The Chinese don't comment on your internal affairs."



An article by Thomas D. Williams titled "France Outlaws Spanking Kids, Bringing Ban Total to 52 Countries" was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 3, 2017. Following is the article.

The French parliament has passed a formal ban on spanking children, bringing the global total to 52 different countries where such corporal punishment in homes is against the law.

The new law that went into effect for 2017 bans "any cruel, degrading or humiliating punishment, including any use of physical violence," including spanking in the home.

In passing the new regulation, France has joined a long list of countries that have outlawed corporal punishment. Unsurprisingly, the first country to make spanking illegal was Sweden, in 1979, followed by Finland in 1983. The last to join the list before France in 2016 were Mongolia, Paraguay and Slovenia.

The decision of the French parliament follows a symbolic reprimand by the Council of Europe in 2015 decrying France's lack of a specific law "prohibiting corporal punishment in a clear, binding and precise way, including slaps and spankings, in breach of Article 17 of the European Charter of Social Rights."

"To comply with Article 17, states' domestic law must prohibit and penalize all forms of violence against children," the Charter states, and the relevant provisions "must be sufficiently clear, binding and precise, so as to preclude the courts from refusing to apply them to violence against children."

The legislation barring all corporal punishment reportedly relies on the opinion of a majority of psychologists that such forms of discipline are ineffective or counterproductive.

Dr. Gustavo Pietropolli Charmet, a psychiatrist and chairman of the Italian non-profit Help Center for Mistreated Children, said that laws prohibiting corporal punishment are useful because it has become clear that "the educational value of physical and moral pain is zero."

Suffering "does not strengthen education and does not improve self-esteem," Charmet said. "In fact, it can create guilt, fear and vengeance."

Commenters were quick to express their approval or disapproval with France's decision.

"Life also smacks us from time to time. Will we eliminate those as well? Useless psychologists," wrote Giulio Francomanno.

Another reader noted that spanking "anticipates the lesson that children will learn from life as they grow up, namely, that if you do not respect certain rules, there will be consequences."

In February 2015, Pope Francis expressed his approval of parents who spank their kids, as long as it is carried out with respect for their dignity. His words drew a wave of reactions, both negative and positive, to the idea that corporal punishment is okay.

"It is disappointing that anyone with that sort of influence would make such a comment," said Peter Newell, the coordinator of the Global Alliance to End Corporal Punishment of Children.

Despite the extensive debate regarding the value or detriment of corporal punishment, few have questioned the more problematic aspect of a creeping intromission of the state in the lives of families and their choice of how to educate their children.

The Catholic Church teaches that the state should not interfere with parents' education of children except in grave and extraordinary circumstances.

"Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators," Catholic doctrine states.



A Reuters article titled "Hundreds of Migrants Try to Storm Border Into Spain's Enclave of Ceuta" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 1, 2017. Following is the article.

At least 800 sub-Saharan African migrants tried to cross into Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta from Morocco on Sunday by storming a border fence, though most were eventually turned back, the Spanish and Moroccan governments said.

Dozens of migrants made it to the top of the six-metre barbed wire fence early on Sunday before being lifted down by cranes, footage from local TV station Faro TV showed.

Spain said about 1,100 migrants attempted the crossing. Only two were allowed into Ceuta to be taken to hospital while the rest were returned to Morocco, the Spanish government said in a statement.

Five Spanish police and 50 from Morocco were injured, the government added, after migrants used rocks and metal bars to try and break through gates to access the fence and clashed with authorities.

Morocco's interior ministry reported that some 800 migrants had tried to storm the enclave, and that all had been arrested. It said 10 members of its security forces were seriously wounded.

"From now on those making such attempts will be presented before the competent judicial authorities who will decree their expulsion from the kingdom (of Morocco) or heavier penalties, according the gravity of the act," the ministry said in a statement.

Spain's two enclaves in Morocco, Ceuta and Melilla, are often used as entry points into Europe for African migrants, who either climb over their border fences or try to swim along the coast.

