

Eye on the World

May 9, 2020

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 May 9, 2020.

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 Erin Blakemore titled "Why Germany Surrendered Twice in World War II" was posted at nationalgeographic.com on May 6, 2020. Following is the article.

On May 7, 1945, Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allies in Reims, France, ending World War II and the Third Reich. Or did it happen on May 9 in Berlin instead?

Both are true.

Due to warring ideologies, tussles between the Soviet Union and its allies, and the legacy of the First World War, Germany actually surrendered twice.

As an Allied victory looked more and more certain in 1944 and 1945, the United States, U.S.S.R., France, and the United Kingdom bounced around ideas on the terms of a German surrender.

But it was still unclear how the military or political surrender signing would be orchestrated by the time Adolf Hitler died by suicide in a Berlin bunker on April 30, 1945, and his dictatorship reached a bloody end.

Hitler had designated Karl Dönitz, a naval admiral and ardent Nazi, as his successor in the event of his death. Dönitz was doomed not to rule a new Germany, but rather to orchestrate its dissolution.

He quickly deputized Alfred Jodl, chief of the operations staff of the Armed Forces High Command, to negotiate the surrender of all German forces with General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

- Dönitz hoped negotiations would buy him time to get as many German people and troops as possible out of the path of the advancing Russians.

- He also hoped to convince the United States, Britain, and France, all of whom distrusted the U.S.S.R., to turn against the Soviet Union so that Germany might continue its war on that front.

Eisenhower saw through the ruse, though, and insisted Jodl sign an instrument of surrender without negotiations.

On May 7, Jodl signed an unconditional “Act of Military Surrender” and a ceasefire that would go into effect at 11:01 p.m. Central European Time on May 8.

When Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin heard that Germany had signed an unconditional surrender of all its troops in Reims, he was furious.

- He argued that since the U.S.S.R. had sacrificed the most troops and civilians during the war, its most important military commander should accept Germany’s surrender rather than the Soviet officer who had witnessed the signing in Reims.

- Stalin opposed the location of the signing, too: Since Berlin had been the capital of the Third Reich, he argued, it should be the site of its surrender.

- But Stalin’s third objection—that Jodl was not Germany’s most senior military official—would prove the most convincing to the rest of the Allies, all of whom remembered how the signing of the armistice that ended World War I had helped plant the seeds of the next world war.

In 1918, as the German Empire had teetered on the brink of defeat, it collapsed and was replaced by a parliamentary republic. Matthias Erzberger, the new secretary of state, had signed the armistice of Compiègne, in which Germany unconditionally surrendered.

The surrender came as a shock to most German civilians, who had been told their military was on the verge of victory. As a result, rumors began to circulate that Germany’s new, civilian government—and other popular scapegoats, such as Marxists and Jews—had stabbed the military in the back.

Erzberger was eventually murdered as a result of the myth, which became a common refrain among the members of the new Nazi Party as they consolidated to seize power. (Meet the forgotten ‘wolf children’ of the second World War.)

Stalin argued that allowing Jodl to surrender for Germany in World War II could open the door to a new stab-in-the-back myth since he had been deputized by Dönitz, a civilian head of state. Worried that Germany could again insist that its surrender was illegitimate if anyone but Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, the supreme commander of all German forces, personally signed the document, the Allies decided to restage the surrender.

On May 8, Keitel headed to Karlshorst, a suburb of Berlin, to sign the document in front of Soviet Marshal Georgy Zhukov and a small Allied delegation.

But Keitel argued a minor point, hoping to add a clause giving his troops a grace period of at least 12 hours to ensure they received their cease fire orders before facing any penalties for continuing to fight.

Zhukov ultimately offered Keitel a verbal promise but did not grant his request to add the clause. Due to the delay, the document was not executed until after the cease-fire was supposed to begin—and May 9 had already arrived.

The Russians celebrate May 9 as Victory Day to this day.

The Reims surrender wasn't even reported in the Soviet press until a day afterward, proof according to some observers that the second surrender was a propaganda move orchestrated so Stalin could claim a larger part of the credit for ending the war.

In the rest of the world, though, V-E (Victory in Europe) Day is celebrated on May 8, the day the cease-fire was officially slated to begin.



Looking back to February, an article by Robert Farley titled "Was There Any Way at All That Nazi Germany Could Have Beaten Soviet Russia?" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Feb. 12, 2020. Following is the article.

Key point: Berlin made many bad assumptions and therefore had the wrong strategy. Hubris and bad planning would doom the Germans as they tried to seize the vast territories of Russia.

Even by the standards of World War II, the Eastern Front stands out as a cauldron of horror. Over four years of war, millions of soldiers and civilians died as Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union pummeled each other relentlessly.

Although the Germans inflicted serious damage in 1941 and 1942, the Red Army took the offensive in late 1942 at the Battle of Stalingrad, and slowly ground the Wehrmacht into dust over the course of the next three years.

In recent historiography on the war, the question has become less "how did the Soviets survive?" and more "how did the Germans do so well?"

Huge Soviet advantages in manpower, combined with the devastation inflicted by the Combined Bomber Offensive over Germany and the material support of the Western Allies, rendered German prospects exceedingly difficult.

And yet the Germans entered the war with great optimism, and many believed at the time that the Wehrmacht came within a hair's breadth of defeating the USSR for good.

How might the Germans have won the war?

Timing

Aggressors generally have the advantage of choosing the moment to attack, and can time that moment with the points of greatest advantage. In modern warfare, this often coincides with cycles of technological development and production.

Generally speaking the German timed their attack on the USSR wisely from a technological point of view, as the Soviets had rearmed in the mid-1930s and thus had much obsolete equipment relative to the Germans.

