

Eye on the World

Aug. 19, 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 churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Aug. 19, 2017.

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 Reuters article titled "U.S., Japan Step Up Defense Cooperation to Counter N. Korea" was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 17, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

The United States and Japan will step up their defense cooperation to deal with the threat from nuclear-armed North Korea as tensions in East Asia remain high, officials from the two allies said on Thursday.

"For this threat of North Korea, at this meeting we agreed to increase the pressure and to strengthen the alliance capability," Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said after talks with senior U.S. officials in Washington.

U.S. fears about North Korea's missile and nuclear bomb programs have grown in recent weeks. Pyongyang has said it was considering plans to fire missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, although North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appears to have delayed the decision.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and their Japanese counterparts agreed at a meeting in Washington on Thursday to work more closely on North Korea.

"In light of the threat of North Korea, the four of us confirmed the importance of the unwavering U.S. commitment to extended deterrence," Onodera said.

Tillerson said the United States wanted dialogue with Pyongyang, but only if it were meaningful.

“Our effort is to cause them to want to engage in talks but engage in talks with an understanding that these talks will lead to a different conclusion than talks of the past,” he said.

In 2005, North Korea reached an agreement with six countries to suspend its nuclear program in return for diplomatic rewards and energy assistance but the deal later collapsed.

U.S. President Donald Trump warned North Korea last week it would face “fire and fury” if it threatened the United States, prompting North Korea to say it was considering plans to fire missiles toward Guam.

Both sides have since dialed back the rhetoric somewhat.

Trump has vowed not to allow North Korea to develop nuclear missiles that could hit the mainland United States but Pyongyang sees its nuclear arsenal as protection against the United States and its partners in Asia.

Pyongyang’s deputy U.N. ambassador told United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres this week that its nuclear weapons program will never be up for negotiation as long as the U.S. government’s “hostile policy and nuclear threat continue.”

Guterres spoke by telephone with Deputy Ambassador Kim InRyong on Tuesday, the North Korean mission to the United Nations said in a statement on Thursday.

Japan intends to expand its role in its alliance with Washington “and augment its defense capabilities” while the United States “remains committed to deploying its most advanced capabilities to Japan,” the State Department said in a statement.

The Japanese Defense Ministry wants to introduce a land-based Aegis missile defense system to address North Korea’s missile threats and has decided to seek funding in the next fiscal year to cover the system design costs, a Japanese defense official told Reuters.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono said Japan would strengthen its defense posture in response to the North Korean threat and provide \$500 million to help boost maritime security in East Asia, where China has been pursuing extensive maritime claims.

Japan is likely to increase its defense spending at a faster pace in its next five-year plan from April 2019 than the annual 0.8 percent average rise in its current mid-term plan, the Nikkei business daily reported on Friday. Defense officials have said such a rise was desirable but finance ministry officials are cautious because of Tokyo’s mammoth public debt.

North Korea has repeatedly threatened to target Japan, which hosts around 54,000 U.S. military personnel, as well as South Korea and the United States with its missiles.

North Korean missiles would have to fly over Japan to reach the Guam area, worrying Tokyo that warheads or missile debris could fall on its territory.

The United States and South Korea will go ahead with joint military drills next week, the top U.S. military official said on Thursday, resisting pressure from North Korea and its ally China to halt the contentious exercises.

The drills involving tens of thousands of U.S. and South Korean troops are due to begin on Monday. North Korea views such exercises as preparations to invade it.



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Israel, Jordan Concerned About Iran-Backed Shiite Militias Moving Into Vacuum" was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 16, 2017. Following is the article.

The governments of Israel and Jordan have—separately—both voiced concern about the growing influence of Iran on their doorsteps, at a time when security experts warn that the defeat of ISIS could usher a dangerous new regional threat as Iran and its allies move into the vacuum left by the retreating Sunni terrorists.

The chief of the Mossad intelligence agency early this week briefed Israel's cabinet about Iran's expanding influence through proxies in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen, an evaluation summarized by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as "ISIS out, Iran in."

