

Eye on the World

Sept. 7, 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 Sept. 7, 2019.

Compiled by Dave Haver

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 Deborah Netburn titled "1.3 Billion Tons of Food Being Wasted Each Year: Can We Stop It?" was posted at latimes.com on Aug. 29, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Across the planet, more than a billion tons of essential, nutritious, life-sustaining food goes to waste each year.

It is being eaten by weevils in sub-Saharan Africa and inadvertently passed over by harvesters in the rice fields of Southeast Asia.

It gets scraped into the trash in restaurants in North America, and sometimes left to rot on the vine on farms in Europe.

In today's economy, it can be cheaper for farmers to leave perfectly good food in the fields than to sell it.

Roughly one-third of all food produced on Earth is either wasted or lost somewhere along the way from the farm to our bellies, according to a 2011 report from the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization. That translates to about 1.3 billion metric tons of food loss per year.

And if that proportion doesn't change, the amount of wasted food will balloon to 2.1 billion tons per year by 2030, experts say.

Members of the U.N. adopted a planet-wide goal of reducing food waste by 50% by the year 2030. Exactly how to accomplish that goal, however, was not part of the conversation.

But now researchers have a global action plan.

In a report published this week by the World Resources Institute, a team of experts who study food loss and waste lay out a strategy that they say could accomplish the U.N.'s ambitious goal. All it will take is for just about everyone—from farmers to eaters—to change what they're doing now.

"The problem is dispersed across so many actors, and we all play a role," said Craig Hanson, who studies sustainable food systems at WRI, a global research institution. "Everyone has to do their part and follow through. It's got to be a full-chain kind of approach."

The percentage of food lost and wasted is ultimately pretty similar across different regions of the globe, according to the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organization.

- In North America, about 35% of total food produced never gets consumed by humans.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, about 36%.
- In Europe, South America and industrialized Asia, about 34%.
- South and Southeast Asia are the outliers, with just 26% of the region's total food going to waste.

What does differ wildly between regions is the amount of food lost per capita, WRI analysts determined.

- In North America, for example, 650 pounds of food are lost or wasted for every man, woman and child each year.
- That's more than twice as much as in South and Southeast Asia, where it's a comparatively small 243 pounds wasted per person per year.

Another source of disparity was where along the chain that food gets lost.

In North America, 58% of total food loss occurs at the consumption stage and 6% is lost during storage and handling. In sub-Saharan Africa, just 6% of total food loss occurs at the consumption phase, but 36% is lost during storage and handling, FAO data show.

That means no single intervention will work for every region on the planet.

Improving access to solar-powered cold storage facilities and airtight grain storage bags could radically reduce the amount of food lost in developing nations.

In wealthier countries, however, consumers will need to be persuaded to buy more fruits and vegetables that look "imperfect" but are totally fine to eat. It would also help for manufacturers to replace "sell by" labels with ones that say "use by."

Instead of a one-size-fits-all solution to solving the food lost and waste crisis, the new report proposes a simple three-step system that they say can be implemented across the planet. They call it "Target-Measure-Act."

Target

The first part of this strategy is to establish clear goals.

The report's authors know this is doable because it has already occurred in countries that are home to about half of the world's population, including Australia, Japan, Norway, the Arab Emirates, Vietnam, China, and members of the European and African unions.

In addition, food retailers and manufacturers in the U.S. and elsewhere—including Kroger, Walmart, Wegmans, Kellogg Co. and PepsiCo—have made commitments to halve food loss and waste in their own operations by 2030.

It's a decent start. But more countries will have to set their own goals around food loss and waste if the U.N.'s target will be reached by 2030.

"Ideally within a couple of years, 90% or more of the world will live in a country with an explicit food loss waste reduction target," Hanson said.

Measure

To know how well the world is progressing toward that goal, governments and industries need to have better data on how much food is being wasted now and where in the food chain it is disappearing. This will allow policymakers to identify what the authors call "hot spots" and target those points directly.

Many countries have already taken steps to improve their measurements of lost and wasted food over the last two decades.

The United Kingdom has been a global leader, producing countrywide estimates of food waste for 2007, 2010, 2014, 2015 and 2018.

The U.S. has been estimating food loss and waste both per capita and in absolute amounts since 2015.

Japan has been collecting post-farm food loss and waste data since 2001.

Other countries are getting on board as well, including Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Spain, New Zealand, Zambia and Argentina.

Act

Ultimately, however, the goal of reducing lost and wasted food across the globe can be achieved only with concrete action, the report authors say.

This might look like the pay-as-you-throw policy implemented in South Korea in 2013 that requires residents of Seoul to pay for the food they waste by weight.

It might look like North American farmers allowing nonprofit organizations to collect unharvested crops that can't be sold and redistributing them to food pantries and soup kitchens.

It might also look like catering companies keeping better track of what foods are most likely to be left over and making less of them next time.

Not everyone who studies food loss and waste is optimistic that the world will meet the 2030 target.

“Many governments and businesses are giving more lip service to the topic of reducing food loss and waste than taking concrete action,” said Martin Gooch, chief executive of Value Chain Management International, who works on food waste issues.

But the report’s authors said they remained hopeful.

“Almost all the knowledge, technologies and practices exist to address to meet the goal,” said contributor Dirk Maier, who studies post-harvest engineering at Iowa State University. “What will influence whether it is accomplished is partly political will, and the commitment by our economic supply chains to make things work more effectively and efficiently.”



“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.