Moreover, the Soviets were at the beginning of a major force modernization that would provide the Red Army with new tanks, aircraft, and other weapons.

To be sure, the Germans were also modernizing. Panther, Tiger I, and Tiger II tanks entered German service after the beginning of Barbarossa, as did the Fw 190 fighter and some other advanced equipment.

But as David Glantz has argued, the balance of modernization almost certainly favored the Soviet Union, which was rapidly pushing out new equipment across the Red Army.

While Germany did not fight Russia at the peak of its technological advantage (which may have come during 1940), the technological balance was shifting in Russia's favor by the time the war began.

Operational changes

Could the Germans have made different operational decisions in 1941 and 1942 that would have made victory possible?

Historians sometimes point to the decision in 1941 to pause the advance on Moscow in favor of dealing with Soviet forces in Ukraine, and the decision in 1942 to make the major push in the south rather than against Moscow.

Much of war is luck, and it is impossible to know how changes would have worked out, but neither of these theories hold much promise. As David Glantz and others have argued, Soviet military and political strength was broad based, and not dependent on control of Moscow.

- In 1941, the Wehrmacht redirected its attention from the thrust towards Moscow in late summer to instead deal with hundreds of thousands of Soviet troops in Kiev. The Wehrmacht won a shattering victory, at the cost of a substantial delay to the Moscow operation.

- Similarly, in 1942 the Wehrmacht settled upon an advance in the south (ending up near Stalingrad) instead of attacking Soviet positions in the vicinity of Moscow.

- In both cases, the counterfactual promise of German victory depends on the idea that the fall of Moscow would somehow have led to the collapse of the Soviet state.

There is precious little evidence to support this. The Soviets were prepared to fight for Moscow, but the Red Army also had plans to continue the fight if the capitol fell.

Moscow was economically important, but not so much so that the Soviets could not continue the fight. And especially with respect to 1941, if the Wehrmacht had not destroyed Red Army forces in Ukraine, those units would have been available for counter-offensives in the winter.

All in all, it seems unlikely that specific operational changes would have made the difference.

Nationalities

During one of their rare mid-war conferences, Japanese diplomats expressed skepticism about the ability of Germany to defeat the Soviet Union, and suggested that the Nazi government should immediately declare the independence of countries such as Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine in an effort to mobilize further support for an anti-Soviet crusade.

The subject peoples of the Soviet Union cared neither for the Bolsheviks nor for the Russians, and during the war fought in great numbers on the side of the Germans, even without promises of independence.

As Samuel Newland argues, a war framed specifically as an anti-Bolshevik crusade might even have generated considerable support among ethnic Russians.

Unfortunately for the Germans, the nature of the Nazi regime made it impossible to seriously contemplate such an effort.

The Nazis justified their war machine on the fruits of conquest in the east, which left little room for the liberation of Russians, Ukrainians, or anyone else.

The Nazis also built the Germany economy around exploiting slave labor in the east, to the point of mass starvation. A different German government perhaps could have pulled off a different kind of war, but liberation was simply not something that the Nazis could manage.

Collapse

It was hardly irrational for the Germans to believe that the Soviet Union might collapse from the multiple blows the invasion would inflict.

In World War I, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Imperial Russia fought a bitter war mostly across non-Russian territory. After less than three years of conflict, Russia suffered major internal dislocations that resulted in a revolution. By the end of 1917, Russia was out of the war entirely.

The Germans believed that the Bolshevik regime was unpopular, that its roots with the Russian population ran shallower than those of the Czarist regime, that it was particularly hated by non-Russians, and finally that they could inflict much more serious military reverses on the USSR than they had inflicted on Imperial Russia during the first war.

In all of these things the Germans were correct.

However, the Soviet state had built a strong foundation for itself, often through terror. The purges that gutted the Red Army and other Soviet institutions also made them politically reliable for Stalin, reducing the chances of a coup.

Tight control of most of the nation's social institutions made it difficult for anyone to offer an alternative to the rule of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

This, combined with the utter barbarism of the German invaders, meant that many Russians felt no alternative but to fight on. The Soviet regime was far more unified than the Czarist regime had been, and far less willing to tolerate dissent.

Peace

Questions of a "separate peace" between Germany and the Soviet Union periodically re-emerged during the war, despite the awful toll that each exacted on the other.

Stalin reportedly considered a major revision of the border in the days following the invasion, although at that point the Germans showed little interest. Later in the war, the Japanese did their best to broker a peace, but Hitler in particular remained unwilling to give up his crusade.

Even if they could have reached terms, neither Germany nor the USSR could have regarded a cease-fire as anything but a temporary expedient.

German troops remained in possession of Soviet territory until relatively late in the war, and Stalin had developed a strong sense of the nature of the German regime.

For their part, the Germans appreciated that any pause would probably benefit the Soviets in the long run, and that they needed to contend with the growing power of the Western Allies.

It is hard to imagine that any peace treaty that did not result in regime change in either Germany or Russia could have endured.

Japan

In the planning for the war the Germans had hoped, but not necessarily expected, that Japan would attack the Soviet Union in Siberia.

Japan and the USSR had fought a brief but sharp engagement at Gol in 1939, where the Red Army dealt the Kwantung Army a nasty bloody nose.

It was not unreasonable to hope that Japan might relish a chance at revenge, and also an opportunity to seize Soviet oil resources in the Far East.

In the event, Japan preferred to sign a nonaggression pact with the USSR in anticipation of its much wider war against the Western powers in the Pacific.

If the Japanese had instead decided to keep their attention focused on North Asia, they might well have enjoyed considerable short- and medium-term success.

However, Siberia is huge, and the Soviet leadership correctly assessed that the European parts of the USSR were far more critical to the viability of the state than the Asian parts.

