

Eye on the World

Jan. 12, 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. 12, 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 Tom DiChristopher titled “Saudi Arabia’s Massive Oil Reserves Total 268.5 Billion Barrels, Even Bigger Than Previously Known” was posted at cnbc.com on Jan. 9, 2019. Following is the article.

Saudi Arabia’s massive oil and gas reserves are even bigger than previously reported, according to an outside assessment commissioned by the kingdom.

The independent audit not only revised Saudi reserves higher, but may help put to rest skepticism over the nation’s oil and gas wealth, which has persisted in some corners of the market for years. It also shows national oil giant Saudi Aramco is taking strides towards transparency as it continues to consider a stock market debut.

On Wednesday, Saudi Energy Minister and Aramco Chairman Khalid al-Falih said the kingdom expects the initial public offering for Aramco to take place in 2021, following a delay.

State-controlled Aramco had 263.1 billion barrels of oil waiting to be tapped at the end of 2017, according to Dallas-based petroleum consulting firm DeGolyer and MacNaughton. That is 2.2 billion barrels more than Aramco reported in its last annual review.

Aramco's natural gas reserves total 319.5 trillion cubic feet, according to the audit. The company, which is not a major player in the gas market, previously reported 302.3 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves.

Saudi Arabia has additional reserves in an area along the border with Kuwait that has sat idle due to a dispute between the neighbors. Including this so-called Neutral Zone, Saudi oil reserves total 268.5 billion barrels, DeGolyer and MacNaughton concluded. That compares with an earlier estimate of 266.3 billion barrels.

The Saudis commissioned the audit as part of their plan to publicly list shares of Aramco, the world's largest energy company. The kingdom hoped to attract a \$2 trillion valuation and raise \$100 billion to underwrite Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's economic transformation plan, Vision 2030.

The initial public offering has at least temporarily been shelved while Aramco pursues a deal to purchase Saudi petrochemicals company SABIC. Indecision over key aspects of the offering have also caused delays, according to news reports.

Falih, the Saudi energy minister, on Wednesday highlighted what the audit means for Aramco's valuation.

"This certification underscores why every barrel we produce is the most profitable in the world, and why we believe Saudi Aramco is the world's most valuable company and indeed the world's most important," Falih said in a statement.

The revision is "not an insignificant amount of oil," says global energy policy analyst, Ellen Wald. But in her view, the bigger news is that the audit confirms what the Saudis have long communicated to the market: that they control more than 260 billion barrels of reserves.

The figures have long faced skepticism for several reasons. Saudi Arabia has historically eschewed independent audits, and its reserves have remained roughly unchanged for decades despite the Saudis pumping huge amounts of crude.

The 2005 book "Twilight in the Desert," which claimed Saudi production was peaking and oil prices would soon surge, also fueled suspicion, says Wald, the author of "Saudi Inc: The Arabian Kingdom's Pursuit of Profit and Power."

"Whether they have 260 or 266 billion barrels isn't really the issue," she said. "The point is that they had DeGolyer and MacNaughton, which is a very respected source, do an audit."

"I think it's designed to put to rest the controversy that's always plagued them since the publication of 'Twilight in the Desert.'"



"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 Patrick Goodenough titled "Bolton Says Any Country in Doubt of US Support for Israel's Self-Defense 'Better Think About It Again' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 6, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Steve Holland titled "Bolton Says Turkey Must Not Attack Kurdish Fighters Once U.S. Leaves Syria" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 6, 2019.
- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Erdogan Delivers Scathing Speech Aimed at John Bolton" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 8, 2019.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Palestinians Haven't Voted in 13 Years; Now Abbas Casts Doubt on Elections in 2019" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 8, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Brian Ellsworth titled "Former Venezuela Supreme Court Judge Flees to US, Denounces Maduro" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 6, 2019.
- An article by Justin Huggler titled "Homosexuality Is to Blame for Sexual Abuse (Not Catholic Church), Claims German Cardinal [Walter Brandmuller]" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Jan. 4, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Philip Pulella titled "Pope Francis Warns of Resurgent Nationalism, Urges Help for Migrants" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 7, 2019.
- An article by J.D. Simkins titled "Heathens Hold Religious Services Rooted in Norse Paganism Aboard Aircraft Carrier" was posted at navytimes.com Jan. 7, 2019.
- An article titled "Russian Patriarch [Kirill] Warns 'Antichrist' Will Control Humans Through Gadgets" was posted at themoscowtimes.com on Jan. 8, 2019.



An article by Eileen F. Toplansky titled "Allah Over America" was posted at americanthinker.com on Jan. 7, 2019. Following is the article.