Spain has drawn criticism from human rights groups for allowing some migrants to be immediately turned back to Morocco in such incidents. They argue that skipping the lengthier deportation procedures deprives people of the opportunity to claim asylum.

In early December more than 400 sub-Saharan African migrants managed to force their way over the Ceuta border fence.

However, Libya has become a more common departure point for African migrants, most of whom come from sub-Saharan countries and attempt the crossing to Italy by boat.

2016 was the deadliest year ever for migrants in the Mediterranean, with almost 5,000 deaths, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Separately on Sunday, Spanish police said a Moroccan woman was arrested in Ceuta last week for trying to smuggle a 19-year-old migrant from Gabon across the border with Spain curled up inside a suitcase.



An article titled "Italy to Step Up Deportations After Migrant Death Protest" was posted at thelocal.it on Jan. 4, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Italy on Wednesday pledged to step up deportations of migrants whose asylum applications have been rejected, following a riot in a northern Italian reception centre which ignited political debate.

The country has been on the frontline of migrant arrivals from across the Mediterranean, and in recent years has struggled to provide accommodation for the thousands of newcomers.

"We have saved many lives but we cannot accept rule-breaking. We need to speed up deportations," Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, the country's former interior minister, said in an interview with *La Stampa* daily.

He was "working to tie up agreements which will reduce arrivals and prevent departures" from the coast of North Africa, he said after a record 181,000 people were rescued from the Mediterranean and brought to safety in Italy in 2016.

Clashes broke out over living conditions in the Cona migrant centre in the Veneto region following the death of a 25-year-old woman of a blood clot on Monday. An investigation has been opened into the death of the woman, named by Italian media as Ivory Coast native Sandrine Bakayoko, amid reports that workers at the centre waited several hours before calling an ambulance.

During the protests, asylum seekers set fire to furniture and objects inside the facility, and cut electricity. Italian media reported that 25 staff members had to barricade themselves inside a room overnight, though no injuries were reported.

A parliamentary delegation had visited the centre last November, where over 500 migrants live in the former military base.

The MPs presented a report to the Interior Ministry at the time denouncing "serious structural deficiencies," *Repubblica* reported.

One member of the delegation, Nicola Fratoianni, condemned the poor living conditions including lack of water and light, and said the centre had been a "ticking timebomb."

Over 1,400 people were housed in the space originally intended for just 15.

According to the latest government figures, 175,485 migrants currently live on Italian territory, spread out between reception centres, 'hotspots', and migrant and refugee centres.

A total of 14,669 of those live in temporary accommodation centres (CPA), of which there are seven in Italy, including the one in Cona.

These centres are only designed for migrants to live in for a short period, however the average time spent there has increased throughout 2016, particularly since neighbouring France, Austria and Switzerland closed their Italian borders, making it impossible for many migrants to make their planned journeys on to northern Europe.

Three countries 'key'

Interior Minister Marco Minniti said at least one "Centre for Identification and Expulsion" (CIE) will be opened in every region of Italy in the coming weeks, where those who have had their asylum request rejected will be held before deportation.

Returning migrants is a costly, time-consuming process that requires bilateral agreements with the countries of origin. Alfano said three countries were "key" to tackling the biggest migrant crisis since World War II.

- Libya
- Niger
- Tunisia

The EU believes just over half the migrants arriving in Italy travel first through Niger and last month it offered Niamey 610 million euros (\$635 million) to curb transit towards Europe.

Alfano said Italy was "close to sealing an agreement" with the West African country, while Minniti spent Tuesday in Tunisia for talks on "renewing" a repatriation agreement between Rome and Tunis.

Italy's police chief Franco Gabrielli vowed at the weekend to deport more migrants who have no right to be in the country following the shooting in Milan of the suspected attacker behind the Berlin Christmas market tragedy.

Tunisian Anis Amri had arrived in Italy by boat in 2011. He spent time in a detention centre and several prisons in Sicily for violent behaviour after Italy tried but failed to deport him back to Tunisia, and was finally ordered to leave the country in 2015.

His return to Italy—where he was shot dead—after the Berlin attack raised fears he was attempting to contact jihadist plotters here.