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- An article by James Gant titled “[Hurricane] Dorian’s Destruction: Dramatic New Before and After Aerial Photos Show How Parts of the Bahamas Were Obliterated by 185 mph Hurricane” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Sept. 4, 2019.
 - An article by Ilan Ben Zion titled “Israel Claims to Uncover Hezbollah Missile Plant in Lebanon” was posted at apnews.com on Sept. 3, 2019.
 - An article titled “Iran Unveils Jet-Powered Precision Drone” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Sept. 1, 2019.
 - An article titled “Iranian Oil Tanker Pursued by U.S. Off the Coast of Syria” was posted at apnews.com on Sept. 1, 2019.
 - A Reuters article by Abu Arqam Naqash titled “Kashmiri Militant [Commander] Calls for Pakistan Military Intervention in Disputed Region” was posted at reuters.com on Sept. 1, 2019.
 - An article titled “Dubai Halts Mega-Airport Project [With an Annual Capacity of 250 Million Passengers] As Gulf [Arab] Economics Stumble” was posted at bloomberg.com on Aug. 31, 2019.
 - An article by Iain Marlow, Natalie Lung and Annie Lee titled “Hong Kong Police Warn of More Arrests After Sweep of Activists” was posted at bloomberg.com on Aug. 30, 2019.

- An article by Mark Stevenson titled “Mexico’s ‘Teflon’ Presidency Starting to Show Wear” was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article titled “Germany [President Frank-Walter Steinmeier] Asks Polish Forgiveness 80 Years After WWII Outbreak” was posted at afp.com on Sept. 1, 2019.
- An article by Francis X Rocca titled “Pope Orders Vatican Officials to Shrink Ballooning Budget Deficit” was posted at wsj.com on Sept. 3, 2019.



An article by Jarrett Stepman titled “The U.S. Isn’t (and Never Should Be) a Pure Democracy” was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 30, 2019. Following is the article.

Is America a democracy or a republic?

This debate, if you can call it that, was launched on Twitter by two freshmen lawmakers, Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas.

Crenshaw noted on Twitter that the Electoral College prevents pure democracy, and that’s a good thing.

Ocasio-Cortez said a few days later that, essentially, the mask has slipped and Republicans and conservatives have revealed that they want to end democracy.

Abolishing the electoral college means that politicians will only campaign in (and listen to) urban areas. That is not a representative democracy.

On August 24, Dan Crenshaw wrote: “We live in a republic, which means 51% of the population doesn’t get to boss around the other 49%.”

On August 28, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez wrote: “Well, it’s official: Republicans are now arguing that the US isn’t (& shouldn’t be) a democracy. This is what they believe. From lobbyists writing their bills to sabotaging our civil rights, the GOP works to end democracy.

In reality, we have to grow it.”

Debating the terminology of how we define ourselves is maybe less instructive than the larger focus on what institutions actually have made us free and successful.

There is a strange assumption from some that democracy simply means “good things I like.” Therefore, “more” democracy—however that is defined—is inherently better than less.

This leads to absurdities like slapping “democratic” in front of socialism to reframe socialism as something other than the failed ideology that it is.

Slapping “democratic” in front of socialism doesn’t make the reality of socialism any better than putting “democratic” in front of fascism.

Ultimately, socialism and fascism have been mostly democratic expressions of the popular will, or “general will,” as French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau would put it.

But these political ideologies, taken to their logical extent—with the eventual diminishment of individual rights and checks on power—end in tyranny.

Socialism in Venezuela came about democratically, after all.

This isn't to say that the inclusion of democracy in a political system is inherently bad. After all, a cornerstone of the American system is the idea that the people—not kings or dictators—are sovereign, and that they shall rule.

But for the people to rule effectively, pure democracy must be curtailed.

Democracy can be nimble and responsive to changing circumstances, but also fickle and ruthless—little more than mob rule in its unrestrained form.

Majority rule must be balanced by putting the brakes on majority tyranny. These brakes are apparent all throughout our system.

And this is why the Electoral College—which today is actually fairly democratic—is such an important institution for a vast and diverse country like the United States.

Advocates of abolishing the Electoral College insist that anything other than a measure of the national popular vote is unfair in how we choose presidents. But not a single other office, law, or policy in this country is decided in this way.

Senators represent vastly different numbers of people, based on the state they come from. The House of Representatives is selected on a district-by-district basis. Local politics determine national laws.

The Supreme Court is highly undemocratic, with several layers of distance between any sort of democratic process and appointment of justices by the president and confirmation by the Senate.

The Electoral College's state-based system ensures that political candidates must appeal to a wide variety of Americans.

Yes, some Democrats get frustrated by the fact that racking up vote totals in some of the largest blue states can't secure victory in presidential elections, but that is no reason to change an electoral process that has succeeded for over two centuries.

The Founding Fathers had differing views about what level of democracy was exactly right for our large and growing republic. Most held a deep skepticism, however, about implementing any kind of pure democracy without constraints.

Tyranny, whether in the form of one man or millions, is still tyranny, and is the natural result of putting all power in the hands of one man or many.

John Adams wrote to his friend, John Taylor: “It is in vain to say that democracy is less vain, less proud, less selfish, less ambitious, or less avaricious than aristocracy or monarchy.”

Adams continued: "Those passions are the same in all men, under all forms of simple government, and when unchecked, produce the same effects of fraud, violence, and cruelty. When clear prospects are opened before vanity, pride, avarice, or ambition, for their easy gratification, it is hard for the most considerate philosophers and the most conscientious moralists to resist the temptation. Individuals have conquered themselves. Nations and large bodies of men, never."