The smirk by Chuck Schumer spoke volumes, and the full-blown identity politicians showing their true colors remind one of Abraham Lincoln's potent lines when on March 4, 1865 he penned the following:

■ "While the inaugural address was being delivered . . . devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came."

We are not in a hot civil war at this time, but, as Charles R. Kelser has written, "cold civil war is better than a hot civil war, but it is not a good situation for a country to be in. Underlying our cold civil war is the fact that America is torn increasingly between two rival constitutions, two cultures, two ways of life."

Consider Nikki Randhawa, a Sikh who represented the very best of America when she was the United States ambassador to the United Nations. Most of us know her as Nikki Haley. Her marriage to Michael Haley was a “measure of respect for their individual backgrounds—the colorful Sikh ritual was followed by the Methodist ceremony.” Her husband is an officer in the South Carolina National Guard. She was a governor of South Carolina—clearly two proud Americans who serve their country with distinction.

Reflect now on the newly elected Democratic Muslim women who embody the creeping sharia that is enveloping the world. Ilhan Omar (Minnesota) used American immigration law to her advantage by marrying her brother in 2009. The “motivation for the marriage points to possible immigration fraud and student loan fraud. What’s more she swore to apparent falsehoods in court.”

Tashida Tlaib (Michigan) has vociferously called for the impeachment of Donald Trump. According to Tlaib “President Donald Trump is a direct and serious threat to our country.” She asserts that “on an almost daily basis, he attacks our Constitution, our democracy, the rule of law and the people who are in this country. His conduct has created a constitutional crisis that we must confront now.”

The Democrats can always be counted on to project what they are actually engaging in.

It is they who are creating the constitutional crisis, not the other way around. In addition, both these women show their absolute animus for Israel.

Omar has “long been a harsh critic of Israel. On November 16, 2012—just a few days after Gaza-based Hamas terrorists had launched more than 150 deadly rockets into the Jewish state, prompting an Israeli military response—she tweeted that ‘the apartheid Israeli regime’ had ‘hypnotized the world’ in order to conceal its own ‘evil doings.’”

Tlaib was the Arab-American coordinator for Obama’s 2008 campaign in Michigan. In addition, she has ties to the Hamas-linked Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

Then, “in 2013-14, she received numerous financial donations from individuals affiliated with CAIR, the Islamic Society of North America, the Muslim Students Association (MSA), and the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC).”

Moreover, “in an October 2015 tweet, Tlaib linked to an article in The Nation lauding Black Lives Matter activists in Chicago for supporting ‘a Palestinian woman threatened with deportation.’ The woman in question was Rasmea Odeh, a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist who had played a central role in a deadly 1969 terrorist bombing in Jerusalem, and had committed felonious immigration fraud in the U.S. years later.”

Tlaib and Omar have insinuated themselves into American politics. They personify the anti-freedom, Jew-hatred, sharia intolerance that is integral to the tenets of the Quran, the very book that Tlaib rested her hand on when she was sworn in!

Tlaib and Omar are symptomatic of the leftist-Islamic (Red-Green) anti-American connection that keeps gaining traction in the country. The left (Progressives) believe in the notion of a "living Constitution" and work to create "administrative agencies" that circumvent the limitations that the original Constitution set in place.

Likewise, Muslims wish to substitute sharia law for the Constitution, making the absurd claim that they are similar. If so, why change the law in the first place?

Then there is the "prevailing liberal doctrine of rights [which] traces individual rights to membership in various groups—racial, ethnic, gender, class-based . . . which are undergoing a continual process of consciousness-raising and empowerment."

Consequently, Omar, with the help of the "useful idiot" Nancy Pelosi, wore a hijab despite a 181-year congressional headwear ban. Hats have "been banned from the House chamber of the Capitol [but] . . . under a new proposal from Democrats, the rule would be relaxed to allow religious headwear, like a hijab[.] The change was proposed jointly by Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, Incoming Rules Chairman Jim McGovern and member-elect Ilhan Omar as part of a larger overhaul package."

Leftists—now known as the Democratic Party—count on people's ignorance of what these two women actually believe and want to enact. It is how Americans will be duped.

The Muslim Brotherhood has made the Islamic cause abundantly clear. Consequently, America is in the throes of "an even more toxic danger than jihad warfare—a stealthy and pre-violent form of warfare aimed at destroying our constitutional form of democratic government and free society.

The Muslim Brotherhood is the prime-mover behind this seditious campaign, which it calls "civilization jihad."

No matter how many news outlets turn this into a fashion moment, no matter how many babies they hold while in the chambers of Congress, these two women are the tip of the iceberg of this seditious campaign.

