

Eye on the World

Aug. 15, 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 August 15, 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 Raoul Wootliff titled "Hailing 'New Era With Arab World,' Netanyahu Says Others Will Follow UAE's Lead" was posted at timesofisrael.com on Aug. 13, 2020. Following is the article.

Announcing details of the historic agreement for full diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday night hailed what he called a "new era of Israeli relations with the Arab world," and said other deals with Arab countries would follow.

He also insisted that he would continue to seek to extend Israeli sovereignty to parts of the West Bank land, in coordination with the US, but acknowledged that his plan for unilateral annexation was being temporarily halted, in line with the joint statement issued by the US, Israel and the UAE which specified that Israel would "suspend" the move.

In a televised address delivered hours after US President Donald Trump announced the breakthrough on Twitter, Netanyahu said that the UAE, Israel and the US had agreed on "a full and formal peace" in a phone call Thursday.

According to Netanyahu, there will be a "full" exchange of embassies, ambassadors, economic exchanges, direct flights and more. "Together, with our joint strengths, we can bring a great future for our peoples and our region,"

he added, saying the countries would share their advanced technological knowledge for mutual benefit.

"This is very important for our economy, the regional economy and our future," the prime minister said.

He said the UAE would make investments that would boost the Israeli economy, and that the two countries would work together on a vaccine for COVID-19.

He hailed the UAE as a rising world power, like Israel, and one that had made the desert bloom, like Israel, noting its skyscrapers, artificial islands, space program and culture of innovation.

He also said the agreement reflected the "dramatic change" in the way Israel was perceived in the region. In the past, it was regarded "as an enemy and source of instability" but today "many, many states see Israel as a strategic ally for stability, for security, for advancement and also for peace.

"There will be other Arab and Muslim states that will join the circle of peace with us," he predicted. Israel and moderate states in the region "stand aligned in favor of advancement and against the extremist forces that threaten us and world peace."

Netanyahu also hailed Trump, "one of Israel's greatest friends," for enabling the deal, said advancing genuine, sustainable peace was Israel's defining mission, and expressed confidence that all Israeli citizens would welcome the accord.

Placing himself as the latest in the short line of Israeli prime ministers to sign historic peace deals with Arab states, following Menachem Begin with Egypt (1979) and Yitzhak Rabin with Jordan (1994), Netanyahu said it was an "honor . . . after years of my making efforts, dreaming of it, working toward it . . . to establish the third peace agreement between Israel and an Arab state, the United Arab Emirates."

Earlier Thursday afternoon, a White House announcement said the leaders of the US, Israel and the UAE "spoke today and agreed to the full normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates."

Israeli and UAE delegations will meet in the coming weeks to sign bilateral agreements regarding investment, tourism, direct flights, security and the establishment of reciprocal embassies, it said.

Announcing the deal, Trump wrote on Twitter: "HUGE breakthrough today. Historic Peace Agreement between our two GREAT friends, Israel and the United Arab Emirates!"

Netanyahu said he has been working toward the goal of normalization with the Gulf since 2009.

"I always thought it was possible . . . I have been doing this constantly, for years," he said, noting his contacts with Oman, Sudan and other states in the area that don't have official ties with Israel.

Netanyahu asserted he had proven wrong those who said it would be impossible to forge peace with an Arab country without reaching an accord with the Palestinians first and without withdrawing to the pre-1967 lines.

"I say to the residents of the United Arab Emirates: Salam Alaikum. Shalom Aleichem. Peace be to you, and us," Netanyahu concluded his prepared remarks.

Later answering questions, Netanyahu insisted that the agreement was not made in exchange for anything, and said there is "no change in my plans for annexation, [in] full coordination with the US."

Netanyahu claimed that Trump had only requested a "temporary" suspension of annexation plans and that "temporary means temporary." He said he was committed to sovereignty, and will "never give up on our rights in our land."

The issue of applying sovereignty in Judea and Samaria "remains on the table," he said. "I'm the one who put it on the table . . ."

"Just as I brought peace, I will bring sovereignty [to the West Bank]," he vowed, adding "I did not take sovereignty off the table." He went on: "I am committed to sovereignty . . . Nobody ever believes my promises" but "I always prove them wrong."

The joint statement issued by the White House states that "Israel will suspend declaring sovereignty over areas outlined in the President's Vision for Peace and focus its efforts now on expanding ties with other countries in the Arab and Muslim world. The United States, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates are confident that additional diplomatic breakthroughs with other nations are possible, and will work together to achieve this goal."

Asked if he supports a two state solution, Netanyahu said he was committed to the Trump peace plan, calling it the most realistic plan since 1967, while at the same time refusing to define what a Palestinian entity would be.

In response to his comments, a senior UAE official told The Times of Israel that Abu Dhabi remained committed to the establishment of a Palestinian state and the terms of the Arab Peace Initiative.

"The UAE, US and Israel have agreed on suspending Israeli annexation of Palestinian territories in order to establish bilateral relations towards a stable and peaceful region via dialogue and diplomacy," Hend al-Otaiba, the director of strategic communications of the Emirati Foreign Ministry, stressed.

Later Thursday, Netanyahu called Mossad Director Yossi Cohen and thanked him for the agency's assistance in "developing the ties with the Gulf states over the years, which assisted in bringing the [UAE] peace treaty to fruition."

Speaking to reporters after his own announcement, Trump suggested that more diplomatic breakthroughs between Israel and its Muslim neighbors in the region were expected.

"Things are happening that I can't talk about," the US president said.



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Israel Warned the UN a Year Ago About Hezbollah Smuggling Arms Through Beirut Port" was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020. Following is the article.

Hezbollah opposes the idea of an international inquiry into the devastating explosion in Beirut a week ago, stoking suspicion that the Iran-backed terrorist group worries an independent investigation may draw unwelcome attention to its alleged use of the port for smuggling weapons into Lebanon.

At least 158 people were killed and more than 6,000 injured in a pair of blasts at the city's port, the largest of which sent pressure waves that destroyed or damaged buildings for miles around, leaving some 300,000 residents without homes.

Last Tuesday's huge explosion has been attributed to 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, stored in a warehouse since being confiscated from a ship arrested during a port call in 2013.

But what caused the precursor explosion and fire that in turn detonated the ammonium nitrate remains a mystery, despite official claims promoting a "fireworks" theory.

Last summer, Israel warned the U.N. Security Council that the Iranian regime was using Lebanese civilian infrastructure to smuggle weapons and dual-use items to Hezbollah, to advance the terrorist group's rocket and missile capabilities.

"In the years 2018 and 2019, Israel found that Iran and the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] Qods Force have begun to advance the exploitation of the civilian maritime channels, and specifically the Port of Beirut, for this same purpose," Israeli Ambassador Danny Danon told the council on July 23 last year.

"A civilian port," he underlined. "The Port of Beirut is now the Port of Hezbollah."

Lebanon's U.N. Ambassador Amal Mudallali, without denying the accusations, told the council Israel may be trying to prepare the ground for an attack on Lebanon's civilian infrastructure.

On Tuesday Lebanese President Michel Aoun referred the port explosion to the judicial council, a body comprising senior judges and judicial officials. Lebanon's judicial system is widely viewed as lacking independence and being beholden to political interests.

Earlier, Aoun, a close Hezbollah ally, firmly rejected popular calls for an international investigation, saying those demands were "aimed at covering up the truth."

In a televised speech on Friday, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah made clear he wanted the investigation into the incident to be kept inside the country, calling for the Lebanese Army to oversee it.

Nasrallah also vehemently denied that his group had ever stored weapons or explosives at the port, or had any say in running, overseeing or controlling the port.

On Sunday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper told Fox News that early speculation about the cause of the blast included the possibility that it was “a Hezbollah arms shipment that blew up, maybe a Hezbollah bomb-making facility.”

“The bottom line is, we still don’t know.”

A U.S. Embassy cable cited by the New York Times on Monday stated that the cause of “the initial fire remains unclear—as does whether fireworks, ammunition or something else stored next to the ammonium nitrate might have been involved.”

Moshe Ya’alon, an Israeli lawmaker and former defense minister, claimed that a fire at a Hezbollah weapons depot at the port caused the ammonium nitrate stored nearby to detonate. He told a Saudi news outlet that Hezbollah has control over the port, and nothing moves through it without its knowledge.

Former Israeli military intelligence officer Mordechai Kedar theorized that the first of a series of explosions was likely caused by Hezbollah negligence.

“What probably happened on August 4 was an explosion of volatile and flammable materials that were incorrectly stored by Hezbollah for at least a day in a metal, non-air-conditioned warehouse. As it is midsummer, temperatures are very high,” wrote Kedar, senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv.

“I believe missile-fuel fumes evaporated from a container and touched the hot wall or ceiling, where they ignited and caused a chain reaction of explosions.”

Bomb plots

Apart from the weapons cache theory, some believe that Hezbollah may also be responsible for the fact the ammonium nitrate was stored at the port for so long.

The fertilizer, which is explosive when mixed with fuel oil or other fuels, has long been a common ingredient for terrorist bombs. These include bombs that have been blamed on Hezbollah, most notably the device that destroyed a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires in 1994, killing 85 people. Argentinean investigators blamed Hezbollah and the Iranian regime for that attack.

Bomb plots implicating Hezbollah and involving ammonium nitrate have also been exposed in several countries, including in Britain, Kuwait and Cyprus in 2015, and in Thailand in 2012.

On Monday, Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab resigned amid protests by citizens angered by years of corruption and neglect. Aoun asked him and his cabinet to remain on in a caretaker capacity until a new government is formed.

Previous government-building attempts have been characterized by horse-trading among a political class dominated by former warlords from the civil war and blamed for decades of dysfunctional misrule. The process is hampered by a long-standing sectarian formula prescribing that the president must be a Maronite Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim, and the parliament speaker a Shi’ite Muslim.

