

Eye on the World

Jan. 6, 2018

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 January 6, 2018.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."



An article by Lee Kaplan titled "US Far-Left Subversion is Reaching Israel" was posted at israelnationalnews.com on Dec. 31, 2017. Following is the article.

An article recently appeared on Arutz Sheva quoting Deputy Defense Minister Rabbi Eli Ben Dahan (Jewish Home) and his response to a letter written by "Israeli high school seniors" calling on their peers not to enlist in the IDF.

The letter claims Israel "oppresses" Palestinian Authority Arabs, and the signatories refused "to have any part" in such "oppression." The rhetoric, however, was not that of some sixteen to eighteen-year-olds in high school, but of the terrorist group PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and the Israeli and American Far Left.

What's that? The American Far Left?

"We will refuse to serve out of an obligation to our values of peace, and because of our knowledge that there is an alternative reality which we can create together," the letter read. "We call on our fellow students to ask themselves: Will IDF service advance this cause [of peace]?" it continues.

The proliferation of Jewish "peace" organizations that seek to undermine the Israel Defense Forces while claiming they are merely seeking peace has been resoundingly successful in America where they collude openly with groups that call for the destruction of Israel. Jewish Voice for Peace and J Street are

given a "voice at the table" with other Jewish groups as if they are merely just some misguided peace-loving Jews instead of self-appointed revolutionaries who want the Jewish state dismantled. Not losing a beat, these groups are opening up on college campuses across the US as an adjunct to the Hamas front, Students for Justice in Palestine.

The destroy-Israel-at-all-costs cabal in America is moving into high schools and secondary schools to deconstruct the true image of Israel as a haven for the Jewish people, and a democratic country, describing it as an "oppressor" engaging in "genocide" of innocent "peace-loving" Arabs.

Many of the major communist organizations in the U.S. such as the International Action Center, United for Peace and Justice (the renamed U.S. Communist Party), and other subversive groups previously funded by Cuba and North Korea, and funded now by George Soros, gladly endorse the PLO and Hamas. An anomaly is J Street, whose head, Jeremy Ben-Ami was a public relations agent with Fenton Communications. Ben-Ami's activities netted him \$300,000 the first year he went into business for himself and founded J Street in his basement as the only paid corporate officer. JStreet which is now opening chapters in colleges across the USA.

"The army is carrying out the government's racist policy, which violates basic human rights and executes one law for Israelis and another law for Palestinians on the same territory," the high schoolers allegedly wrote. Accusations of racism are a big seller on the news in the U.S., even when false.

Israel helps them by looking the other way and not taking them seriously enough.

Another new leftist Jewish organization has appeared. Called T'ruah, It is funded by George Soros and provides the link to the American Left, so that this high schoolers' letter may be a harbinger of things to come. T'ruah is funding another "peace group" that is training what it calls "hives," 20 of them across the USA, mostly in college towns, aiming to recruit Jewish college students to protest the "occupation" as in the high school letter. They have adult organizers who get in mostly rich kids from secular Jewish families or teens who are already experienced activists in radical anti-U.S. groups to say they are the "new generation" who will make peace in the Middle East that us old fogeys haven't been able to achieve.

Israel helps them by looking the other way and not taking them seriously enough.

The Center for Jewish Nonviolence is set up alongside T'ruah and supplies many of the young Jewish radicals active in If Not Now. Every Jewish kid who worked with radical groups in his locale can now join If Not Now and extend their bona fides as an international radical to attacking the Jewish people. As with the ISM, these young Jews say they are Palestinian-led and fighting the "horror" of the Israeli occupation.

The more active members of If Not Now are paid to train new members how to disrupt pro-Israel events by screaming and trespassing and stifling free speech.

They have already included Friends of the IDF Fundraisers and Christians United for Israel events in churches as venues for disruption. They never condemn terrorism attacks by the Arabs against Jews, in fact, they laud as "heroes" the likes of Rasmia Odeh who murdered two college boys in a supermarket bombing in Israel. Many are already part of Jewish Voice for Peace. At "trainings" they teach high school and college kids disruption tactics in which everyone screams at the same time, everyone acts in mob fashion to attack Israel.

If Not Now has a program funded by T'ruah that sends high school and some college-aged Jewish kids over to Judea and Samaria, notably to one of the Palestinian squatter camps, Samud, with instructions to not only disrupt security activities the IDF soldiers need to carry out, but to also mob the soldiers and grab their guns—visible on YouTube. The If Not Now leader/organizer seen grabbing a soldier's gun is Issac Cates, who has a history in the U.S. of participating in anarchist disruptions. He can be seen in videos forcing an IDF soldier to the ground and grabbing another soldier's machine gun more than once until the soldier finally slaps his face. This was an Ahd Tamimi moment in reverse that may have encouraged Bassem Tamimi's daughter to stage the latest assault in Bi'ilin

These trips are nothing new, the Olive Tree Initiative, Palestine Summer Encounter, Birthright Unplugged and many other trips professing to be for "peace" are all designed to call for an end of the "occupation" (to them, that is all of Israel).and offered by taxpayer funded U.S. colleges. But If Not Now is expanding this into grabbing soldiers' guns and it should land them jail sentences, but their being internationals will exempt them from this as they ply their "direct action" against IDF troops and brings stories and videos home.

These signatories don't offer to work in hospitals or help the poor.

Cates, an American, lived in Israel as an organizer and may even still be there despite Stop the ISM alerting Israeli intelligence.

That high school letter Deputy Minister Dahan discussed wasn't just some Israeli kids at the sweet shop after school writing something. It was the PFLP and American radical anarchist groups creating yet another small cut in a death by a thousand small cuts being orchestrated against Israel. Israel needs to stop allowing outside subversive organizations free rein to try to bring down the Jewish state. The students who allegedly wrote it must be investigated to discover who really wrote it and even if some money changed hands for it to happen.