This is not diversity; it is transformation leading to the slow destruction of these United States—just as leftist, Muslim-loving Barack Hussein Obama asserted not too long ago.

Like their leftist counterparts, Muslims in the Islamic world are "interested in transforming free speech into what they call equal speech."

Thus, they favor the "narrowing of the First Amendment for the sake of redistribution of speech rights from the rich to the poor."

The Muslim world has already shown that any criticism about Islam is tantamount to a crime, and punishment will ensue. Why would things be different in America as Islam gains ascendancy?

Josef Zboril writes, “The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)—made up of 57 mostly Muslim-majority states (56 plus ‘Palestine’) wants to . . . “hold the media accountable for perpetuating hate speech and extremism.”

The OIC’s Media Strategy in Countering Islamophobia and its Implementation Mechanisms describes one part of its strategy as a “call [to] media professionals to develop, articulate and implement voluntary codes of conduct to counter Islamophobia.”

But “unfortunately, many in the Western media have been acceding to such demands, either because they agree that being critical of radical Muslims constitutes ‘Islamophobia,’ or out of fear of being accused of it. The social media giant, Facebook, for example, often uses a selective definition of ‘hate speech’ to justify censoring certain pages and posts.”

Once again, the left partners with the Islamic world to effectively criminalize the most cherished of American freedoms: the freedom of speech and press.

Connecting the dots, remember that Tlaib has cultivated noteworthy ties to a number of Islamist organizations such as the Hamas-linked Council on American Islamic Relations, praising its “invaluable and vital advocacy.”

Who would be so naïve as to think she does not advocate the silencing of critics?

In Gaza (emphasis mine), “the freedom of expression is unacceptable . . . as Hamas intimidates and imprisons writers.” Now recall that “in 2015, Tlaib noted approvingly that the head of Islamic Relief USA—a branch of Islamic Relief Worldwide, . . . designated as a terrorist organization by the United Arab Emirates—had come to Detroit to discuss ‘water relief from Gaza to Detroit.’”

Brigitte Gabriel, speaking of Muslim Saba Ahmed, who ran for Congress in 2012, stated, “We must recognize figures like Ahmed for what they are: Islamists who spout patriotic platitudes, but who justify acts of Islamic terrorism, and whose intent is nothing less than a worldwide caliphate that would undo America from within, with Sharia formally established as the standard for Muslims.”

If we are to preserve the Union, it is incumbent upon us to boldly expose these new representatives and their ilk.



A video and an article by Zachary Petrizzo titled “Wow: Students Tricked by Old Dem Quotes on Immigration” were posted at townhall.com on Jan. 8, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Today the federal government entered its 17th day in a partial shutdown as party leaders continue to clash over allocating the needed funds for President Trump’s proposed wall along the southern border.

In recent years Democratic politicians such as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, President Barack Obama, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have all affirmed the need to crack down on illegal immigration.

But recently they have changed their tune, claiming it is “immoral” and a waste of money on old technology that will not be effective.

Campus Reform recently traveled to American University to ask students their thoughts on President Donald Trump’s statements on immigration and building the wall while government is in a partial government shutdown.

The only thing was . . . the quotes were actually uttered by Democratic politicians.

Well, of course, liberal students at American University would object because it’s “immoral” to build a wall . . .

Check out some of the quotes Cabot Phillips of *Campus Reform* read to students.

- “Illegal Immigration is wrong, plain and simple. Until the American people are convinced we will stop future flows of illegal immigration, we will make no progress.” -Senator Chuck Schumer
- “We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented and unchecked” —Barack Obama
- “I voted numerous times . . . to spend money to build a barrier to try to prevent illegal immigrants from coming in. And I do think you have to control your borders.”—Hillary Clinton

After hearing the quotes, students said the statements were “divisive,” “hateful,” and “dehumanizing.”

After Phillips let students in on the trick; they were perplexed, defensive, and bewildered.



An article by Justin Haskins titled “Don’t Be Fooled: Ocasio-Cortez’s ‘Green New Deal’ Is About Socialism, Not Global Warming” was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 8, 2019. Following is the article.

An aide for Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), the latest prominent Democrat to announce plans to form a presidential exploratory committee, says Warren supports Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s (D-NY) “Green New Deal,” further elevating the status of the plan at the highest levels of the Democratic Party.

In expressing her support for the plan, Warren joins Sens. Bernie Sanders (D-VT) and Cory Booker (D-NJ), both of whom have expressed interest in running for president in 2020.

The Green New Deal has been hailed by Democrats and liberal pundits as one of the most important proposals to tackle global warming in decades, but don’t be fooled.

- Many supporters of the Green New Deal know it will do absolutely nothing to reduce global temperature or prevent future temperature rises—the primary purpose of the proposal, according to Ocasio-Cortez.