Adams here provides a keen insight into human nature. Unchecked power has always been the bane of liberty, whether in the hands of "good" people or "bad."

The framers of the Constitution wanted American institutions to be stable and enduring; responsive to changing circumstances, yet immune to the wild mood swings of pure democracy that put societies in a state of perpetual revolution.

It doesn't take long to understand that some of the best parts of our political system—like the First Amendment that protects the freedoms of speech and the press—are deeply anti-democratic.

And these elements of our constitutional republic are rightly celebrated as key components of American success and exceptionalism.

The bottom line is, the U.S. political system is a unique blend of ideas that includes an important, but limited, place for democracy.

Democracy alone doesn't produce freedom or prosperity, and it is certainly not an unqualified good.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Criminologists Mislead Us" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Sept. 4, 2019. Following is the article.

John Paul Wright, professor at University of Cincinnati, and Matthew DeLisi professor at Iowa State University have penned a powerful article titled "What Criminologists Don't Say, and Why," in City Journal.

There is significant bias among criminologists. The reason for that bias is that political leanings of academic criminologists are liberal. Liberal criminologists outnumber their conservative counterparts by a ratio of 30-to-1. Ideology almost perfectly predicts the position of criminologists on issues from gun control to capital punishment to harsh sentencing. Liberal criminologists march in step for gun control, oppose punitive prison sentences, and are vehemently against the death penalty.

In 2012, the National Academy of Sciences commissioned a study on the growth of incarceration.

It showed that from 1928 until 1960, crime rates rose slowly each year. After the 1960s, crime rates exploded to unprecedented levels of violence until the

1990s. Prior to 1980, only 40% of individuals arrested for murder were sentenced to prison and those that were served an average of five years.

In 1981, less than 10% of those arrested for sexual assault were sentenced to prison. Those who were sentenced served an average of 3.4 years. Liberal criminologists probably believe that light sentencing for murderers and rapists is just.

If criminologists have the guts to even talk about a race-crime connection, it's behind closed doors and in guarded language. Any discussion about race and crime sets one up for accusations of racism and that can mean the destruction of one's professional career.

Wright and DeLisi say that liberal criminologists avoid discussing even explicit racist examples of black-on-white crime such as flash-mob assaults, "polar bear hunting" and the "knockout game." These are cases where black youth seek out white people to physically attack.

According to Wright and DeLisi: "Disproportionate black involvement in violent crime represents the elephant in the room amid the current controversy over policing in the United States. Homicide numbers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-2005 indicate that young African-American males account for homicide victims at levels that are ten to 20 times greater than their proportion of the population and account for homicide offenders at levels that are 15 to 35 times greater than their proportion of the population. The black-white gap in armed-robbery offending has historically ranged between ten to one and 15 to one. For all racial groups, violent crime is strongly intraracial, and the intraracial dynamic is most pronounced among blacks."

That means the primary victims of black crime are other black people. In more than 90% of homicides, for example, both the victim and the perpetrator are black.

Between 1991 and 2017, the nationwide violent crime rate fell from 758 cases to 382 cases per 100,000 people. Despite the evidence that higher incarceration reduces crime rates, many criminologists argue that "mass incarceration" has actually "took minority men out of their neighborhoods, stripped them of voting rights, destabilized families, and sapped already-paltry economic resources from struggling communities."

Wright and DeLisi say that "Such claims could seem plausible only if one believes—contrary to evidence and common sense—that career criminals contribute positively to their neighborhoods, enjoy stable and functional families, vote, and work. What they did, in reality, was to prey on their neighbors."

Crime is a major problem for the black community. But in addition to incarcerating those who prey on the black community, what can be done?

The answer is easy, though implementation poses a challenge. We should re-adopt the values and practices of our ancestors. Black families of yesteryear were mainly two-parent and stable, even during slavery.

Black people didn't tolerate property destruction. There were few school fights. Disrespect and assaults on teachers were virtually unknown. These are now all too common.

The strong character of black people is responsible for the great progress made from emancipation to today. Find a 70-, 80- or 90-year-old black person and ask him whether today's conduct among black youth would have been tolerated yesteryear. I guarantee you that no will be their answer.



An article by Rich Lowry titled "Five Things They Don't Tell You About Slavery" was posted at nationalreview.com on Sept. 4, 2019. Following is the article.

The same people most obsessed with slavery seem to have little interest in the full scope of its history.

There has been an effort for decades now—although with new momentum lately, as exemplified by the New York Times' 1619 project—to identify the United States and its founding with slavery.

To the extent that this campaign excavates uncomfortable truths about our history and underlines the central role of African Americans in our nation, it is welcome. But it is often intended to undermine the legitimacy of America itself by effacing what makes it distinctive and good.

Yes, slavery and racial prejudice were our great original sins. It would have been better if we had, like the British, been leaders against the slave trade and for abolition (the representation of slaveholders in Congress and the rise of King Cotton forestalled this). But we didn't invent slavery, even in its race-based form.

Slavery didn't make us unique, which is obvious if we consider its history in a little broader context. Critics of the American Founding don't like to do this because it weakens their case and quickly brings them up against politically inconvenient facts that they'd prefer to pass over in silence.

Let's dwell, then, on a few things they don't tell us about slavery. None of these are secrets or are hard to find, but they are usually left out or minimized, since they don't involve self-criticism and, worse, they entail a critical look at societies or cultures that the Left tends to favor vis-à-vis the West.

