

Eye on the World

Jan. 5, 2019

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 Jan. 5, 2019.

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).



An article by Noah Smith titled “Venezuela’s Lessons for American Socialists” was posted at bloomberg.com on Jan. 3, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

It’s hard to overstate how disastrous the reign of Hugo Chavez and his successor Nicolas Maduro has been for Venezuela. A recent series of Bloomberg articles vividly depicts the hellish, never-ending struggle for survival in Caracas, the country’s capital. Hungry children roam the streets, people are fleeing the country, health care is almost nonexistent, violence is endemic, even water is scarce.

Chavez’s so-called Bolivarian revolution took a peaceful, middle-income country and transformed it into a nightmare that puts the ruinous Soviet Union of the 1980s to shame.

It’s important for other countries—including wealthy ones like the U.S.—not to ignore Venezuela, but to use it as a cautionary tale. Politicians like Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have embraced socialism, as have many young Americans.

But what are the lessons of Venezuela? Why did the country become such a basket case?

Not outside forces

The Bolivarian revolution's defenders often make excuses for the Chavez-Maduro regime by claiming that the country's penury is the result of outside forces.

For example, some argue that it was the fall in oil prices in late 2014 and 2015 that sunk the country. Venezuela is a petrostate—petroleum products constituted about 95 percent of the country's exports in 2014, so the price decline was naturally a blow.

But although lower oil prices undoubtedly made things harder for Venezuela, they can't be the primary culprit in the collapse.

Venezuela stopped releasing many of its economic numbers in 2014. But other petrostates—Saudi Arabia, Russia, Nigeria, Angola and Kuwait—saw their incomes stagnate or even fall after 2014, but they didn't experience anything remotely like the devastation that has hit Venezuela.

Nor did the country come under attack by capitalist powers. Under President Barack Obama, the U.S. did impose sanctions against a few of the country's officials in 2015, and President George W. Bush refused to sell arms to Venezuela, but these weren't broad sanctions that had the power to seriously affect the country's economy. No reactionary armies or bombers devastated Venezuela's cities; the country's impoverishment is all of its own making.

Bolivia elected socialistic president

Venezuela's critics can also be too sloppy. It's easy to wave one's hands and declare that socialism always fails.

But Bolivia, another resource-dependent Latin American country, elected a socialist president, Evo Morales, in 2006. And Bolivia has been doing great. The country's living standards, which had stagnated for 30 years, have grown rapidly and steadily since Morales took power.

And at the same time, Bolivia has managed to reduce inequality dramatically.

Despite ominous signs that Morales is becoming more authoritarian, Bolivia has not yet experienced anything like the devastation that has afflicted its ideological fellow-traveler to the north.

Three failures

So if it wasn't oil prices, external pressures, or the inevitable tendencies of socialism, what did sink Venezuela? It's hard to identify the exact policy mistakes that Chavez and Maduro made, but three failures loom large.

- Macroeconomic mismanagement
- Nationalization of industry.
- Interference in the state-owned oil company.

Scourge of hyperinflation

The worst scourge of Venezuela's economy has been hyperinflation.

This level of price increases makes it impossible to save money. Even though incomes tend to go up along with prices, the sheer unpredictability when prices are rising by 20- or 40-fold a year makes it very difficult to plan consumption.

You may think tomorrow's meal will only cost 10 million bolivars, but instead it might cost 20 million, meaning you go might hungry if you don't buy immediately. It's also very hard for companies, even state-owned ones, to plan their investments when the price of those investments is highly uncertain.

Meanwhile, hyperinflation has led the government—predictably—to impose price controls. Those created shortages of basic necessities, and made people turn to the much less-efficient and corrupt black market.

It's not clear how hyperinflation gets started—price controls, currency depreciation and fiscal deficits can help kick it off, but once it gets started it's very difficult to stop.

Venezuela should have seen this menace coming, as its inflation rate steadily crept up year after year, but its leaders just made the problem worse. Bolivia, meanwhile, has managed to keep inflation very low.

Large-scale nationalization

Another big mistake was large-scale nationalization of industry and expropriation of private property.

Chavez was very fond of nationalizing both foreign- and domestically-owned businesses of all kinds. This is a sure way to wreck the private sector—if local business owners and foreign investors don't think their property is secure, they won't invest, and output will languish. This can cause a spiral, where the government is forced to nationalize ever more of the economy as the private sector pulls back.

Morales, in contrast, has been much more careful with nationalizations in Bolivia, mostly limiting them to the oil and gas industry and the electric grid—centralized, stable industries where government ownership is common around the world.

Mucking up smooth operation

Finally, Venezuela's leaders interfered with the smooth operation of an industry that was already government-run—Petroleos de Venezuela SA, or PDVSA, the state-owned oil company.

The company once operated relatively independently, but Chavez meddled in its affairs, firing employees and replacing them with apparatchiks, starving the company of investment in order to extract money for his own purposes, and driving away or expropriating the holdings of foreign partners who helped PDVSA keep up production.

The unsurprising result is that Venezuelan petroleum investment has collapsed, oil infrastructure is falling apart, and production is in free fall— all this in the country with the world’s largest proven crude oil reserves.

American socialists should take note

Socialists in the U.S. should take note—if there’s a right way to do socialism, this isn’t it.