"Our policy is clear," Netanyahu told a meeting in the coastal city of Ashdod after receiving the intelligence review from Mossad head Yossi Cohen.

"We strongly oppose the military buildup of Iran and its proxies, first and foremost Hezbollah in Syria, and we will do everything necessary to maintain Israel's security."

Cohen told the cabinet that Tehran, both directly and through its proxies, was "working to fill the void" in the region, left as ISIS loses territory in Syria and Iraq.

He also said the Iranian economy has been strengthened as a result of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) reached in 2015, which netted Iran sanctions relief in return for limitations on its nuclear program.

Iran is deeply involved in the Syrian civil war, fighting alongside its long-standing Lebanese proxy Hezbollah and Shi'ite militias from Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and elsewhere to prop up President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Assad loyalists and Iranian-backed Shi'ite allies recently returned to a section of the Syria-Jordan border that had formerly been held by what the army identified as ISIS jihadists.

The Syrian military announced last Thursday that it had recaptured security points along a 30 kilometer stretch of the border, "after inflicting heavy losses upon ISIS terrorists in personnel and weaponry.

A truce has been holding, with some violations, in southern Syria since early July, under an agreement reached by the U.S., Russia and Jordan. Israel is

believed to be worried that the arrangement is paving the way for an expanded Iranian influence in the area.

Cohen and other senior security officials are heading for Washington this week for talks with Trump administration security officials, expected to focus on Israeli concerns about the situation in Syria and Lebanon.

A Jordanian government spokesman this week also expressed concern about the presence of pro-Assad sectarian militias near the Syria-Jordan border.

Jordanian media quoted Mohammad Moumani, minister of state for media affairs, as saying the kingdom will not allow such groups to have a foothold near its territory, views the development as a "strategic threat" and will "take the necessary measures to ensure there is security and stability on our border."

Moumani also said that the international community and "world powers" regard the situation as seriously as Jordan does, and that some "regional countries" take it even more seriously than Jordan does—possibly a reference to Israel and Saudi Arabia, Iran's main regional rivals.

In a column for Al-Hurra Digital on Monday, Ilan Berman, senior vice-president of the American Foreign Policy Council, reported that the size of Shi'ite militias mobilized by Iran over the past two years has been estimated at upwards of 50,000, an even greater number than that of foreign Sunni extremists who flocked to the region to fight for the ISIS "caliphate."

Berman said the Shi'ite force "represents a grave and growing threat to the Middle East."

"And in the future, Iran's leaders may well harness their new expeditionary force beyond the Syrian battlefield, using it as a tool to pursue other geopolitical objectives and target regional rivals," he wrote.

"If they do, the nations of the Middle East will be faced with a new, and formidable, asymmetric adversary. So, too, will the United States."



An article by Iain Burns, Dave Burke and Tom Worden titled "Mown Down As They Shopped; Elderly Couple Run Over in ISIS Van Attack in Barcelona That Killed 13 and Injured More Than 100 Before Suspect Fled on Foot" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Aug. 17, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

ISIS has claimed responsibility for the massacre of 13 innocent pedestrians in a terror attack in the heart of Barcelona which left more than 100 injured, ten of them critically.

A rented Fiat van was driven into crowds in the tourist district of Las Ramblas yesterday afternoon before the driver escaped on foot.

Investigators believe the atrocity is linked to an explosion at a home 70 miles away which happened 24 hours earlier. Documents discovered at the scene reveal details of the planned attack, police sources have claimed.

It is thought the address was being used as a bomb factory, and that the terror cell responsible for yesterday's attack planned to fill the van with explosive butane canisters.

Two hours after the mass killing a man was shot dead after driving through a roadblock on the outskirts of Barcelona, injuring two police officers, including one who suffered a broken leg.

He is now not believed to be linked to the attack.

A further two suspects were arrested yesterday evening, a Moroccan and a Spanish national, but neither of them were at the wheel of the truck which indiscriminately killed and maimed victims in its path.

