

Eye on the World

Oct. 12 & 19, 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 churchofgodbigsandy.com for the weekends of Oct. 12 and Oct. 19, 2019.

Compiled by Dave Hahir

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 Michael Peck titled "China and America Agree: The U.S. Navy Is Too Small" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Oct. 1, 2019. Following is the article.

Good news for American critics who warn that the U.S. Navy is overstretched. China agrees with you.

Fang Xiaozhi, a researcher at the BRI Institute of Strategy and International Security, at Fudan University in Shanghai, says that the U.S. Navy has too few ships to meet its worldwide commitments. And more important, it doesn't have enough vessels to defeat China in the Western Pacific.

"Although it possesses the world's largest naval force, it has to carry out onerous combat and war preparedness missions on the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and in the Middle East as its interests are spreading all over the world, and the missions are of complicated and diverse types for that matter," Fang wrote in China Military Online, an official site of the Chinese armed forces.

"For instance, the U.S. 7th Fleet had constant collisions in the past two years due to excessive missions, which exhausted the front-line officers and soldiers and resulted in poor management. Besides, many American vessels have various malfunctions and a high failure rate because of consistent overwork."

Fang is echoing American experts who have warned for years that the U.S. Navy is badly overworked and underprepared. Ships are deployed at sea

when they should be undergoing maintenance in port, and crews are inadequately trained and overtired, especially in the Pacific fleet.

These problems were painfully—and publicly—revealed in 2017, when Navy destroyers collided with merchant ships on two occasions.

In particular, the August 2017 collision of the destroyer USS John S. McCain with a tanker off Singapore, which killed seven Navy sailors, raises questions about the competence in basic seamanship of sailors and their commanders. Investigators found staggering deficiencies in the McCain's training, morale, leadership and shiphandling skills.

The root of the problem is the Navy is trying to accomplish its Cold War mission of maintaining global presence, but with a far smaller fleet.

- In 1988, the Navy's battle force comprised 566 ships.
- Today, it has shrunk to 290.
- Even plans to increase naval strength to 326 by 2025, and 355 by the 2050s, would only partially mitigate that shortfall.

Of course, the Chinese military isn't highlighting these problems because of sympathy for the U.S. Navy. The underlying message is that the U.S. is too weak to defeat in a conflict such as a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

Beijing wants the world to know that while U.S. military and economic power is declining, China's is growing with the addition of advanced weapons such as aircraft carriers, stealth fighters and hypersonic missiles. And, that America's democratic, capitalist system is inferior to China's authoritarian model.

"The U.S. Navy will face challenges both internally and externally due to a wide range of factors, such as the implementation of America's national strategy, the tolerance of 'America first' by its allies and partners, the impact on U.S naval construction imposed by domestic reform in terms of public support and capital, and the struggle for resources by different military services," Fang writes. "All these will probably undermine the global superiority of the U.S. navy."

"Moreover, it stubbornly sticks to the hegemony mindset and is used to throwing its weight around on the oceans and expanding its maritime hegemony without restraint, which is sure to court more thorny issues in the future, thus further sharpening the contradiction between maintaining national hegemony and declining national strength."

In other words, America should stay out of China's way.

"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 David Axe titled "Iranian F-5 Pilots Have Their Eyes Trained on America's F-35 Stealth Fighters" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Oct. 4, 2019.

- An article by Mark Osborne and Katherine Faulders titled “Turkey Begins Mobilizing Against Syria; US Begins Removing Forces From Area” was posted at abcnews.com on Oct. 7, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Mert Ozkan titled “Turkey Opens Ground Assault on Syria’s Kurds; U.S. Republicans Turn on Trump” was posted at reuters.com on Oct. 8, 2019.
- An article by Jared Malsin and Amira El-Fekki titled “Egypt Curbs Online Dissent With Street Searches: ‘He Asked to See My Phone’ ” was posted at wsj.com on Oct. 7, 2019.
- An article by Frances Martel titled “Concentration Camp Survivors: China Using Forced Sterilization, Abortion for Genocide” was posted at breitbart.com on Oct. 7, 2019.
- An article by Peter Hasson titled “Elite American Institutions Keep Bowing to Communist China—Over and Over Again” was posted at dailycaller.com on Oct. 7, 2019.
- An article by Maria Verza titled “Mexico City Cabbies Block Traffic to Protest Rideshare Apps” was posted at apnews.com on Oct. 7, 2019.