An article by Rowan Scarborough titled "Exclusive: Intel Report Says Terrorists Scrap Large-Scale Plots for Stealth Solo Attacks" was posted at washingtontimes.com on Jan. 4, 2017. Following is the article.

A confidential government report says terrorist groups such as the Islamic State have all but abandoned trying to put together huge plots such as the Sept. 11 attacks and warns counterterrorism agencies of a "new landscape" where lone killers strike and massacre quickly thanks to the digital age.

The report by the National Counterterrorism Center marks a historical shift that requires the FBI, CIA and other agencies to try to locate the mobile and digital-savvy loner, and not necessarily detect a complex plot.

"The steady rise in the number of lone actor operations is a trend which coincides with the deepening and broadening of the digital revolution as well as the encouragement of such operations by terrorist groups because intensified [counterterrorism] operations have disrupted their ability to launch larger plots," the NCTC says in a report obtained by The Washington Times. "Lone actors now have greater capability to create and broadcast material than a decade ago, while violent extremists can contact and interact with potential recruits with greater ease."

The report was circulated Dec. 28 to counterterrorism agencies across the country.

The analysis says the new faces of extremist violence are "small autonomous cells" and "individual terrorism."

"Recent rapid technological change, which allows terrorists to reach a large audience quickly and directly, has enabled them to achieve their messaging goals without launching large-scale attacks which demand significant physical infrastructure," says the NCTC, which operates under Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper.

"Increasingly, thanks in part to the digital revolution, they can rely on what Syrian terrorist Abu Musab al-Suri called 'individual terrorism.' With ISIL losing territory and the al-Qa'ida network increasingly decentralized, individuals and small autonomous cells may increasingly take the initiative in both the murderous and messaging dimensions of violent extremism," the report states.

The Islamic State, which holds territory in Iraq and Syria, has created armies in over a dozen countries and is known as ISIS, ISIL and Daesh.

In a speech last month to troops at U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command, President Obama touted his counterterrorism efforts by saying no group has launched a complex plot from abroad against the United States during his presidency.

Critics say that may be true but that Islamic terrorist attacks are increasing globally.

The massacres in San Bernardino, California, in 2015, and last summer in Orlando, Florida, are just two examples of this type of terrorism.

Other examples: An Islamic State agent gunned down 39 New Year's revelers at a packed nightclub in Istanbul. Also this holiday season, Anis Amri, a lone terrorist devoted to the Islamic State, drove a truck through a Berlin outdoor Christmas market, killing 12.

The NCTC calls this "The new landscape . . . with few formal boundaries or solid structures, where groups can form wherever resources permit and circumstances are favorable. It is also one in which technology may permit active militants in the future to become individual terror broadcasting units, cataloging their path to terror and teaching others their tradecraft."

The center identifies the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq as the "turning point," when terrorists realized that the internet and social media could provide platforms to reach and organize radicals by the thousands.

It points to Abu Musab Zarqawi, the al Qaeda in Iraq leader in May 2004, who videotaped his beheading of American Nick Berg and disseminated the gruesome image on the internet.

"The exact number of downloads is unknown, but its wide dissemination on extremist websites, and the 'buzz' it created on extremist online forums, suggested this footage reached a much greater audience than any comparable material," the report says.

What followed was Syrian terrorist Abu Khalid al-Suri's analysis of technology and publication of a training guide titled "A Call to Global Islamic Resistance."

"He provided one of the most articulate and elaborate definitions of this strategy and the first one which explicitly stressed the internet as a means of relaying advice and orientation. This new doctrine allowed violent extremist groups to become more resilient in the face of intense international [counterterrorism] efforts," the NCTC report states.

One terrorist who bought into al-Suri's analysis was American al Qaeda member Anwar al-Awlaki. He posted 1,910 videos on YouTube, one of which has been viewed 164,420 times. Al-Awlaki, who urged attacks on the U.S. as a member of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in 2011.

The report highlights the Islamic State, which rose from a defeated al Qaeda spinoff in Iraq to amass a huge army of terrorists based in Syria, and invaded Iraq in 2014.