Since Hezbollah and the Revolutionary Guard Corps from Iran create a wider battlefield in the Golan and Syria, Israeli military and political leaders see the high school letter as a minor thing not deserving of attention. But the letter is designed to undermine morale and the willingness among the younger generation to not serve and to aid the overall Arab goal.

When people like Issac Cates try to enter Israel, be they Jewish or not, they must be given the boot immediately. The authorities and school administrators

must take strong measures to root out every student subversive who signed that letter. Free speech doesn't mean Israelis must aid their own destruction.

A glimmer of hope is that some other high school students wrote their own letter in support of the IDF. However, those students also invited the draft dodgers to "dialog" about the issue. If they do meet, there won't be a "dialog" with both sides seeking common ground, but just another bash "Israel the occupier" event used by the media to show "Jewish division" over the Israeli state's existence.

Foreign states and organizations are using this subversion of the IDF to try to dismantle a Jewish state. Wake up, Israel.



A Reuters article by Bozorgmehr Sharafed titled "What Has Brought Iranian Protesters to the Streets?" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 31, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Iran warned of a tough crackdown on Sunday against demonstrators posing one of the boldest challenges to its clerical leaders since nationwide unrest shook the Islamist theocracy in 2009.

How serious are the protests?

Political protests are rare in Iran, where security services are pervasive. And yet tens of thousands of people have protested across the country since Thursday. The demonstrations are the biggest since unrest in 2009 that followed the disputed re-election of then-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

They began in Iran's second city of Mashhad in the northeast on Thursday and spread to Tehran and other urban centres. Iranians vented their anger over a sharp increase in prices of basic items like eggs, and a government proposal to increase fuel prices in next year's budget.

Some protesters also vented their rage over high unemployment and savings that were lost after investments in unlicensed credit and financial institutions turned sour.

The demonstrations, initially focused on economic hardships and alleged corruption, turned into political rallies. Anger was soon directed at the clerical leadership in power since the 1979 revolution, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the ultimate authority in Iran's cumbersome system of dual clerical and republican rule.

How will the government respond?

The government's main challenge is to find a way to suppress the uprising without provoking more anger.

So far, while the authorities have threatened to take strong measures, in practice they have largely been restrained. Although two protesters were killed and hundreds arrested, many believe the police have shown some self-control throughout most of the demonstrations.

Iran's National Security Council held urgent meetings and so far has decided to block social media and messaging apps to restrict the flow of information and calls for demonstrations.

The state has a powerful security apparatus it can call upon. But so far it has refrained from despatching the elite Revolutionary Guards, the Basij militia, and plain-clothed security forces who crushed the 2009 uprising and killed dozens of protesters.

In the meantime, the government backed down on plans to raise fuel prices and promised to increase cash handouts to the poor and create more jobs in coming years.

What are the main demands of protesters?

Iranians across the country want higher wages and an end to alleged graft. Many also question the wisdom of Iran's foreign policy in the Middle East, where it has intervened in Syria and Iraq in a battle for influence with rival Saudi Arabia.

The country's financial support for Palestinians and the Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah also angered Iranians, who want their government to focus on domestic economic problems instead.

The wide spectrum of slogans showed that the wave of demonstrations cover a range of social classes who have different demands.

Unlike the unrest in 2009, the latest protests appear to be more spontaneous without a clear leader. This may be a more dangerous scenario for authorities, because it means they cannot round up the figureheads, a solution that was employed in 2009.

Some demonstrators even shouted "Reza Shah, bless your soul," a reference to the king who ruled Iran from 1925 to 1941, and his Pahlavi dynasty was overthrown by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic Republic's first leader.

Has Iran had similar uprisings?

In the last decade, Iran has experienced small-scale demonstrations against economic hardship or local environmental crises, and one nationwide political uprising in 2009 against alleged election fraud.

But a widespread uprising against major political and economic issues would be worrying for the Islamic Republic and far more difficult to contain.

Iran's Supreme Leader managed to control the 2009 uprising, which coincided with Arab revolts in the region, after putting the opposition leaders under house arrest, but the new wave of demonstrations in Iran does not seem orchestrated.

That could make it more of a threat than past unrest in a country that often portrays the 1979 revolution as a revolt by the poor against exploitation and oppression. Calls for an end to economic hardship are especially sensitive for that reason.

Is the economic situation worse than before?

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani championed a nuclear deal with world powers in 2015 to curb Iran's nuclear programme in return for the lifting of most international sanctions.

However, Iranians have yet to see any benefits.

Unemployment stood at 12.4 percent in this fiscal year, according to the Statistical Centre of Iran, up 1.4 points from the previous year. Youth unemployment reached 28.8 percent this year.

Economic indexes have improved under Rouhani's government and the economy is no longer in dire straits.

Inflation dropped single digits for the first time after about a quarter century in June 2016. Gross domestic product growth soared to 12.5 percent in the year through last March 20, although almost entirely due to a leap in oil exports.

However, growth has been too slow for an overwhelmingly youthful population, far more interested in jobs and change than in the Islamist idealism and anti-Shah republicanism of the 1979 revolution that the old guard clings to.

Iran's recovery has been slowed by tensions with the United States. President Donald Trump has raised the possibility that sanctions could be reimposed or new ones introduced.



An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "Trump's First Tweets of 2018 About Pakistan, Iran" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 1, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

President Trump kicked off the new year discussing the protests in Iran and expressing his discontentment with Pakistan.