Notwithstanding its status as a terrorist militia—in violation of key U.N. Security Council resolutions—Hezbollah also operates as a political party, with lawmakers in parliament and ministers in the national cabinet.

Other parties have been too weak to resist, or have been co-opted by the influential Shi'ite organization.



An article by Philip Obaji Jr. titled “Ammonium Nitrate Blew Up Beirut; It Also Fuels Africa’s Most Dangerous Illegal Mines” was posted at thedailybeast.com on Aug. 13, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

The ammonium nitrate that exploded last week in Beirut—killing 154 people, injuring more than 5,000 and causing widespread destruction—was destined for Mozambique, a transit point for raw materials in the explosives trade, where shipments often end up in the hands of illegal Chinese-owned mining companies with dubious human rights records.

Almost seven years ago, Fábrica de Explosivos de Moçambique (FEM), a Mozambican firm that produces explosives, ordered 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate from a Georgian company known as Savaro for the purpose of manufacturing explosives for mining companies.

But the substance was transported in September 2013 on the Russian ship *Rhosus*, which docked in Beirut, where it tried to make more money by picking up several pieces of heavy machinery, and never made it to Mozambique, as Lebanese authorities impounded the cargo for failing to pay port fees.

FEM, a company majority-owned by the Portuguese explosives company Moura Silva e Filhos, has come under intense scrutiny since the ammonium nitrate it ordered caused the blast in Beirut on Aug. 4.

The explosives market across Mozambique, as well as in neighboring Zambia and Zimbabwe, is huge, with dozens of mining firms depending on big companies like FEM for explosives. (Landlocked Zambia and Zimbabwe also depend on Mozambique’s seaports for imports that come across the water).

But the three countries are also the preferred places for a high number of illegal miners who, despite not being licensed to operate, are still able to obtain explosives from manufacturers on the black market.

“Explosives companies including FEM do not carry out serious background checks on some of these so-called mining companies.”

A Mozambican customs official informed *The Daily Beast* privately that explosives are usually transported by land from FEM offices in Mozambique to Zambia where they are sold to mining companies in the country. The company itself does have an office in Zambia and there are allegations that it sells explosives to illegal miners, including unscrupulous Chinese nationals.

“Explosives companies including FEM do not carry out serious background checks on some of these so-called mining companies,” the official said. “Because of that, criminal companies, especially those owned by Chinese people, are mining in Zambia simply because they have explosives.”

FEM’s presence in Africa is quite significant. The company, which specializes in the manufacture and application of explosives for commercial purposes, also has subsidiary companies in Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and commercial agreements in Malawi. But it is in Mozambique, where it has its head office, that its operations are most known.

In its website, FEM boasts that it has been the main company “responsible for manufacturing and supplying the Mozambican explosives market” since its founding in 1955. It also noted that in the last two decades it has expanded to become a reference in the whole of southern Africa. But its growth has also come with accusations of negligence.

“That Mozambique has so many illegal miners who all have access to explosives should tell everyone that the manufacturers are letting their explosives get to the wrong hands,” said Camacho who is individually campaigning against illegal mining in Tete. “In Mozambique, once you think about explosives, you think about FEM.”

Mozambique, the world’s seventh-poorest country, has suffered years of illegal mining as well as logging of its natural forests by Chinese companies that take advantage of widespread corruption in the impoverished country to gain access.

According to the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), an international NGO with offices in London and Washington, D.C., Chinese companies in 2012 imported between 189,615 and 215,654 cubic meters of timber that had been illegally exported from Mozambique. The illegal action comprised a huge 48 percent of China’s imports from the African nation.

But it is in the mining sector that exploitation by Chinese-owned companies in southeast Africa have been mostly noted.

There are several Chinese mining and explosives companies operating in Zambia and many of them have been accused of human rights abuses and negligence towards safety regulations.

In 2005, 52 Zambian workers were killed at a Chinese-owned explosives factory near Chambeshi, a town in Zambia’s copper belt. In 2010, Zambia charged two Chinese managers with attempted murder after they opened fire on protesting Zambian workers. Seven years later, Zambian authorities arrested 31 Chinese nationals for illegal mining in the copper belt.

In Zimbabwe, Chinese-run mines have been dogged with several allegations of human rights violations of local workers.

“Chinese mining companies do what they like in southeastern Africa and no one can question them,” said Camacho, the environmental activist. “It is sad that

the government agencies that are supposed to regulate their activities are only concerned about the money they can generate from these companies.”



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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- An article by Sarah Knapton titled “Almost 10 Percent of Coronavirus Deaths Were Not Related to Covid-19, PHE [Public Health England] Says” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Aug. 12, 2020.
 - A Reuters article by Estelle Shirbon titled “UK Police Get New Powers in Response to Nerve Agent Attack Blamed on Russia” was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 13, 2020.
 - An article by Nataliya Vasilyeva titled “Thousands of Belarusian Factory Workers Walk Out in Protest at Disputed Lukashenko Election” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Aug. 13, 2020.
 - A Reuters article by Andrei Makhovsky titled “‘We Don’t Need War’: Belarus Leadership Says Sorry in Bid to Quell Protests” was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 13, 2020.
 - An article by Zen Soo titled “As Hong Kongers Seek to Emigrate, Some Simply Can’t Leave” was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 11, 2020.
 - A Reuters article by Jamie Freed titled “Passenger From Mainland China to Be Allowed Temporary Transit Through Hong Kong” was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
 - A Reuters article titled “China: No U.S.-Taiwan Ties Under Any Pretext” was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
 - An article by Bill Bostock titled “Iran Sank a Replica US Aircraft Carrier, Then Left It in the Strait of Hormuz; Now It Can Seriously Disrupt Ships in a Vital Oil Route Worth \$878 Million a Day” was posted at businessinsider.com on Aug. 10, 2020.
 - An article by Yaroslav Trofimov titled “France Sends Navy to Eastern Mediterranean Amid Turkey-Greece Standoff” was posted at wsj.com on Aug. 13, 2020.
 - An article by Nicholas Paphitis and Suzan Fraser titled “Greece Welcomes French Navy Presence in Mediterranean” was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 13, 2020.
 - An article by Lars Erik Taraldsen titled “Norwegians Told to Avoid All Foreign Travel As Virus Surges” was posted at bloomberg.com on Aug. 7, 2020.
 - An article by Nick Perry titled “Australian Sailor [Edward Sheean] Honored 77 Years After He Died Saving Crew” was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020.

- An article titled "U.S. Toilet Paper Companies [Including Procter & Gamble and Kimberly-Clark] Have Been Destroying World's Largest Intact Forest [Canada's Boreal Forest] for Decades: Report" was posted at cbsnews.com on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Brendan Morrow titled "Intelligence Official Says Russia and China Are Lining Up on Opposite Sides of the U.S. Election [China Against Trump and Russia Against Biden]" was posted at theweek.com on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Shawn Langlois titled "George Soros Bashes President Trump, Explains Why He No Longer Participates in This Market Bubble" was posted at marketwatch.com on Aug. 12, 2020.



An article by Georgia Slater titled "[Singer] Kelly Rowland Urges People 'Not to Judge Others' Amid Cancel Culture: 'Stop Trying to Be God' " was posted at people.com on Aug. 7, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Kelly Rowland is sharing her feelings on cancel culture and the importance of spreading love and kindness.

On Friday [Aug. 7], the "Motivation" singer posted a note on Instagram in which she criticized today's culture and offered suggestions as to how to make the world a less negative place.

"In this 'cancel culture' we live in, I am SO grateful God NEVER canceled me, And I'm sure he could've many-a-times!" the singer began.

"Let us TRY to remember NOT to judge others. We HONESTLY don't have the space nor authority too!" Rowland wrote. "Let us remember to lead With love & kindness, the world has enough negativity, for you to pour more into it!"

The 39-year-old concluded the post with a hashtag asking people to "stop trying to be God."



An article by Walter Williams titled "Are Today's Leftists Truly Marxists?" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Aug. 12, 2020. Following is the article.

Most people who call themselves Marxists know very little of Karl Marx's life and have never read his three-volume "Das Kapital."

Volume I was published in 1867, the only volume published before Marx's death in 1883. Volumes II and III were later edited and published in his name by his friend and collaborator Friedrich Engels. Most people who call themselves Marxist have only read his 1848 pamphlet "The Communist Manifesto," which was written with Engels.

Marx is a hero to many labor union leaders and civil rights organizations, including leftist groups like Black Lives Matter, antifa and some Democratic Party leaders. It is easy to be a Marxist if you know little of his life.

Marx's predictions about capitalism and the "withering away of the state" turned out to be grossly wrong. What most people do not know is that Marx was a racist and an anti-Semite.

When the U.S. annexed California after the Mexican-American War, Marx wrote: "Without violence nothing is ever accomplished in history." Then he asked, "Is it a misfortune that magnificent California was seized from the lazy Mexicans who did not know what to do with it?"

Friedrich Engels added: "In America we have witnessed the conquest of Mexico and have rejoiced at it. It is to the interest of its own development that Mexico will be placed under the tutelage of the United States."

Many of Marx's racist ideas were reported in "Karl Marx, Racist" a book written by Nathaniel Weyl, a former member of the U.S. Communist Party.

In a July 1862 letter to Engels, in reference to his socialist political competitor, Ferdinand Lassalle, Marx wrote: "It is now completely clear to me that he, as is proved by his cranial formation and his hair, descends from the Negroes from Egypt, assuming that his mother or grandmother had not interbred with a [N word]. Now this union of Judaism and Germanism with a basic Negro substance must produce a peculiar product. The obtrusiveness of the fellow is also [N word]-like."