However much success the Japanese might have enjoyed (and it should be noted that the Red Army badly overmatched the Japanese in terms of equipment, even in 1941), it is unlikely that Japanese victories could have drawn enough Soviet attention away from Germany to prove decisive.

The final salvo

Germany's fatal error was a misunderstanding of the strength of the Soviet state, as well as the increasing quality of Soviet military equipment.

The assumptions that underlay the German war, and the arguments that justified it to the German public, made it nearly impossible to adopt the only strategy that might have had a chance of working.

Knocking the USSR out of the war in the same way that they had knocked France out of the war was almost impossible given geographic reality.

Yet, by the end of 1941 Germany faced an unbeatable Allied coalition that swiftly undercut its ability to wage total war in the East.



An article by Connor Perrett titled "A City in India [Noida, India, a City Outside New Delhi] Is Ordering All of Its Residents to Download the Government's Controversial COVID-19 Contact Tracing App or Face Jail Time" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on May 6, 2020. Following is the article.

Police in a city outside of New Delhi, India, ordered residents to download a COVID-19 contact tracing application to their smartphones or risk a fine or jail time for violating the city's lockdown order.

According to a BuzzFeed News report, residents of Noida, India, who are found to have not downloaded the contact tracing app are subject to up to six months in jail and a fine of about \$13 USD.

Police told local media they will conduct random checks of residents to ensure they've downloaded the app, though as BuzzFeed News reported, it's not entirely clear what police would do should a person not own a smartphone capable of downloading the app, or be traveling without out their device.

Approximately 400 million Indian citizens are projected to own a smartphone, according to an analysis by Statista—that's a fraction of the country's nearly 1.4 billion population.

The app, Aarogya Setu, was created by the Indian government and has been pushed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Over 90 million people have downloaded the app in the country in less than one month, according to BuzzFeed News.

The app allows users to record their travel history, symptoms, and also requires constant access to Bluetooth and the device's location data. Using these factors, the app offers users designations of green, yellow, or orange "pages" to illustrate a user's risk of having COVID-19.

There have been at least 52,559 cases and 1,768 deaths from COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus in India, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

According to the BuzzFeed report, there have been concerns over privacy due mostly do the state-created app's constant access to a user's location data. Some have even compared the city's mandate of the app to the existence of a police state. In addition to being mandated by the city of Noida, the application was mandated among all employees of the federal government, BuzzFeed reported.

Pharmacies also reportedly denied services to people who did not have the application installed, BuzzFeed reported, and Zomato, the largest food and grocery delivery service in India, required all of its delivery partners to install the application on their phones. It requested its customers to do the same.

"We are aware of the alleged privacy concerns that some of us have against using the app. But even if these concerns were well-founded, it is a small cost to pay for the sake of the collective long term," the April 22 announcement from the company read.

According to Tech Crunch, the Indian government has dismissed privacy concerns of the app and argued the app's constant location tracking is part of intended features—not flaws. A similar contract-tracing effort in development by Google and Apple notably does not request users' location data to operate.

Cities in the US are trying to ramp up their contract tracing efforts, which US experts have argued are essential in the path toward safely reopening shuttered businesses and minimizing the risk of a future COVID-19 outbreak.



An article by Josie Ensor titled "US 'Removes Patriot Anti-Missile System From Saudi Arabia' " was posted at telegraph.co.uk on May 7, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

The US is removing its Patriot anti-missile system from Saudi Arabia, according to reports, amid strained relations between the allies over oil production.

Washington is removing four of its missile batteries along with dozens of military personnel it had sent to the kingdom to combat the threat from Iran, following a devastating attack on Saudi's oil facilities.

According to the Wall Street Journal, quoting US officials, it will also consider a reduction in the US Navy presence in the Persian Gulf.

The paper reported that the decision followed a reassessment by the Pentagon of the threat Tehran posed, no longer deeming it to be an immediate risk to US strategic interests.



An article by Kelly Vaughan titled "Scientists Discovered a Black Hole in a Star System So Close to Earth, You Can See It With the Naked Eye" was posted at yahoo.com on May 7, 2020. Following is the article.

In a galaxy not so far away, European astronomers discovered the existence of a black hole that's closer to Earth than has ever been seen before—it's roughly 1,000 light years away from our planet, and experts found it hiding in a double-star system known as HR 6819.

Scientists say the black hole revealed itself in the curious orbit of the star near the center of the system. The two stars, which are in the southern constellation of Telescopium, can actually be seen by the naked eye.

"There must be hundreds of millions of black holes out there, but we know about only very few. Knowing what to look for should put us in a better position to find them," explained Thomas Rivinius, a Chile-based ESO scientist who led the study.

Scientists say that the black hole is not nearly close enough for the average observer on Earth to feel its effects. However, during winter in the southern hemisphere, the two stars that compose its solar system can be seen without a telescope.

The invisible black hole is estimated to be about four times the mass of the sun and roughly 2,500 light-years closer to us than the next black hole.

By comparison, Sagittarius A*, the well-known, supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way, is more than 25,000 light years away, and the first ever black hole to be captured on camera is 55 million light-years away, according to CBS News.

"By finding and studying them, we can learn a lot about the formation and evolution of those rare stars that begin their lives with more than about eight times the mass of the Sun and end them in a supernova explosion that leaves behind a black hole," says Marianne Heida, a co-author on the paper, which was published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.



"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.

■ A Reuters article by Munsif Vengattil and Lisa Richwine titled "Disney Takes \$1.4 Billion Coronavirus Hit, Sets Date to Reopen Shanghai Park" was posted at reuters.com on May 5, 2020.