None of what follows is meant to excuse the practice of slavery in the United States, or its longevity. Nor is it to deny that the Atlantic slave trade was one of history's great enormities, subjecting millions to mistreatment so horrifying that it is hard to fathom. But if we are to understand the history of slavery, it's important to know what happened before 1619 and what happened elsewhere besides America.

1. Through much of human history, slavery was ubiquitous and unquestioned

Slavery wasn't the exception in human history; it was the norm. The "perennial institution," as historian Seymour Drescher calls it, was an accepted feature of the ancient world, from ancient Egypt to Greece to Rome, and of traditional societies.

The Greeks, according to the compelling David Brion Davis book *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*, "came to see slave labor as absolutely central to their entire economy and way of life" and deployed it in a wide range of occupations. Roman slavery wasn't race-based but was brutal all the same (see the fate of slave gladiators, among many other atrocities).

In the post-Roman world, the Byzantines, the Vikings, and Central Asian societies all embraced slavery in various forms.

Again, this wasn't remarkable. Consider, for instance, Ethiopia. Stewart Gordon writes in his book *Shackles of Iron: Slavery Beyond the Atlantic* that its first legal code, dating from the mid-13th century, "recognized slaves as central to the economy and defined the acquisition and holding of slaves as the natural order of things." In the 16th century, Ethiopia "was a full slave society," even taking tribute from some provinces in the form of slaves.

Slavery knew no bounds of color or creed. During one period, from 1500 to 1700, there were more white European slaves held captive on the Barbary Coast than slaves sent from West Africa to the Atlantic world, according to Gordon.

All this history wasn't incidental to what eventually arose in the Atlantic world. Davis notes, "There was a genuine continuity of slave-trading and slave-holding from Ancient Greece to Rome and from the late Roman Empire to the Byzantine and Arab worlds, from the medieval shipment of slaves from the Balkans, the Black Sea and Caucasia to Muslim and Christian Mediterranean markets, and from there to the beginnings in the fifteenth century of an African slave trade to Portugal and Spain, and then to the Atlantic Islands and New World."

And slavery was widespread throughout the New World. "An imaginary 'hemispheric traveler,'" Davis writes, "would have seen black slaves in every colony from Canada and New England all the way south to Spanish Peru and Chile."

2. The East African slave trade lasted into the 20th century

The United States ended slavery too late (again, Britain is a better model). But let's not forget how long the slave trade, ended in 1808 in the United States, lasted elsewhere.

Gordon discusses the East African slave trade, also called the Arab slave trade: "Throughout the vast Indian Ocean region," he writes, "slave trade and ownership were considered completely moral and legal, regardless of the religion of the slaver or the buyer."

More than a million slaves were taken from East Africa in the 1800s. Despite British attempts at suppressing it, this trade continued into the 20th century.

According to Gordon, "Perhaps the last large-scale movement of East African slaves to the Middle East was in the 1920s."

Relatedly, the Muslim world was a vast empire of slavery and enslaved countless black Africans.

3. Islam was a great conveyor belt of slavery

"Long before the establishment of African slavery in the Americas," James Walvin writes in his *A Short History of Slavery*, "Islamic societies were characterized by the widespread and generally unchallenged use of slavery. Indeed slavery was commonplace throughout Arabia well before the rise of Islam. But as Islam spread between the eighth and 15th centuries, and especially to black Africa, it extended and confirmed the commonplace use of slavery and slave trading."

According to Walvin, Muslim slavers transported enslaved Africans across vast distances—via overland routes—"long before the European pioneers in the Americas began to consider the use of African slaves as laborers in the American settlements." The routes across the Sahara, he adds, "survived from the seventh to the twentieth century, and millions of Africans were force-marched along them from their homelands to the slave markets to the north."

This story is relevant to the nature of slavery in the Atlantic world. At first, slavery in the Muslim world wasn't race-based, but that changed. Davis writes: "The Arabs and other Muslim converts were the first people to make use of literally millions of blacks from sub-Saharan Africa and to begin associating black Africans with the lowliest forms of bondage."

It may well be, he continues, that "racial stereotypes were transmitted, along with black slavery itself—to say nothing of the algebra and knowledge of the ancient Greek classics—as Christians treated and fought with Muslims for the first Islamic challenges to the Byzantine Empire, in the seventh and eighth centuries, through the era of the crusades."

Certainly, while slavery was in eclipse in the rest of Europe, it had a new vitality on the Muslim-occupied Iberian peninsula, with Muslims and Christians both engaged in the practice.

"By the fifteenth century," historian James Sweet notes, "many Iberian Christians had internalized the racist attitudes of the Muslims and were applying them to the increasing flow of African slaves to their part of the world." He adds, "Iberian racism was a necessary precondition for the system of human bondage that would develop in the Americas during the sixteenth century and beyond."

One would think that there would be more attention paid to the Muslim world's contribution to race-based slavery, but since it doesn't offer any opportunity for Western self-reproach, it's mostly ignored.

4. The Atlantic slave trade would have been impossible without African cooperation

Slavery wasn't a European imposition on West Africa. It was already a common practice before the European slavers showed up to subject African captives to the hideous Atlantic passage and bondage in the New World.

According to John Thornton, "slavery was widespread in Atlantic Africa because slaves were the only form of private, revenue-producing property recognized in African law."

Europeans didn't capture millions of slaves on their own. The slavers were confined to the coasts. They weren't capable of enslaving masses of Africans, and even when they attempted it, they risked disrupting the entire system (and retribution from the Africans).