In 1887, Paul Lafargue, who was Marx's son-in-law, was a candidate for a council seat in a Paris district that contained a zoo. Engels claimed that Paul had "one eighth or one twelfth [N word] blood."

In an April 1887 letter to Paul's wife, Engels wrote, "Being in his quality as a [N word], a degree nearer to the rest of the animal kingdom than the rest of us, he is undoubtedly the most appropriate representative of that district."

Marx's anti-Semitic views were no secret.

In 1844, he published an essay titled "On the Jewish Question." He wrote that the worldly religion of Jews was "huckstering" and that the Jew's god was "money." Marx's view of Jews was that they could only become an emancipated ethnicity or culture when they no longer exist.

Just one step short of calling for genocide, Marx said, "The classes and the races, too weak to master the new conditions of life, must give way."

Marx's philosophical successors shared ugly thoughts on blacks and other minorities. Che Guevara, a hero of the left, was a horrific racist. He wrote in his 1952 memoir, "The Motorcycle Diaries": "The Negro is indolent and lazy and spends his money on frivolities, whereas the European is forward-looking, organized and intelligent."

British socialist Beatrice Webb griped in *The New Statesmen* about declining birthrates among so-called higher races, which would lead to "a new social

order” that would be created “by one or other of the colored races, the Negro, the Kaffir or the Chinese.”

The Soviets espoused the same “Jewish world conspiracy” as the Nazis. Joseph Stalin embarked upon a campaign that led to the deaths of Jewish intellectuals for their apparent lack of patriotism.

By the way, the Soviet public was not told that Karl Marx was Jewish.

Academics who preach Marxism to their classes fail to tell their students that his ideology has led to the slaughter of tens of millions of people. What’s worse, they fail to even feign concern over this fact.

White liberals are useful idiots.

BLM, antifa and other progressive groups use the plight of poor blacks to organize left-leaning, middle-class, college-educated, guilt-ridden suburbanite whites. These people who topple statues and destroy public and private property care about minorities as much as their racist predecessors.

Their goal is the acquisition and concentration of power and Americans have fallen hook, line and sinker for their phony virtue signaling.



“Eye on the World” comment: When Joe Biden selected Kamala Harris as his VP partner, it surprised some citizens because of the various things that she had previously said.

■ Looking back to June 2019, an article by Julia Marsh and Nikki Schwab titled “Kamala Harris, Joe Biden Have Heated Exchange Over Race During Democratic Debate” was posted at nypost.com on June 27, 2019.

■ Looking back to June 2019, an article by Elena Schneider titled “The Long 5 Minutes When Harris Owned Biden” was posted at politico.com on June 28, 2019.

■ Looking back to July 2019, an article by Zohreen Shah titled “Sen. Kamala Harris Doubles Down on Criticism of Biden’s Busing Comments on ‘The View’ ” was posted at abcnews.com on July 12, 2019.

■ Looking back to July 2019, an article titled “When Kamala Harris and Joe Biden Clashed on Busing and Segregation” was posted at nytimes.com on July 31, 2019.

■ Looking back to August 2019, an article by Eric Ting titled “Hot Mike Catches Awkward Exchange Between Joe Biden and Kamala Harris Before Debate” was posted at sfgate.com on Aug. 1, 2019.

■ An article by Elle Reynolds titled “Flashback: Kamala Harris Said She Believed Biden’s Sexual Harassment Accusers” was posted at thefederalist.com on Aug. 11, 2020.



“Eye on the World” comment: When Joe Biden selected Kamala Harris as his VP partner, it is interesting to note that much of the mainstream media wanted to project her as a moderate or a centrist. Although progressives certainly do not like her record as a prosecutor, they should absolutely love her outstanding liberal voting record. Notice the following headlines.

She was tough on crime

- Looking back to 2019, an article by Meagan Flynn titled “ ‘You Owe Them An Apology’: [Tulsi] Gabbard’s Attack Highlights Harris’s Complex Death Penalty Record” was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on Aug. 1, 2019.
- An article by Ruben Navarrette Jr. titled “Why Joe Biden and Kamala Harris Would Be a Disastrous Duo in the Year of George Floyd” was posted at [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled “Don’t Forget” Tulsi [Gabbard] Delivered a Blow to Kamala’s Presidential Campaign Over One Issue [Discussing Her ‘Tough on Crime’ Record Which Included Putting Over 1,500 People in Jail for Marijuana Violations]” was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.

Media painting her as a moderate

- An article by Miranda Devine titled “Touting Kamala Harris As a Moderate Is a Liberal Dose of Deception” was posted at [nypost.com](https://www.nypost.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Becket Adams titled “*New York Times*, AP and Other Dub Ultra-Liberal Kamala Harris a ‘Moderate’ and ‘Centrist’ ” was posted at [washingtonexaminer.com](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Kathleen Ronayne and Will Weissert titled “Kamala Harris’ Centrist Record Contributed to Biden Pick” was posted at [detroitnews.com](https://www.detroitnews.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article titled “Picking Harris, Biden Puts Centrist Stamp on Democrats’ Future” was posted at [latimes.com](https://www.latimes.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Jeffrey Martin titled “Cornel West [on CNN] Says Trump’s Wrong on Kamala Harris: ‘I’m a Radical, She’s a Centrist’ ” was posted at [newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com) on Aug. 13, 2020.

Excellent liberal record

- An article by Daniel Villarreal titled “Kamala Harris More Liberal Than Bernie Sanders, Senate Record Analysis Shows” was posted at [newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Tristan Justice titled “Media Hails Harris As a ‘Moderate’ and ‘Centrist’ Although Her Voting Record Is Further Left Than Bernie Sanders” was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.

- An article by Elaine Godfrey titled “The Big Reason Lefties Aren’t Upset About Kamala Harris [Because Her Liberal Voting Record Helps to Erase Her Prosecutor Past]” was posted at theatlantic.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Brooke Singman titled “Kamala Harris Scored As Most Liberal US Senator in 2019” was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- A compilation of progressive scores for the U.S Senators listed Kamala Harris as #4 out of the 100 Senators was posted at progressivepunch.org.

Strong on abortion

- An article by Samuel Smith titled “Biden Taps Kamala Harris As Running Mate; ‘Most Pro-Abortion Ticket’ in US History, SBA [Susan B. Anthony] List Says” was posted at christianpost.com on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Susan Jones titled “Kamala Harris [to MSNBC in 2018 About a School Shooting]: ‘We Cannot . . . Live in a Country With Any Level of Pride When Our Babies Are Being Slaughtered’ [Yet She Strongly Supports Abortion]” was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020.



An article by Catherine Kim and Zack Stanton titled “55 Things You Need to Know About Kamala Harris” was posted at politico.com on Aug. 11, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Kamala Harris has spent the better part of two decades in public life notching up a long list of things she was the first to achieve: the first Black woman to be elected district attorney in California history, first woman to be California’s attorney general, first Indian American senator, and now, the first Black woman and first Asian American to be picked as a vice presidential running mate on a major-party ticket.

Here, culled from books, extensive media coverage and the archives of POLITICO, is a quick primer on the life of Kamala Devi Harris, the trailblazing prosecutor-turned-senator.

1. Kamala Devi Harris was born in Oakland, California on October 20, 1964, the eldest of two children born to Shyamala Gopalan, a cancer researcher from India, and Donald Harris, an economist from Jamaica.
2. Her parents met at UC Berkeley while pursuing graduate degrees, and bonded over a shared passion for the civil rights movement, which was active on campus. After she was born, they took young Kamala along to protests in a stroller.
3. Her mother chose Kamala’s name as a nod both to her Indian roots—Kamala means ‘lotus’ and is another name for the Hindu goddess Lakshmi—and the empowerment of women. “A culture that worships goddesses produces strong women,” Gopalan told the Los Angeles Times in 2004.

4. Harris' parents divorced when she was 7, and her mother raised her and her sister, Maya, on the top floor of a yellow duplex in Berkeley.

5. In first grade, Harris was bused to Thousand Oaks Elementary School, which was in its second year of integration. For the next three years, she'd play "Miss Mary Mack" and cat's cradle with her friends on the bus that traveled from her predominantly black, lower-middle-class neighborhood to her school located in a prosperous white district.

6. As a child, Harris went to both a Black Baptist church and a Hindu temple—embracing both her South Asian and Black identities.

7. She visited India as a child and was heavily influenced by her grandfather, a high-ranking government official who fought for Indian independence, and grandmother, an activist who traveled the countryside teaching impoverished women about birth control.

8. Harris attended middle school and high school in Montreal after her mom got a teaching job at McGill University and a position as a cancer researcher at Jewish General Hospital.

9. In Montreal, a 13-year-old Harris and her younger sister, Maya, led a successful demonstration in front of their apartment building in protest of a policy that banned children from playing on the lawn.

10. After high school, Harris attended Howard University, the prestigious historically Black college in Washington, D.C. She majored in political science and economics, and joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

11. While attending law school in San Francisco, Harris lived with her sister, Maya, and helped potty-train Maya's daughter.

12. In 1990, after passing the bar, Harris joined the Alameda County prosecutor's office in Oakland as an assistant district attorney focusing on sex crimes.

13. Harris' family was initially skeptical of the career choice.

14. In 1994, Harris began dating Willie Brown, a powerhouse in California politics who was then the speaker of the state assembly and was 30 years older than Harris. From his perch in the assembly, Brown appointed Harris to the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and the Medical Assistance Commission—positions that together paid her around \$80,000 a year on top of her prosecutor's salary.

15. In 1995, Brown was elected mayor of San Francisco. That December, Harris broke up with him.

16. After being recruited to the San Francisco District Attorney's office by a former colleague in Alameda, Harris cracked down on teenage prostitution in the city, reorienting law enforcement's approach to focus on the girls as victims rather than as criminals selling sex.