- The real goal of the Green New Deal is to impose a series of radical, socialistic programs—policies that would dramatically increase the size and power of the federal government, cause immense harm to the U.S. economy, and run up the national debt by trillions of dollars.

In a proposed draft resolution to form a House committee to create legislation for the Green New Deal, Ocasio-Cortez provided important details for her plan.

- One of the most important elements of the plan is a mandated transition away from fossil fuels in virtually all aspects of American life and the creation of a huge new renewable energy industry.

- Ocasio-Cortez proposes ending the use of fossil fuels in nearly every industry, including on farms and in all manufacturing, in just 10 years, from 2020 to 2030.

- Additionally, all power in the United States would need to be produced using renewables, which have been proven on countless occasions to increase the cost of electricity.

Ocasio-Cortez doesn't stop there, however. In addition to forcing everyone to use renewable energy, thereby closing entire existing energy industries and taking away the jobs of tens of thousands of people, she also proposes "upgrading" every single home and business building in the country, to make them more energy efficient and for "comfort," a policy that would likely cost trillions of dollars on its own.

- Ocasio-Cortez says the Green New Deal would create a federal jobs guarantee that would "assure a living wage job to every person who wants one," as well as a single-payer health care program that would put the federal government in charge of the entire health care industry—a plan the Mercatus Center says will cost at least \$32 trillion in its first 10 years.

- The Green New Deal would also form "basic income programs" and impose all sorts of new workplace requirements, including new "wage standards."

Ocasio-Cortez wants the federal government to lead the charge in this effort, but she also says the legislation should "deeply involve national and local labor unions to take a leadership role in the process of job training and worker deployment."

How would the government pay for these multiple trillion-dollar programs? By raising taxes and, most importantly, printing money.

According to the Green New Deal's own "Frequently Asked Questions" section (in Ocasio-Cortez's draft resolution), "Many will say, 'Massive government investment! How in the world can we pay for this?' The answer is: in the same ways that we paid for the 2008 bank bailout and extended quantitative easing programs, the same ways we paid for World War II and many other wars. The Federal Reserve can extend credit to power these projects and invest-

ments, 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 and other Green New Deal advocates say these proposals are necessary to stop human-caused global warming, but the truth is the Green New Deal would do absolutely nothing to avert future global temperature increases, even if we assume that humans’ carbon-dioxide emissions are the primary cause of climate change and that moderately warmer temperatures would create more harm than good.

Both of these assumptions have been challenged by many highly prominent scientists and economists. For more, see The Heartland Institute’s Climate Change Reconsidered series.)

The reason the Green New Deal wouldn’t have the impact its supporters say it will is because the rest of the world is increasing its CO2 emissions at a rate so high that whatever reductions occur in America would be more than offset by increases in other countries, especially China and India.

- Ocasio-Cortez and others know the Green New Deal won’t stop climate change, but this plan isn’t really about global warming.
- It’s about creating massive new government programs that will increase the power of government and move the country closer than ever to socialism.

Those of us who support free markets and individual liberty must stop the Green New Deal, or else America as we know it will disappear entirely.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “The Realities of Terrorism” was posted at patriotpost.us on Jan. 6, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

A mystery that continues to confound me even 40 years after Jimmy Carter ushered in the regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini by abandoning the Shah of Iran is why people continue to differentiate between ISIS, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Taliban. While it’s true that they tend to terrorize different geographical locations, there is no real difference between any of these Islamic gangs.

It would be like Russia or North Korea talking about going to war with Kansas or Minnesota, as if all the other states wouldn’t be involved. So, when I hear people talk about the fight not being over because there are still 30,000 idiots fighting on behalf of ISIS, I assume they simply feel more comfortable pretending we merely have to contend with 30,000 discontents in Iraq and Syria, thereby ignoring the other billion Muslims in the world.

■ Visiting troops

Speaking of Syria, I don't know why it was so important for Mr. and Mrs. Trump to fly to Iraq to meet with the troops. I hear it boosted morale. And perhaps it did for the small number of troops he signed autographs for at the airbases in Iraq and Germany. But why take the risk? All it would have taken was a single lucky mortar hit to bring down Air Force One.

So far as I'm concerned, if someone has to traipse off to have photo ops with the troops or with first responders at natural disasters, let it be Mike Pence. He should do something to earn his paycheck.

■ Klan and Antifa

When it comes to terrorism, not all of it is connected to Islam. And it certainly isn't connected to the handful of misfits who still claim to belong to the Ku Klux Klan. It's been a long time since the Klan committed any mischief worth mentioning. These days, the only purpose it serves is to allow Democrats to pretend it remains a grave threat to the Republic, while simultaneously pretending that it wasn't solely a creation of, by and for Democrats.