"The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools. They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help," he said in his first tweet of 2018. "No more!"

The comment comes after a report last week that the United States was considering withholding hundreds of millions in aid to Pakistan over the way it has handled terror groups within its borders and refused to cooperate with counterterrorism efforts.

As for Iran, Trump said it's time for a change.

"Iran is failing at every level despite the terrible deal made with them by the Obama Administration. The great Iranian people have been repressed for many years. They are hungry for food & for freedom. Along with human rights, the wealth of Iran is being looted. TIME FOR CHANGE!" he wrote.

The tweet comes after protests in the country have left at least 12 people dead over the past four days.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani tried to downplay the significance of the uprisings, saying, "Our great nation has witnessed a number of similar incidents in the past and has comfortably dealt with them. This is nothing."



Looking back to 2015, here is an article by Akhilesh Pillalamarri titled "Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons Program: 5 Things You Need to Know" that was posted at nationalinterest.org on April 21, 2015.

While the world continues to focus primarily on the threat of Iran's nuclear weapons program, a potentially much greater nuclear threat has emerged just to its east: Pakistan, the Islamic world's only nuclear-weapons state.

Pakistan is one of the world's only eight declared nuclear powers and probably the one that causes the most mischief. Pakistan sponsors and harbors militant groups that carry out attacks in all of its neighbors: India, Afghanistan, Iran, and even China.

Although Pakistan argues that its nuclear weapons are well-guarded, many experts are not so sure, pointing out that the Taliban and other militants have frequently struck at supposedly secure military bases with impunity. More worrisome, though, is Pakistan's history of proliferation, which increases the chance that one day some element or the other in the Pakistani military will provide nuclear materials to an even more dangerous third party—or even to a stable country like Saudi Arabia, which could set off an arms race in the Middle East.

Also troubling is the steady radicalization of Pakistani's military, which could at some point turn into the ideological equivalent of the Taliban. American lawmakers who constantly fret about the irrationality of the Iranian government should take note of the continuous Islamization of Pakistan's military. Here are five things you need to know about the world's most dangerous nuclear weapons program.

Why does Pakistan have Nuclear Weapons?

At first glance, it may seem strange that Pakistan has nuclear weapons, as it maintains close relations with China and the United States, neither of which would allow it to be dismembered. Even its rival India does not wish to see it collapse, but that doesn't stop Pakistan from having nuclear weapons largely for one reason—India.

This is not only because India itself has nuclear weapons (ostensibly because China has them), but also to achieve parity with a rival that is many times larger than it in terms of size, population, and economic prowess.

Ultimately, however, nuclear weapons give Pakistan reassurance that it will never be humiliated the way it was in 1971, when Indian forces decisively defeated Pakistan in a two-front war that led to the independence of east Pakistan as Bangladesh. If Indian forces were to ever enter Pakistani territory in such force again, it is likely that Pakistan would compensate for its conventional military inferiority by using battlefield nuclear weapons to prevent a repeat of its total defeat in 1971. This plan makes India's Cold Start military doctrine—a swift incursion into Pakistan that would capture vital territory before Pakistan could retaliate—hard to implement.

Nuclear weapons also help Pakistan continue to bleed India. Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons are considered its "shield" to guard against retaliation from any punitive strike in response to attacks conducted by terrorists based in Pakistan. This gives Pakistan significant leeway in making mischief in India.

History

Pakistan conducted peaceful nuclear research from the time of its independence but began a nuclear weapons program in earnest only after its defeat by India in 1971. India itself conducted a nuclear test in 1974 and rejected proposals for a nuclear free zone in South Asia. Pakistan's nuclear weapons program began in 1972 under Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who had always been a proponent of going nuclear. Bhutto famously declared: "If India builds the bomb, we will eat grass or leaves, even go hungry, but we will get one of our own."

Indeed, it was Pakistan's poverty that held it back from pursuing a nuclear program in the 1960s, despite reports that India was secretly working on nuclear weapons. To compensate for this, and to accelerate the development of its own program, Pakistan resorted to subterfuge, deceit, and help from generous friends in order to go nuclear.

Pakistan's nuclear weapons program took off under the leadership of Dr. Abdul Qadeer (A.Q.) Khan, who began trying to enrich uranium at the secret Engineering Research Laboratories (ERL) in 1976. Prior to this, A.Q. Khan worked from 1972-75 at the Physics Dynamic Research Laboratory in Amsterdam where he had access to information on uranium enrichment. Subsequently, he left the Netherlands for Pakistan with secret documents [12] that detailed the construction of a uranium centrifuge. Once back in Pakistan, Khan's laboratories developed a uranium enrichment plant. Khan was convicted in absentia for theft in 1983; later on, he was linked to the sale [12] of nuclear designs and materials to North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and Libya.

In the meantime, a 1983 U.S. State Department report revealed [13] that China had assisted Pakistan with its nuclear program—most probably to keep India in check—and had even supplied Pakistan with complete blueprints for a nuclear bomb. By 1984, Pakistan had the ability [13] to enrich uranium to

weapons grade levels. Yet work stalled for a few years in the late 1980s for a variety of reasons: American pressure and Pakistani fear [13] of an Indian or Israeli strike. Throughout this period, Pakistan continued to improve its deliver capabilities. Pakistan finally conducted a nuclear test in 1998, in response to an Indian test that same year.

Current Capabilities

Pakistan currently possesses about 120 nuclear weapons, more than India and Israel. Pakistan does not have a nuclear triad [14], but that is likely to change soon with the news that Pakistan has bought eight diesel-electric submarines from China, which could be equipped with nuclear missiles.

