

Eye on the World

Nov. 30, 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 Nov. 30, 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 Melissa Etchad titled “From Iran to Chili to Sudan, Protests Take Hold Around the World” was posted at latimes.com on Nov. 25, 2019. Following is the article.

From Chile to Sudan, Lebanon to Colombia, mounting anger and frustration over rising economic and social inequality, political corruption and disillusionment with democratically elected and authoritarian governments have led to a wide array of mass protests in recent months.

On the surface it might appear they mark a distinctive period in international politics. But analysts say that there have been several such large-scale waves of mass protests in recent decades.

The backdrop to the protests of the 1980s and 1990s was largely the spread of democracy, particularly in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Soviet Union.

What’s changed is that since the early 2000s, major protests have become more wide-ranging, and reaching all corners of the world.

“Governments are not performing worse than they were 30 years ago, but as they grow they create winners and losers,” said Thomas Carothers, a democracy expert at the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International

Peace. "Citizens have higher expectations now . . . over the last 10 years we've seen an increasing pattern of large-scale protests."

He added that the power of social media has also helped mobilize protesters. "I see technology as an accelerator," he said.

A 2013 study analyzing 843 protests in 84 countries across the globe between January 2006 and July 2014 found that the main grievances were economic injustice and a perceived failure of political systems.

Current protest movements are often spearheaded by financially strapped young adults increasingly fed up with their plight, which they believe is the result of corrupt political elites.

Many have been driven by country-specific grievances, often stemming from the fallout of the 2008 worldwide financial crisis, according to Carothers.

From your next hot streak at the slots to cooling down at the pool, Choctaw Casino & Resort-Grant has you covered.

"This is a very broad rejection of systems. It's not very ideological," he said, adding that large-scale protests have been taking place both in longstanding authoritarian and democratic nations.

Some major one-issue protests have quickly morphed into movements concerning larger grievances.

In Iran this month, it was an official announcement that gasoline prices would be raised by as much 50% that sparked mass protests, which have since transformed into demonstrations against government corruption.

"There's frustration with the operation of political systems and how they are distributing resources and power," said Robert O'Brien, a political science professor at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada.

Despite the increase in large-scale protests, success rates appear to have declined since 2010, according to a 2017 study spearheaded by Erica Chenoweth, a political scientist at Harvard University.

"Authoritarian leaders have begun to develop and systematize sophisticated techniques to undermine and thwart nonviolent activists," Chenoweth wrote.

Another reason for a decline, according to John Chalcraft, a professor of Middle East history and politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science, is that people are embracing a leaderless protest model.

"You see it in Lebanon and some extent in Hong Kong...there are limits to what they can achieve because you need leadership in order for protests to engage and transform civil society," he said.

Here is a look at what is driving current protests.

■ Iran

Soon after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's announcement last week that fuel subsidies would be slashed, resulting in up to 50% hikes in gasoline prices, tens of thousands rallied in cities across Iran.

Authorities reacted by firing tear gas and live ammunition into crowds, according to a report by Amnesty International. At least 106 people have been killed since protesters took to the streets Nov. 15, the report found.

The actual number could be much higher, but because authorities blocked internet access for Iranians since Nov. 16, the flow of information stagnated. On Thursday, some provinces in Iran reported that the internet had been restored, the semi-official ISNA news agency said.

■ Sudan

Protests began last December over then-President Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir's decision to trim bread and fuel subsidies.

After Bashir was overthrown in an April coup following nearly three decades of rule, mass demonstrations continued, with protesters calling for the military government to hand over power to civilians.

In August, protest leaders—largely made up of young doctors and lawyers—reached a power-sharing arrangement due to last for 39 months.

■ Lebanon

What started as a protest against a tax on WhatsApp calls morphed into 4 million people from all walks of life taking to the streets last month. That led to the ouster of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, nearly two weeks after the demonstrations erupted.

But tensions remain high with calls for an end to government mismanagement and corruption. The protests have been largely peaceful, although Amnesty International documented incidents of excessive force.

One person died when a Lebanese soldier used live ammunition and shot at protesters. The person who was killed was Alaa Abou Fakhr, a 39-year-old father of three.

■ Chile

As in Iran and Lebanon, protests in Chile were triggered by a price hike on an economic staple. In this case, it was a 4-cent spike in subway fares announced Oct. 6.

Students led the charge, organizing social media campaigns encouraging people to jump subway turnstiles. The protesters later began demanding improvements in pensions, healthcare and education.

They are now calling for a new constitution to replace the one drafted in 1980 during the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

■ Colombia

Tens of thousands of Colombians discontented with President Ivan Duque and economic inequality, took to the streets Thursday amid growing unrest in South America; protests have also rocked Bolivia, Ecuador as well as Chile.

In Colombia, according to the World Bank, the top 10% of earners received 39% of the nation's income in 2017.

■ Iraq

More than 300 people—including at least 13 Sunday—have died during demonstrations that have gripped Baghdad and Shiite Muslim-dominated provinces since Oct. 1.

Largely leaderless, the protests have been organized on social media by citizens frustrated with government corruption and high unemployment. The protesters also aim to overhaul Iraq's sectarian power-sharing system imposed after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Authorities responded with live ammunition and tear gas.

Although a majority of the country's revenue comes from oil—an estimated \$79 billion worth—ordinary Iraqis struggle to make ends meet; 22% of Iraqis live in poverty and unemployment hovers around 11%, according to the World Bank.



An article by Kyle Mizokami titled "India and Pakistan Have Some of Earth's Largest Armies, But Nuclear Weapons Reign Supreme" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Nov. 24, 2019. Following is the article.