While the media conveniently beats the drum over the hooded yokels in the Klan, it treats the masked terrorists in Antifa as if they constituted a branch of the Boy Scouts that dispensed merit badges for burning cars, beating up innocent bystanders and vandalizing stores and college campuses.

■ Trump and James Mattis

In the past, our allies, with the notable exception of Soviet Russia during WWII, were also our friends. In recent years, we tend to apply the term to any country with whom we're not currently at war.

So it was that James Mattis took to the barricades to denounce Donald Trump when the President had the temerity to demand that the members of NATO actually live up to their obligation to kick in 2% of their GDP to finance the mutual defense organization. Apparently, Mattis thought it was okay that we had to pick up the difference for freeloaders like Germany (1.3%) and Canada (1%).

Although it was finally Trump's insistence on pulling our troops out of Syria over Mattis's objections that led to the Secretary of Defense quitting or Trump's firing him, the differences between the two men were almost as numerous as Trump's differences with Schumer.

For instance, Mattis, clearly a liberal sheep in wolf's clothing, objected to Trump's cutting loose from the Paris Climate Accords and the Iran Nuclear Deal. He even objected to Trump's keeping the promise that several former presidents had made to finally move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, I keep hearing that one of our obligations is to teach the native forces to wage war. Just how backward are these people? If in 17 years, they haven't yet mastered the basics that our own soldiers learn in 16 weeks, why would anyone think they ever will?

■ Women's March

Apparently the highly-touted Women's March of 2017 is self-destructing before our very eyes. It is thanks to its close ties to the toxic Louis Farrakhan and its adoption of his anti-Semitic agenda, which should come as no surprise when you realize the leader of the group is the obnoxious Linda Sarsour, the daughter of Palestinian parents, who is herself such a faithful Muslim that she agreed to an arranged marriage at the age of 17.

When informed that the Chicago division of the Women's March was canceling a 2019 event over the anti-Semitic bias of the leadership, Ms. Sarsour lied in her own defense, claiming "I, for one, have never even met the Minister, but facts don't matter and people want to throw out the baby with the bath water." Only some people, apparently, and only if the baby happens to be Jewish.

It so happens that Sarsour and Farrakhan shared the same stage at the National Mall in 2015, when Farrakhan hosted an event celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March.

■ Federal bureaucrats

We are all supposed to get all sad and weepy over those federal bureaucrats who will have to wait for the government shutdown to end before getting their back pay for not working. But no crying towel for me.

I suspect they will be able to put food on the table in the meantime, and that's because the average salary of a federal employee in the nation's capital is \$84,153, and \$119,934 when benefits are factored in. The national average income is a paltry \$50,046. Is there another business anywhere in which the employees out-earn their employers by roughly 70%?

If these so-called Civil Servants are actually living paycheck to paycheck, the only possible reason is that they're addicted either to heroin or gambling.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Gospel According to Mike Lindell" was posted at patriotpost.us on Jan. 7, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

If you watch TV, particularly Fox News, you probably know Mike Lindell, who is constantly pitching his great invention, My Pillow, better than you know your next door neighbor.

One thing you know for sure is that he is very wealthy. You may also know that he is a strong conservative and one of President Trump's major boosters.

A few things you may not know is that Lindell was not an overnight success. Along the way, just a few of the things he tried and flopped at were running a pig ranch, owning a bar and counting cards in Las Vegas.

One other thing: as recently as 2009, he was a crack cocaine addict. It cost him his home and his marriage. His addiction was so bad, his death so imminent, that his drug dealer not only cut him off cold turkey but got the word out that nobody else in town was to supply him with crack. What's more, he took a photo of Lindell in order to show him the haggard wreck he had become.

Lindell got the message and cleaned up his act. As he tells it, "I had a dream that God had plans for me. When I woke up, I decided to dedicate myself to finding out what they were."

There are many other stories of redemption, but few, if any, with such a dramatic turn-around. Today, Lindell spends \$100 million-a-year on commercials. He can afford to because the world's greatest pillow brings in \$300 million-a-year. He also has a work force of 1500.

■ Abby Johnson

He has just financed a movie titled "Unplanned." It is the story of Abby Johnson, a former director of "Planned Parenthood" who became so disgusted with what they were doing at America's largest abortion mill that, like Lindell, she decided to turn her life around, and in 2009, a monumental year in both their lives, she became a leading crusader for the Pro-Life movement.