Pakistan currently has extensive land and air based nuclear capabilities. With the development [15] of Pakistan's newest missile, Shaheen-III, which has a range of 2,750 kilometers, Pakistan is capable of hitting all of India and can also reach Israel. Pakistani F-16 fighters [16] can also drop nuclear bombs deep in Indian territory and can hit major cities like Mumbai and Delhi. Finally, Pakistan is believed to be developing tactical, battlefield nuclear weapons, which are necessary for its strategy to counter India. Pakistan's Nasr Missile [17] has a range of 60 kilometers.

Pakistan does not have to worry about its second strike capabilities to the extent that some other countries do because of its size, which allows nuclear weapons to be scattered around multiple sites and because it has not adopted a no-first-use nuclear doctrine, meaning Pakistan is perfectly willing to use a nuke first, before retaliation. This hurts [15] India's nuclear deterrent capabilities, since theoretically Pakistan can hit every Indian nuclear site first (India has a no-first use policy).

Pakistan's Alleged Nuclear Umbrella

Various reports indicate that Pakistan has joined the United States in offering to use its nuclear weapons to shield allies against nuclear threats. In Pakistan's case, these countries include the six Arab members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), especially Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is said to have funded Pakistan's continued expansion of its nuclear stockpile in return [18] for a guarantee that Pakistan would provide Saudi Arabia with a weapon or a nuclear shield in the case of Iran getting a bomb.

Therefore, Pakistan's nuclear program is not only a cause of instability in South Asia; it also makes the Middle East much more dangerous. There is no guarantee that Saudi Arabia may not try to secretly acquire a nuclear weapon from Pakistan no matter what Iran does. The Wall Street Journal reported [19] that Saudi Arabia all but expects Pakistan's instant support in the nuclear field whenever needed.

Future

Nuclear rivalry in South Asia has reached an especially dangerous phase as Pakistan can now reach all of India and deploy battlefield nukes. The New York Times is right to note [20] that in nuclear terms, Pakistan is the "biggest

concern.” Pakistan’s factional government filled with rogue agencies is a much bigger threat to nuclear nonproliferation than Iran ever will be as there is no guarantee that someone will not provide nuclear material to terrorists or rogue groups despite orders not to do so. At least Iran is tightly controlled and methodical about what it does.

Pakistan’s arsenal of 120 nuclear weapons is rapidly growing [15], and could triple [20] in a decade, giving it more nukes than France, Britain, and China. Yet Pakistan remains a desperately poor country, plagued by instability and extremism. These make it especially dangerous and more likely that its nuclear weapons will at some point be misused. All of this makes it more likely that Pakistan will continue to avoid becoming a normal country, driven by trade and development, and more likely to compensate for these failures through distracting its population with the mostly baseless India threat.

Ultimately, Pakistan’s behavior is unlikely to change because it can continue to support militants against India without fear of major retaliation. The expansion of its nuclear program merely reinforces this and adds to instability in South Asia. The only incentive to change its way would be ideological, and Pakistan continues to head in an even more radical direction while the military remains obsessed with the threat of India over all else. Pakistan’s nuclear program has given security in South Asia a very bleak future.



An article by John Haltiwanger titled “How Russia is Helping North Korea Build the Bombs That Could Start World War III” was posted at newsweek.com on Dec. 28, 2017. Following is the article.

Some of the more advanced missile technology recently put on display for the wider world by North Korea was acquired by the rogue state with the help of Russia, according to new documents acquired by The Washington Post from one of the top Soviet-era missile manufacturers.

In the early 1990s, after the fall of the Soviet Union, U.S. investors reportedly attempted to work with Russian scientists, who were largely unemployed and desperate for money, to acquire advanced Soviet military technology. But the investors ran into a number of legal hurdles, which reportedly provided an opportunity for North Korea to swoop in. Pyongyang apparently was willing to pay some of the scientists who’d previously worked for Makeyev Rocket Design Bureau more than 200 times what they made at home to provide it with Soviet missile designs.

Some of the Russian scientists were prevented from going to North Korea to provide it with Soviet military technology. But U.S. and South Korean intelligence officials have confirmed that Makeyev scientists ultimately did obtain employment as consultants to North Korea, The Washington Post reported.

The greatest evidence of a Russian—North Korean collaboration is the similarity between features in missiles recently tested by Pyongyang. In June 2016, for example, North Korea tested the Hwasong-10, or Musudan, an intermediate-range ballistic missile, which apparently had distinct similarities to the R-27 Zyb, or Ripple, manufactured by the Makeyev Rocket Design Bureau—including the same engine. In August 2016, North Korea tested a submarine-launched missile called Pukguksong-1 that also had similar features to the Ripple. Joshua Pollack, an analyst at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, told *The Washington Post* that both of those North Korean missiles are “generally regarded as derived from the designs of the Makeyev Bureau’s R-27.”

North Korea made major leaps in its missile technology in 2017. The reclusive nation tested its most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile yet in late November; it reached an altitude of 2,800 miles (over 10 times higher than the International Space Station) and traveled for 50 minutes before crashing into the Sea of Japan. The more advanced missile technology Pyongyang has put on display over the course of the year could be a sign it has greater access to Soviet-era designs and blueprints than previously thought, according to *The Washington Post* report.

North Korea’s missile tests and pursuit of a nuclear weapon capable of reaching the United States have led to major tensions across the world over the course of the year. As the United Nations sought to pressure North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions via harsh economic sanctions, President Donald Trump issued boisterous threats at Kim Jong Un’s regime, leading some to fear that war was on the horizon. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee and plays golf with the president, recently said there’s a 30 percent chance Trump would take military action against North Korea. A strike would almost undoubtedly lead to a response from China and Russia, both of which share a border with North Korea.