Instead of cautious policies like those of Bolivia, Venezuela’s leaders chose to ignore the menace of hyperinflation, nationalize private businesses across the economy, and muck up the smooth operations of PDVSA.

The result was predictable—one of the worst self-inflicted economic catastrophes of the century so far.



An article titled “Mexico Looks to Recruit 50,000 to National Guard” was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 2, 2019. Following is the article.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador used his first news conference of 2019 to start recruitment for his new National Guard, which will become the country’s primary security force.

Lopez Obrador says the government hopes to recruit about 50,000 civilians to add to the guard’s initial composition of military personnel and federal police.

Those interested in applying will do so through the existing army and navy recruitment centers. The military will provide the National Guard’s command structure.

Lopez Obrador also deflected questions Wednesday about a pledge from leftists in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas to block construction of his “Train Maya.” He says they’re entitled to dissent, but he’s not worried.

The Zapatistas harshly criticized Lopez Obrador this week during the 25th anniversary of their brief 1994 armed uprising.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

■ An article by Virginia Hale titled “UK: Clergy Members [Church of England Priests] Warn Anti-Christian Hate Crime on Rise” was posted at Breitbart.com on Dec. 30, 2018.

- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "160 Christians Seized by Communist Chinese Police, Social Media and Cell Phones Blocked" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 27, 2018.
- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Report: Biggest Jailer of Journalists is Communist China" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by Gregory Katz titled "6 Iranians Found on UK Beach As English Channel Crossings Mount" was posted at washingtontimes.com on Dec. 30, 2018.
- An article titled "Two Migrants Were Discovered Inside Mattresses Trying to Cross the Spanish Border" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 1, 2019.
- An article by Jake Maxwell titled "Indonesia's Volatile Child of Krakatau [Volcano] Collapsed, But Now It's More Explosive" was posted at wsj.com on Dec. 29, 2018.
- An article titled "A 6.9-Magnitude Quake Hits Philippines Triggering Small Tsunami" was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 29, 2018.
- An article titled "Strong Undersea Quake Reported Near Philippines, People Advised to Avoid [Beaches] in Case of Tsunami" was posted at cbsnews.com on Dec. 29, 2018.
- An article titled "Russia is Upset After Learning That Israel is Making Plans to Occupy Space in Syria After the US Troop Withdrawal" was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 28, 2018.
- An article by Albert Aji titled "Syria's Assad Authorizes Iraqi Forces to Strike IS in Syria [Without Waiting for Permission From Damascus]" was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 30, 2018.
- A Reuters article by Jeffrey Heller titled "Israel to Hold Early Election in April, Netanyahu Says" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 25, 2018.
- A Reuters article titled "Israel Ex-General [Benny Gantz] Polling Closest to Netanyahu, Joins 2019 Election Race" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 27, 2018.
- An article titled "Egypt Police 'Kill 40 Militants' in Raids After Tourist Bus Blast" was posted at bbc.com on Dec. 29, 2018.
- An article by Duncan DeAeth titled "China's African Debt-Trap: Beijing Prepares to Seize Kenya's Port of Mombasa" was posted at taiwannews.com on Dec. 27, 2018.
- An article by David Axe titled "China's New Russia-Built S-400 Missile System: A Threat to Taiwan?" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Dec. 29, 2018.
- A Reuters article titled "China Approves \$33.8 Billion Railway Projects in Jiangsu and Anhui" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by Trefor Moss titled "China Pushes for Primacy in Space" was posted at wsj.com on Dec. 30, 2018.

- A Reuters article titled “China ‘Lifts Mysterious Veil’ by Landing Probe on Far Side of the Moon” was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 3, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Saqib Iqbal Ahmed titled “Yen Climbs on Safe-Haven Appeal, Diminishing U.S. Rate Hike Hopes” was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 3, 2019.
- An article titled “N. Korea Continues Missile Development” was posted at the-japan-news.com on Dec. 30, 2018.
- A Reuters article by Jose Devasia and Neha Dasgupt titled “Protests in India After Women Defy Ancient Ban on Visiting Hindu Temple” was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by Robert Arce titled “Cancun Wraps 2018 With at Least 540 Homicides” was posted at Breitbart.com on Dec. 28, 2018.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “Trump Praises Brazil’s New Leader, Who Vows to Free His Country From Socialism” was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 1, 2019.
- An article titled “UK Scientists Test Breathalyser for Detecting Early Cancers” was posted at theguardian.com on Jan. 2, 2019.



An article by Megan Henney titled “How High US Deficit Could Climb in 2019” was posted at foxbusiness.com on Jan. 2, 2019. Following is the article.

The U.S. deficit—which is already at a six-year high and a nearly 17 percent increase from the year-ago period—could climb as high as \$1 trillion by the end of 2019, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget Opens a New Window. (CRFB).

In October, the U.S. Treasury Department released the nation’s monthly bank statement, revealing a deficit of \$779 million. But unless spending Opens a New Window. cuts are made and lawmakers “extend the costly tax cuts,” it’s likely to keep ballooning, according to the CRFB.

Last year, Republicans passed the largest tax overhaul since President Ronald Reagan occupied the Oval Office, permanently slashing the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent and temporarily reducing individual taxes. If the cuts remain in place, the deficit could climb above \$2 trillion within the next decade, the CRFB noted.



An article by Tom Elliott titled “The ‘Green New Deal’: A Radical Mandate for Government Control of American Society” was posted at grabien.com on Jan. 2, 2019. Following is the article.