The Indian subcontinent is home to two of the largest armies on Earth. Not only are the armies of India and Pakistan both larger in personnel than the U.S. Army, but they have stood at alert facing one another since the dissolution of the British Indian Army in 1947. The two armies have clashed four times in the past seventy years, and may yet do so again in the future.

The Indian army is the primary land force of the Indian armed forces. The army numbers 1.2 million active duty personnel and 990,000 reservists, for a total force strength of 2.1 million. The army's primary tasks are guarding the borders with Pakistan and China and domestic security—particularly in Kashmir and the Northeast. The army is also a frequent contributor to United Nations peacekeeping missions abroad.

The army is structured into fourteen army corps, which are further made up of forty infantry, armored, mountain and RAPID (mechanized infantry) divisions. There is

approximately one separate artillery brigade per corps, five separate armored brigades, seven infantry brigades and five brigade-sized air defense formations.

Infantry and mountain divisions are mostly assigned to the mountainous North and Northeast regions, where manpower intensive counterinsurgency and mountain warfare forces are important, while infantry, RAPID, and armored formations sit on the border opposite Pakistan.

Perhaps unusually the Indian army has only one airborne unit, the Parachute Regiment, which is actually an umbrella headquarters for army airborne and special forces. The Parachute Regiment controls seven special-forces battalions and three airborne brigades.

The army is equipped from a number of sources, primarily Russia and a growing domestic arms industry, with increasing amounts of Israeli and American weaponry.

More than 4,000 tanks equip the country's ninety-seven armored regiments (the equivalent of American battalions), including 2,400 older T-72 tanks, 1,600 T-90 tanks, and approximately 360 Arjun Mk.1 and Mk.2 tanks. Complementing the T-72/90 tanks in armored and mechanized infantry formations are BMP-2 mechanized infantry combat vehicles.

Most of the Indian Army's 4,000 artillery pieces are from Russia, including newer 300-millimeter Smerch multiple launch rocket systems, but the country appears to be turning away from Russian field artillery towards American towed M777 and South Korean K-9 Thunder self-propelled howitzers.

A new howitzer, the Dhanush, appears close to widespread adoption. Air defense artillery, on the other hand, is dominated by Russian equipment, from battlefield Tunguska self-propelled anti-aircraft guns to S-400 "Triumpf" high-altitude air-defense missiles.

The Pakistani army numbers 650,000 active duty personnel and five hundred thousand reserves, for a total strength of 1.15 million.

Although Pakistan resides in what most would consider a rough neighborhood, it is on relatively good terms with neighbors China and Iran.

As a result, the army's primary missions are domestic security operations against the Pakistani Taliban and facing off against the Indian army. Like India, Pakistan is a major contributor of forces to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

The Pakistani army consists of twenty-six combat divisions falling under the control of nine army corps. Most divisions are infantry divisions, with only two armored and two mechanized infantry divisions.

Each corps also controls an average of one armored, one infantry and one artillery brigade each. Not only is the Pakistani army smaller than the Indian army, but it features fewer offensive forces capable of attacking India head-on.

Special operations forces are concentrated under the control of the Special Services Group, which controls eight commando battalions.

The army's equipment is mostly Pakistani and Chinese, with Turkish and American armaments in key areas. The country has fewer than seven hundred frontline tanks, including the Khalid and the T-80UD, with another one thousand modernized versions of the 1970s-era Chinese Type 59. Pakistan lacks a modern infantry fighting vehicle, relying on more than two thousand upgraded M113 tracked armored personnel carriers.

Pakistan has nearly two thousand artillery pieces, primarily Chinese and American, but they are older models with little in terms of acquisitions in sight. Standouts among these are roughly 250 M109A5 155-millimeter self-propelled howitzers and two hundred A-100E 300-millimeter multiple launch rocket systems—similar to India's Smerch. One standout category where Pakistani weapons outmatch Indian ones is the area of attack helicopters, where the country fields fifty-one older AH-1S Cobra attack helicopters with another fifteen AH-1Z Vipers on order.

If the two countries went to war, a major clash between the two armies would be inevitable. Outnumbered and under-equipped, the Pakistani army believes it is in a position to launch small local offensives from the outset, before the Indian army can reach its jumping-off points, to occupy favorable terrain. Still, the disparity in forces means the Pakistanis cannot hope to launch a major, war-winning offensive and terminate a ground war on their own terms. As a result, the Pakistani army is increasingly relying on tactical nuclear weapons to aid their conventional forces.

For its part, the Indian army plans to immediately take the offensive under a doctrine called "Cold Start." Cold Start envisions rapid mobilization followed by a major offensive into Pakistan before the country can respond with tactical nuclear weapons. Such an offensive—and Pakistan's likely conventional defeat—could make the use of tactical nuclear weapons all the more likely.

The adversarial relationship between India and Pakistan makes the Indian subcontinent one of the most dangerous places on Earth. The disparity in forces, war plans on both sides, and the presence of tactical nuclear weapons makes a regional nuclear war—even a limited one—a real possibility.



An article by Alexandra Ma titled "Xi Jinping Has Had a Highly Embarrassing Week That Undermined China's Power in the World; Here's Why He Probably Doesn't Care" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Nov. 25, 2019. Following is the article.

China's image has taken a beating this week. Over the past few days the world's second largest economy has faced down a series of embarrassing international incidents, including:

- Last Saturday, *The New York Times* published a devastating report detailing the Communist Party's coordinated crackdown on the Uighur Muslim minority, citing 403 pages of internal documents leaked by an unnamed party source.