■ An article by Patrick J. McDonnell and Alexander Renderos titled "El Salvador's President Accused of Using Coronavirus to Bolster Autocratic Agenda" was posted at latimes.com on April 30, 2020.

■ An article by James Crisp titled "Belgium Is 'Worst-Hit Country' in the World, But Only Because They're Being Honest" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on May 2, 2020.

- Looking back to April, an article by John Fund and Joel Hay titled “Has Sweden Found the Right Solution to the Coronavirus?” was posted at nationalreview.com on April 6, 2020.
- An article by John Fund and Joel Hay titled “Sweden Bucked Conventional Wisdom, and Other Countries Are Following” was posted at nationalreview.com on May 3, 2020.
- An article by Jessy Bains titled “U.S. Sits Back As Canada Pledges \$850 Million for Global Fight Against Coronavirus” was posted at yahoo.com on May 4, 2020.
- An article by Nicole Winfield and Tim Sullivan titled “Italy Lets Millions Back to Work, US Restrictions Easing Up” was posted at apnews.com on May 4, 2020.
- An article titled “Pope Backs Migrant Farm Workers As Italy Mulls Legalization” was posted at apnews.com on May 6, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Italy’s Daily Death Toll Falls, New Cases Broadly Stable” was posted at reuters.com on May 7, 2020.
- An article by Femike Colborne and Peter Wuetherich titled “Germany Accelerates Return to Normality” was posted at afp.com on May 6, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Free Beer! German Brewery [Willinger Brewery in the Western State of Hesse, Owned by Franz Mast] Gives Away Beverages [690 Gallons] It Can’t Sell” was posted at reuters.com on May 7, 2020.
- An article by Josef Federman titled “Set for New Term, Netanyahu Eyes Risky West Bank Annexation” was posted at apnews.com on May 7, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Humeyra Pamuk titled “U.S. Says Russia Is Working With Syria’s Assad to Move Militia to Libya” was posted at reuters.com on May 7, 2020.
- An article by Aine Cain and Becky Peterson titled “Leaked Audio: [2,500] Crew [Members] Stuck for Weeks on Board Norwegian Cruise Line Ship Threatened With ‘Prosecution by Shoreside Authorities’ If They Leak Information” was posted at businessinsider.com on May 7, 2020.
- An article by Shawn Langlois titled “ ‘Professor Lockdown’ [of Britain] Loses Job After Breaking the Rules by Seeing Married Lover” was posted at marketwatch.com on May 6, 2020.
- An article by Corinne Reichert titled “5G Coronavirus Conspiracy Theory Results in 77 Mobile Towers [in UK] Burned, Report Says” was posted at cnet.com on May 7, 2020.
- An article by Mack Lamoueux titled “Cell Tower Fires Have Finally Made Their Way to Canada” was posted at vice.com on May 7, 2020.



An article by Robert Kraychik titled “[Breitbart News Editor-in-Chief] Alex Marlow: Texas Mom Jailed for Trying to Feed Family While Criminals Released” was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on May 7, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Breitbart News Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow contrasted the recent release of convicted criminals in several states—ostensibly out of humanitarian concerns related to the coronavirus outbreak—with the sentencing of a woman in Dallas, TX, to seven days in jail for defying a coronavirus-related lockdown order by keeping her hair salon open for business.

Marlow highlighted Judge Eric Moyé’s sentencing of Shelley Luther, the hair salon owner, during a Breitbart News Facebook Live segment on Wednesday.

“This Texas hair salon owner has become a cause célèbre on the Internet because she defied the big brother lockdown. She kept her salon, Salon Á la Mode, in Dallas open in defiance of the government.”

“She refused to comply with some of the draconian demands . . . of a particular judge,” added Marlow. “She was asked by the judge—a guy named Eric Moyé—during a contempt of court proceeding to not just apologize, but to suggest that she was selfish. That’s correct. He said that she was selfish, and this was the claim that she needed to make [to avoid jail].”

Marlow remarked, “This is not representing the United States that we all knew before we entered coronaland, so the backlash has been severe all over the Internet.”

Democrats and the broader left are advancing their ideological push to further erode human freedom under the guise of protecting public health, observed Marlow.

“In coronaland, the authoritarians—typically on the left, typically the Democrat Party—are not seeing this as simply a virus [for which] we must try to smash the curve and get people back to work,” Marlow stated. “They’re seeing this as an opportunity to consolidate power.

Marlow went on, “You see this with folks like Nancy Pelosi pushing for vote-by-mail—or cheat-by-mail. You see it with Joe Biden saying that this is an opportunity to fundamentally transform the country. Many Democrats are echoing this exact sentiment.”

“Needless to say, Moyé is a guy who’s on the left,” Marlow added. “Those who are empowered want to consolidate more power in times of crisis. This has always been the way authoritarians operate.”

Marlow contrasted Luther’s sentencing with the release of criminals during the coronavirus outbreak.

Breitbart News reported, “Twice-deported illegal alien arrested in a domestic violence dispute has been freed back into the local community in Culpeper, VA, after testing positive for the Chinese coronavirus. Two of the police officers who arrested him have also since tested positive for the virus.”

Marlow assessed, "The hypocrisy angle is so severe it almost boggles the mind . . . Last night, two cops contracted coronavirus after arresting a twice-deported and since-released infected illegal alien."

Marlow recalled the recent charging of an illegal alien from Guatemala with reckless tampering of a product, risking injury or death after allegedly spitting on fruit in a Walmart in Volusia County, Florida.

Breitbart News reported on the release of a sex offender in California during the coronavirus outbreak.

■ One of seven "high risk" sex offenders released from prison in Orange County, California, by Court Commissioner Joseph Dane has already been rearrested weeks later for sex crimes.