Incoming New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez brings with her a massive online following, influence she says she'll deploy only in support of candidates and politicians who support her plan for a "Green New Deal."

"The Green New Deal" is something Ocasio-Cortez invokes frequently in media appearances and rallies.

So what's actually in it?

Her office recently released the text of a proposed House rules change outlining the plan.

The proposed rule change for the upcoming 116th Congress would require the creation of a "Select Committee for a Green Deal" that would be responsible for creating the plan by January 1, 2020, with corresponding draft legislation soon after. The text of the rule change lays out the committee's jurisdiction and required areas of action.

Its scope and mandate for legislative authority amounts to a radical grant of power to Washington over Americans' lives, homes, businesses, travel, banking, and more.

Early on, under "Jurisdiction," the document makes clear its grandiose philosophical vision: "The select committee shall have authority to develop a detailed national, industrial, economic mobilization plan for the transition of the United States economy to become greenhouse gas emissions neutral and to significantly draw down greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and oceans and to promote economic and environmental justice and equality."

In addition to achieving its goal of "meeting 100% of national power demand through renewable sources," the document also repeatedly states the Green New Deal will advance non-environmental projects, such as, "social, economic, racial, regional and gender-based justice."

Ocasio-Cortez's plan further claims it will (virtually) eliminate poverty: "The Plan for a Green New Deal (and the draft legislation) shall recognize that a national, industrial, economic mobilization of this scope and scale is a historic opportunity to virtually eliminate poverty in the United States and to make prosperity, wealth and economic security available to everyone participating in the transformation."

More specifically, Ocasio-Cortez's plan calls for, within 10 years, a series of lofty overhauls of American life:

- The installation of a "national, energy-efficient, "smart grid."
- "Upgrading every residential and industrial building for state-of-the-art energy efficiency, comfort and safety"
- "Eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing, agricultural and other industries" as well as from America's transportation and infrastructure network

■ Funding “massive investment” in reducing existing greenhouse gasses

Between its calls for “upgrading” homes and overhauling travel, public infrastructure, and even the way Americans consume electricity, the plan leaves virtually no facet of everyday life untouched. Think of how often you don’t use electricity to imagine how much of your average day the plan wouldn’t impact.

The proposed committee would also have seemingly total oversight of American industry, with a mandate for pushing union membership. Under “Scope of the Plan,” a section on labor states the committee’s final plan shall: “Require strong enforcement of labor, workplace safety, and wage standards that recognize the rights of workers to organize and unionize free of coercion, intimidation, and harassment, and creation of meaningful, quality, career employment.”

Later in the document, Ocasio Cortez’s plan imagines creating a national jobs force to help people participate in this “transition.”

The Green New Deal, it says, shall “provide all members of our society, across all regions and all communities, the opportunity, training and education to be a full and equal participant in the transition, including through a job guarantee program to assure a living wage job to every person who wants one.”

The plan also imagines creating governmental support for “transitioning” minority communities.

The deal shall: “ensure a ‘just transition’ for all workers, low-income communities, communities of color, indigenous communities, rural and urban communities and the front-line communities most affected by climate change, pollution and other environmental harm including by ensuring that local implementation of the transition is led from the community level.”

More, Ocasio-Cortez sees this plan is being a vehicle through which social equality might finally realized through the use of reparations to right historical injustices.

The final Green New Deal will “mitigate deeply entrenched racial, regional and gender-based inequalities in income and wealth (including, without limitation, ensuring that federal and other investment will be equitably distributed to historically impoverished, low income, deindustrialized or other marginalized communities in such a way that builds wealth and ownership at the community level).”

And if that weren’t enough to ensure that Democratic Socialism could be fully realized in America, the plan includes failsafe in the form of universal income and Medicare for All: The plan, it says, shall “include additional measures such as basic income programs, universal health care programs and any others as the select committee may deem appropriate to promote economic security, labor market flexibility and entrepreneurship.”

Ocasio-Cortez clarifies that this plan would not only need to be financed by taxpayers, but also the Federal Reserve and other institutions the government can create.

The end of the document contains a Q&A, one of which deals with the plan’s funding: “The Federal Reserve can extend credit to power these projects and

investments, new public banks can be created (as in WWII) to extend credit and a combination of various taxation tools (including taxes on carbon and other emissions and progressive wealth taxes) can be employed.”

Ocasio-Cortez may not be in Congress yet, but she already has a plan to remake the way Americans drive, commute, live, work, and even use the financial system. Let there be little doubt how she aspires to wield power in Washington.



An article titled “8 Things That Happen When You Stop Drinking Alcohol” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 29, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

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1. You’ll sleep more soundly.
 2. You’ll eat less at dinner.
 3. You might crave sugar.
 4. You’ll start losing weight.
 5. Your skin will clear up.
 6. You’ll have more money.
 7. Your mood might take a hit.
 8. Your cancer risk falls, but your heart disease risk might rise.



An article titled “Excess Body Weight and the World of Cancer” was posted at healthuopa.eu on Jan. 2, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

According to new studies, excess body weight is an established cause of cancer, currently known to be linked to 13 cancers.

A new study looking at the share of cancers related to obesity finds the proportion of cancer cases that could be attributable to excess body weight reflects variations in obesity rates in the U.S.

