

Eye on the World

Nov. 19, 2016

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 churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Nov. 19, 2016.

Compiled by Dave Havir

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).



A video and an article by Angela Dewan, Emanuella Grinberg and Donie O'Sullivan titled "New Zealand: Dozens of Aftershocks Follow Deadly Earthquake" were posted at cnn.com on Nov. 14, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

A series of powerful earthquakes jolted New Zealand's South Island Monday, triggering a tsunami and sending aftershocks across the country that left at least two dead, officials said.

The first event, a 7.8-magnitude quake, struck just after midnight Monday near the coastal community of Kaikoura, some 93 kilometers (55 miles) northeast of the city of Christchurch, the US Geological Survey reported.

It triggered waves of 2.49 meters (8 feet) above usual tide levels, the highest he has seen in his 38 years in New Zealand, Philip Duncan of Weather Watch New Zealand said.

An initial tsunami warning was lifted but temblors continued Monday afternoon. A 6.2-magnitude quake struck around 1:30 p.m. 39 kilometers west-southwest of Kaikoura, further north of Christchurch.

Prime Minister John Key posted a short video to YouTube after surveying the damage.

"It's hard to see how those roads, neither north nor south, will be opened very easily," he said.

"In the short term what we're trying to do is make sure that the people of Kaikoura and the likes have food, water, help and backup.

"I'd say it's billions of dollars worth of money that we have to spend here but we're focused on what we're doing and we'll keep up the good work."

At least 42 seismic events have been recorded in the area in the last day, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

New Zealand is a South Pacific nation of islands, the two largest being the North and South islands, which are home to most of the population. Aftershocks from South Island reverberated all the way to Wellington, the country's capital on the North Island, where residents were told to stay indoors Monday.



A Reuters article by Dmitry Zhdannikov, Nidhi Verma and Katya Golubcove titled "Exclusive: Oil Wars—How Kremlin's \$13 Billion Indian Deal Almost Fell Apart" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 16, 2016. Following is the article.

A multi-billion-dollar Russian deal to buy Indian refiner Essar was nearly sunk at the eleventh hour by a rival bid from Saudi Arabia as the two oil super-powers vie for supremacy across the world.

The deal between Essar and a consortium led by Kremlin oil giant Rosneft (ROSN.MM) appeared dead in the water two months ago after Saudi state energy firm Aramco weighed in, according to seven Russia, India and Saudi-based industry sources familiar with or involved in the negotiations.

It was salvaged due to the involvement of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who were keen for it go through, and after the consortium agreed to pay \$13 billion—more than double what Rosneft had initially valued Essar at, sources told Reuters.

This made the refiner the biggest-ever foreign acquisition in India and Russia's largest outbound deal.

The tussle for Essar—a state-of-the-art plant in the world's fastest-growing fuel market—illustrates the growing battle for oil markets between Russia and Saudi Arabia, the world's two largest crude exporters.

It also sheds light on the challenges OPEC member Saudi Arabia and non-OPEC Russia—which are also fighting a proxy conflict in Syria's civil war—will face in trying to clinch a global agreement to limit output growth to prop up oil prices.

The full details of how the Essar deal was struck remain unclear. Two industry sources said it was rescued thanks to the involvement of Putin and Modi while three other sources said Rosneft had simply outbid Saudi Aramco.

Officials in Modi's office declined to comment while Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied there was any Kremlin intervention in the deal.

"Naturally, we defend the interests of our companies. Of course we lobby for them, especially on such large deals," said Peskov, but added that in the case of Essar "there were no orders from the Kremlin."

"It was a corporate decision by Rosneft to gain synergies via cooperation with India," he said.

Rosneft and Saudi Aramco declined to comment.

Essar said it had held discussions with several potential buyers but had gone with the Rosneft consortium because their offer was considered the most attractive. It denied there was any intervention from Putin or Modi.

Showdown

Rosneft boss Igor Sechin is keen to buy refining assets around the world to guarantee outlets for Russian oil. He had been negotiating since 2014 to buy 49 percent of Essar from its owners, Indian brothers Ravi and Shashi Ruia, and the two parties had been in exclusive talks since July 2015 when a preliminary deal was signed.

While the exact amount Rosneft was prepared to offer for the stake at that stage is unclear, Russian and Indian industry sources said it valued the whole of Essar at about \$5.7 billion.