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An article by Ron Paul titled “Impeachment or CIA Coup?” was posted at ron-paulinstitute.org on Sept. 30, 2019. Following is the article.

You don’t need to be a supporter of President Trump to be concerned about the efforts to remove him from office.

Last week House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced impeachment proceedings against the President over a phone call made to the President of Ukraine.

According to the White House record of the call, the President asked his Ukrainian counterpart to look into whether there is any evidence of Ukrainian meddling in the 2016 election and then mentioned that a lot of people were talking about how former US Vice President Joe Biden stopped the prosecution of his son who was under investigation for corruption in Ukraine.

Democrats, who spent more than two years convinced that “Russiagate” would enable them to remove Trump from office only to have their hopes dashed by the Mueller Report, now believe they have their smoking gun in this phone call.

Is this about politics? Yes. But there may be more to it than that.

It may appear that the Democratic Party, furious over Hillary Clinton’s 2016 loss, is the driving force behind this ongoing attempt to remove Donald Trump from office, but at every turn we see the fingerprints of the CIA and its allies in the US deep state.

In August 2016, a former acting director of the CIA, Mike Morell, wrote an extraordinary article in the New York Times accusing Donald Trump of being an “agent of the Russian Federation.”

Morell was clearly using his intelligence career as a way of bolstering his claim that Trump was a Russian spy—after all, the CIA should know such a thing! But the claim was a lie.

Former CIA director John Brennan accused President Trump of “treason” and of “being in the pocket of Putin” for meeting with the Russian president in Helsinki and accepting his word that Russia did not meddle in the US election.

To this day there has yet to be any evidence presented that the Russian government did interfere. Brennan openly called on “patriotic” Republicans to act against this “traitor.”

Brennan and his deep state counterparts James Comey at the FBI and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper launched an operation, using what we now know is the fake Steele dossier, to spy on the Trump presidential campaign and even attempt to entrap Trump campaign employees.

Notice a pattern here?

Now we hear that the latest trigger for impeachment is a CIA officer assigned to the White House who filed a “whistleblower” complaint against the president over something he heard from someone else that the president said in the Ukraine phone call.

Shockingly, according to multiple press reports the rules for CIA whistleblowing were recently changed, dropping the requirement that the whistleblower have direct, first-hand knowledge of the wrongdoing. Just before this complaint was filed, the rule-change allowed hearsay or second-hand information to be accepted. That seems strange.

As it turns out, the CIA “whistleblower” lurking around the White House got the important things wrong, as there was no quid pro quo discussed and there was no actual request to investigate Biden or his son.

The Democrats have suddenly come out in praise of whistleblowers—well not exactly. Pelosi still wants to prosecute actual whistleblower Ed Snowden. But she’s singing the praises of this fake CIA “whistleblower.”

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer once warned Trump that if “you take on the intelligence community, they have six ways from Sunday at getting back at you.” It’s hard not to ask whether this is a genuine impeachment effort . . . or a CIA coup!



An article by Walter Williams titled “Who Cares For You?” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Oct. 2, 2019. Following is the article.

During my student days at a UCLA economics department faculty/graduate student coffee hour in the 1960s, I was chatting with Professor Armen Alchian, probably the greatest microeconomic theory economist of the 20th century.

I was trying to impress Alchian with my knowledge of statistical type I and type II errors. I explained that unlike my wife, who assumed that everyone

was her friend until they prove differently, my assumption was everyone was an enemy until they proved otherwise.

The result: My wife's vision maximized the number of her friends but maximized her chances of betrayal. My vision minimized my chances of betrayal at a cost of minimizing the number of my friends.

Alchian, donning a mischievous smile asked, "Williams, have you considered a third alternative, namely, that people don't give a damn about you one way or another?"

Initially, I felt a bit insulted, and our conversation didn't go much further, but that was typical of Alchian—saying something profound, perhaps controversial, without much comment and letting you think it out.