North Korea is believed to possess as many as 60 nuclear weapons. If war broke out, it could potentially use them on South Korea or Japan, and millions could die. A November report from the Congressional Research Service concluded that a conflict between the U.S. and North Korea would lead to roughly 300,000 deaths in the first few days alone, even without the use of nuclear weapons.



An article by Ernesto Londono titled “Tired of Regional Critics, Venezuela Looks to Russia and China” was posted at nytimes.com on Dec. 27, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Venezuela, which a decade ago aspired to be the axis of a new, left-leaning diplomatic and trade alliance in the Americas, is finding itself increasingly isolated in the hemisphere.

Venezuela downgraded diplomatic relations with Canada and Brazil in recent

days, after a war of words over the Venezuelan government's decision last week to ban three influential opposition parties from running candidates in next year's presidential election.

As its leftist president, Nicolás Maduro, is increasingly regarded as a despot among neighbors in a region that has shifted politically to the right, Venezuela, once the richest country in South America but now in need of cash, is drawing closer—and becoming more dependent on—Russia and China. With its oil, Venezuela is likely to be an attractive, if risky, long-term gamble for Moscow and Beijing, which have sought in recent years to assert greater influence in a region that Washington has long regarded as its backyard.



An article by Jerry Newcombe titled "Communism and Millennials" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 3, 2018. Following is the article.

In mid-December, a science editor for BuzzFeedUK, Kelly Oates, tweeted, "All I want for Christmas is full communism now." Once this tweet was noticed, she withdrew it and issued an apology.

A month earlier, another BuzzFeedUK staffer, Blake Montgomery, had responded to a tweet from President Trump.

The president had declared November 7, 2017 as "National Day for the Victims of Communism." Montgomery then tweeted, that "victims of Communism" was just a "white nationalist talking point." He has since withdrawn the tweet and apologized.

The apologies notwithstanding, this shows how there is a great deal of ignorance about Communism and its less violent cousin, socialism, in our day. Millennials, who should know better, are arising who think a government-run economy is more fair and just than a market-based economy.

At D. James Kennedy Ministries, one of our television producers spoke with some young people during last year's presidential run of Bernie Sanders, an out-of-the-closet socialist. At the time, Sanders was making great headway with millennials.

Here are some of the comments captured on film from some young people in South Florida. Alas, they are now typical of the views of millions of Americans:

- "I think socialism means doing what is best in society for everyone."
- "Socialism is the means of production being controlled by the people. Capitalism is when other people control your means."
- "We have to take care of each other. We haven't done that for a long time in this country."

I have interviewed conservative economist Steve Moore of FreedomWorks and the Heritage Foundation. He told our viewers: "What really troubles me is how

many young people in America today, the millennials, are graduating after eight years of grade school, four years of high school, four years of college if not more, and they think that socialism is the way we should design our economy . . . That [is] just so disappointing because when you go to socialist places, you see that very few people work. Everybody thinks it's wonderful you're going to get all these free things, but you know at some point you've got all the people in the wagon and nobody's there to pull it anymore."

I also interviewed Bishop Harry Jackson, pastor of a large church in the greater D. C. area. He told our viewers, "[T]hings like socialism are attractive because in a secular society without God, folks see that culture as being the provider of all things. I don't think young people are looking beneath the 'gimmies,' the benefits, the promise."

The pollster George Barna also told our viewers recently, "37% of Americans say they prefer socialism to capitalism. When you look at the millennial generation, it's a significant majority of them who prefer that."

Could you imagine the outcry if somebody were to proclaim, "What we need is a modern Adolf Hitler"—the head of the National Socialist German Workers Party? Such ignorance and maliciousness would be rightfully condemned. Yet Lenin and Stalin and Mao, 20th century leaders of Communistic socialism, seemingly get off the hook.

As D. James Kennedy and I pointed out in our book, *What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?* "Hitler has slain his millions. Stalin his tens of millions."

Millennials don't seem to know this history. Perhaps they've never heard of *The Black Book of Communism*. The publisher is Harvard University Press (1999).

This book documents in no uncertain terms the brutality that the Communists inflicted on the world. The authors write of Communism's death toll in the 20th century: "The total approaches 100 million people killed." (p. 4, emphasis added). The tolls are staggering: nearly 20 million killed in the Soviet Union under Stalin (which is frankly a low estimate), 65 million in China under Mao, and millions more in Cambodia, North Korea, and Ethiopia, among others.

They point out: "One cannot help noticing the strong contrast between the study of Nazi and Communist crimes . . . scholars have neglected the crimes committed by the Communists." (p. 17)

We do not even know the exact number of Ukrainians Stalin killed. He reportedly had the census workers shot, so that history would never know how many he forced into starvation. Perhaps at least 3.5 million human beings died just in the Ukraine in the 1930s, in what Robert Conquest has called "the harvest of sorrow." Some estimate it was as many as 8 million killed.

Young people in the West today, including America and Great Britain, need to learn the truth about socialism and Communism. I highly recommend two easy-to-read novels exposing the truth by a former Communist, British writer George Orwell, *Animal Farm* (a parable on the Russian Revolution—where

the revolutionaries turned out to be worse than the czar) and 1984.

To think that young people today could long for a resurrection of “full communism” just reflects how little they know about history. “History repeats itself,” writes British poet Steve Turner. “It has to. No one is listening.”



An editorial by Walter Williams titled “Dangers of Government Control” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Jan. 3, 2018. Following is the article.