17. During this time, Harris courted influential friends among San Francisco's moneyed elite. In 2003, they would provide the financial backing to make her a formidable candidate in her first campaign for office.

18. In 2003, she ran for district attorney in San Francisco against incumbent Terence Hallinan, her former boss.

19. She was elected in a runoff with 56.5 percent of the vote. With her victory, she became the first Black woman in California to be elected district attorney.

20. That same election, Gavin Newsom was elected mayor, succeeding Willie Brown. Newsom, now governor of California, is a close friend of hers, and the two have even vacationed together.

21. During her first three years as district attorney, San Francisco's conviction rate jumped from 52 to 67 percent.

22. One of Harris' most controversial decisions came in 2004 when she declined to pursue the death penalty against the man who murdered San Francisco police officer Isaac Espinoza. At the funeral, Senator Dianne Feinstein delivered a eulogy in which she criticized Harris, who was in the audience, prompting a standing ovation from the hundreds of officers in attendance. Harris would be shunned by police unions for the next decade.

23. Later, as California attorney general, Harris declined to support two ballot initiatives that would've banned the death penalty—raising accusations of political opportunism and inconsistency on the controversial issue.

24. She was under scrutiny during her tenure as San Francisco district attorney when a technician stole cocaine from the DA's crime lab and mishandled evidence. Harris, trying to keep things under wraps, failed to inform defense attorneys. As a result, about a thousand drug-related cases had to be thrown out.

25. Her friendship with Barack Obama dates back to his run for Senate in 2004. She was the first notable California officeholder to endorse him during his 2008 presidential bid.

26. In San Francisco, she vocally supported a controversial 2010 law that made truancy a misdemeanor and punished parents who failed to send their children to school. The truancy rate ultimately dropped, but some critics saw the rule as too punitive.

27. That same year, in her second term as district attorney, Harris ran for California attorney general. Initially, few thought she would win the race—she was a woman of color from liberal San Francisco who opposed the death penalty and she was running against Steve Cooley, a popular white Republican who served as Los Angeles' DA.

28. The race was so tight that on election night, Cooley made a victory speech and the San Francisco Chronicle declared him the winner. Three weeks later, all ballots having been counted, Harris was declared the victor by 0.8 percentage points.

29. As attorney general, when California was offered \$4 billion in a national mortgage settlement over the foreclosure crisis, Harris fought for a larger amount by refusing to sign the deal. Although she was accused of grandstanding, she managed to secure \$20 billion for California homeowners.

30. One of her signature accomplishments as attorney general was creating Open Justice, an online platform to make criminal justice data available to the public. The database helped improve police accountability by collecting information on the number of deaths and injuries of those in police custody.

31. The California Department of Justice recommended in 2012 that Harris file a civil enforcement action against OneWest Bank for “widespread misconduct” when foreclosing homes. Harris, however, declined to prosecute the bank or its then-CEO Steven Mnuchin, who now serves as Treasury secretary.

32. Some advocates say Harris didn’t do enough to address police brutality while she was attorney general, especially after she refused to investigate the police shootings of two Black men in 2014 and 2015. She also didn’t support a 2015 bill in the state assembly that would have required the attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor who specializes in police use of deadly force.

33. In 2013, President Barack Obama was recorded referring to Harris as the “best-looking attorney general in the country.” He later apologized after critics labeled the comment as sexist.

34. Harris was rumored to be a potential Supreme Court nominee under the Obama administration, although she later said she wasn’t interested.

35. She married Doug Emhoff, a corporate lawyer in Los Angeles, in 2014 at a small and private ceremony officiated by her sister. Emhoff has two children from his previous marriage; they call Harris “Momala.”

36. She won her U.S. Senate race in 2016, defeating fellow Democrat Loretta Sanchez, a moderate congresswoman with 20 years of experience.

37. She went viral in 2017 for her sharp questioning of then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions on the Russia investigation.

38. She implemented a similar strategy of questioning during Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court confirmation hearings in 2018.

39. Her most fervent online supporters were called the “KHive,” a phrase inspired by Beyonce’s loyal group of fans, the “Beyhive.”

40. By far the most viral moment of her presidential campaign came in the first Democratic debate, when she confronted Joe Biden over his position on cross-district busing in the 1970s while using a personal anecdote. Though her poll numbers briefly surged after the debate, it was only downhill from there.

41. In two TV interviews over the course of a week in 2019, President Donald Trump called Harris “nasty” for her questioning of Attorney General William Barr over his handling of the Mueller report during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

42. She had an inconsistent stance on health care, which also made voters skeptical. Although she said she supported the abolition of private health care during an earlier town hall, she later denied her statement and said she had misheard the question. She eventually released a health care plan that still included private health insurance.
43. During the campaign, Harris shied away from discussing specifics about her career as a prosecutor, a strategic choice borne of fear that voters on the left would criticize her over criminal justice issues.
44. She ended her presidential campaign in December 2019, a month before the Iowa caucuses, after taking a hard look at her campaign's financial future and low poll numbers. Internal turmoil cost her presidential bid, with aides accusing Harris of mistreating her staff with sudden layoffs and allowing her sister, Maya, to have too much influence.
45. She delayed her endorsement for Biden until March 8, when there were no more women left in the race and his nomination was undeniable. Six days after the California primary, she threw her support behind Biden.
46. She's an enthusiastic cook who bookmarks recipes from the New York Times' cooking section.
47. She collects Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers, which are her go-to travel shoes.
48. Her favorite books include *Native Son* by Richard Wright, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan, *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.
49. She typically wakes up around 6 a.m. and works out for half an hour on the elliptical or SoulCycle.
50. She describes herself as a "tough" boss—although mostly on herself.
51. One of the few times her father spoke publicly about her was when he reprimanded her for suggestively pointing to her Jamaican heritage when asked about her support for the legalization of marijuana. He criticized her for connecting Jamaicans to the "fraudulent stereotype of a pot-smoking joy seeker." He said he and his immediate family wished "to categorically dissociate ourselves from this travesty."
52. She's not a fan of being called the "female Obama." When a reporter asked her about carrying on Obama's legacy during her run for president, she said, "I have my own legacy."
53. In June, her Wikipedia page was edited 408 times in the span of three weeks, which people pointed to as a sign of her nomination as running mate. The edits, mostly made by one person, had scrubbed controversial information from her page, including her "tough-on-crime" record and her decision not to prosecute Steven Mnuchin for financial fraud in 2013.

54. If elected in November, she will be the first woman, first African American and first Asian American vice president in the history of the United States.

55. Her motto comes from her mom: "You may be the first, but make sure you're not the last."



An article by Wayne Gruden titled "Letter to An Anti-Trump Christian Friend" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 8, 2020. Following is the article.

[Note: This article is based on an actual letter. The recipient's name and some minor details have been changed.]

Aug. 5, 2020

Dear Zachary,

Thank you for your thoughtful, honest email explaining why you felt frustration and anger about my public support of Donald Trump. I'm glad that you wrote as you did rather than leaving the matter unspoken.

Thank you also for writing, as a long-time friend, to express your concerns that my support of Trump might jeopardize the reputation that I have built as a trusted professor of theology and ethics for the last 43 years, and that my pro-Trump stance undermines the credibility of the label "evangelical," and even of the Christian gospel itself.

I take these objections seriously. I have pondered them for several days. Please consider the following twelve points of response.

1. No consideration of policies

At the beginning of your email, you write, "This email does not concern policy." The rest of the email concerns what you see as President Trump's character flaws.

But that means that your email fails to address the entire reason for my support of Trump. In every column that I've published in support of Trump, I have explicitly registered my disapproval of his character flaws and previous immoral behavior.

I support him because of the policies he has enacted and will enact, and in spite of his character flaws (which I don't think rise to a level that would disqualify him from being president; more on this below).

This means that, as I read and re-read your eloquent email, I did not find it to be persuasive. It does not even acknowledge, much less argue against, the reasons why I continue to support President Trump.

A few months ago, while the impeachment trial was going on, a younger faculty colleague asked me at lunch, "What would Trump have to do to make you stop supporting him?"

My response was something like this: "I would stop supporting him if he began to favor higher taxes, more government regulation, a weaker military, open borders, judges who believed in a "living Constitution," extended abortion rights, restrictions on freedom of religion, hostility toward Israel . . ."

I didn't finish the list because he said, "Okay, the question for you is policies. I get it." But your email did not discuss policies.

2. My last 56 years

My conservative political views are not new. My convictions about the best political policies for a nation began long before I ever heard of Donald Trump.

In 1964, as a high school junior, I read the book *A Choice, Not an Echo* by Phyllis Schlafly (a Harvard Law grad) and I became convinced of conservative political policies (low taxes, smaller government, strong defense). I became president of the Young Republicans club at Memorial High School in Eau Claire Wisconsin, and helped campaign for Barry Goldwater against Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1964 election.

(A very cute and fun girl named Margaret White was active in young Republicans with me—little did we know that in the year 2020 we would be celebrating our 51st wedding anniversary.)

During the 1968 election, as a junior in college, I attended a meeting of the Harvard Republican Club (yes, there was one!) and volunteered to stand on a freeway overpass in Boston holding a Richard Nixon campaign sign during the morning rush hour, because I thought his mostly-conservative policies would be far better for the nation than the liberal views of Hubert Humphrey.

In 1980, at a faculty panel discussion about the November election at Bethel College in St. Paul, I was the faculty speaker who spoke in favor of Ronald Reagan because his conservative policies were far better, and far more consistent with biblical standards, than the liberal policies of Jimmy Carter (an evangelical Southern Baptist Sunday school teacher) or the muddled views of third-party candidate John Anderson (an evangelical Christian).