Years later, I gave Alchian's third alternative considerable thought and concluded that he was right. The most reliable assumption, in terms of the conduct of one's life, is to assume that people don't care about you one way or another.

It's an error to generalize that people are friends or enemies, or that people are out to either help you or hurt you. To put it more crudely, as Alchian did, people don't give a damn about you one way or another.

Let's apply this argument to issues of race.

Listening to some people, one might think that white people are engaged in an ongoing secret conspiracy to undermine the achievement and well-being of black people. Their evidence is low black academic achievement and high rates of black poverty, unemployment and incarceration.

For some, racism is the root cause of most black problems including the unprecedentedly high black illegitimacy rate and family breakdown.

Are white people obsessed with and engaged in a conspiracy against black people?

■ Here's an experiment. Walk up to the average white person and ask, "How many minutes today have you been thinking about black people?"

If the person isn't a Klansman or a gushing do-gooder liberal, his answer would probably be zero minutes.

■ If you asked him whether he's a part of a conspiracy to undermine the achievement and well-being of black people, he'd probably look at you as if you were crazy.

By the same token, if a person asked me: "Williams, how many minutes today have you been thinking about white people?"

My answer would probably be, "Not even a nanosecond." Because people don't care about you one way or another doesn't mean they wish you good will, ill will or no will. They just don't give a damn.

What are the implications of the people-don't-care vision of how the world works?

A major implication is that one's destiny, for the most part, is in one's hands. How you make it in this world depends more on what you do as opposed to whether people like or dislike you.

Black politicians, civil rights leaders and white liberals have peddled victimhood to black people, teaching them that racism is pervasive and no amount of individual effort can overcome racist barriers.

Peddling victimhood is not new. Booker T. Washington said: "There is a class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs."

In an 1865 speech to the Anti-Slavery Society in Boston, abolitionist Frederick Douglass said that people ask: " 'What shall we do with the Negro?' I have had but one answer from the beginning. Do nothing with us! Your doing with us has already played the mischief with us. Do nothing with us!"

Or as Patrick Moynihan urged a century later in a 1970 memo to President Richard Nixon, "The time may have come when the issue of race could benefit from a period of 'benign neglect.' "



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Slavery: The Gift That Keeps on Giving" was posted at patriotpost.us on Oct. 5, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

If slavery had never existed, the Democrats would have had to invent it. Come to think of it, it did exist and they did invent it. Then, even after it officially ended, there were many in the South who kept it around in the form of Jim Crow laws. But that was a long time ago.

Today, the only remnants of the bad old days to be found are among those blacks who use the past as a cudgel with which to garner bribes of one sort or another from vote-hungry Democrats and guilt-riddled white suckers.

■ Obama and Biden argued against it?

Even though both Barack Obama and Joe Biden argued against reparations for the descendants of African slaves, that hasn't stopped Kamala Harris from calling for them or prevented Elizabeth Warren from seeing Harris's reparations and raising her by insisting they also be paid to American Indians and homosexuals.

■ Is Prelutsky now for it?

To be honest with you, I used to oppose those blatant attempts to buy votes with other people's money, but that was before I saw a way to cash in.

After all, I, too, am one of the oppressed. Not because I'm Jewish, for heaven's sake, but because I'm short and bald. That is far more disadvantageous than being a member of some racial minority. After all, the NBA and the NFL are full of black millionaires, as are the TV, movie and music industries. But do you see any short, bald guys on the basketball courts or the football fields? Do you ever see anyone who looks like me collecting a Grammy? Of course not. That, my friends, can only be explained by bigotry.

This is the bigotry we should all be focusing on because it crosses all lines, be they racial, religious or even gender. While it's true that a short woman may not suffer because of her height, so long as she's not an actual dwarf, but let her be bald and she will surely suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, as have I and Hamlet.

Come to think of it, the only real difference between the Prince of Denmark and me is that his uncle murdered Hamlet's father in order to marry Hamlet's mother and my uncles were all Communists. So, as usual, the short, bald guy had it worse.

■ Afraid of reversing Roe v. Wade

The reason the Left so hates Brett Kavanaugh is because they're concerned that the Supreme Court, thanks to the addition of Brett Kavanaugh, could soon reverse the Court's perverse ruling on Roe v. Wade. That hardly excuses their sadistic campaign to destroy him and his family, but it does explain it.