We are a nation of 325 million people. We have a bit of control over the behavior of our 535 elected representatives in Congress, the president and the vice president. But there are seven unelected people who have life-and-death control over our economy and hence our lives—the seven governors of the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Reserve Board controls our money supply. Its governors are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate and serve 14-year staggered terms. They have the power to cripple an economy, as they did during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Their inept monetary policy threw the economy into the Great Depression, during which real output in the United States fell nearly 30 percent and the unemployment rate soared as high as nearly 25 percent.

The most often stated cause of the Great Depression is the October 1929 stock market crash. Little is further from the truth.

- The Great Depression was caused by a massive government failure led by the Federal Reserve’s rapid 25 percent contraction of the money supply.

- The next government failure was the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which increased U.S. tariffs by more than 50 percent.

- Those failures were compounded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal legislation. Leftists love to praise New Deal interventionist legislation. But FDR’s very own treasury secretary, Henry Morgenthau, saw the folly of the New Deal, writing: “We have tried spending money. We are spending more than we have ever spent before and it does not work . . . We have never made good on our promises . . . I say after eight years of this Administration we have just as much unemployment as when we started . . . and an enormous debt to boot!”

- The bottom line is that the Federal Reserve Board, the Smoot-Hawley tariffs and Roosevelt’s New Deal policies turned what would have been a two-, three- or four-year sharp downturn into a 16-year affair.

Here’s my question never asked about the Federal Reserve Act of 1913: How much sense does it make for us to give seven unelected people life-and-death control over our economy and hence our lives?

While you’re pondering that question, consider another: Should we give the government, through the Federal Communications Commission, control over

the internet? During the Clinton administration, along with the help of a Republican-dominated Congress, the visionary 1996 Telecommunications Act declared it “the policy of the United States” that internet service providers and websites be “unfettered by Federal or State regulation.”

The act sought “to promote competition and reduce regulation in order to secure lower prices and higher quality services for American telecommunications consumers and encourage the rapid deployment of new telecommunications technologies.”

In 2015, the Obama White House pressured the FCC to create the Open Internet Order, which has been branded by its advocates as net neutrality. This move overthrew the spirit of the Telecommunications Act. It represents creeping FCC jurisdiction, as its traditional areas of regulation—such as broadcast media and telecommunications—have been transformed by the internet, or at least diminished in importance. Fortunately, it’s being challenged by the new FCC chairman, Ajit Pai, who has announced he will repeal the FCC’s heavy-handed 2015 internet regulations.

The United States has been the world leader in the development of internet technology precisely because it has been relatively unfettered by federal and state regulation. The best thing that the U.S. Congress can do for internet entrepreneurs and internet consumers is to send the FCC out to pasture as it did with the Civil Aeronautics Board, which regulated the airline industry, and the Interstate Commerce Commission, which regulated the trucking industry.

When we got rid of those regulatory agencies, we saw a greater number of competitors, and consumers paid lower prices. Giving the FCC the same medicine would allow our high-tech industry to maintain its world leadership position.



An article by Aly Nielsen titled “Flashback: CNN Liberals Predicted Stock Market Would Fall in 2017” was posted at newsbusters.org on Jan. 3, 2018. Following is the article.

The Dow crossed 25,000 for the first time in its history during trading on Jan. 4—the latest in a string of record setting gains beginning in 2017. The past year defied many predictions from liberal media personalities. CNN’s highest “Crystal Ball” predictions for 2017 for example barely peaked above 22,000. In reality, the Dow closed at 24,719 on Dec. 29, and set a first-time record of gaining 5,000 points in one year.

CNN’s predictions were wildly downbeat. Commentators like liberal Mel Robbins and right-leaning Tara Satmayer, claimed the Dow would fall more than 4,000 points, ending 2017 in the 15,000s range. Instead, it closed 2017 nearly 5,000 points higher than it closed 2016, then hit 25,000 on Jan. 4, 2018, according to The Chicago Tribune.

CNN liberal Opinion Contributor Raul Reyes said “Donald Trump’s unpredictability will keep growth in check despite his pro-business policies. Look for the Dow to stay static around 19,000” in 2017.

Others were more optimistic, but still fell wildly short. CNN Commentator Lanhee Chen speculated the Dow would hit “22,100. Think it will be another strong year for markets, as the Fed acts predictably and investors look forward to President Donald Trump’s pro-growth policies.”

“The Dow will hit 22,000 as lower taxes and fewer government regulations stimulate a growing and vibrant US economy. Sadly, air quality diminishes as fossil fuel use skyrockets with the acquiescence of the EPA,” CNN Legal Analyst Paul Callan predicted.

CNN wasn’t the only media outlet to miss the mark on 2017 predictions, however.

“Investors expecting the Dow Jones Industrial Average to top 20,000 shortly could still be in for a long wait,” Wall Street Journal US Bonds and FX Editor Aaron Kuriloff predicted on Dec. 23. He did not however clarify exactly how long a “long wait” would be.

The Economist warned investors on Dec. 14 to temper their excitement, saying “In the past, the markets have sometimes taken a pause for breath after reaching Dow milestones.” The Economist article closed by arguing that despite “the perceived pro-business policies of Republicans, the American market has performed much better under Democrat presidents.”

The day after Trump’s election, New York Times columnist Paul Krugman predicted the markets would “never” recover. He also said the “disaster for America and the world has so many aspects that the economic ramifications are way down my list of things to fear.”

On Jan. 1, 2018, Krugman referenced his Times panic, saying “I gave in temporarily to a temptation I warn others about: I let my political feelings distort my economic judgment.” Krugman then claimed his prediction had been off because “in normal times the president has very little influence on macro-economic developments.”

In other words, the Dow boom and other 2017 economic growth was not linked to Trump.



An article by Steve Sheldon titled “Suppression of Good News is the Media’s Dirtiest Tactic—Here’s What They Missed Last Year” was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 2, 2018. Following is the article.