- Chinese citizens bypassed the country's internet firewall to read the Times' article, and saluted an official who the documents say stood up to the party's instructions.
- The leaks and tributes on social media platform Weibo offered a glimpse of dissent in an otherwise heavily-oppressed environment.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday, the US Senate and House respectively passed bills to protect human rights and anti-China protesters in Hong Kong as violent demonstrations rage on with no end in sight. They show a concrete US action to support the protesters in their fight against China.
- Beijing has repeatedly told foreign countries to stay out of Hong Kong affairs, saying it's a sovereign issue, and the US lawmakers blatantly ignored that.
- And on Thursday, the tiny South Pacific island of Tuvalu rejected China's offers to build artificial islands to help save it from rising sea levels, and refused to cut ties with Taiwan in favor of China.
- Tuvalu's refusal to shun Taiwan in favor of Chinese money undermined the power of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the mega-project into which China has poured trillions of dollars to build trade and infrastructure projects around the world.

These are highly embarrassing to China's international image, which the country has been trying to build up for years through investing in Hollywood films, opening Chinese-language schools around the world, and buying up well-placed propaganda ads in prominent Western newspapers.

This week's events might have forced another country to retreat on its actions in favor of a better image on the international stage. But China probably doesn't care about its latest spate of bad press.

Shortly after *The Times* published the leaked documents, China appeared to show no effort to push back on the report, simply brushing the story off as "entirely collusion and fabrication by domestic and foreign hostile forces," and saying its tactics in the region were "worth learning from."

Lijian Zhao, a senior spokesman at China's Foreign Ministry, also tweeted in response to The Times' story: "China deserves a big like for showing how to deal effectively with terrorism & extremism in Xinjiang. Toughness & prosperity are a great combination!"

China's brazen refusal to retreat on Xinjiang appears to be a result of the impotence of Western condemnation.

Not a single Muslim country is standing up to China's actions in Xinjiang, likely to protect economic partnerships. Earlier this year 22 countries wrote a joint letter condemning China's human-rights record—only to be rebutted by 37 other countries, including North Korea and Syria, writing another letter praising it.

In October the US blacklisted 28 Chinese companies for their role in surveilling and detaining minorities in Xinjiang, but there has been no evidence of change in China's actions yet, suggesting the sanctions haven't worked.

According to the leaked documents, Xi had urged party officials to ignore criticism of the Xinjiang crackdown as early as 2014, telling a closed-door meeting: "Don't be afraid if hostile forces whine, or if hostile forces malign the image of Xinjiang."

Trump could throw Hong Kong under the bus in favor of a China trade deal

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump is yet to sign the Senate and House bills into law. The president has ten days to approve or disapprove bills—which would normally give him a deadline of December 2—but that deadline will be suspended when Congress adjourns for Thanksgiving next week.

It's not yet clear whether Trump will sign those bills, though, and the White House has not given any indication of his intentions so far. The White House has not yet responded to Business Insider's request for comment on the bills.

Trump signing the bills to protect Hong Kong protesters against China is not guaranteed.

He even suggested on Friday that he could veto the legislation in favor of a trade deal, telling Fox & Friends: "We have to stand with Hong Kong, but I'm also standing with President Xi . . . But we are also in the process of making one of the largest trade deals in history."

He has also reportedly promised China to mute US support for protests in favor of progress in trade talks in the past.

In June, Vice President Mike Pence canceled a speech poised to criticize China's Uighur policy one week before Trump and Xi were due to meet in Osaka, Japan, to ensure good relations between the two leaders.

In July, a US official in Hong Kong was also forced to tone down a "kick-ass" speech about China's erosion of Hong Kong's freedoms due to the US' attempts at the time to hammer out a trade deal, the Financial Times reported at the time.

Negotiators from the two countries are currently trying to hammer out an agreement ahead of a December 15 deadline on tariff escalations, and Trump could be loathe to jeopardize that.

Tuvalu's refusal of China's infrastructure offer, and refusal to drop Taiwan as a diplomatic ally, is embarrassing to Xi but likely won't jeopardize his BRI or goal to isolate Taiwan from the rest of the world.

Taiwan has been self-governing for decades, but Beijing continues to call it a Chinese territory. Tensions have escalated in recent years because the island nation's president, Tsai Ing-wen, has been particularly critical of the mainland.

Chinese companies, likely backed by the state, had offered to support a \$400 million government plan to build artificial islands to help locals cope with rising sea levels, Reuters reported, citing Tuvalu's foreign minister Simon Kofe.

“It’s a no from us,” Kofe said. “We are hearing a lot of information about debt, China buying our islands and looking at setting up military bases in our part of the world. Those are things that are concerning to us.”

Kofe was referring to the theory of Chinese “debt-trap diplomacy”—the strategy of extracting political concessions from a country that owes money.

Examples of this can be seen in BRI countries shunning Taiwan in favor of Chinese investment and allowing China to build military bases in those countries, both of which Tuvalu warned against.

“Tuvalu and Taiwan diplomatic ties are strongest they’ve ever been,” Kofe told Reuters. “Together with our partners, we will be able to counter the influence from mainland China,” referring to the Marshall Islands, Palau, and Nauru—Taiwan’s remaining allies in the Pacific in addition to Tuvalu, all of whom have expressed support for Taiwan in recent months.

China is unlikely to flinch too hard from the Pacific islands’ rejections, though. A handful of countries have formally severed ties with Taiwan in recent months, leaving it with just 15 allies around the world—all of whom are relatively impotent on the world stage.

Meanwhile, Beijing has continued to strike BRI deals around the world, and is unlikely to stop. It has ramped up its projects and signed on new partners at such a fast pace that the US launched a new public-private initiative to increase infrastructure investment in Asia in an effort to counter the BRI.