In the interior, slaves were captured in battles and raids and marched to the coast in unspeakable conditions. They were then sold to the Europeans for liquor, textiles, tobacco, and other goods.

Davis notes "the rise of predatory states, such as Futa Jallon, Dahomey, Asante, Kasanje, and the Lunda Empire, which found it financially profitable to wage war on neighbors and sell prisoners to the Portuguese, Dutch, English, French, Danes, or Americans."

The system of West African enslavement kept running even when the Europeans stopped coming, "flooding various regions with nonexportable slaves," as Davis puts it. The slave population in West Africa would come to exceed that of the New World.

5. Brazil took the lion's share of slaves from the Atlantic slave trade

Any historical accounting of the Atlantic slave trade has to judge Brazil harshly.

Ninety-five percent of the slaves transported across the Atlantic went to places south of the present-day United States, with Brazil alone taking about 40 percent.

Black slaves were already about 10 percent of Lisbon's population in 1550, and Brazil had about 1 million slaves by 1790.

Even though a relatively small 5 percent of African slaves went to colonial America, the population in the colonies and the United States grew until there were four million slaves by the time of the Civil War. Brazil never had this natural increase because the life expectancy of the slaves there was so low. Life on Brazil's sugar plantations was brutal and regimented.

"Beginning in the 1960s," Davis writes, "historians have demolished the myths that Brazilian slavery was benign or humane and that Brazil was relatively free from racism." The record shows, he writes, "extreme forms of racial prejudice coupled with the view that slaves were mere instruments of production."

Even when the Atlantic slave trade was mostly illegal and on the way out, the beat went on. Brazil and Cuba received most of the more than 2 million slaves transported between 1820 and 1880, according to Davis.

Concluding comments

To repeat, none of this justifies American cruelty and hypocrisy across the centuries. It does suggest, however, that an appropriate perspective should take full account of all that sets us apart, which emphatically wasn't chattel slavery.

None of the other societies tainted by slavery produced the Declaration of Independence, a Washington, Jefferson, and Hamilton, the U.S. Constitution, or a tradition of liberty that inspired people around the world for centuries.

If we don't keep that in mind, as well as the broader context of slavery, we aren't giving this country—or history—its due.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Icons With Feet of Clay" was posted at patriotpost.us on Aug. 31, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

I know there are people who can't understand how it is that some folks make heroes out of athletes and entertainers. But the fact remains that especially during World War II, a great many actors, singers and professional sports figures defended this country at great personal risk.

There were some that got by putting on exhibitions at military bases or touring with USO troupes, but even they weren't always far from enemy fire. But others, like Jimmy Stewart and my friend George Kennedy, were in the thick of it, Stewart flying bombing missions over Germany, Kennedy freezing his [backside] off at the Battle of the Bulge.

■ FBI raid

After I recently called for a basement-to-attic housecleaning at the FBI, I received a first person account of an FBI raid from a subscriber who lives in the small rural town of Hayfork, California, close to the Oregon border.

"The FBI hit my town a couple of weeks ago. The local newspaper tried to find out more about the raid from the FBI field office in Sacramento, but they refused to comment.

"They swooped down on a residential area with Blackhawk helicopters at 5:30 a.m., terrorizing dogs and children, rattling the house trailers that most of us live in.

"Then they broke into an Asian food market in town, tossing a flash-bang grenade inside and damaging the store. The store was closed at the time. It was later determined that the target of the attack (and warrant) was for the business next door to the market, which had been closed for months.

"Apparently, they were targeting some illegal marijuana growers, but since growing and selling marijuana is now legal in California (and 85% of everybody in Hayfork is growing it in one form or another), the worst that can be cited is a misdemeanor tantamount to having chickens in a residential area or fishing without a license."

I replied that these are the same clowns who staged a dawn raid on 73-year-old Roger Stone's home, all because he supported Donald Trump.

This certainly isn't the FBI we've seen depicted for decades on TV and in the movies. These are a bunch of heavily-armed goons who get their rocks off terrorizing women, kids, dogs and old men, while wiping their dirty jackboots on the Constitution.

Worst of all, under Trump's handpicked director, Christopher Wray, they're no better than they were under Eric Holder, Loretta Lynch and Barack Obama.

■ Bunch of rejoinders

My friend Art Hershey, feeling I might need help dealing with the occasional critic, sent me a bunch of rejoinders. I generally tend to rely on my own instincts, but I am happy to share with those of you who might have a more difficult time than I do when it comes to avoiding Liberals.

"I don't know what your problem is, but I bet it's hard to pronounce."

"I'll try being nicer if you try being smarter."

"Too many freaks, not enough circuses."

"Errors have been made. Others will be blamed."

"You are validating my inherent distrust of strangers."

"I will always cherish the initial misconceptions I had about you."

"The fact that nobody understands you doesn't mean you're an artist."

"What am I? Flypaper for freaks?"

"This isn't an office. It's Hell with fluorescent lighting."

"If I throw a stick, will you leave?"



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Forecasting the 2020 Election" was posted at patriotpost.us on Sept. 2, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Nobody has to tell me that it's way too soon to predict the outcome of the next presidential election. Heck, in 2016, I was still guessing wrong until around 10 p.m. on Election Night here on the west coast. It was just about then that my depression slowly began to turn into wonder, culminating a few hours later in elation for a great many of us and a Niagara of tears over at CNN and MSNBC.

But since the election is on everybody's mind and the overture to the big show has begun in the cornfields of Iowa, I might as well dip my toe in the water, hold my finger up to test the wind, climb out on a limb and risk making a fool of myself pretending to be a political pundit, just the way all the professional pollsters and political pundits did three years ago.