"ISIL has consciously choreographed violence in the areas it controls to meet the demands of its key audiences, and it has carefully exploited the capabilities of contemporary media technology to deliver that content, often via social media but also via other means," it says.

Robert Maginnis, a retired Army officer who is out with a new book, "Future War," said the NCTC report captures the "modern terrorist."

"The modern terrorist acts more often than not without detailed operational guidance from a central authority like al Qaeda in Pakistan or ISIS central in Raqqa, Syria," Mr. Maginnis said. "They take general encouragement from public pronouncements of their ideological leaders such as ISIS' glossy magazine Dabiq and then operationalize their radical intentions either individually or by small autonomous cells of close and trusted associates."

The migrant Tunisian Amri is a prime example.

"The modern terrorist is hard to detect, much like the truck terrorist at the Berlin Christmas market weeks ago," Mr. Maginnis said. "He hid within his closed community, used personal resources, struck in an unexpected way and then disappeared into the fabric of the society of his new country."



An article by Leah Barkoukis titled “House Passes Legislation to Undo Last Minute Obama Regulations” was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 5, 2017. Following is the article.

House Republicans passed legislation Wednesday that would give Congress the power to overturn dozens of recently enacted regulations with a single vote.

The Obama administration rammed through \$44 billion worth of regulations since Donald Trump was elected in November—but this legislation would put an end to ‘midnight rules,’ or those rolled out in the last 60 legislative days of an outgoing administration.

“Because outgoing administrations are no longer accountable to the voters, they are much more prone to issue midnight regulations that fly in the face of the electoral mandate the voters just gave the new, incoming administration,” said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte ahead of the vote. “Waves of midnight rules can also be very hard for Congress or a new administration to check adequately.”

The bill specifically amends the Congressional Review Act to permit Congress to retrieve the ability to effectively curb numerous regulations crammed through the regulatory process in the last days of an outgoing administration all at once. The legislation is designed to stifle a growing trend by presidents to use their final few months in office to hurry through costly, expensive or controversial new regulations.

“This is about accountability, transparency and ensuring job creators aren’t being crushed by droves of new regulations just before a President leaves office. Regulations, when necessary, should be implemented with time for a thorough public vetting and input from those impacted,” Rep. Darrell Issa, lead sponsor of the bill, said in a statement.

“I’m thrilled at the House’s quick passage of my bill and look forward to it becoming law so we can start the process of removing unnecessary regulations and helping Americans get back to work.”

The Senate will soon take up companion legislation, but it could be more difficult to pass given that eight Democratic votes will be needed.



Looking back to November, here are excerpts from an article by Ted Barrett titled “Do Democrats Regret the ‘Nuclear Option’ Now That Trump Will Be President?” that was posted at cnn.com on Nov. 18, 2016.

Three years after using the “nuclear option” to upend Senate tradition by effectively removing filibusters against most presidential nominations, Senate Democrats insisted Thursday [Nov. 17] they don’t regret that decision, even

as Donald Trump becomes president and they recognize they may be powerless to block controversial nominations.

"I have absolutely no regret," said Oregon Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley, who led the charge to weaken the filibuster, freeing up scores of President Barack Obama's executive and judicial branch nominees. "We'd never seen abuse of advice and consent in the history of our country so that was a necessary way to correct it."

Frustrated by numerous GOP filibusters against Obama's nominees, Merkley and other junior Democrats in 2013 lobbied their leaders to change the rules. Senior Democrats initially were wary of the bold step, reminding their younger colleagues that they would not be in the majority forever and that the move could come back to haunt them.

But in November of that year, then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and other top Democrats became convinced GOP delaying tactics were crippling Washington. They triggered the nuclear option which—over the objections of Republicans—lowered the threshold to overcome a filibuster from 60 to 51 votes.

"If the minority is always paralyzing Congress, than Congress can never act to address problems," Merkley said. "We live in a country as a democracy where a simple majority is the vision of how we make decisions. The majority makes decisions, not the minority."