In other elections, I have similarly spoken and written in favor of George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, Mitt Romney, and others.

In 2010 (still pre-Trump), I argued extensively for numerous conservative political positions in my book *Politics According to the Bible*. So my support for Donald Trump is nothing new, but flows out of my deep and long-held political convictions that he also supports.

But your email addresses none of these policy issues, which have determined my political involvement for the last 56 years.

3. Am I sacrificing moral principles for the sake of political gain?

You write, "It seems that you are elevating politics above the Bible. You are possibly sacrificing your calling . . . for the sake of some judges in America

who will last at max 15-20 years. You are putting the temporal in front of the eternal, and it worries me.”

Can you understand that I’m seeking to influence politics because of the Bible, because of my conviction that the Bible speaks to all of life? Like the Jewish people in exile in Babylon, I believe that we are called by God as Christians to be exiles on the earth and simultaneously to “seek the welfare of the city” (or today the country; Jeremiah 29:7) where God has called us to live as exiles.

Don’t you think that Jesus wants his disciples to influence the world for good? He said, “Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Paul says that “we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

When I wrote the book, *Business for the Glory of God*, I was trying to influence the business world for good. Was that putting the temporal in front of the eternal?

I think it was trying to apply the teachings of the Bible to the business world, which is an important aspect of people’s lives today.

When I wrote the book, *The Poverty of Nations: A Sustainable Solution*, I was trying to influence government leaders in the poor countries of the world to adopt laws and economic policies that would bring their nations from poverty to prosperity.

Was that putting the temporal in front of the eternal? I think it was another example of trying to apply the teachings of the Bible to an important aspect of people’s lives today.

When I wrote the book, *Politics According to the Bible*, I was trying to influence the leaders of governments to adopt policies consistent with the principles of Scripture, and I thought this would be beneficial for the nations that did adopt these principles.

Was that putting the temporal in front of the eternal? No, I think it was applying the teachings of the Bible to the functions of government.

I firmly believe that we as Christians should never intentionally sin in order to bring about what we think to be a good result (see my book *Christian Ethics*, chapter 7).

For example, it would be morally wrong, and displeasing to God, if I ever were to tell a lie in order to promote a political candidate.

It would be morally wrong for me to steal ballots or stuff a ballot box with fraudulent ballots.

And I think it would be morally wrong for me to say or write that I approve of a political candidate’s adultery, or falsehood, or embezzlement, and so forth.

But I see nothing wrong with speaking and writing in support of a certain political position or political candidate. Christian leaders have done that throughout the history of our country.

And if I write an article saying that I disapprove of certain aspects of Donald Trump's conduct, but I also support him as a candidate, I see nothing morally wrong with that. If others say that supporting him at all is implicitly condoning all of his behavior, then they are carelessly or intentionally misrepresenting what I wrote.

4. The choice is between two whole packages

The question now facing the nation is not, "Does Donald Trump have an exemplary moral character?" or, "Does Donald Trump have flaws?" or even, "Do I like Donald Trump?" The question is, "Which of two package deals is better for the nation?"

(a) Donald Trump and Republican policies or (b) Joe Biden and Democratic policies?

There are no other choices. The nation will either have the option (a) or option (b) as a whole package for at least the next four years, and probably longer. If I withhold support from Trump, that makes it easier for Biden to win, and thereby for Democratic policies to bring (in my opinion) great destructiveness to the nation (more specifics below.)

In making a choice between package (a) and package (b), questions about a candidate's character of course are relevant. But, to my mind, the question is not, "Does Donald Trump have flaws?" but rather, "Is Donald Trump so clearly unsuited to be president that our only valid choice is to accept package (b) and the great damage to the nation that (in my opinion) will flow from Joe Biden and Democratic policies?"

When I ask the question in that way, the answer is clearly No, and it isn't even close. Package (a) is far preferable.

You mentioned possibly voting for a third party candidate. But that would not change the fact that the nation will have either package (a) or package (b). Therefore, a third party vote would be throwing away your opportunity to influence the government of this nation for good in the laws and policies it enacts. "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it" (Proverbs 3:27).

You have an opportunity (by voting) to help protect the nation from great harm that would come from the Democratic party policies (see below) and to help the nation by promoting the great good that would come from Republican party policies.

These laws and policies will set the course of the nation for years to come in ways that will far outweigh any harm that might come from Donald Trump's abrasive behavior.

5. Trump is not perfect, but your criticisms are excessive and speculative

At the heart of our disagreement is the fact that my evaluation of Donald Trump's character is more positive than your evaluation.

Can we least agree that the evaluation of a person's character is a complex process that requires wise judgments based on a wide variety of factors, and that people can legitimately disagree in their honest assessments of someone else's character?

As for specific arguments, you begin by saying that Donald Trump does not measure up to the moral standards of the Bible, such as exemplified by the "blessed man" of Psalm 1.

On this topic, I agree with you. The only man who truly fulfilled Psalm 1 was Jesus. Both Biden and Trump have flaws. The question is whether either one has such blatant flaws that they make him clearly unfit for the office of president.

I wrote this about Trump in a Townhall.com column in July, 2016: He is egotistical, bombastic, and brash. He often lacks nuance in his statements. Sometimes he blurts out mistaken ideas . . . that he later must abandon. He insults people. He can be vindictive when people attack him . . . He has been married three times and claims to have been unfaithful in his marriages. These are certainly flaws, but I don't think they are disqualifying flaws in this election.

But you go much further than that, making statements that I see as unjustified speculation. For example, at several places you attribute to Trump only sinister motives. You write, "I don't think that Trump is interested in anything but division," and, "He wants people to hate each other."

Do you really know what his motives are? It is appropriate to be cautious in speaking about another person's motives. It is often difficult to know the motives in our own hearts regarding decisions that we make. And our evaluation of other people's motives is influenced significantly by our previous opinions about them.

I have posted on my website a list of 25 good things that President Trump has done while in office, and dozens more could be added. Do these actions show evidence that he "wants people to hate each other"? Certainly not. In fact, I support all 25 of those actions.

If I evaluate Donald Trump's policies and actions not as a hostile observer but as a sympathetic observer, I think his actions are consistent with someone who is genuinely seeking to do good for the nation.

The reason I favor the Republican policy positions that I mentioned above is because I think they are best for the nation, not because I'm interested in promoting division and not because I want people to hate each other.

Is it not possible that Donald Trump similarly supports those Republican policy positions for a good motive, and that he too thinks they are best for the nation?

I recently had the opportunity to meet with several committed Christians who have worked in the White House since the beginning of Trump's presidency. In an entirely private conversation, they were convinced that Trump's decisions are based on what is best for the nation, and that he feels a sense of responsibility to do the best job possible with the office he has been given.

These are people who have been on the inside of the workings of the White House. They impressed me as genuine, sincere, honest, wise Christians. Will you admit that their testimony carries some value? Might you be wrong about Trump's motives?

There is a real need for both pro-Trump and anti-Trump people to acknowledge the legitimacy of a middle-ground assessment of Donald Trump's character.

On the one hand, Trump is not perfect, and I do not see any need to defend everything he says and does.

On the other hand, Trump is not completely evil, completely corrupt, as many in the media wish to portray him.

My own assessment is, I think, a middle-ground perspective. Trump has flaws, but (by God's grace) he has, overall, done many good things as president.

The mainstream media often refuses to say anything positive about him, but a balanced evaluation would also point out that he has a remarkable ability to get things done that no one else had been able to do (massive tax cuts, ending thousands of government regulations, moving our embassy to Jerusalem, building hundreds of miles of 18-foot to 30-foot high border wall, persuading NATO allies to increase their share of the funding).

He has admirable courage, faithfulness to his promises, remarkable energy and diligence in the performance of his presidential duties, deep patriotism, and what seems to be a dominant motive of seeking what is best for the country (captured in the slogan, "Make America Great Again").

Do you think this perspective on Trump is a legitimate view to hold, even if you do not hold it yourself? Or do you think that your overwhelmingly negative view of Trump's character is the only legitimate conclusion to draw from the evidence?

6. Both character and policies must be considered

I am not saying that assessment of a candidate's character is irrelevant. There is a minimal standard of behavior which, if a candidate falls below it, would disqualify a candidate from governmental office.

You may think that Trump has fallen beneath such a standard. I do not. But this is a judgment call that each person has to make—about every candidate.

Character is not the only factor to consider, however.

The declared policies of a candidate, and of a candidate's party (Democrat or Republican) give a good indication of what the candidate will do if elected. In this year's election, there is a vast difference between the policies of the two parties and their candidates.

The Democrats have moved further to the left, in the direction of a highly government-regulated, oppressive, anti-Christian, quasi-socialist country, than we have ever seen in our history.

Is there no level of harmful policies that a party could advocate that would cause you to rise up and do what you could to stop them?

If you want to know what government under Democratic control would look like, I urge you to watch the kangaroo-court behavior of the Democratic

majority when Attorney General William Barr appeared before the House Judiciary Committee on July 28, 2020 (watch especially the last 45 minutes).

7. What will Trump do in a second term?

You say, "I fear the only thing that has kept Trump in check is the fact that he had to run for a second term. I'm afraid of what he will do if he no longer has that check to stop his more egregious actions."

You also say, "What happens if he abandons evangelicals because they are no longer necessary? What policy will he pursue . . . What will stop him from making immoral decisions that will reflect back on the evangelicals who elected him?"

And you say, "What if he no longer has to lay aside his natural tendencies for the sake of political expediency?"

I see this also as unfounded speculation. If the president in a second term begins to betray the policies and promises that he campaigned on, he will quickly erode his political support in Congress and in the nation as a whole, and for the remainder of his term he will be able to accomplish very little.