■ Rudy William Grajeda Magdaleno, 39, was rearrested in Orange County this week—less than three weeks after he was released from prison—for allegedly exposing himself to parole resource center employees on April 17, according to Santa Ana law enforcement officials.

Marlow said, "We don't want the criminals trapped in jail—because they could get the virus—so that we can make room for Shelley Luther for violating the authoritarian orders."

"Illinois freed 4,000 inmates, including murderers and sex offenders, due to the coronavirus, trying to get people out of jail," recalled Marlow.

Marlow concluded, "This is where people start losing faith in their institutions. When you start seeing that the institutions are out there to punish taxpayers like Shelley Luther who are trying to provide a service and have been told by the government she can't—even if that means she can't feed her kids—and the community loses a vibrant member. Yet we have to release the guy who's exposing himself to parole officers and murderers."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Governor Needs a Governor" was posted at patriotpost.us on May 2, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

It has become increasingly obvious that some of the state governors are getting carried away with their newly-discovered powers, using them to boss and bully their constituents.

Take Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "Please!" one can hear the people of Michigan pleading.

She tested the waters by ordering boat owners, fishermen, golfers and hunters, to stop engaging in their favorite hobbies until she personally decided at some indefinite date that they could resume.

Once she got away with that, there was no stopping her. She has now put a stop to what she has determined are unessential operations, including hip-replace-

ments. She must be the only person in the country who thinks that people elect to have their hips replaced with the same sense of whimsy that people like Nancy Pelosi, Jane Fonda and Debbie Dingell, sign up for facelifts and tummy tucks.

■ Michigan Governor and abortion

At the same time, the Governor has decided that abortions shall proceed uninterrupted, declaring: "A woman's healthcare, her whole future, her decision if and when she starts a family is not an elective, it is a fundamental to her life. It is life sustaining and it's something that government should not be getting in the middle of."

Well, one thing you have to say for Gov. Whitmer. She'll have none of that hoity-toity business about not ending a sentence with a preposition in Michigan! Good for her. This is America, by God! We don't have to pay any attention to the rules of grammar that we didn't enact with our votes.

On the other hand, there is something definitely Orwellian about her referring to the butchering of babies as "life sustaining." One can imagine Count Dracula referring to the governor as the ghoul of his dreams.

■ Wuhan virus

My mentioning the virus reminds me that I've heard that in China, they were referring to the outbreak as the Wuhan virus long before President Trump was being called a racist for blaming China for the pandemic. Not too surprisingly, the World Health Organization, which should be labeled a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Chinese Communist Party, is the outfit that saved China the embarrassment of being saddled with the blame by re-branding the Wuhan virus COVID-19.

■ Civil rights

Dan Parker, who shares my concern over the trampling of civil rights brought about by the virus, wrote to say: "The American government, at every level, now has the power to suspend all civil liberties and unalienable rights (in the name of public health and safety). I've never seen such a power-grab. What will be their next excuse?"

■ FDR got away with it

I let him know I feared it might be brought about by a second Great Depression. "Desperate times, they always tell us, call for desperate measures. Look at what FDR managed to pull off during the 1930s. He nearly managed to add half-a-dozen hand-picked justices to the Supreme Court before, like Frankenstein's monster, he was finally stopped in his tracks."

But even the stop was merely a suspension.

After winning re-election in 1936 by a record margin over Alf Landon, Roosevelt, who was being frustrated by the Court's rejection of several pieces of New Deal legislation, decided he would take advantage of his popularity by packing the Court with more obliging justices. But it turned out that the people saw it for what it was, a blatant political ploy to get around our system of checks and balances.

But the mere threat of FDR's pulling it off in the future was enough to make a couple of the justices far more amenable to the President's bills, the passage of which helped introduce the cancer of Socialism to the body politic.

At the time, it was said about the caving of the two justices that "a switch in time saved nine."

As it turned out, Roosevelt wound up being president for so damn many years that he eventually managed, through natural attrition, to remake the Court in his own leftist image.

■ Aphorisms

Scot Nielsen sent along a bunch of aphorisms. Some were familiar, but there were a few I don't recall sharing:

"Money will buy you a dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail."

"Seatbelts are not as confining as wheelchairs."

"How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?"

"Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without." (I'd say this is equally true about government shutdowns.)

"Why is it that at class reunions, you always feel younger than everyone else looks?"

"There are no new sins; the old ones just keep getting more publicity."

"Nobody ever says 'It's only a game' when they're winning."

"The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket."

"Scratch a dog once and you'll discover you have a permanent job."

■ More sayings

It's been a while since I shared some of the wisdom to be found in "Screw Calm and Get Angry," so without further ado:

"Let us be grateful to the mirror for revealing to us our appearance only." (Samuel Butler)

"It's discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit." (Noel Coward)

"Never try to keep up with the Joneses. Drag them down to your level. It's cheaper." (Quentin Crisp)

"Nothing ages your car quite as much as the sight of your neighbor's new one." (Evan Esar)

"Whenever a friend succeeds, a little something in me dies." (Gore Vidal)

“Start off every day with a smile and get it over with.” (W.C. Fields)

“Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever live to regret.” (Ambrose Bierce)



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Schlafly: In Her Own Words” was posted at patriotpost.us on May 4, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Phyllis Schlafly died at the age of 92, on September 5, 2016, two months before the presidential election. Like a female Moses, she was deprived of the opportunity to see her dream fully realized with Donald Trump’s victory over the forces of darkness as exemplified by Hillary Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton was the living embodiment of everything that Mrs. Schlafly had opposed most of her adult life.

Now, nearly four years after her death, two things have converged to bring her back in the news. The first was the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) by Virginia, making it the all-important 38th state to do so. The other is the debut of an FX TV series called “Mrs. America,” starring Cate Blanchett as Mrs. Schlafly.