Looking back to December, here is an article by Reena Flores titled "Henry Kissinger Says 'I Hope We're Doing Some Hacking' in Russia" that was posted at cbsnews.com on Dec. 18, 2016.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, responding to intelligence reports that Russia directed hacks to interfere with the U.S. election, is hoping that the American government is retaliating against the Kremlin with cyberattacks of its own.

"I don't doubt that the Russians are hacking us," Kissinger told CBS' "Face the Nation" in an interview that aired Sunday. "And I hope we're doing some hacking there."

"Everybody has a hacking capability. And probably every intelligence service is hacking in the territory of other countries," he said. "But who exactly does what? That would be a very sensitive piece of information. But it's very difficult to communicate about it. Because nobody wants to admit the scope of what they're doing."

Kissinger, a secretary of state under President Richard Nixon, also offered candid thoughts about Russian President Vladimir Putin, calling him a "character out of Dostoyevsky," referencing the Russian novelist who wrote "Crime and Punishment."

"He is a man with a great sense of connection, an inward connection, to Russian history as he sees it," Kissinger remarked of Putin, who intelligence sources have said gave direct approval for the recent hacks in the U.S. related to the 2016 presidential election.

"He is a cold calculator of the Russian national interest, as he conceives it, and which he believes, probably correctly, has some very unique features," Kissinger said.

"For him, the question of Russian identity is very crucial. Because as a result of the collapse of communism, Russia has lost about 300 years of its history," the former secretary of state continued. "And so that the question of 'What is Russia?' looms very large in their mind. And that's a problem we have never had."

Kissinger, who declined to endorse either party's candidate in the general election, also commented on President-elect Donald Trump, giving a cautiously optimistic assessment of the businessman's potential on the international stage.

"Donald Trump is a phenomenon that foreign countries haven't seen. So it is a shocking experience to them that he came in to office," Kissinger said. But the president-elect, he acknowledged, presented "extraordinary opportunity" because of it.

Kissinger says Trump could go down in history as "a very considerable president"

"I believe he has the possibility of going down in history as a very considerable president," he continued. "Because every country now has two things to consider. One, their perception that the previous president, or the outgoing president, basically withdrew America from international politics, so that they had to make their own assessments of their necessities."

"And secondly, that here is a new president who's asking a lot of unfamiliar questions," he said. "And because of the combination of the partial vacuum and the new questions, one could imagine that something remarkable and new emerges out of it. I'm not saying it will. I'm saying it's an extraordinary opportunity."

Kissinger added that Mr. Trump's instincts—which he said were a "different form of analysis as my more academic one"—have led to him raising issues that were of great import.

"And if they're addressed properly, could lead to good—great results," Kissinger said.

Asked to weigh in with his general impression of the president-elect, Kissinger said at first he had believed the support for Mr. Trump was a "transitory phenomenon."

But, he said, "I give him huge credit for having analyzed an aspect of the American situation, develop a strategy, carry it out against his leadership of his own party, and prevailing. Now, his challenge is to apply that same skill to the international situation."



An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "Assange: How Many Times Do I Have to Tell You WikiLeaks' Source Wasn't Russia" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 3, 2017. Following is the article.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has said over and over again that the Russian government did not provide the group with the DNC and John Podesta's emails. Now, in an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity set to air Tuesday at 10 pm, he once again insisted that was not their source.

"Can you say to the American people, unequivocally, that you did not get this information about the DNC, John Podesta's emails, can you tell the American people 1,000 percent that you did not get it from Russia or anybody associated with Russia?" Hannity asked Assange.

"Yes. We can say, we have said, repeatedly that over the last two months that our source is not the Russian government and it is not a state party," the WikiLeaks' founder replied.

"Our source is not a state party, so the answer for our interactions is no. But if we look at our most recent statement from the US government, which is on the 29th of December, OK, we had five different branches of government, Treasury, DHS, FBI, White House presenting their accusations to underpin Obama's throwing out 29 Russian diplomats. What was missing from all of those statements? The word WikiLeaks. It's very strange."

Assange went on to argue that the reason for President Obama's "dramatic response" of issuing sanctions against Russia is "obvious."