(Such loss of political support happened to Richard Nixon after the 1972 election, which he had won in a huge landslide, but then the country turned against him because of the Watergate scandal and he resigned from office in 1974. It also happened after President Lyndon Johnson's landslide victory in the 1964 election, when in 1966-68 the political mood of the nation turned against the Vietnam War and against Johnson so decisively that he decided not to run for election in 1968.)

Your earlier predictions about damage Trump would do (if elected) have not been very accurate. I remember that, after the election in November 2016, you told me that you thought Trump was going to ruin the economy, ruin our relationship with other nations, and weaken NATO.

In fact, we have a much stronger economy (except for the setback of the COVID-19 pandemic), a strengthened NATO with several European nations finally boosting their defense budgets, improved new trade deals with Mexico, Canada, and China, and good relationships with many other nations.

What will Trump do in a second term? The best basis for predicting his conduct in a second term is his conduct for the past four years.

If in a second term Donald Trump acts in the way he has acted in his first term, this will bring a continued strong economy, a strengthened military, better trade terms with other nations, a secure border, more originalist judges, stronger protections for unborn children, strong employment and wage growth, greater energy independence, greater school choice, more safety in inner cities, protection of religious freedoms, and greater liberty for Americans in general.

8. The strategy of the political left is increasingly to avoid policy discussions and focus on ad hominem arguments

It has seemed to me recently that the strategy of the political left has been to de-emphasize policy arguments (where their progressive policies cannot

prevail in elections) and to focus their efforts on attacks against the person they are running against.

To put it in simple terms, many prominent Democrats have shifted from arguing, “The Republican candidate has bad policies” to arguing, “The Republican candidate is a bad person.” (And even, “If you support Trump you are a bad person”—which stifles healthy political discussion.)

This approach has been helped by a shamefully biased mainstream media including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, CNN, NBC, CBS, and ABC. I receive a newsfeed each morning from the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, and their blatantly biased reporting reveals a hostility toward President Trump unlike anything I’ve seen regarding any other political leader in my lifetime.

Therefore it does not surprise me if, after 3 and a half years of listening to this constant character assassination by the dominant media forces in the country, many people distrust Donald Trump. His flaws, many of which are evident in what he says and what he tweets, provide a pretext for much more serious allegations of character deficiencies.

But I don’t think that those people in the general population of the United States who hate Donald Trump are basing their reaction to him on accurate information.

I have some concern that your email to me, by avoiding policy issues and focusing only on criticism of Trump’s character, seemed to follow a similar pattern of exclusively attacking the person and avoiding any interaction regarding policies.

9. The source of divisiveness in the country

I will admit that there is an unhealthy level of political division and hostility in this country today. I will also admit that President Trump bears some measure of responsibility for this because of his habit of insulting his opponents and calling them derogatory names.

But I think a far larger portion of the responsibility for this polarization lies with the Democrats and their supporters. I already wrote about this in my December 30 column at Townhall.com:

It is the political Left, not conservatives, who have rendered themselves “the Resistance” and have continued to do everything they can to prevent the Trump administration from even functioning.

I have no objection to both parties making their best arguments in the public square and attempting to persuade others of their viewpoint. This is essential for a healthy democracy. But it is quite another thing to “resist” the legitimate government through violence and intimidation.

It is not conservatives but the political Left that supports sanctuary cities (hindering enforcement of immigration laws rather than seeking to change the laws through the political process).

It is the political Left that has instigated shouting at Trump administration officials and their friends until they are driven out of restaurants and their families are terrified in their own homes.

It is the political Left that has repeatedly disrupted congressional hearings with shouted protests.

It is the political Left that has abandoned established procedural rules and precedents, fair play, and due process in congressional hearings.

It is the political Left that has organized mass protests to prevent conservative speakers from even being heard on university campuses.

It is the political Left that has attacked innocent people and made thousands of conservatives (including me) afraid to say they support Trump, or wear a MAGA hat, or put a Trump bumper sticker on their car.

These actions do not belong in a healthy society, for they are not part of acceptable political opposition, but are characteristics of the Resistance.

Yet the New Testament tells us, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment" (Romans 13:1).

It seems to me that these actions, driven by an apparent hatred of Donald Trump, are primarily responsible for our toxic political culture.

10. The label "evangelical"

Over 80% of evangelical voters supported Donald Trump not because they liked him as a person but because they favored most or all of these policies:

- Originalist judges,
- Pro-life policies
- Stronger military
- Free-market economic system
- Lower taxes
- Fewer government regulations
- Strong support for Israel
- Clearheaded recognition of the economic, military, and information threat of China
- High value placed on human freedom
- Personal accountability for committing crimes

- Good jobs and school choice as the best way to help the poor
- Strong border wall and a secure border, followed by a comprehensive reform of our immigration system
- Careful extraction and clean use of carbon-based fuels (coal, oil, natural gas)
- Freedom of conscience (government should not force Christians to use their artistic skills to convey a message of approval of same-sex marriage or to use their medical skills to perform an abortion, or to use their pharmacies as the distribution point for drugs that cause abortion)
- Racial inequalities in income and quality of education should primarily be solved by (1) greater availability of tax-supported school choice in low-income neighborhoods, (2) economic growth resulting in more and better jobs, and (3) an increase in safety through an increase in police presence in high crime neighborhoods
- Medical marijuana should be allowed (with a prescription from a doctor) but recreational marijuana should be prohibited
- Restrooms, locker rooms, and single-gender sports teams should be restricted to people of one biological sex or the other

On the other hand, I fail to see how an evangelical Christian who believes in the moral values of the Bible could support the increasingly far-left Democratic Party. How could Christian in good conscience support a party that promotes laws and policies that

- Allow abortion up to the moment of birth
- Authorize the use of our tax money to pay for abortions and gender reassignment surgery
- Cripple our economy with ever-increasing government control and taxes
- Further cripple the economy with expensive Green New Deal energy regulations
- Increase unemployment
- Weaken our military in the face of increased aggressiveness by China
- Promote a Jimmy Carter-like foreign policy of appeasement
- Abandon Israel to fend for itself
- Nullify the Senate filibuster rule (both Obama and Biden have recently spoken about this) so that all legislation can be passed with only 50 senators plus the vice president casting the tie-breaking vote
- Support the rising influence of judges who are not constrained by the original meaning of the words of the Constitution or of the laws, perhaps even adding six additional seats to the Supreme Court in order to be able to give the court a new 10-5 majority of such justices (this could be done with control of both the House, the Senate, and the presidency)

- Grant statehood to both Washington DC and Puerto Rico, thus adding four more Democrats to the U.S. Senate (I have heard three US senators already predict that the Democrats would do this if they had the votes)
- Support draconian laws that compel an artistic professional or a professional counselor to affirm the validity of same-sex marriage even when that is contrary to the professional person's conscience
- Reinstate the Obama-era guidelines that required schools to allow biological males who claim to be transgender females to use girls' bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers (the guidelines were canceled by Trump)
- Allow biological males to compete in women's sports, setting new statewide records in women's track events and other sports
- Pass multiple new, extremely strict green energy laws that will massively increase energy costs and therefore will also increase the cost of everything that is made or transported with the use of energy
- Seek to defund the police (to be precise, Biden has said he favors "redirecting" some police funding to other programs, which is a partial "defunding" of police, which will lead predictably to a substantial increase in crime)
- Use violence and intimidation to nullify freedom of speech (in practice) for those who disagree with them politically
- Support open borders and sanctuary cities in defiance of the law, and that promote a complete federal government takeover of our healthcare system

It is not the fault of evangelical Christians that Republican party policies have increasingly favored policies consistent with Christian values, while Democratic Party policies have increasingly strayed from Christian values (this happened initially and most notably over the issue of abortion rights but then it spread to many other policies).

Since that has happened, it seems to me that evangelicals face an easy choice of which party to support. (In fact, many of the policies favored in the 2016 Republican Party platform are the same as those advocated in my book, *Politics According to the Bible*.)

Because of this wide gap between Republicans and Democrats on values and policies, I expect that President Trump will get an even higher percentage of the evangelical vote in this election. I have spoken with a number of people who did not vote for Trump in 2016 but who will vote for him in 2020. I have not met anyone who voted for him in 2016 but will not vote for him in 2020.

You write that, because of evangelical support for Trump, many of your friends "most likely will never enter church again."

But I wonder if that's because of Trump or because of the policies he represents. Would they have had the same reaction if Mike Pence had been elected president and had supported the same policies that President Trump has supported?

Then the problem is not Trump but the policies he supports.

11. Risking my reputation as an evangelical professor of theology

You say that if I write another article in defense of Trump, "You will be tarnishing your theological legacy for the sake of a man who does not deserve it."

I'm deeply aware that God has given me a positive reputation in much of the evangelical world, and I count that reputation as a stewardship from God. I'm deeply aware of the responsibility that comes with that stewardship. "It is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

But I have been thinking that God might want me to use whatever influence I have to help the country move in the right direction politically. When I think of the thousands of Americans who gave their lives to protect this country, it is a small thing to risk my "reputation."

In addition, supporting Trump by writing additional articles could cut both ways—it could improve my reputation with some people as well as damage it with others. Who knows?

In any case, I don't want to stand before God at the Last Day and have him ask why I did not use my reputation and my writing ability (that he gave me) to influence the United States for good when it was at a decisive turning point in history, and I would have to say, "But I was trying to protect my reputation."

As far as I know, I have not in my lifetime backed away from advocating an unpopular position simply to protect my reputation.

On subjects like spiritual gifts, the roles of men and women in marriage and the church, the defense of the Vineyard movement, accuracy of gender language in Bible translations, the superiority of essentially literal Bible translations, opposition to theistic evolution, and support of Reformed theology, I have advocated positions that were in many circles unpopular but that seemed to me to be faithful to Scripture. I don't want to stop doing that now.