Here are headlines you won’t read in almost any major American newspaper, hear on any of the evening news programs, or see in your Yahoo “news” feed:

- Dow Hits 87 Record Closes Since Trump Elected
- Texas Hero Was NRA Instructor
- Dow Reaches Four 1,000 Point Milestones in One Year for the First Time Ever
- ISIS on the Run, Almost Completely Destroyed
- New Home Sales Highest in a Decade
- Texas Hero Uses AR-15 to Save the Day
- Dow Hits Two Streaks Lasting More Than Ten Days, First Time Since 1959
- Trump Donates One Million Dollars of His Own Money to Hurricane Victims
- U.S. Economy Gains Over Six Trillion in New Capital
- U.S. Senator Viciously Attacked by Deranged Socialist Neighbor
- U.S. Economy Grows at 3% for First Time Since Bush Administration
- Unemployment Rate Lowest in 17 Years

If Hillary was the president and the market were doing this well (I know, right?), Wolf Blitzer would be living on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. We would hear the bell ringing at the opening of every report, which would appear about every five minutes on CNN. Instead of reporting on the economic turnaround of the century, we see doctored reports about Donald Trump feeding fish or his "12-Diet Cokes-a-day" habit.

Bag of dirty tricks

The favorite tool in the main stream media's (MSM) tool bag is the overt suppression of good news favoring conservatives or Republicans. Following closely behind is their suppression of bad news about Democrats.

The Texas hero who saved many lives in Sutherland Springs was not only an NRA member, but an NRA Instructor. Beyond that, he used an AR-15 to shoot a mass murderer. You didn't hear those facts often—if ever—from NBC, CBS, "The View," The Huffington Post, The New York Times, ABC, ESPN, USA Today, or MSNBC—and the list goes on.

You also didn't hear much from the MSM about the corruption trial of Democrat Bob Menendez, a sitting U.S. Senator. According to the Media Research Center, there was literally zero reporting on any broadcast network since the start of the trial, including the evening shows on CNN, CBS and ABC, as well as NBC's "Today" show.

The main stream media: Where good news for conservatives goes to die

Good news for conservatives or Republicans gets little, if any, time. When it actually does happen, it's coupled with snarky comments that serve to under-

mine the good news. The press uses headlines like this when reporting what would otherwise be good news:

- Dow Jones Hits All-Time High, Poor and Middle Class Benefit the Least
- Not One but TWO AR-15's Used in Texas Shooting

It's their all-time favorite template of "Insert Good News Here" followed by "Women and Children Hardest Hit." A great example of this is a recent Newsweek headline: "Trump Donating \$1 Million to Harvey Victims, an Amount Billionaire Once Described as a 'Small Loan.'" "

It's like the old joke goes: If Trump walked on water, the press would report that he can't swim.

The good news is that, with the advent of the Internet, we can immediately see how deceptive they really are. The Trump fish story is a classic example, as debunked by The Hill. There are dozens more just like it every day. Except now, there are people calling out their deceptions, using actual video or audio evidence to refute the MSM's slanted reporting.

The left's ongoing deception

Much like ignoring the upward surge of the Dow, the media has set a blistering pace of deception since Donald Trump was elected. This will only serve to hasten their demise as demonstrated by the significant declines in viewership of and subscriptions to traditional media outlets.

At the 2017 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), I witnessed the media's unhinged disdain for the incoming Trump administration in real time. The hate was palpable. One woman who worked for a major media news organization was visibly upset during the Pence speech. I watched her as she angrily sneered at many of the applause lines. To say she was seething would be an understatement. At one point in time, I really thought she was going to have a literal breakdown right in front of me.

How is it possible that she could somehow separate herself from her obvious loathing for the new administration and report on an event in an unbiased way? She couldn't—and it showed.

I first experienced this phenomenon years ago when attending NRA Annual Meetings with tens of thousands of other NRA members. What did the media choose to cover? They highlighted the dozens of protestors outside. Did they report that the crime rate in the convention's host city always goes down when the NRA is in town?

Of course not. Did they report on the fact that around 80,000 gun owners were in one building and no one got shot? Nope. Did they report on the tremendous economic activity that occurred in the area because of the NRA? Silence.

I regularly challenge young conservative students to attend events like the NRA Annual Meeting, CPAC, or even a local gathering of conservative activists

on campus and then watch how the event is reported on the evening news. Watch what doesn't get reported—that's the biggest deception.

It's all going to be okay

Be of good cheer fellow conservatives, the economy is roaring back, ISIS is on the run, freedom is on the move and America is leading from the front once again. Pass the cigars, raise a toast, and wait for the nonstop press reports on homelessness in 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . .



An article by Michael Brown titled "11 Striking Stories From 2017" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 1, 2018. Following is the article.

Looking back a tumultuous year, here are 11 stories that especially caught my attention.

1) Donald Trump is still standing, and standing strong at that.

Despite calls for his impeachment (and even death), despite claims that he was losing his health, his mind, and his grip, despite an unprecedented media bombardment, and despite his own gaffes and missteps, the president seems stronger than ever, with a sense of momentum entering the new year. Not only did he get his tax bill passed, but he has fulfilled a number of key promises to his conservative base, including the appointing of a significant number of conservative justices to lifelong, federal judgeships. And according to one poll, his approval rating at the end of his first year is the same as President Obama's.

2) The US has finally recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and declared our plans to relocate our embassy.

So, after 22 years of waffling and delaying, one of our presidents has turned our words into actions. He has kept a sacred promise. So far, it has not resulted in an apocalypse in the Middle East or the larger Muslim world.