■ Not a Trump cakewalk

One thing I do know is that anyone who predicts that Trump will win in a cakewalk is wrong. For one thing, there are too many heavily-populated states that automatically vote for the Democrat and would even vote for Bill De Blasio were he to garner the nomination.

For another, Republican states (misnamed red states) are often said to trend left (purple), but the reverse process hardly ever takes place. I ascribe this to the dumbing down of America, but it's also the result of people leaving a place like California because of its taxes and politics, but taking along the politics to places like Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado.

On the east coast, similar migrations take place because aging people leave the cold climes of New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire, for the warmer climates of North and South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Alabama. What has happened to once reliably conservative Virginia can be explained by the expansion of the federal government. All those [darn] bureaucrats have to live somewhere and nobody who can afford to live elsewhere would ever choose to live in Washington, D.C.

■ Tax cuts and deregulations

The silver lining is that, thanks to Trump's tax cuts and deregulations, not only has unemployment sunk to historical lows, but the average wage in America has risen by nearly \$2-an-hour. That translates to \$4,000-a-year.

That might amount to "crumbs" for a multi-millionaire like Nancy Pelosi, but for most people it means a new dishwasher, a new refrigerator, freezer, washer-dryer and flat-screen TV. Or, for the more spiritually-inclined, an extra \$400 tithing in the collection plate.

■ Defense of Israel and religious rights

Another hopeful sign is that, thanks to President Trump's close ties to Israel and his wholehearted defense of religious rights in America, he will not only hang on to the 81% of the vote he received from evangelicals in 2016 but will increase it after his Protect the Life Rule deprives Planned Parenthood of \$60 million of public funding. Agreed, it would be better if the nation's biggest butcher shop was cut loose from the \$500 million they receive every year, but only Congress can do that. And with the House under the control of Pelosi and the Democrats, there is little chance of that happening any time soon.

Trump berated Jews for betraying Israel by electing Democrats who then support anti-Semites like Ilhan Omar, A O-C and Rashida Tlaib, and promote the Jew-hating Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement created by Muslims and Arabs in their endless attempt to destroy the Jewish homeland.

■ False accusation

The disgusting irony is that the Democrats then turn around and accuse Trump of being an anti-Semite in spite of the fact that his son-in-law/advisor

Jared Kushner is an orthodox Jew; his daughter Ivanka is a Jewish convert; and their three children, Trump's beloved grandchildren, are all Jewish.

■ Luxury beliefs

Writing in the New York Post, columnist Rob Henderson, alerted me to the fact that there is now a new status symbol.

After interviewing a number of upper class residents of Larchmont, New York, Henderson discovered that possessing luxury items is no longer enough to confer status.

Today, big homes, expensive cars and Rolex watches, are nice, but that merely indicates a person has money. But in places like Beverly Hills, Pacific Heights, Grosse Point, Highland Park, Piney Point Village, Scarsdale, Key Biscayne, Riverfront and Palm Beach, in order to establish your place in high society, what Henderson refers to as "luxury beliefs" are required.

It is now essential in many circles to accept that white privilege is a real thing; that, furthermore, you have to accept that there are 400 genders; that transgenderism is a normal condition; that systemic racism is widespread; that protected borders equate to concentration camps; that it's the federal government, and not the criminal actions of illegal aliens, that cause children to be separated from their parents at the border; that were it not for guns, people would stop killing one another; that women have the inalienable right to abort their offspring up to the point of delivery and, if need be, beyond; that traditional marriage and two-parent families are acceptable, but in no way superior to all the other options; and that Adolph Hitler has been reincarnated as Donald Trump.

■ More orphanages

After I called for the construction of more prisons and mental institutions, Vera Holroyd suggested I add orphanages to my wish list.

She mentioned that she had a friend who was raised in a good one and that he not only cherished the one in which he was raised, but it left him with a strong desire to have his own loving family. Which, happily, he had.

It reminded me that the only person I ever knew who spent his childhood in an orphanage convinced me that although Charles Dickens may have described the orphanages he knew accurately in "Oliver Twist," they had nothing in common with the one that had provided him with a home.

He said that the adult supervisors, without exception, were kind and caring. Plus there were always lots of children to play with.

■ Not all foster homes are good

Mrs. Holroyd has the same distrust of foster homes that I do. If you really want to raise a child as your own, you adopt it. If you're only doing it because some government entity is paying you, commonsense alone would dictate that a well-

run orphanage is preferable. Not only is there less chance of the children being abused but having a hundred or so under one roof makes more sense financially.

■ Mike Lee and Google

Back in 2011, Sen. Mike Lee of Utah was an outspoken critic of Google, but in 2019 he opposes anti-trust legislation targeting the tech giant. And it's certainly not because Google has mended its ways. If anything, we know that they have only increased its monopolistic tendencies, its aversion to Trump and his supporters, and its illegal surveillance of Americans.

Sen. Lee even pooh-poohs the charge that Google and the other tech companies censor Conservative groups and individuals.

Is it possible that this change of heart was sincere or could it possibly be that Lee's position was brought about by Google's having sponsored a major fund raiser before his last election?

In any case, one would have to be a head-in-the-sand ostrich not to smell a rat when, just a month after his pitiful performance at the hearing, Google announced it was building a \$750 million data center in Mike Lee's home state.

■ Russia, racism and recession

It used to be that the three R's referred to readin', ritin' and 'rithmetic.