However it became apparent that there were problems with the deal in early September, when Sechin traveled to India to meet the Ruia brothers, flying from Hangzhou, China, where he had been part of Putin's G20 summit delegation.

Sechin walked into the meeting with the Ruia brothers soon after landing in India at 1 a.m., determined to close the deal, according to sources briefed on the discussions.

As the meeting started, one of the brothers told Sechin the deal process had been going on for too long, the exclusivity period had expired in July and Essar was now talking to other parties.

Those other parties included Saudi Aramco, he said.

According to the sources familiar with how the meeting unfolded, Sechin responded by saying that if Essar walked away from the deal it risked losing Russian financial and oil-supply support.

The Ruia brothers then said the talks with Rosneft were over and called an abrupt end to the meeting.

"People started leaving the room, embarrassed," one of the sources said. Another source said the Essar management had drafted a statement to say the deal with Rosneft was off.

Rosneft and Essar declined to comment on what transpired at the meeting, or on whether such a statement had existed. Sechin and the Ruia brothers could not be reached for comment.

Three Saudi-based sources familiar with details of talks between Essar and Saudi Aramco said the firm was seriously considering buying Essar. One of the sources said Aramco was prepared to pay up to \$9 billion for all or most of the refiner.

Aramco declined to comment on whether it had made a bid.

Too big to fail

In the end, however, the Rosneft-Essar deal proved to be too big to fail.

For India, a deal collapse or a delay because of talks with another party would set back Modi's drive to clean up India's \$140 billion mountain of bad debt given Essar's multi-billion-dollar debts to local and foreign banks after years of rapid expansion.

For Russia, the deal in the huge Indian market represented an important milestone in building a global oil empire despite Western sanctions imposed on Russia over its actions in Ukraine.

Facing the Saudi competition, Rosneft formed a consortium that bought 98 per cent of the refiner plus a fuel terminal for \$13 billion. The Kremlin oil firm bought 49 percent—below the 50 percent level that would have fallen foul of Western sanctions—with Swiss trading house Trafigura and Russian private investment group UCP buying the other 49 percent.

According to the Indian and Russian industry sources, Rosneft and Essar returned to the negotiating table within days of the spat in early September, and the deal was finally struck.

One of the sources said there was a fierce battle between Essar and Rosneft over the terms. They said the Russian-led consortium was forced to outbid the Saudi offer, which they said comprised a combination of cash, long-term low interest credit and oil supplies.

Trafigura declined to comment on how the deal came together, while UCP did not reply to a written request asking for comment. Washington said the deal did not violate sanctions.

The deal was signed in Mauritius on Oct. 14, a day before a formal announcement on the sidelines of a BRICS summit in Goa where Putin and Modi met. The leaders also oversaw the signing of a raft of other transactions including India agreeing to pay \$5 billion for Russian long-range air defense missile systems.

Two industry sources said the Essar deal had first been discussed by Putin and Modi as far back as May 2014 on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg Economic Forum, Russia's main investor show.

It was unclear what form—if any—high-level government intervention might have taken after the September dispute.

But the two sources said that without political will in Moscow and New Delhi, an agreement could not have been struck.

“Putin and Modi saved that deal,” said one.



A Reuters article by Luke Baker titled “Russia Has Long-Term Ambitions in the Middle East: Israeli Official” was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 15, 2016. Following is the article.

Israel should be concerned about the deepening disconnect between Russia’s aims in the Middle East and its own goals, according to a senior Israeli official who held high-level meetings in Moscow last week.

Avi Dichter, chairman of Israel’s foreign affairs and defense committee and the former head of the Shin Bet intelligence agency, said Russia’s views on Iran, Syria’s Bashar al-Assad and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah were in sharp contrast to Israel’s and a growing source of potential conflict.

While he said Moscow appreciates the good ties it has with Israel and takes the diplomatic relationship seriously, it won’t hesitate to impose actions that serve its interests on any countries in the Middle East, including Israel.

“The gap between us and them is large and disturbing,” Dichter said in summing up discussions with senior members of Russia’s upper and lower houses of parliament, the deputy defense minister and the deputy head of national security.

“Russia thinks and acts as a superpower and as such it often ignores Israeli interest when it doesn’t coincide with the Russian interest,” he said.