In the early hours of this morning four terrorists were shot dead in Cambrils, a coastal resort 70 miles from Barcelona, and another was injured by police. It is not known if the van driver was among them.

Officials warn the death toll is likely to rise, with at least 10 people critically injured in yesterday afternoon's atrocity in the heart of the city's tourist district.



An article by Kyle Drennen titled "Pence Calls Out Media for 'Spending More Time Criticizing' Trump Than Neo-Nazis" was posted at newsbusters.org on Aug. 14, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

After all three broadcast networks spent Sunday blaming President Trump for the deadly violence in Charlottesville, Virginia over the weekend, in an exclusive interview with NBC News aired on Monday's Today show, Vice President Mike Pence took the liberal media to task for its biased coverage.

Talking to correspondent Peter Alexander during a trip to Central America on Sunday, Pence scolded the press: "I will tell you that I take issue with the fact that many in the media are spending more time criticizing how the President addressed the issue yesterday . . . many in the media have spent an awful lot of time focusing on what the President said and criticisms of what the President said, instead of criticizing those who brought that hatred and violence to the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia."



An article by Nicholas Fonacaro titled "Nets Spend 77 Percent of Evening News on Wild Trump Presser" was posted at newsbusters.org on Aug. 15, 2017. Following is the article.

In a jaw-dropping spectacle in the lobby of Trump Tower on Tuesday, the President went off on the media while ranting about his response to the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, over the weekend.

Trump stepped in it when he appeared to defend the alt-right and doubled down on his original comments from Saturday. The presentation was originally supposed to be the unveiling of an infrastructure proposal that would overhaul the system.

The Big Three Networks (ABC, CBS, and NBC) could not get enough of Trump's fiery and furious tirade as he went to battle with the press. And their evening news broadcasts later that day were commanded by the coverage of Trump.

Minus their commercials and teasers, the total air time the networks set aside for all their news coverage combined was 58 minutes and 38 seconds.

Of that total time, they spent 45 minutes and 31 seconds on Trump's wild press conference (77.6 percent).

- The coverage was absolutely pervasive on CBS Evening News, where they dedicated all 21 minutes and 13 seconds of total news time to the Trump show. That's right. They used 100 percent of their air time to talk about what Trump said or tie racism back to him in some way. Nothing else was talked about from the whole wide world of news.

- On NBC *Nightly News*, their total news time was 18 minutes and 49 seconds. They came in second with their total Trump press conference coverage accumulating for 13 minutes and 18 seconds (70 percent). That meant they only gave five minutes and 31 seconds to all the other possible stories to cover.

- ABC's *World News Tonight* had roughly 18 minutes and 36 seconds of total news time and 59 percent of it was talking about Trump's display (11 minutes). This left only seven minutes and 36 seconds for other news stories.

The overwhelming amount of coverage the Big Three Networks afforded to Trump's spectacle completely drowned out other major news stories of the day.

For instance, CBS and NBC completely omitted how, over night, the murderous North Korean regime blinked and backed down in their game of chicken with the United States. They noted it during their Tuesday morning broadcasts but left only ABC to cover it by evening. One would think the possible aversion of a nuclear attack would be major news.

They also ignored the radical leaders of Iran threatening to pull out of the nuclear agreement. According to the Fox News Channel's Rich Edson on *Special Report*: "Iran's President threatens its restored nuclear program would be more dangerous than the one suspended two years ago." He also noted how their parliament chanted "death to America" as they voted on increasing funds for military programs.

And it had been a day since Politico published a damaging story about how the "Obama team was warned in 2014 about Russian interference," and did little to stop it. "There was no explicit warning of a threat to U.S. elections," they wrote. "But the official said some diplomats and national security officials in Moscow felt the administration was too quick to dismiss the possibility that the Kremlin incursions could reach the United States."

There was no mention of this story on Monday or Tuesday.

And for all of their coverage of the Trump's press conference, the Big Three Networks didn't discuss the President's infrastructure proposal in any detail. NBC was the lone network to mention it, but it was only to describe why the conference was called at all.