"They're trying to delegitimize the Trump administration as it goes into the White House. They are trying to say that President-elect Trump is not a legitimate president."

GOP Rep. Trent Franks made the same argument last week.



An article by Melanie Hunter titled "WikiLeaks' Assange: Media 'Very Dishonest,' Colluded With Hillary Clinton" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 4, 2017. Following is the article.

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange told Fox News' Sean Hannity Tuesday that the media is "very dishonest," but stopped short of calling it "corrupt."

"It's very dishonest," Assange said of the media, adding that they were in collusion with Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

Hannity: "I said in my country Julian that journalism is dead. I said it in 2008, because I was investigating Barack Obama and his background and his associations and his career and his lack of knowledge and his radical belief sys-

tem, and everybody in the media ignored a lot of it. So my question to you then is now knowing what Wikileaks revealed about the Podesta emails—on Clinton corruption, on pay-to-play, on Bernie Sanders being cheated, all of this is revealed. Not a lot of it was covered. So what does that say to the American people about media coverage in America? Dishonest?"

Assange: "It's very dishonest. Corrupt is interesting. It depends on your definition. If you look at what we published in the Podesta emails—"

Hannity: "They're colluding with Hillary. That's not corrupt?"

Assange: "It's an ethical corruption."

Hannity: "They're not identifying it to their audiences. They claim that they're objective journalists."

Assange: "It's ethically corrupt, corrupt by—corruption also means something more, which is that you're taking money in exchange. So I don't think that—"

Hannity: "Collusion."

Assange: "They're colluding, yeah."

Hannity: "Because they share her political agenda. Well why else would they collude? Or they hate Donald Trump."

Assange: "I think that's an optimistic interpretation—that they share the political agenda."

Hannity: "Well explain that."

Assange: "It's more like you rub my back. I'll rub yours. I'll give you information. You'll come to my—I'll invite you to my child's christening or our next big party. Do you know what I mean?"

Hannity: "Or state dinner?"

Assange: "Yeah. I think it's more. Sadly, I think it's along those lines."

Hannity: "But I look at this list of what Wikileaks exposed—"

Assange: "Could I just go back to this media question? What is the line now in the New York Times, say MSNBC? Okay, the line is that Wikileaks changed the results of the election. Okay, as editor of Wikileaks we're quite happy to have the credit for exposing corruption and behavior that was occurring in that Clinton team and the DNC fixing things . . . [against] Bernie Sanders, we're quite happy to accept that—"

Assange said he was motivated by the "political agenda" that "the best type of government comes from a government that is scrutinized by the people when they have true information about how government and major corporations, other power actors in a society actually behave."

Hannity: "Was that your motivation? Was your motivation to influence the election or is your motivation—What is your motivation? Is it fidelity to truth?"

Assange: "My motivation for maybe 20 years, but 10 years with WikiLeaks has been to publish true information that is otherwise unsayable. So we're not in competition if you like."

Hannity: "You have no political agenda?"

Assange: "That is a political agenda."

Hannity: "When you expose government corruption?"

Assange: "It's not a party political agenda. It is a philosophical agenda. We believe that the best type of government comes from a government that is scrutinized by the people when they have true information about how government and major corporations, other power actors in a society actually behave."

Assange also said he hopes his influence on the 2016 presidential election represents a new reality that if the media does not do its job, there will be more WikiLeaks in the future.

Hannity: "Let me ask you this: as a conservative, one of the things that shocked me about the revelations with WikiLeaks in this election cycle—it drove me crazy for years—the narrative that would be used by the Democrats by conservatives like myself as Republicans are racist, that they're sexist, that they're homophobic, that they're misogynistic, Islamophobic, all those lines they use, and what was fascinating—and not many people wanted to pay attention to it, and I think that's cause of the media collusion—is they were exposed as using racial language, being anti-Semitic, homophobic, which led to on the eve of the Democratic convention Debbie Wasserman Schultz being fired. That to me was the type of thing that you—you sort of like open a window and things are not often the way they appear. Is this now a new reality going forward in terms of if the media's not going to do their job, they are going to be more WikiLeaks in the future?"