Officials in Moscow did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Russia’s relations with Israel.

As Russia has become more deeply involved in the Syria conflict, fighting on behalf of Assad against Sunni militants, Israel has sought to keep lines of communication with Moscow open to avoid the risk of accidental confrontation.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has visited President Vladimir Putin three times this year and they speak often.

Israel’s main concern is to be able to defend its borders against potential attack from Hezbollah, with which it fought a war in 2006, and which has a sizeable missile arsenal.

Over the past two years, Israeli artillery and fighter jets have carried out several strikes against weapons convoys in southern Syria that Israel said were destined for Hezbollah.

But Israel’s freedom of movement in the area is now more restricted because of the presence of Russian jets and advanced anti-aircraft batteries that Moscow has put in place.

From Israel's perspective, Iran is the greatest threat in the region and will do whatever it can to confront Israel either directly or through its proxies, Hezbollah and Assad. Russia, on the other hand, has no problem with any of those actors.

"They view Hezbollah positively as the errand lackey of Iran in Syria and Lebanon, (and) they are backing the Shi'ite militia activity in Iraq and Syria," Dichter said of Moscow.

"Russia does not view Iran and its proxies according to the level of threat they pose or broadcast towards Israel," he said.

Moscow thinks Assad should stay in power, that Iran is a stabilizing force and that the nuclear deal the United States struck with Tehran was largely positive, Dichter said. Israel views on all accounts are entirely opposite.

Under President Barack Obama, the United States has largely pulled back from the Middle East, allowing Russia to exert wider influence. It remains unclear how policy will shift under Donald Trump, but the president-elect has indicated he will align U.S. policy on Syria more closely with Russia's.

Dichter said Moscow had "feelings of contempt" towards European countries that had avoided engagement in Syria, and rather than viewing the region as an area of temporary interest, Russia was making plans for the long term.

"It did not return to the Middle East with military capabilities in the air and at sea only to 'show off' and then leave," Dichter concluded. "The new neighbor did not come here only to rent an apartment, he came here to build a villa."



An article by Ildefonso Ortiz titled "Mexican Mayor Arrested After Hundreds Massacred And Cooked in Network of Ovens, Following Breitbart Report" was posted at breitbart.com on Nov. 17, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

Mexican authorities have arrested the former mayor of a rural community in the border state of Coahuila in connection with the kidnapping, murder and incineration of hundreds of victims through a network of ovens at the hands of the Los Zetas cartel. The arrest comes after Breitbart Texas exposed not only the horrors of the mass extermination, but also the cover-up and complicity of the Mexican government.

On Thursday morning, Coahuila state authorities arrested Sergio Alonzo Rodriguez, the former mayor of Allende, Coahuila, on the charge of aggravated kidnapping, information provided to Breitbart Texas by the Coahuila government revealed. Rodriguez was the mayor of Allende, Coahuila in March, 2011, when a commando of Los Zetas kidnapped dozens of people who were then murdered and incinerated.

Earlier this year, Breitbart Texas published the results of a three-month investigation into how Los Zetas were able to kidnap, torture, execute and incin-

erate approximately 300 victims—including women and children—between 2011 and 2013. Approximately 150 of the victims were taken to the Piedras Negras state prison where cartel members used 55-gallon drums to incinerate the human remains.

Mexican court documents obtained by Breitbart Texas revealed that the wave of terror unleashed by Los Zetas began as an internal spat between Los Zetas, resulting in the leadership ordering the murder of every individual related, connected or associated with two former members.

The kill list included women and children. Court documents and testimonies from victims' relatives revealed that while the kidnappings began in 2011, they continued well into 2013 when the crimes came to a temporary halt.

Despite the magnitude, news outlets in both the U.S. and Mexico largely ignored the story as cartels continued to reign in that country with impunity. After Breitbart Texas' exposé, authorities charged a handful of Los Zetas members in connection with the incinerations inside the prison, but public officials had managed to escape scrutiny.

The governor at the time of the massacre, Humberto Moreira, was accused and later released in Spain for having been a surrogate of the Los Zetas cartel—however he, too, has managed to avoid facing a judge in Mexico. Moreira had various assets seized by U.S. courts.