■ Amtrak, but no wall

While Chuck Schumer dismisses President Trump's wall as a massive waste of money, the government continues to subsidize Amtrak to the tune of \$2 billion-a-year. In 46 years, God only knows how many billions of dollars Congress has spent to keep the choo-choos running. In all those years, I've ridden on one once and I suspect that's more than most people.

■ Turning lepers into saints

Speaking of President Trump, I wonder if it's occurred to him how easily he can turn lepers into saints and martyrs. All he has to do is fire someone and the media will immediately go from hurling rocks at the guy to promoting him for canonization.

■ Analyzing Mattis

Take James Comey. Better yet, take James Mattis. The media used to call him "Mad Dog" not out of respect for his military prowess, but because they could make it sound like a psychological evaluation.

Frankly, I don't know how to judge him as a general. Although I used to have a certain respect for the military, once anti-military guys like Bill Clinton and Barack Obama began promoting the brass or busting them based on political considerations, I have the same cynical opinion of them that I have of civilian politicians.

There seems to be a question of whether Mattis retired or was pushed out as Secretary of Defense. But once he openly disagreed with the Commander-in-Chief's decision to pull the military out of Syria, Mattis had to go. It was reminiscent of President Harry Truman's firing of Gen. Douglas MacArthur but not quite so dramatic as that seminal event nearly 70 years ago.

Mattis could hardly say he'd been blindsided, although the deceitful media carried on as if Trump had yanked the rug out from under his military advisor. The fact is, eight months earlier, Trump had announced he was pulling the troops out in six months.

I don't know why he waited the extra two months, but possibly he was giving Mattis and the other loons in the administration a full hearing of their objections.



An article by Ruth King titled "Waiting on Stage Left Again" was posted at americanthinker.com on Jan. 9, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

While Warren, Harris, Booker, and Biden are bruited as potential Democratic candidates in 2020, there may be a surprise candidate being groomed right now. Barack Obama's trajectory from the Illinois state Senate to the Oval Office in four years is instructive.

In March of 2000, Obama was a state senator in Illinois, a post he had since 1996 with virtually no political recognition. What he did have is a sterling résumé.

- An eight-year scholarship to Occidental College.
- A transfer into Columbia University.
- A post-college job as a "community organizer."
- Acceptance into Harvard Law School, and editorship of its law review. (The actual academic records remain secret. There is no essay from college and no single article from the law review where he was editor.)

In his first foray for national office, he attempted to unseat popular Illinois representative Bobby Rush (Illinois-District 2) in the 2000 Democratic primary. He lost.

But he gained the interest of David Axelrod, a cunning political strategist.

In 2002, he tested the political waters with a carefully scripted speech opposing the Iraq war, calling it "a dumb war . . . a rash war . . . [a] cynical attempt to shove ideological agendas down our throats."

He was careful to avoid the pratfalls of radical pacifism: "I don't oppose all wars. My grandfather signed up for a war the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, fought in Patton's army. He saw the dead and dying across the fields of Europe; he heard the stories of fellow troops who first entered Auschwitz and Treblinka. He fought in the name of a larger freedom, part of that arsenal of democracy that triumphed over evil, and he did not fight in vain. I don't oppose all wars."

He often revisited that speech in his campaigns. [Editor's note: Obama repeatedly botched the location of the camp his grandfather—or was it a great uncle?—allegedly helped liberate. It was the Soviets who "first entered" Auschwitz.]

A new opportunity presented itself in 2004, when incumbent Illinois Republican U.S. senator Peter Fitzgerald decided to retire, and Obama entered the primary race for the Democrats. His only real challenger was Blair Hull, a businessman and philanthropist.

David Axelrod's former employer, the *Chicago Tribune*, leaked a court-sealed divorce story that Hull's wife had sought an order of protection against him. Hull's campaign tanked, and Obama won.

That summer, he was chosen to give a keynote speech in support of the presidential candidacy of John Kerry and John Edwards on July 27, 2004.

It was a pedestrian speech: "There's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America. The pundits, the pundits like to slice and dice our country into red states and blue states: red states for Republicans, blue states for Democrats. But I've got news for them, too. We worship an awesome God in the blue states, and we don't like federal agents poking around our libraries in the red states. We coach little league in the blue states and, yes, we've got some gay friends in the red states."

It was a speech of platitudes, but the prime-time messenger was an articulate young black American state senator from Illinois, and the audience and media swooned. A star was born. He was ready for prime time.

He returned to Chicago to oppose Jack Ryan, the Republican candidate for the Senate seat. Ryan also had a sterling résumé: Dartmouth College, Harvard Law School, and Harvard Business School, and after earning millions on Wall Street, he retired to teach high school in the low-income inner city.