ABC and NBC also omitted Trump's strong words condemning the murderer who drove his car into a crowd of counter protesters in an ISIS style attack.

"Well, I think the driver of the car is a disgrace to himself, his family, and this country. And that is—you can call it terrorism. You can call it murder. You can call it whatever you want," he exclaimed to the press. "The driver of the car is a murderer, and what he did was a horrible, horrible, inexcusable thing."

Instead of covering any of those other major stories, ABC chose to report on a lawsuit between jewelry maker Tiffany & Co. and Costco. Meanwhile, NBC hyped the newest popular song on iTunes that literally plays no music.



An article by John Dietrich titled "Are Far Left and Far Right Equivalent?" was posted at americanthinker.com on Aug. 16, 2017. Following is the article.

President Trump has committed the unpardonable sin of implying that the far left is as violent as the far right.

This can be a career-ender. *New York Times* domestic affairs correspondent Sheryl Gay Stolberg may have learned this the hard way. "The hard left seemed as hate-filled as alt-right. I saw club-wielding 'antifa' beating white nationalists being led out of the park," Stolberg wrote.

She was immediately set upon. She had contradicted the progressive narrative. Perhaps she can be forgiven because her comments were made early in the dispute. The progressive narrative is that this was a demonstration by white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and KKK protesting the removal of statues of slaveholders. They were opposed by "civil rights protesters," defenders of the American Way. In Stolberg's revised comments, the protesters were "standing up to hate."

Even Mitt Romney endorsed the progressive fairy tale, tweeting, "No, not the same. One side is racist, bigoted, Nazi. The other opposes racism and bigotry. Morally different universes."

Former vice president Joe Biden tweeted simply: "There is only one side. #charlottesville."

This narrative has been repeated endlessly. All demonstrators were hate advocates. There was nobody demonstrating against the removal of monuments dedicated to their forbears or people aware of the left's true agenda. Perhaps they should have known that an event organized by Richard Spencer, a known white supremacist, would not be a tea party.

The president's original statement was, "We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides."

This allowed critics to suggest he was drawing a moral equivalency between the right and the left. After massive criticism he appeared to have capitulated.

On Monday, he condemned the attack and specifically mentioned the KKK, neo-Nazis and white supremacists. Unsurprisingly, this did not satisfy his critics.

On Tuesday he appeared to revert to his original position with a vengeance. He asked reporters, "When you say alt-right, define alt-right for me. What about the alt-left that came charging at the, as you say, the alt-right? Do they have any semblance of guilt?"

Trump added, "Not all of those people were neo-Nazis."

He then touched on a problem few conservative commentators have mentioned. The entire progressive exercise is based on one goal: the acquisition of power.

Trump continued, "Many of those people were there to protest the taking down the statue of Robert E. Lee. So this week, it's Robert E. Lee; I notice Stonewall Jackson is coming down. I wonder: is it George Washington next week, and is it Thomas Jefferson the week after? You really do have to ask yourself, where does it stop?" Al Sharpton has already targeted Thomas Jefferson.

There is no moral equivalency between left and right.

- Those on the left have repeatedly demonstrated that they are more violent than the right.

- The left is held to an entirely different standard. Black Lives Matter ("Pigs in a blanket, fry 'em like bacon") can be invited to the White House by President Obama. President Trump cannot even criticize them. Mayors often tell their police forces to "stand down." They give protesters "who wished to destroy space to do that as well."

Genuinely conservative demonstrations do not usually end with burned out liquor stores. Leftist speakers do not fear being assaulted when they pay a visit to a college campus.

- The left controls the establishment media. It can therefore suppress or emphasize information that it believes will further its cause. Che Guevara, Mao, Joseph Stalin, and Pol Pot do not receive the attention they deserve.

President Trump's exchange with the press at Trump Tower did not reflect well on the press.