The arrest of the former mayor comes just one day after CNN's Jake Tapper tweeted out Breitbart Texas' exposé on the incineration of hundreds of victims in Allende. Tapper's tweet set off a social media storm among U.S. journalists who have largely ignored the horrors carried out by cartels in Mexico.



An Associated Press article by Alicia A. Caldwell titled "US Releases Haitians Coming From Mexico" was posted at ap.org on Nov. 17, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

A surge in border crossings and a lack of immigration jail space have prompted the federal government to start releasing Haitian immigrants who have been entering the country in large numbers in recent months, backtracking on a pledge to jail the migrants.

A U.S. government official told The Associated Press that the decision to free Haitians arriving in Arizona and California is in response to a lack of jail space. The official said releasing immigrants with orders to report later to immigration court is a tactic used when detention space is scarce, under certain humanitarian conditions or as part of efforts to keep families together.

Thousands of Haitians have arrived at the U.S. border with Mexico in recent months, many after traveling 7,000 miles by foot, taxi and bus from Brazil

through eight nations. They present themselves to U.S. border inspectors, often at San Diego's San Ysidro port of entry, the nation's busiest crossing.

The large numbers of Haitians arriving in California and Arizona, and Central Americans coming across in Texas have put a tremendous strain on the system.



An article by David Jesse titled "Jesse Jackson: Obama Should Pardon Hillary Clinton" was posted at freep.com (Detroit Free Press) on Nov. 16, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

Speaking at President Gerald Ford's alma mater, The Rev. Jesse Jackson called for President Obama to issue a blanket pardon to Hillary Clinton before he leaves office, just like Ford did for Richard Nixon.

Stopping short of saying Clinton did anything wrong, Jackson told a large crowd of University of Michigan students, faculty and administrators gathered at daylong celebration of his career that Obama should short-circuit President-elect Donald Trump's promised attempt to prosecute Hillary Clinton for use of a private e-mail server.

"It would be a monumental moral mistake to pursue the indictment of Hillary Clinton," Jackson said. He said issuing the pardon could help heal the nation, like Ford's pardon of Nixon did.

"President Ford said we don't need him for trophy. We need to move on. President Nixon wasn't convicted of a crime. He didn't apply for a pardon. (Ford) did it because he thought it would be best for the country.

"Hillary Clinton has not been tried, but there are those who want to drag her for the next three years. It will not stop until they find a reason to put her in jail. That would be a travesty."

In 1974, Ford, a University of Michigan alumnus, issued a full and complete pardon of Nixon for any crimes he may have committed. He said the pardon was in the best interests of the nation.



A video and an article titled "Pelosi on Obama Possibly Pardoning Hillary Clinton: 'For What?'" were posted at dailycaller.com on Nov. 17, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

House minority leader Nancy Pelosi could not think of a reason for why President Barack Obama should pardon Hillary Clinton.

"I don't even know about that. Pardon her for what? I don't have the faintest idea what you're talking about. I mean I just don't know," Pelosi responded

to The Daily Caller on the issue. "I don't know what he would pardon her for. For what? I'm sorry. That just doesn't make any sense to me."

Democratic activist Jesse Jackson called on Obama Thursday to preemptively pardon Clinton for any illegal acts she may have committed.

"Secretary Clinton has not been legally accused, indicted, tried or convicted of anything," he said in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Wednesday. "It would be a monumental, moral and political mistake to pursue the prosecution of Hillary Clinton."

Jackson added, "President Obama should follow President Ford's example and offer a preemptive full pardon," citing President Gerald Ford's pardon of President Richard Nixon in 1974 after the Watergate scandal.



An article by Ronald Tinnell titled "Are Democrats Really on the Ropes Post-Trump?" was posted at americanthinker.com on Nov. 13, 2016. Following is the article.

People are talking as though this election was such a big defeat for the Democrats that they are totally destroyed. Given all the cards stacked against him, there is no doubt that Trump pulled off an amazing feat, but it was still a squeaker. How's that? Trump won 306 electoral votes to 232, a margin of 74.

To show how close it was, I have prepared the following table of states Trump won narrowly:

State	Winning Vote Margin	Electoral Votes
Arizona	84,526	11
Florida	119,489	29
Michigan	13,107	16
North Carolina	177,008	15
Pennsylvania	73,224	20
Wisconsin	27,506	10

To win, Hillary needed 38 more electoral votes than she got. Just 113,840 more votes in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin would have given her the presidency. There were about 13.6 million votes cast in these three states. That number is less than one percent of the 13.6 million votes cast. Less than half a million votes could have flipped all six of these states, giving Hillary 333 electoral votes to Trump's 205.