Not having seen the series, I can’t comment on the way they have chosen to depict her but considering the way that TV has depicted the Reagans and the Bushes, I think it’s a safe bet that Mrs. Schlafly is not portrayed in a favorable light.

Most Americans first became aware of her existence in 1964 when her self-published book, “A Choice, Not an Echo,” which charged that Eastern elites regularly repressed conservatives at presidential-nominating conventions, helped propel Barry Goldwater to the nomination.

She next came to the forefront when she waged war on the ERA as it was wending its way through Congress and the legislatures of the 50 states. Because few politicians were willing to be seen as opposing something with equal rights in its title, the proposed amendment had no trouble getting through the House and appeared to be well on its way to becoming an amendment until Mrs. Schlafly took it on.

On the face of it, the legislation seemed benign. All it said was: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or any state on account of sex.”

You might think that only troglodytes would oppose it. But the fact is that the AF of L and other labor unions opposed its passage because they feared the amendment would invalidate existing labor legislation that protected women. Unions had fought long and hard to ensure that its female members would not be compelled to work at night or do any heavy lifting. But if they were suddenly to demand equality with men, those safeguards could be removed, along with the shorter hours they were often permitted so their roles as mothers wouldn’t be impeded.

For the most part, the women who pushed the legislation were privileged feminists who didn't have jobs and held working mothers in the same contempt that they held men.

But, thanks in good part, to Schlafly's efforts, it got bogged down when it failed to muster the required three-quarters of the states by the deadline.

However, on January 27 of this year, the Virginia legislature became the 38th state to ratify the amendment. The problem is that when it was first passed by the House, the deadline for ratification was 1982. It was therefore up to Nancy Pelosi to get around that little glitch by voting a couple of weeks later to remove the original time limit. Pretty much along party lines, the House voted 232-182 to arbitrarily extend the deadline by 38 years.

However, along the way, five states—Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota and Tennessee—had rescinded their original vote.

Naturally, the feminists argue that it was illegal for the five to change their collective minds, but, based on Ruth Bader Ginsburg's unexpected candor on the subject, I suspect that the Supreme Court will likely disagree.

In 2012, when I was working on my book of interviews, "67 Conservatives You Should Meet Before You Die," I conducted an interview with Mrs. Schlafly. Unfortunately, we had to swap questions and answers via email, so I never got to meet the lady. My loss.

Here is a slightly abridged version of the exchange we had four years before her death.

Q. What did your parents do for a living?

A. My mother was the librarian for the St. Louis Art Museum for 25 years. My father was a sales engineer for Westinghouse who lost his job in the Depression and never regained fulltime employment.

Q. When did you become a lawyer and did your parents encourage you?

A. I went to law school after I was 50 and my parents were long gone. Nobody encouraged me.

Q. What book has had the greatest influence on you?

A. I'm a reader; I've read so many books, I can't say which had the greatest influence.

Q. In that case, what is your all-time favorite book, and why does it resonate with you?

A. I think the great American novel is "Gone with the Wind." It's a tale of perseverance and survival against all odds.

Q. I can see why you would identify with Scarlett O'Hara. What is the best advice you ever received?

A. I grew up in the Great Depression, so the best advice was to prepare myself to be able to support myself, as my mother did.

Q. Who or what makes you laugh?

A. The follies and inconsistencies of feminists, and their lack of understanding of human nature.

Q. In what specific ways do you think America would be different if Barry Goldwater had defeated Lyndon Johnson in 1964?

A. We would not have suffered the tragedy of the Vietnam War. Also, we would have won the Cold War much sooner because Goldwater would have restored our nuclear superiority, and we would not have suffered Nixon and Watergate.

Q. What is your all-time favorite movie?

A. Shirley Temple movies.

Q. How large a role has money played in your life?

A. It had a big effect when I didn't have any, so I worked my way through college on the night shift, testing .30 and .50 caliber ammunition. After I completed college, money was not a big thing to me because I don't enjoy extravagance.

Q. What is your favorite piece of music?

A. "The Flight of the Bumble Bee."

Q. Is there anyone you envy?

A. No. I don't know anyone who has had such a wonderful life.

Q. When you wrote "A Choice, Not an Echo," did you have any idea how successful it would be?

A. I planned for it to be important and to change Republican politics forever. But I thought I could do that by selling 25,000 copies. I ended up selling three million.

Q. When you started the fight against the ERA, did you really think you had a chance to defeat it? As I recall, 30 states had already ratified it.

A. Yes, I believed we could defeat it or I wouldn't have taken up the battle.

Q. What role does religion play in your life?

A. A big role. I've been a practicing Roman Catholic all my life.

Q. If they ever get around to filming your life story, what actress could you envision in the role?

A. Sorry, I don't go to the movies, so I don't know any of them.

Q. You have twice run for Congress and once for the presidency of the National Federation of Republican Women and lost each time. Did you come away from those losses knowing anything you didn't know going in?

A. Absolutely. In fact, after I recovered emotionally from losing, I was glad I lost.

Q. Why were you glad?

A. If I had won the NFRW election, I would have spent a couple of years sitting at head tables instead of doing useful things. As for Congress, I accomplished far more for the conservative cause on the outside than I could have as a congresswoman.

Q. Such as?

A. Such as defeating the ERA, defeating the push for a Constitutional Convention, and making the Republican Party conservative and Pro-Life. Running for those offices also got me over my shyness.

Q. If, with a snap of your fingers, you could change anything about America, what would it be?

A. I'd defeat Obama and banish the supremacist judges.

Q. And who are they?

A. It's a term I coined and used in my book, "The Supremacists." They're the judges who think they are supreme over the two other branches of government and the will of the American people, judges who say that the Constitution is a "living" document they can interpret according to their own biases instead of as it was written, and judges who falsely think that Supreme Court decisions are "the supreme law of the land."