However, Ryan's divorce custody sealed records were leaked by the *Chicago Tribune*, with lurid allegations of sex clubs and infidelity. Ryan denied all allegations, but the media ran with the sordid tale, and Ryan resigned.

Obama easily bested Alan Keyes, who stepped into the campaign to replace Ryan, and became the junior senator from Illinois.

By mid-2006, New York Democratic senator Hillary Clinton had prepared her campaign to make history as America's first female president. Her victory seemed inevitable, but former senator Harry Reid (R-Nev., 1987-2017) had other thoughts and persuaded Barack Obama to enter the primary race for the White House. Obama formally announced his candidacy on February 10, 2007.

The fixers went to work, airbrushing his radical-left proclivities and the mentoring of radical communist Frank Marshall Davis and his association with terrorists and a viciously racist minister, Jeremiah Wright.

Five months later, on June 7, 2008, Obama became the Democratic presidential nominee when Clinton dropped out of the race. In the final count, he garnered 2,275 delegates, and Clinton had 1,978.

His challenger was Republican senator John McCain, who led in early polls, but on September 28, 2008, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 777.68 points in one day. Until 2018, it was the largest one-day point drop in history.

It was not (repeat, not) orchestrated by David Axelrod, who had been busy trying to find damning evidence on John McCain and Sarah Palin.

Six weeks later, Barack Obama became America's first black president, with Senator Joseph Biden as his vice president. He won 365 delegates and 69,456,89 popular votes.

How did a man of such meager achievements win the highest office in the land in four years?

One short answer is that he was carefully groomed with a carefully scripted biographical narrative that was in the works long before his announcement in 2007.



"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 titled "U.S. National Debt Rises More Than \$2 Trillion Since Trump Took Office" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 4, 2019.
- An article by Guy Benson titled "Blowout: Amid Economists' Jitters, December Jobs Report Delivers Huge Numbers" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 4, 2019.
- An article by Grant Martin titled "Airport Security Lines Grow Across the Nation As TSA Sickout Continues" was posted at forbes.com on Jan. 7, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Robin Millard titled "Britain Sends Ships to Tackle Migrant Crossing Surge" was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 31, 2018.
- An article titled "California Governor Newsom Vows 'Sanctuary To All Who Seek It' in Inauguration Speech" was posted at losangelescsbs.com on Jan. 7, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Mexican Sex Traffickers (Some 'Resideing Illegally' in U.S.) Get Long Prison Terms" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 7, 2019.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Anticipating New US-Bound 'Caravan,' Mexican Minister Says Mexico's Southern Border Will Be Secured to Ensure 'Legal and Orderly' Entry" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 8, 2019.
- An article by Berkeley Lovelace Jr. titled "Texas Libertarian Ron Paul: We Don't Need Trump's Border Wall to Stop Illegal Immigration [Rather Emphasizing the Removal of Incentives to Come]" was posted at cnbc.com on Jan. 8, 2019.

■ An article by Brian C. Joondeph titled "Democrats Can Fund the World, But Not the Wall" was posted at americanthinker.com on Jan. 9, 2019.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Matt Vespa titled "Smelling Blood: Virginia Democratic Governor [Ralph Northam] Readies New Anti-Gun Package" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 5, 2019.

■ An article by Valentina Pop titled "Gun Use Surges in Europe, Where Firearms Are Rare" was posted at wsj.com on Jan. 7, 2019.

■ An article by Karen Kataline titled "'Danger Dyslexia': Toy Guns Are Dangerous, Open Borders Are Not" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 7, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Biden Blames Coulter for Shutdown, Calls Her 'That Conservative Blonde Woman'" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 5, 2019.

■ An article by Melanie Arter titled "Trump: The 'Only Thing Immoral Is 'Politicians Who Do Nothing' While Innocent People Are Victimized" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 8, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by cnsnews.com staff titled "Pelosi Introduces Bill to Force Presidents (But Not Members of Congress) to Release Their Tax Returns" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 6, 2019.

■ An article by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Says 'No Question' Trump Is a Racist in 60 Minutes Interview" was posted at cbsnews.com on Jan. 6, 2019.

■ An article by Guy Benson titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on CBS: To Fund One of My Statist Proposals, Let's Raise the Top Tax Rate to . . .70 Percent" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 4, 2019.

■ An article by Tom Elliott titled "Ocasio-Cortez: I'm Going to Turn America Into Another Sweden, Not Venezuela" was posted at grabien.com on Jan. 6, 2019.

■ Looking back to October, an article by John Stossel and Tanvir Toy titled "Sweden Is Not a Socialist Success" was posted at reason.com on Oct. 23, 2018.

■ An article by Jarrett Stepman titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal Is Trojan Horse for Socialism" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 7, 2019.