The table also shows that she had many ways to win with just a few more votes. For example, Florida plus any one of the other states in the table above would have given her the presidency.

Yes, it was a big win, but we dodged a bullet. The challenge for Trump and the Republicans is to do such a good job that whoever the Democrats put up four years from now will be buried in a landslide. Go for it!



An article by Justin Holcomb titled “Joe Biden: Trump Voters Aren’t Racist, They Voted for Obama” was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 17, 2016. Following is the article.

As the transition of power continues to stir the political class in Washington, D.C., Vice President Joe Biden tried to smooth things over with President-elect Donald Trump by bluntly saying that the Democratic Party had collectively overlooked rural, working-class Americans.

“We lost because of awful lot of hard-working Americans who live in areas where we did not pay much attention to,” he said at a reception. “Barack Obama won these people. They are not racist. They did not vote for the Democrats this time.

“For the first time in recent memory, this is one section of American population where the life expectancy has gone down,” he added. “It is white American men between the age of 40 and 55. They have the highest suicide rate in America. Because they do not know how to deal with this new incredible change that is taking place in the world.”

“Remember, we won these same people,” Biden continued.



An editorial by Thomas Sowell titled “What Now?” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Nov. 15, 2016. Following is the article.

The good news is that we dodged a bullet in this election. The bad news is that we don’t know how many other bullets are coming, or from what direction.

A Hillary Clinton victory would have meant a third consecutive administration dedicated to dismantling the institutions that have kept America free, and imposing instead the social vision of the smug elites. That could have been the ultimate catastrophe—not just for our time, but for generations yet unborn.

In one sense, Donald Trump’s victory was a unique American event. But, in a larger sense, it represents the biggest backlash among many elsewhere, against smug elites in Western nations, where increasing numbers of ordinary people are showing their anger at where those elites are leading their countries.

There, as here, mindlessly flinging the doors open to peoples from societies whose fundamental values clash with those of the countries they enter, has been a hallmark of arrogant blindness and disregard of negative consequences suffered by ordinary people—consequences from which the elites themselves are insulated.

Nor is this the only issue on which the blindness of elites has set the stage for a political backlash. The anti-law enforcement fetish among the insulated elites has even more tragically sacrificed the safety of the general public. This too has been common on both sides of the Atlantic.

Riots in London, Manchester and other cities in England in 2011 were incredibly similar to 2014 riots in Ferguson, Missouri, 2015 riots in Baltimore and similar riots in other American cities.

The fact that the rioters in England were mostly white, while those in America were mostly black, gives the lie to the facile excuse that such riots are due to racial oppression, rather than being a result of appeasing mobs and restricting the police.

Nor is the election of Donald Trump likely to lead the elites to having second thoughts about the prevailing dogmas of their groupthink. On the morning after Mr. Trump's upset victory over Mrs. Clinton, a newswoman at CNN mentioned the disappointment of some women that "the glass ceiling" was not shattered as expected.

What an insult to everyone's intelligence is that catch phrase, "glass ceiling." What does "glass" mean, if not that you cannot see the ceiling, but somehow you just know that it is there? And how do you know? Because it has been repeated so often.

It is like the fable of the emperor's new clothes, but a fable for adults.

Demagogues like Hillary Clinton can point to the fact that women as a group do not receive as much income as men as a group. But, factual studies over the past 40 years have shown repeatedly that, when you compare women who work as many hours a year as men, and as many continuous years in the same occupations as men, the income differences shrink to the vanishing point, and sometimes even reverse.

But how many politicians or media people care about facts, when the facts go against their preconceptions?

Donald Trump's unexpected victory should send a lot of people back to the drawing board to rethink their assumptions about many things. That includes not only the political left but also the Republican establishment. But don't count on it.

The Republican establishment has been called many things, but introspective is not one of them. One thing they might reconsider is their assumption that they alone know just what kind of presidential candidate is needed to win elections.