China’s rise in the world, and at such an alarming pace, has now made it resilient to international criticism. It’s likely to plow on as usual, especially as the West continues to condemn China but refuse to take any concrete action.

Simply put, China is big enough and powerful enough that it doesn’t need to care what the rest of the world thinks of it.



“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 John Daniel Davidson titled “The Most Important News Story Right Now Isn’t Impeachment, It’s the Crisis [Gang Violence] in Mexico” was posted at thefederalist.com on Nov. 21, 2019.

■ An article by Stephen Farrell titled “Israel’s Netanyahu Faces Calls to Quit But Is Defiant in Crisis” was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 22, 2019.

■ An article by Adam Kredo titled “Iran, Russia, China to Hold Joint Wargames in ‘Message to the World’ ” was posted at freebeacon.com on Nov. 27, 2019.

- An article by Ram Yavne titled "As Gaza Falls Apart, the Next Israel-Hamas Was Is Becoming More Likely" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article titled "Jordanian Army Conducts Maneuvers Simulating Military Battle With Israel" was posted at memri.org on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Sebastien Roblin titled "Israel Demolished Iranian Republican Guard Corps HQs in Syria in Retaliation for Rocket Attack" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article by Michael Peck titled "Iran Has a New Missile; Should Israel Be Worried?" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Nov. 23, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Parisa Hafezi titled "Iran Warns Regional States of Consequences If They Stoked Unrest" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "Iran Says Army and Guards Helped Quell Unrest [in Kermanshah Province], Blames 'U.S. Agents' " was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article titled "Iran Says It Wants to Avoid War, So Why Did It Attack Saudi Arabia?" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Nov. 24, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Yimou Lee titled "Taiwan Says China Fails to Pay Up on \$8.6 Billion in Aid Pledges to Former Allies" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "China Attacks U.S. at G20 As the World's Biggest Source of Instability" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article titled "China and India Are Using the Same Playbook to Trample on Their Minorities, and the Rest of the World Is Too Powerless to Stop Them" was posted at businessinsider.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article titled "Hong Kong Protesters [in the UK] March to Downing Street" was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article titled "Hong Kong Protesters [in London] Light Up London's Leicester Square With Glowing Mobile Phones" was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "Record Numbers [Reported at a Little Under 1.5 Million People] Vote in Hong Kong's Elections [on Nov. 24]" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article by Frances Martel titled "Hong Kong Protesters Crush China Supporters in Historic Election Win" was posted at breitbart.com on Nov. 25, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Martin Petty titled "Philippine Leader [President Rodrigo Duterte] Sacks Drug Tsar [Leni Robredo] After 18 Days" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article titled "Slovenian Government Skirts Collapse With Budget Vote Win" was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 22, 2019.

- An article titled "Ship With 14,600 Sheep Aboard Capsizes Off Romania" was posted at afp.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article by Ted Galen Carpenter titled "How Trump's Washington Got Venezuela and Maduro All Wrong [by Recognizing Juan Guaido As Rightful President]" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Nov. 25, 2019.
- An article by Ebony Bowden titled "Prince Andrew Kicked Out of Buckingham Palace Over Jeffrey Epstein Scandal" was posted at nypost.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- An article by George Martin titled "Queen Cancels Prince Andrew's 60th Birthday Party After Epstein Scandal" was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article titled "Extreme Surfers Catch Record Waves [Reported at 65 Feet] in Portuguese Town [of Nazare]" was posted at afp.com on Nov. 22, 2019.



An article by Matt Vespa titled "Sharyl Attkisson Dredges Up the Ukraine Story Democrats Don't Want to Talk About" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 21, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

The final hearing on the impeachment inquiry into President Trump is happening as we speak [Thursday, Nov. 21]. Career diplomats and foreign affairs specialists Fiona Hill and David Holmes are testifying in what has been a week of hot air.

We've had a lot of Democratic hyperbole and a lot of witnesses saying they don't possess direct evidence of the so-called quid pro quo allegations that have been hurled at the Trump White House.

It all stems from a whistleblower report that in July, President Trump threatened to withhold aid from Ukraine unless they opened a corruption probe into Hunter Biden's position at Burisma, an energy company, despite having zero experience. Biden has been there since his father, Vice President Joe Biden, was in office. He recently left.

It's a total clown show. Some of the witnesses, like Marie Yovanovitch, were just career diplomats who disagreed with Trump on Ukraine policy. Her testimony was a therapy session. Yet, one thing that is missed in all of these proceedings is that Ukraine did collude with the Hillary Clinton campaign in 2016 in a failed attempt to derail the Trump candidacy.

Veteran investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson dredged this up from Politico.

[Looking back to 2017, an article by Kenneth P. Vogel and David Stern titled "Ukrainian Efforts to Sabotage Trump Backfire" was posted at politico.com on Jan. 11, 2017.]

It's right there in black and white.

"Ukrainian government officials tried to help Hillary Clinton and undermine Trump by publicly questioning his fitness for office. They also disseminated documents implicating a top Trump aide in corruption and suggested they were investigating the matter, only to back away after the election. And they helped Clinton's allies research damaging information on Trump and his advisers, a Politico investigation found.

"A Ukrainian-American operative who was consulting for the Democratic National Committee met with top officials in the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington in an effort to expose ties between Trump, top campaign aide Paul Manafort and Russia, according to people with direct knowledge of the situation."

Yeah, that sort of blows up disgraced ex-FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe's point that the Ukraine interference narrative was a "fictitious theory." Then again, Andrew McCabe is a noted liar, and he lost his job because of it.