Cancers related to body weight is twice as predominant in women than in men.

To learn more, American Cancer Society investigators led by Farhad Islami, M.D., Ph.D., Scientific Director, Surveillance Research, calculated the population attributable fraction (PAF) of incident cancer cases attributable to excess body weight among adults in all 50 states of America and the District of Columbia.

They found that in both men and women, there was at least a 1.5-fold difference between states with the highest and lowest proportions of cancers attributable to excess body weight.

- Among men, the population attributable fraction (PAF) ranged from 3.9% in Montana to 6.0% in Texas.
- Meanwhile, the PAF for women was approximately twice as high as for men, ranging from 7.1% in Hawaii to 11.4% in the District of Columbia.
- States with largest PAFs were mostly located in the South and Midwest, plus Alaska and the District of Columbia.



An article by Maggie Fox titled “Why Are Men More Likely to Die of Glioblastoma [Brain Cancer]? This Study Helps Explain” was posted at nbcnews.com on Jan. 2, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article

Men are more likely to die of brain cancer than women and a new study helps explain why. Glioblastoma tumors are fundamentally different in men and women, the researchers found.

Different processes drive glioblastoma tumors in men and women, and they respond differently to treatment, Dr. Josh Rubin of Washington University in St. Louis and colleagues showed. They believe the same may be true for other tumors, too, and say cancer researchers may need to go back to the drawing board when evaluating treatments for men versus women.

“We found that standard therapy is more effective in female compared with male patients with glioblastoma,” they wrote in their report, published in Science Translational Medicine.

Even more surprising: hormones have little to do with these differences.

Glioblastomas are a rare subtype of brain tumor. According to the American Cancer Society, just under 24,000 people were diagnosed with any kind of malignant brain tumor in 2018, including close to 14,000 men and 10,000 women.

The survival rate for glioblastoma is low: 19 percent of adults aged up to 44 will live five years or more after a glioblastoma diagnosis, and only 5 percent for those over 55 will live that long.

While the outlook is poor for both men and women with glioblastoma, women live a little longer after treatment, which usually involves surgery, radiation and then chemotherapy, usually with a drug called temozolomide.

Rubin has been interested in sex differences in cancer rates and in how people are helped by cancer therapy. In previous research, Rubin’s team has shown it’s easier to transform a male cell into a tumor cell.

"It's been recognized for many years that, overall, males tend to die more frequently and faster of their cancer than females do," Rubin told NBC News.

Here are 2018 estimates according to the American Cancer Society.

- 856,000 men were diagnosed with cancer, and 323,000 men died of cancer.
- 879,000 women were diagnosed with cancer, and 286,000 women died of cancer.



An article by Ann Coulter titled "Please, No More 'Border Security' " was posted at anncoulter.com on Jan. 2, 2019. Following is the article.

The media are trying to convince Trump that if he abandons the wall, he'll be a statesman, so that as soon as he folds, they can start making fun of him as an untrustworthy liar.

Everyone knows that we can never have a secure border without an impermeable barrier—something like a wall—across all of it. The Democrats know it, the voters know it, and the millions of illegals hurtling toward our border like cannonballs know it.

The Democrats' latest idea is to call a wall "immoral, ineffective and expensive."

If they think a wall is "immoral," then they're admitting it's effective. An ineffective wall would merely be a place for illegals to stop and get a little shade before continuing their march into the United States.

Democrats' backup argument is to cite—every four minutes on MSNBC—Trump's claim that Mexico would pay for the wall. We're all baffled by Trump not having already taxed remittances to Mexico to pay for the wall (100 percent within the president's authority under various banking regulations), but if we're going to start listing the promises Trump hasn't kept, this is going to be a long column.

In point of fact, however, he never said Mexico would pre-pay. We can tax remittances anytime.

To keep the Third World masses flowing across our un-walled border, the media are demanding that Trump agree to nonspecific "border security." It's like ordering a Starbucks and instead of getting a coffee, you're told to have more "pep." Now move along. Here's your change.

Would liberals accept such airy statements of intent in lieu of clear legal commands for any of the things they care about? (Not to be confused with "our country," which they do not care about.)

Instead of EPA emissions standards, with specific parts per million of pollutants allowed into lakes and rivers, how about a law promoting "enhanced appreciation of God's bounty"? Emissions standards are immoral and ineffective!

Nearly every Republican presidential candidate tried to con voters with these meaningless catchphrases about “border security.”

Here are The Des Moines Register’s summaries of some of the candidates’ positions on immigration a few weeks before the 2016 Iowa caucus:

Jeb Bush: “has called for enhanced border security.”

Marco Rubio: “proposesh . . . improved security on the border.”

John Kasich: “believes border security should be strengthened.”

Chris Christie: “urges . . . using technology to improve border surveillance . . .”

Rand Paul: “would secure the border immediately.”

Carly Fiorina: “would secure the border, which she says requires only money and manpower.”

They all lost.

The guy who won: “Trump has said many illegal immigrants are rapists and are bringing drugs and crime to the United States. He has called for building a wall along the southern border, and has said he would make Mexico pay for it. He said he would immediately terminate President Barack Obama’s ‘illegal executive order on immigration.’”

Trump got more votes than any other Republican in the history of presidential primaries. No one was falling for “border security” then, and they aren’t now.

But instead of doing what he said and building a wall, Trump has hired people who don’t even grasp that the point is to make it unattractive to break into our country.