■ An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "AOC [on 60 Minutes]: Being Morally Right Is More Important Than Being Factually Correct" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 7, 2019.

■ An article by Aaron Blake titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Very Bad Defense of Her Falsehoods" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Jan. 7, 2019.

- An article by Laretta Brown titled "Whoopi Goldberg Advises Ocasio-Cortez to 'Sit Still for a Minute and Learn the Job' Before 'Pooping on People' " was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 7, 2019.
- An article by Rachel Bade, Heather Caygle and John Bresnahan titled "Dems Livid After [Rashida] Tlaib Vows to 'Impeach the Motherf*****' " was posted at politico.com on Jan. 4, 2019.
- An article by Laretta Brown titled "The View's Joy Behar Defends Rep. Tlaib's Vulgar Impeachment Remarks: 'I Identify With Her' " was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 4, 2019.
- An article by Leigh Ann Caldwell titled "Pelosi: Impeachment Is 'Divisive,' But Colleague's [Rashida Tlaib's] Coarse Language Is No Worse Than Trump's" was posted at nbcnews.com on Jan. 4, 2019.
- An article by Laretta Brown titled "Rep. Tlaib Says the 'Only Thing' She'll Apologize for Is That Her 'Impeach the Motherf*****' Remark Was a 'Distraction' " was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 8, 2019.
- An article by Laretta Brown titled "Sen. Kamala Harris Defends Tlaib's Vulgar Comments, Praises Ocasio-Cortez's Challenge of the Status Quo" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 8, 2019.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Rep. Tlaib, a Boycott-Israel Supporter, Slammed for Implying Pro-Israel Lawmakers Have 'Dual Loyalty' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 7, 2019.
- An article by Laretta Brown titled "Hillary Clinton Joins Andrew Cuomo in Push for Extreme Late-Term Abortion Bill in New York" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 7, 2019.
- An article by Silvio Canto, Jr. titled "[Governor Andrew] Cuomo Goes Left, New Yorkers [Move] Out" was posted at americanthinker.com on Jan. 8, 2019.
- An article by J. David Goodman titled "[NYC Mayor] De Blasio Unveils Health Care Plan for Undocumented and Low-Income New Yorkers" was posted at nytimes.com on Jan. 8, 2019.
- An article by Corinne Weaver titled "Microsoft Board Member [Reid Hoffman] Funded Election Manipulation Vs. Cruz, Blackburn" was posted at newsbusters.org on Jan. 8, 2019.
- An article by Taryn Ryder titled "Cher Asks Nancy Pelosi to End Government Shutdown Before Trump: 'People Will Starve' " was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 10, 2019.
- Looking back to November, an article by David Siders titled " 'He's Barack Obama, But White': Beto O'Rourke Blows Up the 2020 Democratic Primary" was posted at politico.com on Nov. 19, 2018.
- An article by James Cox titled "Obama 2020? Michelle Obama Tipped for 2020 White House Win With 'Sky High' Approval Ratings" was posted at the-sun.co.uk on Jan. 6, 2019.

■ An article by Jonathan Martin and Alexander Burns titled “Biden in 2020? Allies Say He Sees Himself as Democrats’ Best Hope” was posted at nytimes.com on Jan. 6, 2019.

■ An article by Natasha Korecky titled “[Elizabeth] Warren Regains Footing in Iowa Blitz” was posted at politico.com on Jan. 6, 2019.

News about the media

■ An article by Bill Donahue titled “The New York Times’ Astonishing Series on Abortion” was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 4, 2019.

■ An article by Michael W. Chapman titled “Church of Satan Praises Golden Globe Winner Christian Bale for Thanking Satan” was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 7, 2019.

■ An article by Emily Ward titled “Mark Levin: Media Are ‘Part of the Mob That Wants to Take Down a Constitutionally-Elected President’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 8, 2019.

■ An article by Susan Jones titled “Mika Brezezinski: ‘The Networks Should Refuse to Turn Over the Airwaves’ to Trump’s ‘Lies’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 8, 2019.

General interest

■ An article by Jack Baer titled “LeBron James Crowns Himself the GOAT [Greatest of All Time] Because of His 2016 Finals Win Over the Warriors [Even Though Kyrie Irving Hit the Clutch Shots]” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 30, 2018.

■ An article by Kyle Stock titled “Richer Americans Are Skipping SUVs for Station Wagons” was posted at bloomberg.com on Jan. 7, 2019.

■ An article by Corinne Weaver titled “Amazon Removes ‘Islamophobic’ Products, But Sells ‘F*** Me Jesus’ ” was posted at newsbusters.org on Jan. 8, 2019.



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.”