Attkisson tweeted, "the idea that some of our top experts on Ukraine are closed-minded to this info (and at least one said he was entirely unaware of it) but were making important decisions, could be considered disturbing."

Yes, but this is Rep. Adam Schiff's (D-CA) kangaroo court, which is situated in the middle of the twilight zone.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "A Bleak Future" was posted at patriot-post.us on Nov. 23, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

In 1934, my friend, pianist/composer/writer/ actor/professional wit Oscar Levant once wrote a song called "Blame It on My Youth."

All these years later, there's a lot to blame on America's youth. Their ignorance bodes ill not only today but for the foreseeable future when, God help us, they will be the politicians, the judges, the professors, the schoolteachers, the reporters and the pop culture elitists.

■ Arrogance and cowardice

Young people today are a deadly combination of arrogance and cowardice, they profess to be morally superior and tolerant, but they promote sexual perversion and late term abortions, while at the same time voicing contempt for the Constitution in general and the first two amendments in particular.

■ Ending life on earth by 2030?

The ones who attend college or have graduated in the past decade display the gullibility of small children. But whereas we cherish the innocence of four-year-olds who believe Easter bunnies actually lay chocolate eggs and that Santa Claus hands out sleds, tricycles and dolls, to nice, but never naughty, children,

there is something horribly pathetic about 20-somethings so naïve they believe that something called climate change will put an end to life on earth by 2030.

■ Opposing free speech

How can their own parents not be nauseated when they see them forming mobs on college campuses for the purpose of silencing people from voicing an opposing point of view? Is that the America that their parents and grandparents were fighting to defend against when this nation was threatened by Nazism, Fascism and Communism, over the past 80 years?

■ Why is there freedom?

Did some of their friends and loved ones make the ultimate sacrifice so that these young pinheads could line up behind Pied Pipers like Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg and insist that Socialism, by which they mean free stuff, is the answer to their infantile prayers?

Like tiny tots, they even have their own personal boogeyman, the creature hiding under their beds or lurking in their dark closets, the monster with the mop of yellow hair.

I'm reminded that in one of his brighter moments, P.J. O'Rourke observed that "No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed, and love of power."

■ Not listening to Schiff's circus

Although I sometimes boast (complain, whine) about the things I do on your behalf, such as sitting through State of the Union addresses, primary debates and Richard Goodstein's frequent appearances on Tucker Carlson's show, even I drew a line when it came to the House hearings moderated by Adam Schiff, who could serve as the model for the weasels in Disney's next "Lion King" sequel.

I assumed it would be boring and endless. Apparently it was so boring, Schiff cut it short after five hours. It was the equivalent of a stage musical closing in New Haven before even reaching Broadway because the out-of-town reviews are so bad.

■ Hurting the democrats

Before the first witness was called, I was telling friends that the hearings not only won't help the Democrats, they will cost them House and perhaps even Senate seats in 2020. The two years devoted to Mueller's witch hunt was bad enough. But trying to turn a phone call into an impeachable offense is going to remind Independents and those Democrats who don't march to A O-C's broken drum that Pelosi's House has done nothing in three years but try to stop the President from getting things done; and that, in spite of their best efforts, he's still been able to create a record-busting economy and get us out of insanities like the Paris Accords and the Iran nuclear deal, while also fighting to defend religious freedoms and the Second Amendment.

■ Looking diligently

Something else that the Democrats have managed to prove is that Donald Trump is so clean, he squeaks. What other president could have stood up to the other party 's prying into every nook and cranny of his political life and not be found to have done something criminal or, at the very least, questionable?

When a subscriber asked me if I intended to write something about the hearings, I said I planned to, but, just like the witnesses, my testimony would be second or even third-hand after watching segments on Bret Baier and Tucker Carlson's shows.

■ Kellyanne Conway

The day after the hearings, Russ Mothershed sent me an 8-minute exchange that Wolf Blitzer had with Kellyanne Conway on CNN.

Because Conway's husband, a D.C. lawyer, is a Never-Trumper who is always predisposed to go on TV and denounce his wife's boss, Blitzer first ran a video of the man who, that very morning, had appeared on MSNBC calling for the President's impeachment. Blitzer then asked Mrs. Conway to comment.

My own comment was that Mr. Conway's head is nearly as fat as his body. But his wife refused to play Blitzer's game, refusing to say anything against her husband, the father of their four children, who has the Constitutional right to voice his stupid opinions. However, in the past, when George Conway has insisted that Trump obviously suffers from mental disorders, Mrs. Conway has been quick to point out that her husband is a lawyer, not a psychiatrist.

Whatever Mrs. Conway is being paid, it's not enough. Trying to be loyal to two men who, politically speaking, are polar opposites is a tightwire stunt that not even the Flying Wallendas would have attempted.

In any case, while Blitzer kept trying to get her to denounce her husband, she kept telling Blitzer to his face that he was acting unprofessionally. She went on to say that back during Desert Storm, she had admired Blitzer's reporting and the job that CNN had done covering the war in Iraq. She basically faced Blitzer down and asked him how he could now lower himself to the point where he was nothing more than a lackey of CNN boss Jeff Zucker, devoting his life to repeating the same Trump insults as all the other parrots on the network.

To his credit, Blitzer sat there and took it. Not since he last stood in Jerusalem, reporting the news while Saddam Hussein's scud missiles landed nearby, has he ever had more reason to be proud of himself. Or, to be honest about it, any reason at all.

■ Interesting one-liners

Terry Schuck sent me a batch of one-liners, some of which I wish I'd said, some of which I have said, and a few of which I will eventually take credit for.