The question "Are you against the Confederacy?" was entirely ignored. After President Trump condemned white supremacists several times, a reporter asked, "I didn't understand what you were saying. You were saying the press has treated white nationalists unfairly."

Reporters hear what they want to hear. If they are incapable of listening, they cannot report accurately.



“Eye on the World” comment: Although the following article by Walter Williams was included in the edition dated June 17, it is included here again.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled “Rewriting American History” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on June 14, 2017. Following is the article.

George Orwell said, “The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”

In the former USSR, censorship, rewriting of history and eliminating undesirable people became part of Soviets’ effort to ensure that the correct ideological and political spin was put on their history.

Deviation from official propaganda was punished by confinement in labor camps and execution.

Today there are efforts to rewrite history in the U.S., albeit the punishment is not so draconian as that in the Soviet Union.

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu had a Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee monument removed last month.

Former Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton wanted the statue of Confederate Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, as well as the graves of Forrest and his wife, removed from the city park.

In Richmond, Virginia, there have been calls for the removal of the Monument Avenue statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gens. Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and J.E.B. Stuart.

It’s not only Confederate statues that have come under attack. Just by having the name of a Confederate, such as J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church, Virginia, brings up calls for a name change. These history rewriters have enjoyed nearly total success in getting the Confederate flag removed from state capitol grounds and other public places.

Slavery is an undeniable fact of our history. The costly war fought to end it is also a part of the nation’s history. Neither will go away through cultural cleansing.

Removing statues of Confederates and renaming buildings are just a small part of the true agenda of America’s leftists. Thomas Jefferson owned slaves, and there’s a monument that bears his name—the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

George Washington also owned slaves, and there's a monument to him, as well—the Washington Monument in Washington.

Will the people who call for removal of statues in New Orleans and Richmond also call for the removal of the Washington, D.C., monuments honoring slaveholders Jefferson and Washington?

Will the people demanding a change in the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School also demand that the name of the nation's capital be changed?

These leftists might demand that the name of my place of work—George Mason University—be changed. Even though Mason was the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which became a part of our Constitution's Bill of Rights, he owned slaves. Not too far from my university is James Madison University. Will its name be changed? Even though Madison is hailed as the "Father of the Constitution," he did own slaves.

Rewriting American history is going to be challenging. Just imagine the task of purifying the nation's currency. Slave owner George Washington's picture graces the \$1 bill. Slave owner Thomas Jefferson's picture is on the \$2 bill. Slave-owning Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's picture is on our \$50 bill. Benjamin Franklin's picture is on the \$100 bill.

The challenges of rewriting American history are endless, going beyond relatively trivial challenges such as finding new pictures for our currency. At least half of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were slave owners.

Also consider that roughly half of the 55 delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia were slave owners. Do those facts invalidate the U.S. Constitution, and would the history rewriters want us to convene a new convention to purge and purify our Constitution?

The job of tyrants and busybodies is never done. When they accomplish one goal, they move their agenda to something else. If we Americans give them an inch, they'll take a yard. So I say, don't give them an inch in the first place.

The hate-America types use every tool at their disposal to achieve their agenda of discrediting and demeaning our history. Our history of slavery is simply a convenient tool to further their cause.



"Eye on the World" comment: Although the following article by Walter Williams posted in late June was not initially selected, current events influenced it to be chosen at this time.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "Were Confederate Generals Traitors?" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on June 28, 2017. Following is the article.

My "Rewriting American History" column of a fortnight ago, about the dismantling of Confederate monuments, generated considerable mail.

Some argued there should not be statues honoring traitors such as Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis, who fought against the Union. Victors of wars get to write the history, and the history they write often does not reflect the facts.

Let's look at some of the facts and ask: Did the South have a right to secede from the Union? If it did, we can't label Confederate generals as traitors.

Article 1 of the Treaty of Paris (1783), which ended the war between the Colonies and Great Britain, held "New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free sovereign and Independent States."

Representatives of these states came together in Philadelphia in 1787 to write a constitution and form a union.