On ABC’s “This Week” last Sunday, Trump’s head of Customs and Border Protection, Kevin McAleenan, announced plans to give illegal alien kids free medical care at the border: “What we’ve done immediately, (Homeland Security) Secretary (Kirstjen) Nielsen and I have directed that we do medical checks of children 17 and under as they come into our process.”

Apparently, our working class is rolling in so much free health care that now our country is diverting medical resources to treat other countries’ sick kids.

McAleenan boasted that we—that’s you, taxpayer—will be providing “doctors, physician assistants, paramedics to do an initial intake check so that we know if a child is healthy as they arrive at the border and then make sure they can get medical care if they need it.”

Luckily, this won’t hurt any Americans because the doctors they’re sending to the border are not currently treating any U.S. citizens. Oh wait! This just in: They will be taken away from sick Americans!

(Possible 2020 Trump campaign bumper sticker: I voted for a wall and all I got was free checkups for illegals.)

Doctors aren't like the Petroleum Reserve. We don't keep them cryogenically frozen, waiting to be unfrozen so they can treat illegals demanding free medical care as the price of hating us. If we rush doctors to the border, they are being rushed away from Americans who need medical care.

How about Democrats compile a list, by name, of the Americans they would like not to see their doctors anymore?

As a result of this boundless compassion for anyone who is not an American, how many more sick kids are going to be dragged by their parents across hundreds of miles of desert just to see an American doctor?

Mexican cartel member to poverty-stricken Latin American:

Before setting off on this caravan, I want you to know that when you get to the border your kids will be held up for a medical check. And if they find anything wrong, your child will be given First World medical treatment. Also, you won't be allowed to pay. I just want you to understand what you're getting into before you join this caravan.

And when those kids die, Secretary Nielsen can demand more free medical care for illegals breaking into our country. Instead of having a wall, we'll have a series of interlocking charity hospitals on the border treating the poor of the world before crossing into a country that didn't ask for them and doesn't want them.

Sorry, America. You lose again.



An article by Walter Williams titled "The Worst Enemy of Black People" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Jan. 2, 2019. Following is the article.

Malcolm X was a Muslim minister and human rights activist. Born in 1925, he met his death at the hands of an assassin in 1965.

Malcolm X was a courageous advocate for black civil rights, but unlike Martin Luther King, he was not that forgiving of whites for their crimes against black Americans.

He did not eschew violence as a tool to achieve civil and human rights. His black and white detractors accused him of preaching racism and violence. Despite the controversy, he has been called one of the greatest and most influential black Americans.

Many black Americans have great respect for Malcolm X. Many schools bear his name, and many streets have been renamed in honor of him, both at home and abroad. But while black Americans honor Malcolm X, one of his basic teachings goes largely ignored. I think it's an important lesson, so I will quote a large part of it.

Malcolm X said: "The worst enemy that the Negro have is this white man that runs around here drooling at the mouth professing to love Negroes and call-

ing himself a liberal, and it is following these white liberals that has perpetuated problems that Negroes have. If the Negro wasn't taken, tricked or deceived by the white liberal, then Negroes would get together and solve our own problems. I only cite these things to show you that in America, the history of the white liberal has been nothing but a series of trickery designed to make Negroes think that the white liberal was going to solve our problems. Our problems will never be solved by the white man."

There's a historical tidbit that those much younger than I (almost 83 years old) are ignorant of. In black history, we have been called—and called ourselves—several different names.

Among the more respectable have been "colored," "Negro," "black," "Afro-American" and "African-American."

I recall when Mrs. Viola Meekins, when I was a student at Stoddart-Fleisher Junior High School in the late 1940s, had our class go page by page through a textbook and correct each instance in which Negro was printed with a lowercase "n." In Malcolm X's day, and mine, Negro was a proud name and not used derisively by blacks as it is today.

Malcolm X was absolutely right about our finding solutions to our own problems.

- The most devastating problems that black people face today have absolutely nothing to do with our history of slavery and discrimination.

- Chief among them is the breakdown of the black family, wherein 75 percent of blacks are born to single, often young, mothers. In some cities and neighborhoods, the percentage of out-of-wedlock births is over 80. Actually, "breakdown" is the wrong term; the black family doesn't form in the first place. This is entirely new among blacks.

According to the 1938 Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences, that year only 11 percent of black children were born to unwed mothers.

As late as 1950, female-headed households constituted only 18 percent of the black population.

Today it's close to 70 percent.

In much earlier times, during the late 1800s, there were only slight differences between the black family structure and those of other ethnic groups. In New York City in 1925, 85 percent of kin-related black households were two-parent households.

Welfare has encouraged young women to have children out of wedlock. The social stigma once associated with unwed pregnancy is all but gone. Plus, "shotgun" weddings are a thing of the past. That was when male members of a girl's family made the boy who got her pregnant live up to his responsibilities.

The high crime rates in so many black communities impose huge personal costs and have turned once-thriving communities into economic wastelands.

The Ku Klux Klan couldn't sabotage chances for black academic excellence more effectively than the public school system in most cities.

Politics and white liberals will not solve these and other problems. As Malcolm X said, "our problems will never be solved by the white man."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Death by a Thousand Cuts" was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 24, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

What does it tell you when the same people who are always calling for more and more gun control laws do nothing to confiscate them from gangbangers, the people most responsible for the gun-related murders in America?