To me, drinking responsibly means not spilling a drop.

Cop: "Please step out of the car. Driver: "I'm too drunk. You get in."

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.

If you're sitting in public and a stranger sits down next to you, stare straight ahead and say: "Did you bring the money?"

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

When I asked for directions, please don't use words like "east" and "south."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Sifting Through the Lies" was posted at patriotpost.us on Nov. 25, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

One of the problems with the Internet is that lies can be so widely and quickly disseminated. I know this from first-hand experience. Back around 2009 or 2010, I wrote a few lines in which I compared four California female politicians—Dianne Feinstein, Maxine Waters, Nancy Pelosi and Barbara Boxer—to the witches standing around the caldron in "Macbeth."

I wrote it in an article that appeared on my website back in the days that I still had one.

Someone liked the lines so much, he sent them viral. He was so successful that I still hear from people who are only now receiving it in their email. The problem is that he claimed that I had written it for *the L.A. Times*, a newspaper from which I'd parted company 30 years before. He also claimed that I had written it in response to some stupid thing that Sen. Feinstein had said about military veterans. I had, in fact, written in response to everything those four shrews had ever said and done.

■ Heard erroneous information

The reason I am addressing this issue is because twice this morning, I have been sent an email that claimed that not only Joe Biden, but Nancy Pelosi, John Kerry and Mitt Romney, all have offspring who are connected to a Ukrainian energy company. That would certainly have been newsworthy if it was true. Unfortunately, I looked into it and it isn't true.

It certainly wouldn't shock me if the kids of these influential politicians were trading on their parents' influence. It's surely not uncommon and it needn't even be a bad thing so long as it's not quite as blatant as it was with the Bidens. After all, the children of the rich and famous do not start at the back of the line, whether they're named Rockefeller, Kennedy, Bush, Clinton or, yes, even Trump. That does not necessarily make them villains.

But whoever sent out that rumor certainly knew it was a lie. It leads me to wonder why people do it, especially when, as in the case of Kerry, Pelosi and Romney, there are so many truths that are far worse than whether or not their kids derived financial rewards from their familial connections.

■ Anthem for U.N.

Back when I was asking for people's least favorite song, I agreed with those who voted for John Lennon's inane "Imagine," which serves as something of an anthem for those pinheads who believe the U.N. is the answer to the world's problems, not recognizing it to be the source of a lot of them.

Imagine, if you will, that someone could actually write "Imagine there's no countries/It isn't hard to do/ Nothing to kill or die for/ And no religion, too/Imagine all the people/ Living life in peace," and being hailed as a genius.

■ Explains why candidates are popular

It certainly helps explain why so many million nincompoops are eager to vote for Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg. Speaking of the mayor of South Bend, if Hillary Clinton's election would have, as her supporters kept insisting, meant that she had broken through the glass ceiling, will they say the same thing about Buttigieg's election breaking the glass ceiling for homosexuals? And if so, will Barack Obama step forward and say: "Not so fast"?

■ Confusing actors with their parts

It often seems to me that most people will tell you it's silly to confuse the people you see on the screen with the actors playing the parts. The lone exception, at least among Conservatives, seems to be John Wayne. I know that Wayne made no secret of his political beliefs and his patriotism, which puts him head and shoulders above the loons currently making movies.

I suppose it's because John Wayne, who never served in the military and was a notorious boozier and womanizer, portrayed screen heroes for so many years, not only in westerns, but in more than a dozen movies in which he portrayed gung-ho soldiers and Marines, that people eventually came to mistake him for the roles he played.

The only other movie star who came close to matching Wayne's number of military roles was Frank Sinatra, another non-veteran, who appeared in uniform 10 times, starting with "Anchors Aweigh" and ending with "Von Ryan's Express."

Montgomery Clift doesn't come close to those totals, but considering he only made 18 movies, it's rather remarkable that he played soldiers four times in his first 10 films ("The Search," "The Big Lift," "From Here to Eternity" and "The Young Lions") though, again, never in real life, although he was born in 1920.

■ Beto to Mexico?

Jacquetta Breedlove suggests sending Beto O'Rourke south to deal with the drug cartels running wild in Mexico by confiscating their guns. As she says, "He's not doing anything now and he speaks the lingo."

I'll even buy him a burro just so I can see one ass riding another.

■ Interesting quotes

John Trout quotes Voltaire, who might well have had Muslims in mind when he wrote: "Those who can make you believe in absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

Marie Colburn sent along a few aphorisms, the best of which were "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you place the blame" and "We have enough 'youth,' what we need is a fountain of smart."

■ Humor in Australia

Dennis Stockton passed along a joke making the rounds in Australia.

A driver was pulled over by a cop for speeding. As the officer was writing out the ticket, he noticed a bunch of machetes in the backseat. "What the hell are those for?"

"I'm a juggler," the man replied. "I use them in my act."

"Show me," the cop demanded.

Thinking it might get him out of the ticket, the driver eagerly grabbed the machetes and began juggling them. He started with three and worked his way up to seven. He juggled them overhand, underhand, and even behind his back, dazzling the officer.

As another car drove past, its driver did a doubletake and said to his passenger: "I really have to give up drinking, Charley. Just look at that new sobriety test they're come up with!"



"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 Jonathan Ernst titled "The National Debt Just Barreled Past \$23 Trillion; Here's How Trump's 3 Trillion Portion Compares to Obama, Bush and Clinton" was posted at businessinsider.com on Nov. 25, 2019.

■ An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "Federal Debt Up \$1.3 Trillion Since Last Thanksgiving: \$10,137 Per Household" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 27, 2019.