Assange: "Well, I certainly hope so."



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "Liberal Struggle Against Reality" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Jan. 4, 2017. Following is the article.

We will never understand liberals and progressives until we recognize that they often see reality as a social construct subject to being challenged and changed. For example, throughout the world, boys and girls have different toy preferences. Typically, boys like to play with cars and trucks, whereas girls prefer dolls.

Liberals explain this with the assertion that boys and girls are socialized and encouraged to play with different types of toys by their parents, peers and

"society." Growing scientific evidence suggests that toy preferences have a biological origin. Even studies of male and female primates find that they exhibit similar toy preferences. Despite the growing evidence of biological determinism, liberals have managed to intimidate toy sellers into getting rid of the labels "toys for boys" and "toys for girls."

Another reality issue that's extremely annoying to liberals and progressives is chromosomal sex determination. The XX/XY sex determination system is found in humans. Females have two of the same kind of sex chromosome (XX), whereas males have two distinct sex chromosomes (XY). This chromosomal reality is seen as limiting, annoying and an artifact of a patriarchal, chauvinistic society. So liberals and progressives want to change it.

Say you are an XY (male) individual but would like to conduct your affairs in a facility designated for XX (female) individuals, such as a ladies' room. You can satisfy your desire by claiming that you are transgender—that is, you've switched from one gender to another. Therefore, if one has XY chromosomes, he can behave as if he were an XXer.

Plus, there is the expectation of being addressed according to one's chosen gender. The Minneapolis Police Department has a new rule that requires officers to address transgender people using their preferred names and pronouns. When an XYer is arrested but claims he is a woman, I wonder whether the police will place him in a cell with XXers. Just how far the Minneapolis authorities will go is in question; maybe they, too, believe that reality is optional.

Another part of reality that liberals and progressives find difficult to accept is the fact that equality among humans is the exception and inequality the norm. If one were to list the world's top 30 violinists of the 20th century, at least 20 of them would be of Jewish ancestry. Jews constitute no more than 3 percent of the U.S. population but 35 percent of American Nobel Prize winners. One wonders what liberals would propose to promote equality in violin excellence and winning a Nobel Prize. By the way, liberals and progressives love to attend classical concerts, where there is a virtual absence of racial diversity.

Year after year, blacks of West African descent walk away with all of the prizes in the Olympic 100-meter run. The probability of such an outcome by chance is all but zero. It must be a reality—namely, genetic physiological and biomechanical characteristics—that causes blacks to excel in certain sports (e.g., basketball, football and track) and spells disaster for those who have aspirations to be Olympic-class swimmers.

Somehow liberals and progressives manage to cope with some realities but go ballistic with others.

- They cope well with black domination of basketball, football and track and with the near absence of black performers in classical concerts.
- They also accept the complete absence of women in the NFL and NBA.

- They even accept geographical disparities. For example, not a single player in the NHL's history can boast of having been born and raised in Hawaii, Louisiana or Mississippi.
- The reality that they go ballistic on is the reality that we are not all equally intelligent. There are many more male geniuses than female, and median male IQ is higher. Liberals might argue bias in the testing. Men are taller on average than women. If liberals don't like that, would they accuse the height-measuring device of being biased?

The lesson liberals need to learn is that despite their arrogance, they do not have the power to alter reality.



An Associated Press article titled "Chicago's 762 Homicides in 2016 is More Than New York and Los Angeles Combined" was posted at nydailynews.com on Jan. 1, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

One of the most violent years in Chicago history ended Saturday [Dec. 31] with a sobering tally: 762 homicides, the most in two decades in the city and more than New York and Los Angeles combined.

The nation's third largest city also saw 1,100 more shooting incidents than it did in 2015, according to statistics released by the Chicago Police Department. The numbers underline a story of bloodshed that has put Chicago at the center of a national dialogue about gun violence.

The data released Sunday are staggering, even for those who followed the steady news accounts of weekends ending with dozens of shootings and monthly death tolls that hadn't been seen in years. The increase in homicides compared to 2015, when 485 were reported, is the largest spike in 60 years.