But the two most surprisingly successful Republican candidates of the past half century—Ronald Reagan and now Donald Trump—bore no resemblance to the candidates who epitomized the Republican establishment's model, such as Bob Dole, John McCain and Mitt Romney.

Among others who could also use some rethinking is Donald Trump himself. When he acted like a petulant adolescent, he may have gotten the adulation

of his core constituents. But it was only toward the end, when he began to act like a responsible adult seeking the highest office in the land, that he began to overtake Hillary Clinton.

Donald Trump is a wild card. We don't know whether he was play-acting when he carried on like a juvenile lout or when he played the role of a mature adult. But he and the country could both benefit from some serious introspection on his part.



An editorial by Thomas Sowell titled "What Now?—Part II" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Nov. 16, 2016. Following is the article.

As the post-election shock of some, and the euphoria of others, both begin to wear off, the country and the new administration will have some very serious problems to face, at home and abroad. How those problems are faced—or evaded—will tell us a lot about the next four years, and about the longer-run future as well.

As the multiple disasters of ObamaCare become ever more painfully visible with the passage of time, the big question is whether to repeal it or to start tinkering with it, in hopes of being able to "save" it.

This dilemma is not accidental. ObamaCare was clearly so structured that it would be hard to get rid of politically. In that sense, it was a political masterpiece, even though a social disaster.

One big test of the new Republican administration that takes office in January will be whether it falls into the trap of trying to rescue this monstrosity created by the Democrats, and succumbs to the siren song of bipartisanship that is sure to be heard from the media.

Whatever the new administration hopes to accomplish, on this issue and many others, it needs to accomplish early on, if it expects to get things done and establish its credibility. For that it needs unity within a party that has fragmented too often in the past.

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan has been preparing various policy positions, so that there will be a program already in place that Republicans can unite behind and hit the ground running when they take control in January.

But there is one other thing that they will need, and which they have seldom had in the past. That is some well thought out, and clearly articulated, explanation to the American public as to what they are doing and why.

What was called "the Reagan revolution" of the 1980s took place without President Reagan's ever having had Republican control of both Houses of Congress, and despite a hostile media. What Reagan had instead was a rare ability to persuasively articulate to the public what he was doing and why.

When President Reagan got the voters on his side, even Congressional Democrats knew that it was politically risky to try to block what he had convinced the public needed to be done.

Without effective articulation to the public, control of both Houses of Congress can lead to futility and the collapse of political support by frustrated voters who feel betrayed. That has been the recent history of Republicans.

Articulation is not just a gift of nature. It takes hard work, work that Ronald Reagan had done for years before he ever got to Washington. More fundamentally, effective articulation requires a recognition of the great importance of articulation, so that it gets all the time and effort it requires.

Another very high priority for the new administration should be trying to fill the great void on the Supreme Court left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. It is not just a quantitative void but, above all, a qualitative void.

This is one of those situations where caution may be the most dangerous course. Too many Republican Supreme Court nominees in the past have been chosen to avoid a confirmation fight in the Senate—and the country has paid a huge price in bad Supreme Court decisions for decades thereafter.

If you wanted to pick someone whose nomination to the Supreme Court would send a clear and unmistakable signal that the Constitutional values so well represented by the late Justice Scalia were paramount, you could not do that more convincingly than by nominating Senator Ted Cruz.

Whatever one thinks of Senator Cruz's political career and tactics—both of which have been criticized in this column more than once—no one can question his commitment to Constitutional principles that are in jeopardy today.

His uncompromising refusal to go along to get along, which has made him controversial in politics, is desperately needed in the Supreme Court, where too many "conservative" justices, over the years, have wilted like delicate flowers in the Washington heat.

Senator Cruz's unpopularity among more moderate Republican Senators can even be an asset in gaining Senate confirmation, since they would be unlikely to be sorry to see him leave the Senate.



An article by Carol Brown titled "The Violent Peace-Loving Left Is Revolting" was posted at americanthinker.com on Nov. 14, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

The left will not stand for a President Trump. They're crying, screaming, threatening, and attacking. None of us is safe—whether you're an adult, a child, or even an innocent dog.

Trump supporters are being beaten on the street. Young students who voted for Trump in mock elections are being physically assaulted. One mother kicked her 7-year-old out of the house, verbally accosting him throughout the shocking ordeal, after learning that he voted for Trump in a mock election. She then posted the disgusting scene on YouTube.