But now we've all learned that even the alleged victims to Kavanaugh's alleged crimes who admit they have no recollection of the alleged events have been threatened to improve their memory gaps . . . or else!

■ Her lies didn't stop their attempt

As despicable as liberals are, once it was discovered that Christine Blasey Ford, who had claimed to have been so traumatized by young Kavanaugh's actions that she'd never again been able to board a plane, had in fact spent more time airborne in the intervening 35 years than Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes and John Glenn put together, I assumed the lynch mob would realize the game was up, drop the noose and go home.

But liberals are not normal people. Where decent people have hearts, they have an agenda. Where intelligent people have brains, they have the unquenchable desire to control others.

They cannot be reasoned with. I fear that like those zombies in the movies who lurch across the landscape searching for victims, they can only be destroyed.

■ Lewandowski and Nadler

It was a lot of fun watching Corey Lewandowski sparring with a totally flummoxed Jerry Nadler. It really wasn't a fair fight, though. Lewandowski had the advantage in height, weight and wit.

Unfortunately, what the New York pipsqueak had, thanks to addle-headed suburban housewives who gave control of the House to Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats, was subpoena power and the right to cite Lewandowski with Contempt of Congress.

It left me wondering how Lewandowski or any other friend or supporter of President Trump faced with the same charge could plead anything but "Guilty."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "A Bridge Too Far?" was posted at patriot-post.us on Oct. 7, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

It's no secret that the Socialists who, these days, call themselves Democrats, are constantly using their puppets in the media to demonize President Trump and those of us who support him. But I have a hunch that the constant barrage of negative propaganda has finally backfired. And not just on Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who went from being a cocaine addict to being the overpaid pawn of Chinese tyrants and Ukrainian oligarchs.

Just because the Leftist sheep are the ones reading the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* and tuning in the idiots on CNN and MSNBC, people like Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Peter Buttigieg and Kamala Harris, assume the rest of us have swallowed the swill. Therein lies the inherent problem with living and campaigning in an echo chamber.

■ Rude awakening?

I believe they'll be in for a rude awakening on November 5, 2020, when they discover that most Americans don't believe that protecting our borders is a racist plot; that religious rights aren't the exclusive property of Muslims, Satanists and Atheists; that illegal aliens aren't entitled to free health care just because they demand it; that trimester abortions are cold-blooded murder, no matter what the "mother" says about her own body; that it's evil people, not guns, that kill; and that legalizing pot just so politicians can replenish state coffers that they've gutted in order to provide welfare to illegals and lazy ne'er-do-wells is a lousy idea.

All of these sound observations come with a warning. As I wrote to a friend after he let me know his system for predicting presidential elections, which was based on studying the Stock Market reaction to the two opposing campaigns: "I have my own system. I go with my gut. And my gut told me in 2012 that Mitt Romney would defeat Barack Obama and, in 2016, that Mrs. Clinton would defeat Donald Trump. This year, I'm shopping for a new gut."

■ Vain and aspiring people

Samuel Adams, who has been dead for 216 years, has sent us a timely message from the grave: "If the time should ever come, when vain and aspiring men should possess the highest seats in government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin."

Although he didn't envision vain and aspiring women, he clearly would have added Nancy Pelosi, Maxine Waters, A O-C, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, Kamala Harris, Mazie Hirono, Dianne Feinstein and Sheila Jackson Lee to Chuck Schumer, Cory Booker, Adam Schiff, Jerry Nadler, Richard Blumenthal, Peter Buttigieg, Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden. And I dare say if he spotted the gun-confiscating Beto O'Rourke headed in his direction, Sam would have wasted no time going for his trusty musket.

■ Out of Afghanistan

Like me, Wesley Forgue would like to see us get out of Afghanistan but wondered how we could do it without having it look like a defeat.

I suggested that we announce victory, as we pretty much did in Korea and Vietnam. Trump could blame the war on the other party, just as Republicans Eisenhower and Nixon did in the past. And so far as Donald Trump and I are concerned, George W. Bush was the other party.



"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.