New York City logged 334 homicides in 2016, according to NYPD data. LAPD data shows that there were 294 homicides in Los Angeles in 2016.



An article by Thomas Lifson titled "Broadcast Networks Refuse to Cover Anti-Trump, Anti-White Torture Incident in Chicago" was posted at americanthinker.com on Jan. 5, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

As the news broke yesterday that four black young adults in Chicago had kidnapped and tortured for hours a mentally challenged young white man, broadcasting part the incident on Facebook, NBC and ABC News refused to cover the incident at all, while CBS sanitized its report of any reference to hatred of Trump and white people—which were the self-designated motives

of the attackers. The words “f— Trump” and “f— white people” were used extensively in the video on Facebook.

The Media Research Center provided a transcript of the CBS report (on January 4) so incomplete it can be considered misleading, not informing the public.

JOSH ELLIOTT: “Well, Chicago, which just had one of its most violent years ever, was the scene of another horrifying attack this week. A young man, described as law enforcement sources as developmentally challenged, was beaten, kicked, and tormented for half an hour. Video of the assault streamed live on Facebook yesterday. The victim had been reported missing from his home in the suburbs. He is now in the hospital and four suspects are in custody.”



A video and an article by Leah Barkoukis titled “CNN’s Don Lemon: Chicago Torture Case Wasn’t ‘Evil’ Just ‘Bad Home Training’ ” were posted at townhall.com on Jan. 5, 2017. Following is the article.

Discussing the case of four Chicago teens kidnapping and torturing a mentally handicapped man, CNN’s Don Lemon pushed back when a panelist called the act, which was aired on Facebook Live, “evil.”

“At the end of the day, you just try to wrap your head around evil,” Daily Caller columnist Matt Lewis said of the “sickening” video. “That’s what this is: it’s evil, it’s brutality, it’s man’s inhumanity to man.”

Lemon didn’t see the assault, during which assailants chanted “F*** white people” and “F*** Donald Trump,” the same way. Although he clearly denounced the attack, he wasn’t willing to call what the teens did to the man “evil.”

“I don’t think it’s evil,” he said. “I don’t think it’s evil. I think these are young people and I think they have bad home training.”

“I have no idea who is raising these young people, because no one I know on earth who is 17-years-old or 70-years-old would ever think of treating another person like that,” he continued. “You wonder, at 18-years-old, where is your parent, where is your guardian?”

Unreal.

Check out the clip [on the website] to see for yourself. The relevant portion begins around the 2:38 mark.



An article by Sam Dorman titled “Eco-Activist Schwarzenegger Flaunts Hummer During ‘Apprentice’ ” was posted at newsbusters.org on Jan. 4, 2017. Following is the article.

Actor and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said “Hello” to hypocrisy and “Hasta la vista, baby” to climate purity.

The New Celebrity Apprentice started with Schwarzenegger looking suave and putting on sunglasses in a giant, gas-guzzling hummer. What it didn’t explain was the glaring hypocrisy of a fossil fuel alarmist like Schwarzenegger driving the king of all gas hogs.

Schwarzenegger previously appeared in the climate alarmist documentary *Years of Living Dangerously*, and browbeat Facebook users into opposing fossil fuels. He attempted to challenge climate change skeptics by arguing that pollution from fossil fuels killed thousands of children.

But the actor-turned-politician-turned-reality TV star should have looked in the mirror, considering that he was one of the worst emitters of fossil fuels when he served as governor.

Then, Schwarzenegger traveled 300 miles back and forth to work, flying his private jet multiple times per week. According to *The Los Angeles Times*, Schwarzenegger’s carbon emissions did “nearly as much damage to the environment in one hour as a small car does in a year.”

The Governor, as he was sometimes called, hasn’t just disagreed with climate skeptics over carbon emissions. He’s been hostile. In 2016, he criticized politicians who wanted to “shut down the EPA’s ability to regulate carbon.”

“I would like to strap their mouth to an exhaust pipe of a truck, turn on the engine and let’s see how long it would take for them to tap out,” Schwarzenegger said.



Isaiah 55:6-11—“Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”