What it tells me is that they are less concerned with a thousand murders-a-year taking place in Chicago than they are with disarming law-abiding citizens, who just might need to use them some day in defense of the Republic against the globalists in Congress and various state houses who are trying their best to foist toxic Socialism on a free people.

Because in a country with a hundred million gunowners, the ruling class knows they can't simply confiscate legally-owned guns, they try to obtain the same ends through different means. Barack Obama tried to do his part by getting his puppets to pass legislation that cut off bank financing to the owners of gun shops.

As part of its fascistic agenda to disarm Americans, in spite of the Second Amendment, Congress has tried to achieve its own perverted goals by raising taxes on ammo or by outlawing specific items, such as bump stocks or magazines holding 10 or more cartridges.

What they don't do, because they don't really care about people being killed in cold blood, is to disarm the gangs that terrorize every major city in America.

It is a bizarre world in which mayors, governors and members of Congress, agree that guns in the hands of those who use them solely for hunting, target practice and to defend themselves and their families, should be confiscated, but not those in the hands of criminals.

Because the despots know they can't use an axe to separate us from our guns, they settle for employing knives and scissors, cutting and snipping away at our rights. If they keep it up, someday, I predict, they will learn, to their chagrin, the foolhardiness of bringing a knife to a gun fight.

■ Criminal Justice bill

As if that's not bad enough, John Rocke let me know that the newly-elected D.A. of Suffolk County (MA), a black woman named Rachael Rollins, has announced she will not prosecute certain crimes. Naturally, Barack Obama was quick to give her a high-five.

However, it should be said that in a way the proposed Criminal Justice bill that is being ballyhooed by President Trump and a bi-partisan gang in Congress is even worse. Its intention is to cut short the sentences of criminals who have already been indicted, prosecuted and are now serving time in prison.

Every time I hear about things like this, and I often do, living in California, where criminals are always being let out early because of over-crowding, my first thought is that what we need are more prisons, not fewer prisoners.

If only those with the responsibility of keeping our streets and homes safe cared a lot more about the innocent and worried a bit less about the guilty, this would be a far better nation.

■ Compare wall cost to other projects

As Tucker Carlson recently pointed out, the Democrats, when they're not lying about Trump's \$25 billion dollar wall being ineffective when it comes to keeping illegal aliens out, complain about the prohibitive cost. But the fact is, the ongoing 17 year war in Afghanistan is costing us \$45 billion annually. And I don't hear anyone in Congress pointing out that it is obviously being spent in a very ineffective way, if the point of the war is to win it.

■ Heaven has a wall

Someone sent me a picture of a bumper sticker that should be stuck to the wall of Congress to serve as a constant reminder: "Heaven has a wall and strict immigration policies. Hell has open borders."

■ Old Democrat candidates

According to a poll of the Iowa Caucus, 14 months prior to their 2020 gathering, 32% favor Joe Biden; 19% back Bernie Sanders; and, in third place, the losing Texas Senate candidate, Robert "Beto" O'Rourke, with 11%.

For a party that is pushing itself as fresh, vital and forward-looking, it's odd that their two leading lights will be 78 and 79 when the next election rolls around. I suppose either of the two elderly gents could hook up with the 48-year-old O'Rourke as their running mate and boast that their average age would be a relatively youthful 63.

■ Failure of feminist movement

After 50 years, can we all agree that the grossly over-hyped Feminist Movement was a monumental failure?

After all this time and all the self-congratulatory articles and award ceremonies, where are all these empowered women? Certainly not on our college campuses, where they can be found cowering in safe places, hugging stuffed animals if anyone even looks cross-eyed at them.

Things are not any better off campus, where guys like Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer and Dr. Larry Nassar, were able to get away with sexually abusing

actresses, co-workers and female athletes, for decades because hundreds of women didn't have the guts to kick them in the nuts or call the cops.

Heck, Hillary Clinton, the self-proclaimed champion of women, spent decades trashing the women her piggish husband preyed upon.

And even though she announced way back in 1992 that she was not the sort of woman you hear about in country songs who meekly stands by her man or stays home baking cookies, she never even considered dumping the creep because that would have put an end to her political ambitions.

What the Feminist Movement has devolved into is women pretending they're underpaid for doing the same job as men, when, either because they lack the experience or the education or take time off to have babies, they're not actually doing the same job. In which case, they insist they're doing comparable jobs, which leads them to compare teaching nursery school to fighting fires.

Worse yet, the sisterhood demands that they pretend to believe the outrageous fantasies of really bad liars like Christine Blasey Ford and Julie Swetnick, because with all the really important issues facing America, the one thing they really care about in 2018 is a woman's right to have babies butchered in the womb.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Trading One Disaster for Another" was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 31, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

Until I read a number of articles in *The New American*, I assumed that the new trade treaty we've worked out with Mexico and Canada, USMCA, was a big improvement over the earlier NAFTA deal. But, apparently, if it is better, it is barely noticeable.

According to Alex Newman, "The Deep State's globalist plan for what insiders refer to as the 'New World Order'—basically, a global government controlled by themselves—begins with submerging the sovereignty of nation-states into regional 'orders.' These are better understood as regional governments built using 'free trade' deals as the foundation, with the European Union serving as the premier example. How do we know this is the plan? Because top Deep State globalists have said so publicly and repeatedly. And because that is the exact strategy being pursued openly."