Q. If, with a snap of your fingers, you could change anything about Phyllis Schlafly, what would it be?

A. To be able to get along with less sleep.

Q. If you could sit down to dinner with any eight people who have ever lived, and for this one evening they could all speak English, who would they be?

A. George Washington, Tom Paine, Ronald Reagan and Thomas Edison.

Q. Ah, the classic boy, empty chair, boy, empty chair. And finally, if there's a question I haven't thought to ask that you wish I had, what is it and what is your answer?

A. My question: Why am I opposed to feminism? My answer: It teaches women the lie that they are victims of an oppressive patriarchy. Feminism is anti-men, anti-masculine, anti-marriage, anti-motherhood and anti-morality; that's a recipe for unhappiness. In truth, American women are the most fortunate class of people who have ever lived.



"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 Greg Robb titled "The U.S. Treasury Plans to Borrow a Record \$3 Trillion in the Second Quarter for Coronavirus Relief—Already the Largest-Ever Borrowing for Any Full Fiscal Year" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 4, 2020.
- An article by Greg Robb titled "Assets on Fed Balance Sheet Rise to Record \$6.72 Trillion" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 7, 2020.

Federal reserve

- An article by Greg Robb titled "Fed Officials Don't Expect Quick Economic Recovery" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 7, 2020.

Coronavirus and civil liberties

- An article by Audrey McNamara titled "All Roads Into Gallup, New Mexico Are Closed Over 'Uninhibited' COVID-19 Spread" was posted at cbsnews.com on May 2, 2020.
- An article by Noel Lyn Smith titled "'We Had to Do Something'—A New Mexico City [Gallup] Goes Into Lockdown to Curb the Coronavirus" was posted at daily-times.com (Farmington, N.M.) on May 2, 2020.
- An article by JuYeon Kim titled "Ector County SWAT Team Raids Local Bar [in Odessa, Texas] for Protesting to Reopen" was posted at yourbasin.com on May 4, 2020.
- An article by LaVendrick Smith titled "Dallas Salon Owner Jailed for Reopening in Violation of Court Order" was posted at dallasnews.com on May 5, 2020.
- An article by Mairead McArdle titled "Texas AG, Governor Urge Judge to Reverse 'Shameful' Prison Sentence Given to Woman for Opening Hair Salon" was posted at nationalreview.com on May 6, 2020.
- A video and an article by Bob Price titled "Texas Hair Salon Owner Released From Jail—Breaks Down in Tears" were posted at Breitbart.com on May 7, 2020.
- An article by Leah Simpson titled "Shocking Video Shows White Cop Repeatedly Beating a Black Man While Another Pins Him to the Ground 'For Not Following Social Distancing Rules' [in Jersey City, New Jersey] —Despite the Officers Not Wearing Masks Themselves" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on May 6, 2020.
- An article by Betsy McCaughey titled "Prolonging the Shutdown Defies Science and the US Constitution" was posted at townhall.com on May 6, 2020.
- An article by Julio Rosas titled "MSNBC Contributor [Anand Giridharadas]: Americans' Obsession With Freedom Blinds Us to Threats Like Climate Change, Viruses" was posted at townhall.com on May 6, 2020.
- An article by Hal Scherz titled "Why Banning Doctors With Different Ideas From YouTube Is Bad for Public Health" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 8, 2020.

Stimulus checks

■ An article by Mary Papenfuss titled "Major Trump Donor [Texas Conservative Monty Bennett] Returns \$70 Million in Coronavirus Stimulus Aid for Luxury Hotels" was posted at huffpost.com on May 4, 2020.

Finances

■ An article by Shawn Donnan and Joe Deaux titled "Layoffs Start Turning From Temporary to Permanent Across America" was posted at bloomberg.com on May 6, 2020.

■ An article by Tom Tapp titled "California Coronavirus Update: Governor Gavin Newsom Predicts 'Depression-Era' Unemployment Rates in State" was posted at deadline.com on May 6, 2020.

■ An article by Jeff Cox titled "US Weekly Jobless Claims Total 3.169 Million, Bringing Seven-Week Tally to 33.5 Million" was posted at cnbc.com on May 7, 2020.

■ An article by Kris Maher titled "Businesses Struggle to Lure Workers Away From Unemployment" was posted at wsj.com on May 8, 2020.

■ An article by Graham Rapiere titled "The Largest Meat Producer in US [Tyson] Just Warned That More Meat Shortages Are Coming As Its Profits Fall 15%" was posted at businessinsider.com on May 4, 2020.

■ An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "Major Fast Food Chain [Wendy's] Takes Burgers Off Menu in Many Locations Over Meat Shortages" was posted at townhall.com on May 6, 2020.

■ An article by Max Zahn titled "Many Retail Goods 'Likely to Go Away Permanently' Post-Coronavirus, Says Investor Glenn Hutchins" was posted at yahoo.com on May 6, 2020.

■ An article by Katy Stech Ferek titled "Law Firms Gear Up for Expected Jump in Bankruptcies Triggered by Coronavirus" was posted at wsj.com on May 6, 2020.

■ An article by Elisabetta Bianchini titled "Travel Industry Won't Return to Something Similar to 'Normal' Until 2021 or Later, Experts Says" was posted at yahoo.com on May 6, 2020.

■ An article by Bram Berkowitz titled "3 Industries [Gymnasiums, Movie Theaters and Office Space] That May Not Rebound After Coronavirus" was posted at motleyfool.com on May 7, 2020.