Finances

■ An article by Sarah Ferris and Burgess Everett titled "Bumbling Congress Gives Trump the Budget Freeze He Wanted" was posted at politico.com on Nov. 25, 2019.

- An article by Jonathan Garber titled "Dow Scores 100th Record Close Under Trump" was posted at foxbusiness.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Rebecca Beitsch titled "Relocated BLM [Bureau of Land Management Moving From Washington DC to Grand Junction, Colo.] Staff Face Salary Cuts" was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Heather Somerville titled "Silicon Valley Adjusts to New Reality As \$100 Billion Evaporates" was posted at wsj.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Sarah Lee titled "Trump's Economy Is Benefitting Women" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 28, 2019.

Trade war

- An article by Martin Crutsinger titled "US Economy Looks Durable Despite Risks From Trade Conflict" was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 27, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Lisa Lambert and David Brunnstrom titled "Trump Says Near Deal With China, But U.S. Also Has Eye on Hong Kong" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 26, 2019.

Green New Deal

- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Bernie Sanders: 'Major Cities Going Under Water' in '8 or 9 Years' Due to Climate Change" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 20, 2019.
- An article by Rosalie Chan titled "Barack Obama Lays Out the 3 Issues He's Most Worried About, and the Biggest One Is Climate Control" was posted at businessinsider.com on Nov. 21, 2019.
- An article by Brent Bozell and Tim Graham titled "When Actors Play Scientists on Capitol Hill" was posted at newsbusters.org on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Ocasio-Cortez Reveals the New Name for 'Free Stuff' [Is 'Public Goods']" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Star Parker titled "Democrats Want to Save the Planet, Not Our Babies" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 27, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Kevin McCandless titled "Illegal Immigration Likely to Become a Problem Post-Brexit, British Experts Warn" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "Greece to 'Shut the Door' to Migrants Not Entitled to Asylum, PM Says" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- An article by Bob Price titled "Migrants From 30 Nations Apprehended in One Texas Border Sector Since September 30" was posted at Breitbart.com on Nov. 27, 2019.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Kevin Johnson titled "Black Friday Gun Deals: Background Checks Surge As Shoppers Buy in Response to Gun Control Proposals" was posted at usatoday.com on Nov. 25, 2019.

■ An article by Travis Hamada titled "Letter: Law-Abiding Citizens Do Not Want Their Guns Taken Away" was posted at mercurynews.com on Nov. 26, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Joel B. Pollak titled "Fiona Hill: Obama Denied Weapons to Ukraine for 'Political' Reasons" was posted at breitbart.com on Nov. 21, 2019.

■ An article titled "Forget the Oval Office; the Real Trump Action [Where He Often Works] Is in the Residence" was posted at politico.com on Nov. 24, 2019.

■ An article by Bonnie Kristian titled "Welcome to the Vengeance Election" was posted at theweek.com on Nov. 25, 2019.

■ An article by Guy Benson titled "Polling Tailspin: After Public Hearings, Support for Impeachment Falls, and Democrats Fret" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 25, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Nick Gillespie titled "Judge Napolitano: Enough Evidence 'To Justify About Three or Four Articles of Impeachment' " was posted at reason.com on Nov. 22, 2019.

■ Looking back to October, an article by Jonathan Allen titled "Why Democrats Are Sure Adam Schiff Is the Perfect Person to Take on Trump" was posted at nbcnews.com on Oct. 14, 2019.

■ An article by Harry Litman titled "Adam Schiff Is Bringing a Prosecutor's Sensibility to Impeachment Hearings" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Nov. 17, 2019.

■ An article by Ryan Parker titled "Robert Redford Says Trump's 'Monarchy in Disguise' Must End" was posted at hollywoodreporter.com on Nov. 26, 2019.

■ An article by Casey Tolan titled "Obama Tells Democratic Donors to 'Chill Out' About Disagreements Between Presidential Candidates" was posted at mercurynews.com on Nov. 21, 2019.

■ An article titled "Obama Warns Voters Against 'Purity Tests' in Democratic Primary" was posted at marketwatch.com on Nov. 22, 2019.

■ An article by Hayley Miller titled "Obama Said He Would Speak Up to Stop Bernie Sanders Nomination: Report" was posted at huffpost.com on Nov. 26, 2019.

■ An article by Grace Panetta titled "Obama Is Reportedly Worried That Biden 'Really Doesn't Have' An Intimate Bond With Voters, Which Helped Him Win the White House in 2008" was posted at businessinsider.com on Nov. 26, 2019.