He concludes with: "Eventually, these regional orders will be interwoven into an overlapping patchwork of multilateral regimes on the road to creating a truly global authority, perhaps under the United Nations."

Having neither written "The Art of the Deal" nor even having read it, I never claimed to be an expert when it comes to trade policy. But it never made sense to me why we had to enter into trade alliances. Would Mexico, Canada

and the other nations of the world not want to trade with us, as they had in the past, unless we joined some sort of multi-national trading club?

I happen to trust President Trump to do what he believes best for America, but he has made business mistakes in the past or he wouldn't have racked up all those bankruptcies. I just hope he isn't flying by the seat of his pants or listening to the globalists sprinkled throughout his administration when it comes to what doesn't really sound like free market capitalism.

■ \$13 million of the wall

While I've been calling for President Trump to call for public subscriptions to build his border wall, military veteran Brian Kolfage, a triple amputee, no less, has started a GoFundMe campaign to pay for the wall. So far, he has raised over \$13 million.

A billion dollars is his goal. That seems like a lot of dough until you realize that 61 million people voted for Trump two years ago. If they each kicked in about \$16, he'd have his billion.

I assume it's his belief that if can raise that amount, even the members of a Democrat-controlled House would read the writing on the wall, so to speak, and would find the rest of the money, perhaps under the cushions of their office sofas where the various lobbyists have sat.

■ Leaders of Antifa

Nancy Thorner, the pride of Lake Bluff, Illinois, has let me know that one of the leaders of Antifa has been unmasked. His name is Joseph Alcott, who sometimes calls himself Jose Martin, sometimes simply "Chepe."

The group closest to his heart is Smash Racism DC, the Antifa group situated in the nation's capital. He has worked closely with Senators Dianne Feinstein (CA) and Tammy Baldwin (WI) and has been photographed rubbing shoulders at party events with the likes of Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH) and Rep. Maxine Waters (CA).

The 36-year-old advocates for violent revolution, the murder of the wealthy and the immolation of everyone who opposes his desire to see America go Communist.

It was he and his group of pinheads who drove Sen. Cruz and Mrs. Cruz from a restaurant and vandalized Tucker Carlson's home.

He played a leading role in Occupy Wall Street and advocates for "a world that is without capitalism, private property and the police;" in short, a Communist Eden.

Anyone out there who doesn't believe he is wholly financed by George Soros? No, I didn't think so.

■ Southern jokes

Joe Neuner, who lives in a border state, has sent along a few jokes about those who live in the South.

A senior citizen in Florida told his friend: "When the end of the world comes, I want to be in Louisiana?" "Why's that?" "Cause everything happens in Louisiana 20 years after it happens everywhere else."

When a man in North Carolina got a flat tire, he pulled off the road and placed one bouquet of flowers in front of his car and another behind it. A passerby, overcome with curiosity, asked him why he did it. The driver patiently explained that when you break down, they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back.

A sheriff in Texas pulled up next to a guy dumping garbage out of his pickup into a roadside ditch. The lawman asked him if he was unable to read the sign posted five feet away. "Of course I can read it. It says plain as day: 'Fine for dumping trash.'"

A Tennessee state trooper pulled over a speeding driver on I-65. Strolling up to the car window, he asked "Got any ID?" The driver replied: "About what?"



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

Finances

- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "Treasury Collected \$21.672 Billion in Taxes on First Business Day of 'Shutdown' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 27, 2018.
- An article by Brad Tuttle titled "Sears is Starting 2019 by Closing 80 More Stores" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by Peter Coy titled "Trump Took Credit for Stock Market Records; Does He Deserve Blame for the Plunge?" was posted at bloomberg.com on Jan. 3, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Michael Burke titled "Trump Suggests Vatican Suggests Vatican Proves Border Wall is Moral" was posted at thehill.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by Aidan McLaughlin titled "Ann Coulter: Trump 'Will Fold' on Border Wall" was posted at mediaite.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by Allen West titled "Left Does Not Have High Ground on Border Security" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by David Limbaugh titled "How Compassionate Is the Democrat's Open-Borders Policy?" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 3, 2019.
- An article by Wendy Fry titled "Another, Bigger Migrant Caravan is Set to Leave From Honduras Next Month" was posted at latimes.com on Dec. 27, 2018.

- An article titled "California Officer's Killing [By An Illegal Immigrant] Reignites Sanctuary Law Fight]" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 29, 2018.
- An article by Bob Prince titled "22K Minors 'Illegally Crossed' Border in December, Says DHS" was posted at Breitbart.com on Jan. 2, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Jessie Balmert titled "Gov. John Kasich Vetoes GOP Gun Bill After 'Stand Your Ground' Language Stripped" was posted at Cincinnati.com on Dec. 19, 2018.
- An article titled "Ohio: Governor Kasich Vetoes Self-Defense Legislation" was posted at nra.org on Dec. 19, 2018.
- An article titled "Ohio: Legislature Overrides Governor Kasich's Veto of Self-Defense Legislation" was posted at nra.org on Dec. 27, 2018.
- A Reuters article titled "Brazil's President-Elect Plans Decree Allowing Wider Gun Ownership" was posted at Reuters.com on Dec. 29, 2018.
- An article titled "Gunman Fires on Car Full of Girls in Houston [Walmart at 7:00 a.m.], Killing Child [7-Year-Old]" was posted at 6abc.com on Dec. 30, 2018.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "GAO: IRS Had 4,487 Guns; 5,062,006 Rounds of Ammunition" was posted at CNSNews.com on Dec. 28, 2018.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Matt Vespa titled "Where Was the Media Outrage When 18 Migrants Died in Custody Under the Obama Administration?" was posted at TownHall.com on Dec. 27, 2018.
- An article titled "A New Associated Press Poll Shows That President Trump Has a High Job Approval Rating Among Veterans" was posted at Yahoo.com on Dec. 30, 2018.