12. The need for greater civility in political discussions

Democracy functions best when people who have different political viewpoints say to others who disagree with them, "I disagree with you, but I respect your right to reach a different decision."

But that is not what has been happening. Instead of showing mutual respect, anti-Trump individuals have labeled political conservatives as an entire group as "haters," "deplorables," "fascists," and "racists."

In some cases, they have engaged in intimidation, bullying, and even violence. Responsible conservative speakers are regularly prevented from speaking on university campuses. This is not "the wisdom from above" that James mentions (James 3:17).

This is destructive to the nation, and it threatens the spirit of one of our most cherished freedoms, the freedom of speech. Yet I know of no Democratic leader who has called on his or her supporters to stop this violence and intimidation.

In a democracy that is functioning well, family members, friends, and neighbors should be able to disagree about their viewpoints regarding political candidates (including Trump) without damaging the personal relationships. This may be difficult at first, but we should recognize that it was much more difficult in the past, as in the aftermath of the American Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln at that time wisely encouraged the nation, "With malice toward none, with charity toward all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds . . ."

We as a nation are facing many crucial political decisions. We need God's wisdom, which will come about through reasoned discussions such as represented in your two thoughtful emails, and, I hope, in my response to your thoughts.

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere" (James 3:17).

Respectfully, and with appreciation for your friendship,

Wayne



"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 Nicholas Ballasy titled "Rep. [Ken] Buck [of Colorado]: Actual National Debt Is \$30 Trillion; 'There's No Conversation' in D.C. About Repaying It" was posted at justthenews.com on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Matt Ott titled "US Budget Deficit Climbs to Record \$2.81 Trillion [in the First 10 Months of Budget Year With \$36 Billion in July]" was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "\$5,630,859,000,000: Federal Spending Has Already Set Annual Record, Deficit at Record \$2,807,295,000,000" was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020.

Finances

- An article by David Wethe titled "Oil Drilling Drops to 15-Year Low With Shale in Full Retreat" was posted at bloomberg.com on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Jacob Passy titled "Foreign Buying of American Real Estate Plunged Before the Coronavirus Pandemic—And Experts Say It's Only Going to Get Worse" was posted at marketwatch.com on Aug. 8, 2020.

- An article by Claudia Harmata titled “Disney World to Cut Theme Park Hours Due to Lower-Than-Expected Attendance Amid COVID-19 Pandemic” was posted at people.com on Aug. 9, 2020.
- An article by Caitlyn Fitzpatrick titled “Walmart Just Revealed Which 160 Locations Are Being Turned Into Drive-In Movie Theaters” was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Gabrielle Chung titled “World’s Last Blockbuster [Located in Bend, Oregon] Becomes An Airbnb—And It Costs Only \$4 a Night to Stay There” was posted at people.com on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Jake Coyle titled “AMC to Offer 15-Cent Tickets [at 100 Theaters] on First Day of Reopening [on Aug. 20]” was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Daniel Howley titled “Lyft Revenue Plummets 61% As Pandemic Crushes Ride-Sharing Industry” was posted at yahoofinance.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Graham Rapier titled “Uber and Lyft Threaten to Temporarily Shut Down in California Over Labor Disputes” was posted at businessinsider.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Michael Sainato titled “Major US Airlines to Lay Off Thousands of Workers As Covid-19 Support Expires” was posted at theguardian.com on Aug. 14, 2020.
- An article by Nathan Bomey titled “6 National Restaurant Chains in Deepest Trouble Amid Covid-19 [Outback Steakhouse, Owner of Applebee’s and IHOP, The Cheesecake Factory, Dave & Buster’s, BJ Restaurant and Denny’s]” was posted at usatoday.com on Aug. 13, 2020.

Stimulus checks

- An article by Heather Long titled “The Recession Is Over for the Rich, But the Working Class Is Far From Recovery” was posted at washingtonpost.com on Aug. 13, 2020.

Green New Deal

- Looking back to 2019, 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.

Coronavirus and civil liberties

- An article by Inyoung Choi titled “Oklahoma Won’t Require Masks in Schools, So a Teacher Who’s a 72-Year-Old Cancer Survivor Is Offering Students Extra Credit to Wear Them” was posted at businessinsider.com on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Josephine Harvey titled “Man Arrested for Allegedly Breaking Jaw of 72-Year-Old Veteran in Mask Dispute” was posted at huffpost.com on Aug. 10, 2020.

■ An article by Bryan Alexander titled "Family Removed From Southwest Flight After 3-Year-Old Son With Autism Would Not Wear a Face Mask" was posted at [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.

■ An article titled "New Hampshire Issues New Mask Mandate [for Gatherings Over 100 People] Ahead of Motorcycle Rally [August 22-30]" was posted at [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.

■ An article titled "Florida Sheriff [in Marion County] Orders Deputies Not to Wear Masks, Bans Civilians in Masks From Office" was posted at [nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.

Coronavirus and religion

■ An article by Curtis M. Wong titled "'Evangelicals for Trump' Event in Las Vegas Draws Hundreds Despite COVID-19 Directives" was posted at [huffpost.com](https://www.huffpost.com) on Aug. 7, 2020.

■ An article by Shawn Langlois titled "[Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Said] 'It Spread Like Wildfire': This 'Very Scary' Chart Might Have You Reconsidering Your Plans for Sunday Morning [Church]" was posted at [marketwatch.com](https://www.marketwatch.com) on Aug. 8, 2020.

■ An article by Madeline Peltzer titled "Governors Closed Their Churches, So Christians Are Getting Creative" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Aug. 8, 2020.

■ An article by Tristan Justice titled "Nevada Governor Fines Banned Church for Holding Service in Opened Casino" was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.

■ An article by Rebecca Klar titled "California Megachurch [Pastored by John MacArthur] Draws Thousands at In-Person Services Defying State Coronavirus Orders" was posted at [thehill.com](https://www.thehill.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.

Comments about police "misconduct"

■ An article by Sean Gregory titled "Exclusive: Dallas Cowboys Quarterback Dak Prescott Calls for Release of Black Death Row Inmate Julius Jones [in Oklahoma]" was posted at [time.com](https://www.time.com) on Aug. 6, 2020.

■ An article by Crystal Hill titled "Why a Black Man From Louisiana Is Serving a Life Sentence for Stealing Hedge Clippers" was posted at [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) on Aug. 7, 2020.

■ An article by Taylor Ardrey titled "The Former Dallas Police Officer [Amber Guyger] Who Killed Botham Jean in His Own Apartment [Claiming She Accidentally Entered the Wrong Apartment] Is Appealing Her Murder Conviction [And 10-Year Sentence]" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Aug. 8, 2020.

■ An article by Tara Law titled "Georgia Police Officers Investigated After Shooting at Minors During Traffic Stop" was posted at [time.com](https://www.time.com) on Aug. 9, 2020.

■ An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Voters Oust [Black] DA [Paul Howard] Who Charged Officer in Rayshard Brooks Shooting With Murder" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.

Illegal immigration

■ A Reuters article by Jonathan Stempel titled “[Dozens of] States Urge Halt to Trump Plan Excluding Millions of [Illegal] Immigrants From Representation” was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 7, 2020.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Solomon Jones titled “I’ve Bought My First Gun; As a Black Man, I No Longer Feel Safe in America” was posted at miamiherald.com on Aug. 7, 2020.

■ A Letter to the Editor by Suzanne Rikfin titled “Jackie Lacey’s Husband Has a Right to Protect His Home; Why Charge Him With Assault [for Showing a Gun to Protesters on His Property at 5:00 a.m. on Aug. 3]” was posted at latimes.com on Aug. 7, 2020.

■ An article by Michael W. Chapman titled “Gun Sales in July: 2 Million, Up 134.6% From July 2019” was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 11, 2020.

Comments about Mail-In Ballots

■ Looking back to June, an article by Erica Werner titled “Treasury Sent More Than 1 Million Coronavirus Stimulus Payments to Dead People, Congressional Watchdog [Government Accountability Office] Finds” was posted at washingtonpost.com on June 25, 2020. [Just as dead people receive government checks, dead people can also receive government mail-in ballots.]

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Jon Levine titled “NYC Councilman Paul Vallone Credits Hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 Recovery” was posted at nypost.com on Aug. 8, 2020.

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled “AG Barr: The Left Isn’t Interested in Compromise Because ‘Total Victory’ Is a ‘Substitute for Religion’ for Them” was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 10, 2020.

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled “Black Leaders: Bring Back NYPD’s Undercover Cops; ‘Blood Is on the Hands of Mayor and State Legislature’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 10, 2020.

■ An article by Steve Forbes titled “Coronavirus Crisis Shows Less Regulation Is Right Medicine for Our Economy” was posted at foxbusiness.com on Aug. 11, 2020.

■ An article by Savannah Behrmann titled “Trump Calls QAnon Conspiracy Theory Supporter Marjorie Taylor Greene a GOP ‘Star’ After Georgia Win” was posted at usatoday.com on Aug. 12, 2020.

■ An article titled “South Dakota Governor to Get \$400,000 Security Wall Around Residence” was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 12, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Leah Barkoukis titled “Mispronouncing Kamala’s Name Is Racist—Until Biden Does It” was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 13, 2020.