During the ratification debates, Virginia's delegates said, "The powers granted under the Constitution being derived from the people of the United States may be resumed by them whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression." The ratification documents of New York and Rhode Island expressed similar sentiments.

At the Constitutional Convention, a proposal was made to allow the federal government to suppress a seceding state. James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," rejected it.

The minutes from the debate paraphrased his opinion: "A union of the states containing such an ingredient (would) provide for its own destruction. The use of force against a state would look more like a declaration of war than an infliction of punishment and would probably be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound."

America's first secessionist movement started in New England after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Many were infuriated by what they saw as an unconstitutional act by President Thomas Jefferson. The movement was led by Timothy Pickering of Massachusetts, George Washington's secretary of war and secretary of state.

He later became a congressman and senator.

"The principles of our Revolution point to the remedy—a separation," Pickering wrote to George Cabot in 1803, for "the people of the East cannot reconcile their habits, views, and interests with those of the South and West."

His Senate colleague James Hillhouse of Connecticut agreed, saying, "The Eastern states must and will dissolve the union and form a separate government."

This call for secession was shared by other prominent Americans, such as John Quincy Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Fisher Ames, Josiah Quincy III and Joseph Story.

The call failed to garner support at the 1814-15 Hartford Convention.

The U.S. Constitution would have never been ratified—and a union never created—if the people of those 13 “free sovereign and Independent States” did not believe that they had the right to secede. Even on the eve of the War of 1861, unionist politicians saw secession as a right that states had.

Rep. Jacob M. Kunkel of Maryland said, “Any attempt to preserve the union between the states of this Confederacy by force would be impractical and destructive of republican liberty.”

The Northern Democratic and Republican parties favored allowing the South to secede in peace.

Northern newspapers editorialized in favor of the South’s right to secede.

■ *New-York Tribune* (Feb. 5, 1860): “If tyranny and despotism justified the Revolution of 1776, then we do not see why it would not justify the secession of Five Millions of Southrons from the Federal Union in 1861.”

■ *The Detroit Free Press* (Feb. 19, 1861): “An attempt to subjugate the seceded States, even if successful, could produce nothing but evil—evil unmitigated in character and appalling in extent.”

■ *The New-York Times* (March 21, 1861): “There is a growing sentiment throughout the North in favor of letting the Gulf States go.”

Confederate generals were fighting for independence from the Union just as George Washington and other generals fought for independence from Great Britain. Those who’d label Gen. Robert E. Lee as a traitor might also label George Washington as a traitor. I’m sure Great Britain’s King George III would have agreed.



An editorial by Ann Coulter titled “When Liberals Club People, It’s With Love in Their Hearts” was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 16, 2017. Following is the article.

Apparently, as long as violent leftists label their victims “fascists,” they are free to set fires, smash windows and beat civilians bloody. No police officer will stop them. They have carte blanche to physically assault anyone they disapprove of, including Charles Murray, Heather Mac Donald, Ben Shapiro, me and Milo Yiannopoulos, as well as anyone who wanted to hear us speak.

Even far-left liberals like Evergreen State professor Bret Weinstein will be stripped of police protection solely because the mob called him a “racist.”

If the liberal shock troops deem local Republicans “Nazis”—because some of them support the duly elected Republican president—Portland will cancel the annual Rose Festival parade rather than allow any Trump supporters to march.

They’re all “fascists”! Ipso facto, the people cracking their skulls and smashing store windows are “anti-fascists,” or as they call themselves, “antifa.”

We have no way of knowing if the speakers at the Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally last weekend were "Nazis," "white supremacists" or passionate Civil War buffs, inasmuch as they weren't allowed to speak. The Democratic governor shut the event down, despite a court order to let it proceed.

We have only visuals presented to us by the activist media, showing some participants with Nazi paraphernalia. But for all we know, the Nazi photos are as unrepresentative of the rally as that photo of the drowned Syrian child is of Europe's migrant crisis. Was it 1 percent Nazi or 99 percent Nazi?