3) The US has called out the United Nations for its extreme anti-Israel bias (which then became anti-American bias when we made our Jerusalem announcement).

Ambassador Nikki Haley not only addressed the UN's glaring prejudices head-on, but she also announced a reduction in UN funding along with our withdrawal (followed by Israel) from UNESCO. America is saying clearly, "There's a price to pay if you disparage us and disrespect us, especially in a very public way."

4) The Iranian protesters have the vocal support of key American leaders. In contrast with the glaring silence of the Obama administration during Iran's protests in 2009, President Trump and other American conservatives have expressed vocal support for the current protests.

As expressed by Ali Safavi, an official in the DC office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), "When millions of Iranians poured onto the streets in 2009, the Obama administration reached out to the Supreme Leader

Khamenei, enabling him and his president to suppress the uprising. President Trump's expression of support for the Iranian people and his condemnation of the arrests of the protests send an encouraging signal to all those who want to see Iran liberated from the yoke of the medievalist mullahs."

5) ISIS is really collapsing.

Although it's difficult to tell how many isolated individuals around the world have been influenced by ISIS for the cause of Islamic terrorism, it's clear that the main body of ISIS fighters is falling apart. They have lost the great swaths of territory which they brutally conquered, and they continue to be on the run as American generals are given a free hand to do what they do best: destroy an evil enemy. Millions in the Middle East are starting to breathe a sigh of relief.

6) Some of the biggest players in the mainstream media produced undeniably fake news.

From CNN to the New York Times to NBC, some of the biggest names in the liberal media have lots of egg on their faces. It remains to be seen whether this was the result of their antipathy to Trump, their desire to get the lead on the latest "breaking news," or simply shoddy journalism. Whatever the cause, it heightened our suspicion of the news we hear and see and read every day.

7) There are a whole lot of prominent men who use their positions of power to take advantage of women and others.

The list of those exposed for (or, accused of) sexual sin reads like a who's who list of major players in Hollywood and beyond. Need I say anything more than Harvey Weinstein and Matt Lauer? Ironically, the same year which saw Mike Pence ridiculed for his personal sexual ethics ended with NBC reportedly taking somewhat extreme measures to enforce that which resembles the Vice President's personal practices.

8) The Trump administration is undoing some of the Obama administration's LGBT activist rulings and laws.

As noted on the TMPlanet's website (this is a transgender website), "At the same hour as he takes the oath of office as President (January 18, 2017), the new administration removes the White House website page pertaining to LGBT rights. One activist says upon seeing the page removal, 'So it begins.

Less than one month later, "Trump rescinds' " the Obama Era guidelines allowing transgender to use rest rooms consistent with their gender identity, rejecting the application of Title IX protections for transpeople."

Skipping ahead to December 18, 2017, "The White House issues guidelines to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that certain words may not appear in documents addressing budget issues. The words include 'transgender,' 'diversity,' 'fetus,' 'vulnerable,' 'entitlement,' 'science-based,' and 'evidence-based.' Activists see the action as an attempt at erasure of the trans community and suppression of science."

9) There were horrific, unspeakably evil mass murders.

From the slaughter at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, killing 26 and wounding 20, to the Las Vegas massacre, killing 58 and wounding 515, innocent blood was flowing in our land. And who would have thought that three full months after the Vegas shooting, we would still know next to nothing about the shooter's motives or how he was able to carry out his plan?

10) The Russia investigation is still with us.

When Trump's alleged collusion with Russia was first floated as the key to how he won the election, those on the left seized the story while those on the right mocked it. When the dust finally settles, it will almost certainly be those on the right who are gloating. Yet the fact that something as ostensibly fake as this accusation has gained such media traction, not to mention Robert Mueller's ongoing special counsel, is positively galling to millions of Americans.

11) Corruption is being exposed in high places.

Will Hillary Clinton finally get her day in court? Was there an attempt by FBI leaders to derail Trump's presidency? Do major players with major government organizations have reason to be afraid? 2017 has set the stage. We shall see what 2018 brings.

And did I mention that, somehow, President Trump is still standing, and standing strongly at that?



An article by Katie Pavlich titled "It Begins: Leading Dem on Senate Intelligence Committee Wants Bannon Under Oath on Russia" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 4, 2018. Following is the article.

If you've been paying any attention at all to the news cycle, you know former Trump campaign advisor and White House staffer Steve Bannon has been banished from the Republican Party and by President Trump himself after essentially telling author Michael Wolff Donald Trump Jr. is a traitor.

"The three senior guys in the campaign thought it was a good idea to meet with a foreign government inside Trump Tower in the conference room on the 25th floor—with no lawyers. They didn't have any lawyers," Bannon continued, according to the Guardian. "Even if you thought that this was not treasonous, or unpatriotic, or bad s***, and I happen to think it's all of that, you should have called the FBI immediately."

But while the drama unfolding in the White House is better than an episode of House of Cards, there are legal implications to what Bannon allegedly said and Democrats still zeroed in on the Russia probe are paying close attention. Senate Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Mark Warner wants him to testify under oath about what he knows.

"If he has a factual basis for these allegations, particularly one that you hadn't mentioned yet that he assumed that the participants of that meeting were brought up and met Mr. Trump himself, I'd like to find out whether that's true or not," Warner said Wednesday during an interview on CNN. "I'd like to find out why he made these claims about money laundering, about this meeting being treasonous, I agree this meeting should have been reported to the FBI. If he has a story to tell I'd like him to come before our committee and give testimony, yes."

You can bet Special Counsel Robert Mueller has also taken notice.

Late last year during an interview with 60 Minutes, Bannon was adamant the Russia collusion story was a made up narrative with zero evidence to prove any claims being made by the media.



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."