Violent protests riots across the country are spreading as leftist goons having unfettered pre-pubescent tantrums drone on about "peace" and "love." Targets of the attacks are anything and anyone, including the police. Meanwhile, plans are in the works to disrupt Trump's inauguration with "civil unrest."

In addition to violence and threats of violence, the madness of the left expresses itself in other ways, such as when the CEO of one company seemed to order employees who supported Trump to resign. (Since then, shares in the company have dropped nearly 10%.) Or when a taqiyya-practicing Muslima filed a false police report claiming that a Trump supporter attacked her. She has since been charged with filing a false claim.

There are calls for the election results to be overturned, and lawsuits against Trump are in the works. One supposedly conservative journalist (cough) declared that Trump would resign or be impeached by the end of his first year in office. (I guess the crease in Trump's pants didn't cut mustard with the guy. You know whom I'm talking about.)

West Coast states want to secede from the union. Until that happens, leftists are finding all sorts of ridiculous ways to comfort their fragile selves. Some are wearing safety pins (such as used on diapers) to signify they are a safe space for other traumatized zombies.

Schools are offering grief counseling, allowing students to skip exams, bringing kittens and puppies into classrooms, and providing coloring books and Play-Doh (that's at the university level, by the way) among other measures to protect shattered souls. Videos are being made by the perpetually hysterical and tearful that give testimony to their abject trauma, including Yoko Ono recording a 19-second ear-shattering "primal scream."

As readers are well aware, the media have been in full meltdown mode, shamelessly exposing themselves as the hacks they are, just as they did in the months leading up to the election.

Predictably, members of the Hollywood elite are also distressed. Why anyone cares what these people think is beyond me. Do journalists ever spread out across the country to ask farmers or steel workers for their thoughts on major events such as the results of this election? No. Instead, one-name goons like Cher and Madonna are peddled as important voices to weigh in on such matters.

As for Donald Trump, the rallying cry for him to be murdered comes from various quarters. Twitter has allowed the #assassinatetrump hashtag. Effigies of Trump have been hung, set ablaze, and beaten with sticks. Mobs in the street have threatened to set Trump Tower on fire. And a sign at one protest called for Melania to be raped.

The madness is unfolding at breakneck speed, with no end in sight. The president (or even Hillary Clinton, for that matter) could make a statement to help settle this insanity. But he hasn't. I think we can safely assume he's all on board with it, even cheering it on from the privacy of his soon to be former residence.

May God keep Trump and his family safe. And may we prevail against the evil machine that is communism masked as progressivism masked as the Democratic Party.



An article by Piers Morgan titled "Memo to Millennials—That Awful Feeling You've Got Is Called Losing; It Happens; If You Want to Know How to Win, Stop Whinging for a Bit and Learn Some Lessons From Trump" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Nov. 17, 2016. Following is the article.

Cheer up, American millennials!

I mean, seriously, CHEER THE **** UP!

Oh, I know you've had a rough week ever since Donald Trump won the election.

But it's time to get a grip.

STOP crying.

STOP taking personal days off work to 'process' what happened.

STOP huddling with your equally distraught buddies in Starbucks over your Venti Iced White Chocolate Mocha.

STOP howling away on social media about how unfair life is and how it's the end of the planet as we know it.

STOP updating the exact number Hillary won the popular vote by, because it doesn't bloody matter.

STOP marching around screaming your fury at the result when many of you couldn't even bothered to vote.

STOP retweeting all your favourite celebrities' own outbursts of pique, rage and anguish.

STOP demanding the Electoral College reverse the decision in December.

In short, STOP being such a faux-tormented bunch of absolutely deluded cretins.

Want to know why Trump is going to be your next president?

It's because he is what's called a 'winner.'

I know it's not 'cool' to be a winner these days.

It's become an ugly, dirty word in your PC-crazed universe.

Far better, the social media millennial mob cries, to be a gallant loser who tries their best but comes up short—like Bernie, or now Hillary.

To which I say: bulls**t.

Winning is what life's really about—whether in sport, politics, or simply producing the best decorated pumpkin in your town's Thanksgiving parade.

If you don't strive to be the very best at whatever you do, however big or small, then what's the point in doing it, or frankly even being alive?

Why wallow in self-induced mediocrity?