Comments about Trump opposition

- A video and an article titled "CNN: Climate Change to Bring 'Premature Death of Thousands' of Americans" were posted at CNSNews.com on Dec. 28, 2018.
- An article by Ben Kamisar titled "Jerry Brown: Climate Change Challenges As Serious As Those Faced in World War II" was posted at NBCNews.com on Dec. 30, 2018.
- An article by Marina Fang titled "Harry Reid: Trump Is 'The Worst President We've Ever Had' " was posted at HuffPost.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by Alan J. Steinberg titled "Ex-Bush and Whitman Adviser: Trump Won't Be Impeached, But He Will Leave the Presidency in 2019" was posted at NJ.com on Jan. 2, 2019.

- An article by Zachary Petrizzo titled "A New Democrat Party: 95 Progressive Caucus Members in 116th Congress" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 27, 2018.
- An article by Elise Viebeck and Paul Kane titled "House Democrats Bracing for a Robust Freshman Class" was posted at Philly.com on Jan. 1, 2019.
- An article by Mike DeBonis and Jeff Stein titled "Liberal Revolt Threatens to Derail House Democrats on Their First Day in Charge" was posted at WashingtonPost.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by David Rutz titled "Pelosi: The Constitution Considers Me Trump's Equal" was posted at FreeBeacon.com on Jan. 3, 2019.
- An article by Justin Caruso titled "Rob Reiner: 'Nancy Pelosi Will Clean Donald Trump's Clock' And Defeat His 'Ridiculous Wall' " was posted at Breitbart.com on Dec. 30, 2018.
- An article titled "WaPo Reporter [Annie Linskey]: We Don't Detect Enthusiasm for Warren 2020 Presidential Run" was posted at NTKNetwork.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- An article by Jennifer Haberkorn titled "Feinstein Says She Supports Biden for 2020 And Notes That Sen. Kamala Harris is 'Brand New' " was posted at Latimes.com on Jan. 3, 2019.
- An article by Lauren Tuck titled "Ihan Omar [Rep-Elect] Slams Trump for Possibly Revealing Top Secret Military Information [A Picture With Members of Seal Team 5 Thus Revealing It's Classified Location]: 'He Literally Can't Get Anything Right' " was posted at Yahoo.com on Dec. 28, 2018.
- An article by Emily Wax-Thibodeaux titled "Investigators Examining Trump Golf Club's Employment Documents, Lawyer Says" was posted at SFGate.com on Dec. 29, 2018.

News about the media

- An article by Howard Kurtz titled "Former NY Times Editor [Jill Abramson] Rips Trump Coverage As Biased" was posted at FoxNews.com on Jan. 2, 2019.
- A video and an article titled "[MSNBC's Joe] Scarborough: America 'Will Be Great Again' After President Trump Leaves Washington" were posted at CNSNews.com on Dec. 28, 2018.
- An article titled "MSNBC Host [Lawrence O'Donnell]: 'Stop Every Single Thing' Trump Wants" was posted at CNSNews.com on Jan. 3, 2019.
- An article by Rachel Campos-Duffy titled "Misogynist Media Show Their Hypocrisy in Attacks Against FLOTUS [First Lady of the United States]" was posted at TownHall.com on Dec. 28, 2018.
- An article titled "Der Spiegel Suspends Two Senior Editors After Fake News Scandal" was posted at RTE.ie on Dec. 29, 2018.

■ An article titled “ ‘Yellow Vests’ Target French Media” was posted at washingtontimes.com on Dec. 30, 2018.

General interest

■ An article titled “30 Rattlesnakes Found Under Cabin in [Gorman] Texas” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 28, 2018.

■ An article titled “Study: First Impressions Formed in Just 27 Seconds” was posted at studyfinds.org on Dec. 28, 2018.

■ An article by Phillip Reese titled “California’s Elderly Increasingly Choose to Spend Final Days at Home” was posted at sacbee.com on Dec. 28, 2018.

■ An article titled “Original Woodstock Site [Near Bethel, NY, 85 Miles Northwest of NYC] to Host 50th Anniversary Concert [400,000 People Attended in Aug. 15-17, 1969]” was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 28, 2018.

■ An article titled “[Crayons Were] the Top-Selling Online Item in 2018 for Walmart in Eight States” was posted at aol.com on Dec. 28, 2018.

■ An article titled “Chick-Fil-A Reveals Most-Ordered Menu Item [Waffle Fries] in 2018” was posted at aol.com on Dec. 29, 2018.

■ An article titled “California Will Become First State to Require Pet Stores to Sell Only Rescue Animals” was posted at time.com on Dec. 29, 2018.

■ An article by David McFadden titled “Baltimore Trying to Stem Decades-Long Disappearing Act” was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 29, 2018.



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.”