As the "Unite the Right" crowd was dispersing, they were forced by the police into the path of the peace-loving, rock-throwing, fire-spraying antifa. A far-left reporter for The New York Times, Sheryl Gay Stolberg, tweeted live from the event: "The hard left seemed as hate-filled as alt-right. I saw club-wielding 'antifa' beating white nationalists being led out of the park."

That's when protestor James Fields sped his car into a crowd of the counter-protesters, then immediately hit reverse, injuring dozens of people, and killing one woman, Heather Heyer.

This has been universally labeled "terrorism," but we still don't know whether Fields hit the gas accidentally, was in fear for his life or if he rammed the group intentionally and maliciously.

With any luck, we'll unravel Fields' motives faster than it took the Obama administration to discern the motives of a Muslim shouting "Allahu Akbar!" while gunning down soldiers at Fort Hood. (Six years.)

But so far, all we know is that Fields said he was "upset about black people" and wanted to kill as many as possible. On his Facebook page, he displayed a "White Power" poster and "liked" three organizations deemed "white separatist hate groups" by the Southern Poverty Law Center. A subsequent search of his home turned up bomb-making materials, ballistic vests, rifles, ammunition and a personal journal of combat tactics.

Actually, none of that is true. The paragraph above describes, down to the letter, what was known about Micah Xavier Johnson, the black man who murdered five Dallas cops a year ago during a Black Lives Matter demonstration. My sole alteration to the facts is reversing the words "black" and "white."

President Obama held a news conference the next day to say it's "very hard to untangle the motives." The New York Times editorialized agnostically that many "possible motives will be ticked off for the killer." (One motive kind of sticks out like a sore thumb to me.)

In certain cases, the media are quite willing to jump to conclusions. In others, they seem to need an inordinate amount of time to detect motives.

The media think they already know all there is to know about James Fields, but they also thought they knew all about the Duke lacrosse players, "gentle giant" Michael Brown and those alleged gang-rapists at the University of Virginia.

Waiting for facts is now the “Nazi” position.

Liberals have Republicans over a barrel because they used the word “racist.” The word is kryptonite, capable of turning the entire GOP and 99 percent of the “conservative media” into a panicky mass of cowardice.

This week, Mitt Romney and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.)—among others—instructed us that masked liberals hitting people with baseball bats are pure of heart—provided they first label the likes of Charles Murray or some housewife in a “MAGA” hat “fascists.”

Luckily, the week before opening fire on Republicans, critically injuring House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, Bernie Sanders-supporter James Hodgkinson had used the vital talisman, calling the GOP “fascist.” So you see, he wasn’t trying to commit mass murder! He was just fighting “Nazis.” Rubio and Romney will be expert witnesses.

And let’s recall the response of Hillary Clinton to the horrifying murder of five Dallas cops last year. The woman who ran against Trump displayed all the moral blindness currently being slanderously imputed to him.

In an interview on CNN about the slaughter that had taken place roughly 12 hours earlier, Hillary barely paused to acknowledge the five dead officers—much less condemn the shooting—before criticizing police for their “implicit bias” six times in about as many minutes.

What she really wanted to talk about were the two recent police shootings of black men in Baton Rouge and Minneapolis, refusing to contradict Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton’s claim that the Minneapolis shooting was based on racism.

Officers in both cases were later found innocent of any wrongdoing. Either the left has had a really bad streak of luck on their police brutality cases, or bad cops are a lot rarer than they think.

Some people would not consider the mass murder of five white policemen by an anti-cop nut in the middle of a BLM protest a good jumping-off point for airing BLM’s delusional complaints about the police. It would be like responding to John Hinckley Jr.’s attempted murder of President Reagan by denouncing Jodie Foster for not dating him.

Or, to bring it back to Charlottesville, it would be as if Trump had responded by expounding on the kookiest positions of “Unite the Right”—just as Hillary’s response echoed the paranoid obsessions of the cop-killer. Trump would have quickly skipped over the dead girl and railed against black people, Jews and so on.

That is the precise analogy to what Hillary did as the bodies of five Dallas cops lay in the morgue.