These days, the term refers to the various phony issues on which the Democrats have chosen to attack President Trump: Russia, racism and recession.

■ Ground rules for the elderly

According to zany Pete Wick, on the first day at the new seniors retirement complex, the manager laid down the ground rules for the elderly residents.

"The female sleeping quarters will be out of bounds for all males, and the male dormitory will likewise be closed to females. Anybody caught breaking the rule will be fined \$50.

"Anybody caught breaking it a second time will be fined \$100. A third offense will raise the fine to \$300. Are there any questions?"

At this point, a dapper elderly gent raised his hand and asked: "How much for a season pass?"



"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 "Kmart, Sears Closing Additional Stores by the End of the Year" was posted at usatoday.com on Aug. 31, 2019.
- An article by Jeffrey Bartash titled "Service-Oriented Firms Grow Faster in August, Cushion U.S. Economy From China Trade War" was posted at marketwatch.com on Sept. 5, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Lucia Mutikani titled "U.S. Services Sector Suggests Economy Weathering Trade Storm" was posted at reuters.com on Sept. 5, 2019.
- An article by Matthew J. Belvedere titled "[CNBC's Jim] Cramer: US Economic Strength Empowers Trump to Continue to Play Hardball on China Trade" was posted at cnbc.com on Sept. 5, 2019.

Trade war

- An article by Douglas Gillison titled "Trump Hardens Tone on China As Trade War Rattles Economy" was posted at afp.com on Sept. 3, 2019.
- An article titled "Rising US Exports to Shrink Trade Deficit; China Imports Fall" was posted at afp.com on Sept. 4, 2019.
- An article by Jonathan Garber titled "Trade War Causing Companies to Flee China" was posted at foxbusiness.com on Sept. 5, 2019.
- An article by Evelyn Cheng titled "China and US Agree to Meet in October for Trade Negotiations" was posted at cnbc.com on Sept. 5, 2019.

Green New Deal

- An article by Chrissy Clark titled "AOC's Instagram Rant Confirms Her Cluelessness About Climate Change" was posted at thefederalist.com on Aug. 28, 2019.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Ocasio-Cortez Unveils 'Green New Deal Art Series'; 'Updating' FDR's 5,300-Artist 'Federal One' Project [FDR Employed 5,300 Artists to 'Envision' His Plans for the Country]" was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article by Timothy Meads titled "CNN's Climate Change Town Hall Production Will Create Roughly 57.4 Tons [8.2 Tons Per 7 Hours] of Carbon Dioxide Emissions" was posted at townhall.com on Sept. 4, 2019.
- An article by cnsnews.com staff titled "Bernie Sanders: 'When We Pass the Green New Deal and Medicare for All, We Will Save the Planet'" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 4, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Monique Madan titled "Immigration Officials Deport 120 Cubans to Havana—And That's Just the Beginning" was posted at wlrn.org (south Florida) on Sept. 5, 2019.

■ An article titled "Trump Pulls School Funding for Wall" was posted at huffpost.com on Sept. 5, 2019.

Comments about weapons

■ An article titled "7 Dead, 22 Injured in Odessa, Midland Texas Shooting [on Aug. 31]" was posted at usatoday.com on Sept. 1, 2019.

■ An article by Beth Baumann titled "At Least 10 Injured During Shooting at High School Football Game in Alabama" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 31, 2019.

■ An article by Kate Gibson titled "Walmart Halts Some Ammo Sales and Asks Customers Not to Openly Carry Guns" was posted at cbsnews.com on Sept. 3, 2019.

■ An article by Lauren Thomas titled "Kroger [Grocery Chain] Joins Walmart in Asking Shoppers Not to Openly Carry Guns in Stores" was posted at cnbc.com on Sept. 3, 2019.

■ An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Did Walmart's CEO [Doug McMillon] Forget About These Armed Heroes Who Stopped Massacres at His Stores?" was posted at townhall.com on Sept. 3, 2019.

■ An article by Lee Moran titled "Washington Post Editorial Sends Heart-breaking Message to McConnell on Gun Control [Listing the Names of Mass-Shooting Victims]" was posted at huffpost.com on Sept. 4, 2019.

■ An article by Susan Jones titled "D'Souza: Gun Confiscators Are 'Coming Out of the Closet' in 'All-Out Assault' on 2nd Amendment" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 4, 2019.

■ An article by Susan Jones titled "San Francisco Declares NRA a 'Domestic Terrorist Organization' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 4, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Hanna Trudo titled "Dems Sound Alarm: Trump Is 'Carpet-Bombing' Us in Key Battlegrounds" was posted at thedailybeast.com on Aug. 28, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article titled "Three 2020 Democrats [Sen. Kristen Gillibrand, Gov. Jay Inslee and Rep. Seth Moulton] Quit the Presidential Race in One Week, and Elizabeth Warren Stands to Gain the Most From Their Exits" was posted at businessinsider.com on Aug. 30, 2019.

■ An article by Chuck Todd, Mark Murray and Carrie Dann titled "Elizabeth Warren Won the Summer, But Still Has a Big Challenge in Front of Her" was posted at nbcnews.com on Sept. 5, 2019.

■ An article by Michael R. Strain titled "The Holes in Warren's Wealth Tax Can't Be Plugged" was posted at bloomberg.com on Sept. 5, 2019.

■ An article by Susan Jones titled "Biden: 'We Can Take Millions of Vehicles Off the Road' [With High-Speed Rail]" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 5, 2019.