Deficit

- An article by Niv Elis titled “Federal Deficit Estimated at \$984 Billion, Highest in Seven Years” was posted at thehill.com on Oct. 7, 2019.

Finances

- An article by Kelly Tyko titled “Bed Bath & Beyond Store Closings: Retailer Increases Projected Closures to 60” was posted at usatoday.com on Oct. 4, 2019.
- An article by Martin Crutsinger titled “US Consumer Borrowing Up \$17.9 Billion in August” was posted at apnews.com on Oct. 7, 2019.

Trade war

- An article by Jolie Myers titled “Has the Trade War Taken a Bite Out of China’s Economy?—Yes, But It’s Complicated” was posted at npr.org on Oct. 10, 2019.
- A Reuters article by David Lawder titled “U.S., China Resume High-Level Talks to End Grueling Trade War” was posted at reuters.com on Oct. 10, 2019.

Green New Deal

- A Reuters article by Peter Nicholls titled “‘Sorry, This Is an Emergency’; Climate Protesters Block Streets Around the World [on Oct. 7]” was posted at reuters.com on Oct. 7, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Melanie Arter titled “ICE Arrests Illegal Alien From Mexico Who Entered U.S. Illegally 5 Times” was posted at cnsnews.com on Oct. 9, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Andy Eckardt, Linda Givetash, Rachel Elbaum and Olivia Solon titled “American Inside German Synagogue Where Worshippers Thwarted Attack, Said It Felt ‘Like An Eternity’ ” was posted at nbcnews.com on Oct. 10, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Ron Dicker titled “Geraldo Rivera: Trump ‘Surrounded by Backstabbers, Vipers, Rats, Snitches’ ” was posted at huffpost.com on Oct. 8, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled “[James] Clapper on 2016 Election Scandal: We Did ‘What We Were Told to Do by the President’, [Meaning] Obama” was posted at cnsnews.com on Oct. 8, 2019.
- An article by Timothy Meads titled “Mitt Romney Slams Trump Over China and Ukraine: ‘Wrong and Appalling’ ” was posted at townhall.com on Oct. 4, 2019.
- An article by Lindsay Whitehurst titled “Romney Ramps Up Rhetoric on Trump, But What’s His Next Move?” was posted at apnews.com on Oct. 5, 2019.
- An article by Chris Riotta titled “Mitt Romney ‘Believes He Can Bring Trump Down’ Through Impeachment; Can He?” was posted at independent.co.uk on Oct. 8, 2019.

- An article titled "Biden Proposal: Free Community College, Expanded Loan Programs" was posted at yahoo.com on Oct. 8, 2019.
- An article by Alex Roarty titled "As Warren Rises, Debate Over Her Ability to Beat Trump Intensifies" was posted at mcclatchydc.com on Oct. 3, 2019.
- An article by Kharen Martinez Murcia titled "Warren Proposes Ending Trump Tax Cuts and Adding 3 New Taxes" was posted at cnsnews.com on Oct. 8, 2019.
- An article by Tarini Parti titled "Sanders's Heart Attack Brings Age to 2020 Forefront" was posted at wsj.com on Oct. 7, 2019.

Kamala Harris

- An article by Carla Marinucci titled "Kamala Harris Comes Up Short As Feinstein Endorses Biden" was posted at politico.com on Oct. 9, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke

- An article by Patrick Svitek titled "Beto O'Rourke Plans Rally to Counter Donald Trump's Visit to Dallas [on Oct. 17]" was posted at texastribune.org on Oct. 9, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Emily Jashinsky titled "The Media Is Way Too Easily Distracted by Twitter-Friendly Stories" was posted at thefederalist.com on Oct. 5, 2019.
- An article by Jenna Amatulli titled "'Fox & Friends' Host [Brian Kilmeade] Slams Trump's Abandonment of Syrian Kurds As 'Disaster'" was posted at huffpost.com on Oct. 7, 2019.
- An article titled "Why Won't the Media Look Into the Accusations Against Joe Biden?" was posted at foxnews.com on Oct. 7, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Ellie Conley titled "Chicken Recalled at Kroger, Aldi, Target, Trader Joe's and More for Possible Listeria Contamination" was posted at aol.com on Oct. 10, 2019.

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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."