Yet that is precisely where so many of America's 80 million millennials enjoy wallowing, and as a result they have become the most pampered, privileged and selfish members of the human race in history.

Where's my evidence for such a shocking assertion?

Try the National Institutes of Health, which reported that 40% of millennials believe they should be promoted every two years regardless of performance, and are so fame obsessed that three times as many middle school girls now want to grow up to be the PA to a talentless celebrity like Kim Kardashian as want to be a senator.

(Hardly surprising therefore that 77% of millennials can't even name a senator from their home state . . .)

Oh, and 80% of millennials say they'll be richer than their parents, yet more of them live with their parents than with a spouse, still take cash off their parents, and work half as hard.

The tragic truth is that America's millennials are a bunch of phone-addicted, self-ie-obsessed, hashtagging, snapchatting, kale-munching, twerking, lazy, whining, ill-informed, politically correct, cossetted narcissists who find absolutely everything mortally offensive and believe there are 165 ways to sexually identify.

They don't understand the concept of 'losing' because they've never had to experience it.

At school, to avoid any 'low self-esteem issues,' they were all given endless 'Participation Prizes.'

It's hard to think of a more ridiculous, insidious 'honour.'

What possible pleasure can there be in 'winning' a prize for just turning up? What incentive is there to compete in anything if you're going to 'win' anyway?

Participation prizes converted a whole new generation into people with no understanding of what genuine competition actually means.

This, coupled with the advent of social media technology that allowed them to post relentless 'filtered' images of themselves, led to staggeringly self-absorbed figments of their own perfection.

The combined effect of these two things has been to create a deep-rooted sense of entitlement that manifested itself in a breakdown of biblical proportions when Trump triumphed last Wednesday.

Well, welcome to the real world, my delicate little Instagrammed snowflakes.

This is how democracy works.

You all have a chance to vote.

Someone wins, someone loses.

To the winner of a US presidential election goes all the spoils of being the most powerful person on earth.

To the loser, no gold stars for effort.

Winners like Trump don't believe in 'participation prizes.' They believe you either win or lose.

Winners like Trump don't weep and wail when they lose. They vow to win next time.

Winners like Trump don't take days off to 'process' their loss. They dust themselves down and get on with life.

Winners like Trump don't assume they'll win. They do what it takes to win.

Winners like Trump don't leave anything in the field of competition. They give it 100%.

'Winning,' said the great NFL coach Vince Lombardi, 'is not a sometime thing, it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is habit.'

Lombardi further clarified: 'Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is.'

That's Trump's life mantra too. It's why he's now heading to the White House, and also why he may now surprise people and turn out to be a rather effective president.

The millennials can't handle it because it wasn't supposed to be this way.

Hillary Clinton was their anointed one, their heroine, their pick for first female president.

No matter that she was a dull, humourless, uninspiring candidate mired in Wall Street greed, Washington dogma, and dodgy email servers.

Trump won because he didn't even bother trying to conform to this new world order of eggshell-hopping me-me-me millennials who infest places like New York and California.

Instead, he invested his time and effort in America's rust belt states where such idealistic, sugar-coated nonsense is complete anathema.

The reaction to Trump's win has been absurdly, dangerously over-the-top.

A San Diego based cyber-security firm founder and CEO millennial named Mark Harrigan resigned this week after posting the following on Facebook:

"I'm going to kill the president elect. Getting a sniper rifle and perching myself where it counts. Find a bedroom in the whitehouse that suits you motherf***er. I'll find you. In no uncertain terms, f*** you America. Seriously. F*** off."

Hardly the personification of '#LoveTrumpsHates' is it?

Today, it emerged that 200 students from a Manhattan high school were allowed to skip lessons to join the protests outside Trump Tower.

Can you imagine the furore if Trump-supporting students had demanded the right to do that if Hillary had become President?

It's all so pathetic.

The simple fact is that Trump won, fair and square.

The moaning millennials may not like it but refusing to accept the result is not just undemocratic, it's un-American.

Nobody rioted when Obama won, twice—though feelings ran just as high against him from those who voted for the other side.

As Trump's rally song by the Rolling Stones so perfectly summed it up: 'You can't always get what you want.'

So suck it up you squealing softies, get back to work or college, and if you want to win next time, get a candidate who's a winner not a loser.



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."