- An article by James Downie titled "Biden Bumbles While Sanders and Warren Score in CNN's Climate Town Hall" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on Sept. 5, 2019.
- An article by [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) staff titled "Bernie Sanders: 'Greenland Lost 250 Billion Tons of Ice'; 'A City in India Is Running Out of Water' " was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article by Tal Axelrod titled "Sanders Previews Plan to Cancel All Past-Due Medical Debt" was posted at [thehill.com](https://www.thehill.com) on Aug. 31, 2019.
- An article by Hannah Bleau titled "Bernie Sanders Floats Global Population Control at CNN Climate Town Hall" was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Sept. 4, 2019.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Bernie Sanders Endorses Population-Climate Change Link; Touts Funding for Foreign Abortions" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Sept. 5, 2019.
- An article by Adam Beam titled "California City [Stockton] Tests Buzzy Campaign Idea for Income [Receiving \$500 a Month From a Nonprofit]" was posted at [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) on Sept. 3, 2019.
- An article by Janet Adamy titled "For Those Who Don't Identify As Male or Female, Growing Acceptance—and Accommodation" was posted at [wsj.com](https://www.wsj.com) on Sept. 1, 2019.
- An article by John G. Malcolm titled "Ex-FBI Director James Comey Receives Scathing Rebuke From Justice Department IG" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Democrat and Republican Legal Experts Destroy James Comey for Demanding an Apology" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article by John Wagner titled "Rep. Bill Flores Becomes 15th House Republican [Five From Texas] to Announce Plans to Exit Chamber" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on Sept. 4, 2019.

Kamala Harris

- An article by Sam Dorman titled "Top Trump Aide Reportedly Most Scared of Kamala Harris: She's 'The Least Flawed' of 2020 Dems" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article by [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) staff titled "Kamala Harris: 'Trump Is Poisoning Out Planet' " was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Harris Would Change Dietary Guidelines, Food Labels to Discourage Red Meat Consumption [Since 'Climate Change Has Been Linked to Agriculture and the Over-Consumption of Red Meat']" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Sept. 5, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke

- An article by Marina Pitofsky titled "O'Rourke Calls Out Lawmakers After Odessa Shooting: 'This Is F***ed Up' " was posted at thehill.com on Aug. 31, 2019.
- An article by Chris Riotta titled "Beto O'Rourke Says AK-47 and AR-15 Owners Will 'Have to Sell Them to the Government' If He Becomes President" was posted at independent.co.uk on Sept. 1, 2019.
- An article by cnsnews.com staff titled "Beto O'Rourke: 'Climate Change Is the Greatest Threat We Face, and We Have One Last Chance to Meet This Moment Before It's Too Late' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 4, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Timothy Meads titled "Lawrence O'Donnell [of MSNBC] Admits 'Error in Judgment' for Conspiracy About Trump and Russia" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 28, 2019.
- An article by Guy Benson titled "Self Interest: Targeted Themselves, Journalists Finally Decide Outrage [About] Mob Tactics [That] Are Dangerous and Bad" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 29, 2019.
- An article by Savannah Behrmann titled "Fox News Anchor [Neil Cavuto] Rips Into Trump: 'We Don't Work for You' " was posted at usatoday.com on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "MSNBC's Chris Hayes Conflates History When Explaining Why the Electoral College Should Be Unconstitutional" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 31, 2019.
- An article by Miranda Devine titled "In Praise of Melanie Trump, the First Lady Treated Terribly by the Media" was posted at nypost.com on Sept. 1, 2019.

General interest

- An article titled "5,000 Families to See Medical Debt Paid Through Green Acres Baptist [Church in Tyler, Texas] Donations" was posted at tylerpaper.com on Sept. 3, 2019.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Chick-Fil-A Employees [in Odessa, Texas] Prepared 500 Sandwiches for Texas Law Officers Responding to Shooting Spree" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 4, 2019.
- An article by Steve Large titled "Caught on Camera: At Least 100 Involved in After-School Melee" was posted at cbsacramento.com on Aug. 29, 2019.
- An article by Arwa Mahdawi titled "Men Now Avoid Women at Work; Another Sign We're Being Punished [As a Consequence] for #MeToo" was posted at theguardian.com on Aug. 29, 2019.
- An article by Alex Tanzi titled "More People Are Leaving NYC Daily [277 People Moving Every Day] Than Any Other U.S. City" was posted at bloomberg.com on Aug. 29, 2019.

- An article titled “U.S. Discards Thousands [3,500] of Donated Kidneys Each Year [U.S. Discarding About 17.9% of Kidneys It Recovered, While France Discarded About 9.1% It Recovered] As Patients Die on Wait List, Study Says” was posted at usatoday.com on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article titled “Investigators Seize Enough Fentanyl [in Virginia] to Kill 14 Million People in Massive Drug Bust [Busting a Massive Three-State Drug Ring With Fentanyl Coming From Shanghai]” was posted at cbsnews.com on Aug. 30, 2019.
- An article by Jacob Passy titled “The No. 1 Most Expensive State to Buy a Home In—It’s Not New York or California [Rather Massachusetts]” was posted at marketwatch.com on Aug. 31, 2019.
- An article titled “Magnitude 5.0 Earthquake Hits [Southern] Alaska, Felt in Capital City” was posted at apnews.com on Sept. 1, 2019.
- An article titled “Steamboat Geyser [at Yellowstone National Park] Continues to Break Historical Yearly Eruption Record [Erupting 34 Times As of Tuesday, Breaking Last Year’s Record of 32 Eruptions]” was posted at local-news8.com (Yellowstone National Park) on Sept. 3, 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.”