- An article by Marina Pitofsky titled "Biden Reveals Four Women He Could Pick As His Running Mate [Former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, Georgia Gubernatorial Loser Stacey Abrams, Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Maggie Hassan]" was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article by Sarah Ruiz-Grossman titled "Warren Announces Progressive Congresswomen [Ayanna Pressley, Deb Haaland and Katie Porter] As Campaign Co-Chairs" was posted at huffpost.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- An article by Lee Moran titled "Robert De Niro Likens the Donald Trump Era to 'Living in An Abusive Household' " was posted at huffpost.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Victor Morton titled "Robert De Niro Endorses Pete Buttigieg: 'What We Need' to Beat 'Piece of S***' Trump" was posted at washington-times.com on Nov. 25, 2019.
- An article by cnsnews.com staff titled "San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Top Census Bureau Table for Percent of Same-Sex-Couple Households" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 21, 2019.
- An article by Sebastian Murdock titled "Bernie Sanders 'Disgusted' by Michael Bloomberg's Huge Ad Buy" was posted at huffpost.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- An article titled "Michael Bloomberg Officially Declares He Is Entering 2020 Presidential Race" was posted at usatoday.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article titled "Flashback From Judge Judy [on Oct. 16]: America Is Fractured, But Michael Bloomberg Can Help Us Heal" was posted at usatoday.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article by [Democratic Candidate] Tom Steyer titled "Tom Steyer [Worth \$1.6 Billion] to Michael Bloomberg [Worth \$54.1 Billion]: Back a Wealth Tax or Drop Out of 2020 Presidential Race" was posted at usatoday.com on Nov. 25, 2019.
- An article by John Bowden titled "Bloomberg Ties With Harris, Klobuchar in New National Poll" was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Mairead McArdle titled "Bloomberg Campaign Manager [Kevin Sheekey] Says [to CNN] Impeachment Probe Is Making Trump's Re-Election 'More Likely' " was posted at nationalreview.com on Nov. 27, 2019.
- An article titled "Could Democrats' Lack of Star Power See Trump Re-Elected by Default?" was posted at theguardian.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article by Zachary Evans titled "AOC Raised More for Re-Election Campaign Last Quarter Than All Other House Dems, Including Pelosi" was posted at nationalreview.com on Nov. 27, 2019.

Deval Patrick

- An article by Candace Ganger titled "What Is [Deval] Patrick's Net Worth in 2019? [It Is Estimated at \$4 Million]" was posted at cheatsheet.com on Nov. 19, 2019.

- An article by Laura Krantz titled "Few Are Giving Deval Patrick a Chance, Except South Carolina's Voters" was posted at bostonglobe.com on Nov. 21, 2019.
- An article by Trent Spiner, Stephanie Murray and Maggie Severas titled "Deval Patrick's Eensy-Weensy Campaign [Due to a Late Start and Small Staff]" was posted at politico.com on Nov. 25, 2019.
- An article by Julia Manchester titled "Deval Patrick Denies His Campaign Is a Critique of Warren" was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 26, 2019.

Kamala Harris

- An article by Meg Kinnard titled "Harris Hopes to Make 'Magic' With Black Women in South Carolina" was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article by Nick Givas titled "Harris Slams Buttigieg for Comparing Struggles of African-Americans, LGBTQ People" was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Christopher Cadelago titled "Kamala Harris Aide [Kelly Mehlenbacher] Bolts to Bloomberg Campaign" was posted at politico.com on Nov. 27, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke

- An article by Joshua Nelson titled "Howard Kurtz Rips Pundits, Saying 'Media Creation' Beto O'Rourke 'Never Came Close to Living Up To' Hype" was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 4, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Katie Yoder titled "Media Hype Planned Parenthood Abortion Apps, Ignore Pro-Life Ones" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- An article by cnsnews.com staff titled "New York Times (in 2015) Attacked Hunter Biden for Working for Ukrainian Company" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- An article by Ryan Saavedra titled "Devin Nunes to Take Swift Legal Action Against CNN for 'Demonstrably False' Story" was posted at dailywire.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article by Guardian Staff titled "Bloomberg News Service Under Fire for Ban on Investigating Owner" was posted at theguardian.com on Nov. 25, 2019.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Are You a Trump Supporter? According to CNN, You've Been Brainwashed by 'Cult Leader' Trump" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article by Matt Vespa titled "Is This a Joke? CNN's Don Lemon Declares He's Not . . . a Partisan Liberal Democrat" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 25, 2019.
- An article by Amy Russo titled "Andrew Yang Demands MSNBC Apologize for Lack of Speaking Time at Debate" was posted at huffpost.com on Nov. 23, 2019.
- An article by Giovanni Russonello titled "'Shy Trump' Voters Could Impair Polls in Battleground States Again" was posted at nytimes.com on Nov. 24, 2019.

- An article by Joe Concha titled “Donny Deutsch [on MSNBC]: ‘Unelectable’ Elizabeth Warren is ‘Unlikable’—Would Get ‘Trounced’ by Trump” was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 27, 2019.
- An article by Bronson Sterling titled “Fired Navy Secretary [Richard Spencer] Confirms He’s Part of the Deep State; Pens Op-Ed [in Washington Post]” was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 28, 2019.
- An article by Jessica Campiss titled “Tucker Carlson: Obama Has Not Backed Biden Because Michelle Obama Could Run” was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article by Sandra Gonzalez titled “Michelle Obama Nominated for a Grammy Award [in the ‘Best Spoken Word’ Category for the Work on the Audiobook of Her Memoir ‘Becoming’]” was posted at cnn.com on Nov. 20, 2019.
- Looking back to 2014, an article by Sarah Jean Seman titled “Flashback: [Barack] Obama Wins Two Grammy Awards [in the ‘Best Spoken Word’ Category in 2006 and 2008 for Two of His Books]” was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 26, 2014.

General interest

- An article by Natalie Rahhal titled “U.S. Abortions Hit Record Low Since Roe v. Wade: Rates Fell 24% in 10 Years, CDC Report Reveals” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Nov. 27, 2019.
- An article titled “With Schools Out Early, ‘Mayhem’ Breaks Out [Among Hundreds of Teenagers] at Mall in Queens” was posted at fox5ny.com on Nov. 22, 2019.
- An article by Ellen Manning titled “Five Teens Arrested [in Birmingham, UK] After Crowds of [100] Youths With Machetes Brawl at Cinema Complex” was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article titled “This California Town [Newcastle Which Is a Half-Hour Drive From Sacramento and Mere Hours From Silicon Valley] Has the Slowest Internet in the U.S.” was posted at usatoday.com on Nov. 24, 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.”