■ An article by Tatiana Siegel titled "Saudi Arabia Eyes Hollywood Investments As Companies Face Cash Crunch" was posted at hollywoodreporter.com on May 7, 2020.

Are coronavirus deaths accurate?

■ An article by Will Stone titled "Eerie Emptiness of ERs Worries Doctors: Where Are the Heart Attacks and Strokes?" was posted at npr.org on May 6, 2020.

Coronavirus and religion

■ An article by Terry Jeffrey titled "Which Has More Rights: A Church or a Liquor Store?" was posted at townhall.com on May 6, 2020.

Green New Deal

■ Looking back to July, an article by Adam Shaw titled "AOC's Top Aide Admits Green New Deal About the Economy, Not Climate" was posted at foxnews.com on July 12, 2019.

Illegal immigration

■ Looking back to April, an article titled "Border Official: Illegal Immigration Lowest in Decades Amid Virus Outbreak" was posted at ktar.com on April 22, 2020.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Awr Hawkins titled "Report: Nearly 1.8 Million Firearms Sold in April 2020 Alone" was posted at Breitbart.com on May 7, 2020.

■ An article by Bob Chiarito titled "Despite Lockdown, No Letup in Chicago's Murder Rate" was posted at afp.com on May 8, 2020.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Tobias Hoonhout titled "Trump Administration 'Turbocharging' Withdrawal of Supply Chains From China" was posted at nationalreview.com on May 4, 2020.

■ A Reuters article by Andrea Shalal and Susan Heavey titled "Trump Order to Buy U.S.-Made Medical Supplies Coming Soon—[Trump Trade Adviser Peter] Navarro" was posted at Reuters.com on May 4, 2020.

■ A Reuters article titled "U.S. Treasury's Mnuchin Says Trump Eyeing Restaurant Tax Changes, Travel Boost" was posted at Reuters.com on May 4, 2020.

■ An article by Susan Jones titled "[Lindsey] Graham: Declassified Memo Shows 'Entire Mueller Investigation Was Illegitimate to Begin With' " was posted at CNSnews.com on May 7, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Guy Benson titled "Prominent Journalist [Martin Tolchin]: We Shouldn't Investigate the Biden Allegation Because Defeating Trump Is All That Matters" was posted at townhall.com on May 6, 2020.

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled "WH Press Secretary Reminds Reporters of Their Own False Coronavirus Claims; Asks If They Want to 'Take Back' " was posted at CNSnews.com on May 7, 2020.

■ An by Molly Hemingway titled "Democrats Demanded Millions of Kavanaugh Records, But Stay Mum on Biden's Senate Records" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 1, 2020.

- An article by Molly Hemingway titled "Democrats Are Reaping the 'Whirlwind' Kavanaugh Warned About" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 1, 2020.
- An article by Sean Davis titled "Explosive New [Michael] Flynn [Former National Security Adviser] Documents Show FBI Goal Was to 'Get Him Fired' " was posted at thefederalist.com on April 29, 2020.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "New Documents Show President Obama Was in On the Flynn Takedown" was posted at townhall.com on May 7, 2020.
- An article by Sean Davis titled "Obama Defense Official Evelyn Farkas Admitted She Lied on MSNBC About Having Evidence of [Trump] Collusion" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 8, 2020.
- Looking back to 2019, an article by Stephanie Merry titled "Not That It's a Race, But Michelle Obama's Book Is Going to Sell More Than Both of Barack's" was posted at washingtonpost.com on March 29, 2019.
- An article by Molly Nagle titled "New Committee Seeks to Draft Michelle Obama As VP Nominee" was posted at abcnews.com on May 4, 2020.
- An article by Dominic Patten titled " 'Becoming' Review: If Michelle Obama Isn't Running for Something, Someone Needs to Tell The Netflix Film" was posted at deadline.com on May 4, 2020.
- An article by Alexandra Svokos and Kelsey Walsh titled "Barack and Michelle Obama Will Deliver Commencement Speeches for the Class of 2020" was posted at abcnews.com on May 5, 2020.
- An article by Caroline Allen titled "Michelle Obama Documentary on Netflix: Sasha and Malia Share Their Admiration for Their Mother" was posted at yahoo.com on May 6, 2020.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled " 'You Can't Suspend a Revolution'; Sanders Backers Launch Drive to Boost Delegate Count, Sway Platform" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 6, 2020.

News about the media

- An article by Christopher Bedford titled "Joe Biden Might Not Be Guilty, But Corporate Media Is" was posted at thefederalist.com on April 30, 2020.
- An article by Molly Hemingway titled "CNN Flooded Zone With Kavanaugh Coverage, Hasn't Mentioned Biden's Accuser Once" was posted at thefederalist.com on April 16, 2020.
- An article by John Kass titled "Kavanaugh-Biden Double Standard and Lack of Curiosity Over Flynn Make Beltway Media Look Bad" was posted at townhall.com on May 7, 2020.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "ABC's David Muir Presses Trump on Lives Lost in Reopening the Country" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 6, 2020.

■ An article by Todd Spangler titled "Roku Streaming Hours Surged 80% in April, Hits Nearly 40 Million Accounts in Q1" was posted at variety.com on May 7, 2020.

General interest

■ An article by Erik Pedersen titled "Los Angeles Clippers Owner Steve Ballmer Closes Deal to Buy The Forum From MSG [Paving the Way to Build a New Arena Away From the Lakers]" was posted at deadline.com on May 4, 2020.

■ An article by Peter White titled "Bill Clinton Teams With History to Launch Presidential Documentary Series" was posted at deadline.com on May 7, 2020.

■ An article by Kathryn Pro Civ titled "May Snowstorm 2020: Historic Weather Could Hit Northeast [This Weekend]" was posted at nbcnews.com on May 7, 2020.



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."