Thank God Donald J. Trump is our president, and not Mitt Romney, not Marco Rubio and not that nasty woman.



An editorial by Bob Barr titled "Violent Tribalism on Display in Charlottesville" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 17, 2017. Following is the article.

When it comes to political violence such as we witnessed in Charlottesville, Virginia last weekend, there are no partisan "sides" to the issue.

In an enlightened society, you either believe violence is an acceptable means to an end, or you do not.

In this parity, there is no room for equivocation, where the perceived nobleness or virtue of one's agenda can excuse it. Initiating force against any group or individual for the sake of achieving a political goal or simply making a political statement, is morally and legally wrong. Full stop.

Last weekend was a national embarrassment in every sense of the word; from the pathetic display of a bunch of wimps carrying Tiki torches trying to look tough, to yet another appearance of masked "Antifa" thugs sucker-punching anyone with whom they disagree.

Initially too, President Trump, missing what could have been a defining moment for his young presidency, tip-toed over the violence rather than offering a dose of his trademark blustering and rage to blast the neo-Nazis who reflect the worst side of humanity.

Instead, Trump, like so many others on the Left and Right, once again attempted to distill the deplorable conduct into a political blame game, insinuating one side would have been "right" if not for the provocation of the other.

Attempting to ascribe degrees of blame to the protest groups in Charlottesville misses the point entirely about today's political violence. The Alt-Right's venomous racism is no more, or less, contemptible than the Alt-Left's belief that offensive speech must be banned at any price. Violence is violence, regardless of the politics behind it.

If there is a side to the violence in Charlottesville, both of these groups are on it and deserve our scorn as practitioners of a toxic, post-modern mindset that there is no objective truth other than how they see it, and that protecting their truth is the true public good.

In fact, aside from differing political agendas, these neo-Nazis and Antifa-ites are cut from the same cloth. Both wallow in delusions of self-righteousness, and embrace violence as an acceptable, if not noble, means of achieving their political goals. Most of all, they suffer from the same paranoia of oppression that drive them into virulent tribalism.

"Tribalism is a product of fear," declared philosopher Ayn Rand, "and fear is the dominant emotion of any person, culture or society that rejects...reason."

The reality is that our true enemy today is not a Nazi flag or a black balaclava; those are only physical manifestations of tribalism. Rather, our real

enemy is the philosophy of those who use such symbols. It is the rejection of reason in favor of emotional sophistry driven by fear and designed to produce more of it. This is the source of today's violence, and reflects the fact that only violence can exist in the vacuum of reason.

We can point fingers at one side or the other, but neither liberals nor conservatives are blameless in allowing such an un-American, anti-enlightenment philosophy to take root. Liberals traded "free thinkers" for professors who indoctrinate students to "feel" (rather than to reason), and government officials who went from filling potholes to piously tearing down statues.

Meanwhile, conservatives traded the thoughtful punditry of Ronald Reagan and William F. Buckley for a 24-hour news cycle of talking heads regurgitating just enough soundbites to excuse viewers from having to think for themselves. Over the years, both the Right and the Left were enabled by lazy party leaders fostering the idea that to win you simply yell louder, not think harder.

What is the result of this nonsense? Gunning down congressmen during a baseball practice, ramming cars into protestors, sucker-punching people with whom you disagree, and mass protests every time one tribe feels slighted by another.

"You don't see advocates of reason and science clogging a street in the belief that using their bodies to stop traffic, will solve any problem," Rand reminds us.

That this most recent display of non-reason occurred just steps from the university founded by one of history's greatest and most reasoned minds, is a sad irony.

The roots of the violence in Charlottesville last week, in Berkeley last April, and in other cities and campuses across America in recent months, go far deeper than a few statues; and removing them will in the end solve nothing.

The only solution lies in reigniting a true belief in, and advocacy of reason throughout our culture, to replace the toxic environment of tribalism and violence that has taken hold. And that is far more difficult than tearing down a few statues.



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."