- An article by Chris Talgo titled "Alyssa Milano: 'Government Should Be Our Communal Caretakers' " was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Tala Hadavi titled "Support for a Program to Pay Reparations to Descendants of Slaves Is Gaining Momentum, But Could Come With a \$12 Trillion Price Tag" was posted at cnbc.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Trump Backs An Issue and Pelosi Suddenly Flip Flops [Denouncing Payroll Tax Cuts After Supporting Them in 2012]" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 9, 2020.
- An article by Jeff Crouere titled "COVID-19 Is No Reason to Empty Prisons" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 9, 2020.
- An article by Brooke Seipel titled "Virginia Rape Suspect Allegedly Killed His Accuser After Being Released From Jail Due to Coronavirus" was posted at thehill.com on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Julio Rosas titled "The ACLU Comes Out in Support of 'Dismantling the Department of Homeland Security' " was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Sarah Al-Arshani titled "Protesters in Minneapolis Say They Won't Clear Barricades Around the George Floyd Memorial Until the City Leaders Meet Their 24 Demands" was posted at businessinsider.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Jorge L. Ortiz and N'dea Yancey-Bragg titled "Seattle Police Chief [Carman Best] Blames City Council As She Steps Down After Vote to Cut \$4 Million in Budget, 100 Officers" was posted at usatoday.com on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article titled "Seattle Shop Owners Close Business After City Council's Decision to Defund the Police" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Zachary Evans titled "Portland Police Chief Slams 'Incomprehensible' Violence, Says Rioters Target Local Officers With Mortars and Commercial-Grade Fireworks" was posted at nationalreview.com on Aug. 6, 2020.
- An article by James Crump titled "Woman Confronting Vandals [Was] Covered in Paint During Renewed Portland Protests" was posted at independent.co.uk on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Gillian Flaccus titled "No Prosecution for Many Arrested at Portland's Protests" was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article titled "Riot Declared in Downtown Portland, Protesters Tear-Gassed" was posted at cbsnews.com on Aug. 13, 2020.
- An article by Lindsay Whitehurst titled "Utah [Black Lives Matter] Protesters Face Charges With Potential Life Sentence" was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 6, 2020.
- An article by Richard Hall titled "New York Is Moving Homeless People Into Luxury Hotels to Protect Them Against Coronavirus and Wealthy Neighborhoods Aren't Happy" was posted at independent.co.uk on Aug. 7, 2020.

- An article by Brittany De Lea titled "NYC Relocations Accelerating at 'Substantial' Pace, Local Movers Say" was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Melissa Klein titled "New Yorkers Keep Moving Out of the City to Suburbs, Other States" was posted at [nypost.com](https://www.nypost.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article titled "Retail Chains Abandon Manhattan: 'It's Unsustainable' " was posted at [dnuz.com](https://www.dnuz.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Mairead McArdle titled "Black N.Y. City Council Members Claim Progressive Calls to Defund Police 'Have Overshadowed Our Fight' [to Address Racism and Police Brutality]" was posted at [nationalreview.com](https://www.nationalreview.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article titled "Pro-Police Groups Sue NYC Mayor De Blasio for Denying Blue Lives Matter Mural" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article titled "Mass Chicago Looting Leaves 13 Officers Injured, More Than 100 Arrested" was posted at [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com) on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "BLM Activists Defend Rioting in Chicago" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Harriet Alexander and Jennifer Smith titled " 'Looting Is Reparations': BLM Protesters Gather Outside Chicago PD in Support of Looters Who Ransacked City Sunday Night, As Organizer Claims 'Anything They Wanted to Take, They Can Take Because These Businesses Have Insurance' " was posted at [dailymail.co.uk](https://www.dailymail.co.uk) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by W.J. Hennigan titled " 'It was a Planned Attack'—Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot Says Looting Was Organized" was posted at [time.com](https://www.time.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Alex Nester titled "Chicago Looters Attack Charity [Ronald McDonald House]" was posted at [freebeacon.com](https://www.freebeacon.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Kevin Daley titled "Chicago Charity Frees Accused Terrorist and Burglars [at Least 20 Defendants]" was posted at [freebeacon.com](https://www.freebeacon.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Zachary Evans titled "Residents of Chicago Neighborhood Eject Black Lives Matter Protesters" was posted at [nationalreview.com](https://www.nationalreview.com) on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Paul Meara titled "California BLM Leader Tianna Arata Charged With Five Felonies After Arrest at July Demonstration" was posted at [bet.com](https://www.bet.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by James Crump titled "California [Alameda] County Will Pay People Diagnosed With Coronavirus \$1,250 to Stay Home" was posted at [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk) on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Madeline Peltzer titled "School Teacher: We Don't Want You to Know the Radical Stuff We've Been Teaching Your Kids" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Aug. 10, 2020.

- An article by John T. Bennett titled "AOC Slams New York Governor Cuomo Over Reopening Schools in Autumn" was posted at independent.co.uk on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Josephine Harvey titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Gets Just 1 Minute to Deliver Remarks at the DNC" was posted at huffpost.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Doug McIntyre titled "'Disgusting' FC Dallas Fans Boo Their Own Players for Kneeling During the National Anthem" was posted at yahoosports.com on Aug. 13, 2020.
- An article by Chris Joyner titled "Stone Mountain Braces for Another Armed Protest [BLM Militia Went on July 4; Far-Right Groups Are Planning on Aug. 15]" was posted at ajc.com on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Josh Croxton titled "Lance Armstrong's Bike Shop Terminates Police Contract Amid Black Lives Matter Protests" was posted at yahoosports.com on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Cancel Culture Goes to Space: NASA to Remove Offensive Names of Cosmic Objects" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 8, 2020.

Kamala Harris

- An article by Andrew Davenport titled "Former San Francisco Mayor [Willie Brown] and Mentor to Kamala Harris Urges Her to 'Politely Decline' Potential VP Offer [And Seek Attorney General Job]" was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by J. Edward Moreno titled "[Donald and Ivanka] Trump Donations to Harris Attorney General Campaign [\$8,000 From 2011-2014] Gain Renewed Attention After VP Announcement" was posted at thehill.com on Aug. 12, 2020.

News about the media

- An article by Ellie Bufkin titled "The 'Silent Majority' Is Roaring for Trump, But the Media Ignores Them Completely" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Matt Vespa titled "A Five-Year-Old Was Executed Outside His Home; It's Not a Shock Why the Liberal Media Is Ignoring It" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Dave Maclean titled "Hillary Clinton Says NYT Writer [Maureen Dowd] Had 'Too Much Pot Brownie' After Forgetting Her 2016 White House Run [Included a Male VP Nominee]" was posted at independent.co.uk on Aug. 8, 2020.
- An article by Elle Reynolds titled "NYT Devotes Front Page to Harris, Barely Included Pence in 2016" was posted at thefederalist.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Chris Talgo titled "Bezo's Propaganda Newspaper [Washington Post] Praises Communist China [on August 4]" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 8, 2020.

- An article by Julio Rosas titled "WaPo Gives Portland Antifa Activists a Glowing Photoshoot As City Continues to Experience Riots" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "The Media's Coverage of Sturgis Rally Seems Different Than Recent Large Gatherings" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 8, 2020.
- An article by Chris Talgo titled "AOC's Green New Deal Documentary Gets Emmy Nomination" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Denise Petski titled "Trump Mocker Sarah Cooper Sets Comedy Special at Netflix" was posted at deadline.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Joe Anderson titled "NCIS, NCIS-Los Angeles and NCIS-New Orleans Among Shows Agreeing to Reform Police Depiction" was posted at digitalspy.com on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled "NBC Refuses to Credit Trump for Israel-U.A.E. Peace, CBS Chides It" was posted at newsbusters.org on Aug. 12, 2020.
- An article by Duncan Schroeder titled "Compliant CNN Imagines [Kamala] Harris Too Moderate" was posted at newsbusters.org on Aug. 13, 2020.
- An article by Michael Dellanno titled "[MSNBC Lawrence] O'Donnell: No Lies From Dem Ticket [at First Biden and Harris Appearance], Trump 'Lives in Fear' of Harris" was posted at newsbusters.org on Aug. 13, 2020.
- An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled "CBS's Biden Camp Reporter [Ed O'Keefe] Fawns Over 'How They [Biden and Harris] Would Lead' in Pandemic" was posted at newsbusters.org on Aug. 13, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "CNN Guest [Errin Haines]: There Are No Left-Wing Outlets That Exist to Tear Down Trump" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 9, 2020.
- Looking back to 2019, an article by Valerie Richardson titled "[CNN President] Jeff Zucker Tells CNN Staff to Be 'Fully Committed' on Trump Impeachment in Undercover Audio" was posted at washingtontimes.com on Oct. 16, 2019.
- Looking back to 2019, an article by Kimberley Strassel titled "Inside the Media's Relentless Crusade to Destroy President Trump" was posted at nypost.com on Oct. 13, 2019.
- Looking back to May, an article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Former CBS News President [Van Gordon Sauter]: Most Media 'Dedicated to Ousting the President' " was posted at cnsnews.com on May 26, 2020.
- An article by Lee Moran titled "Mika Brzezinski Drops the Hammer on 'Pathetic' Donald Trump's 'Ditzy Airhead' Tweet" was posted at huffpost.com on Aug. 13, 2020.

General interest

- An article by Mary Kearl titled "I Relocated From Central California to a Tiny Coastal Town in Maine; Right Now, the Extra Space and Joys of Rural Living Are Outweighing Any Potential Drawbacks" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Jack Flemming titled "Lake Tahoe Ranch Where 'Bonanza' Was Filmed Sells for \$38 Million" was posted at [latimes.com](https://www.latimes.com) on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Kate Taylor titled "McDonald's, Burger King and Other Fast-Food Packaging Contains Toxic 'Forever Chemicals,' According to a New Report" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Aug. 7, 2020.
- An article by Jorge L. Ortiz titled "Plastic Water and Soda Bottles Are Being Recycled Into a New Highway in California [Being Tested in Town of Oroville]" was posted at [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) on Aug. 8, 2020.
- An article by Anna Medaris Miller titled "Women Who Use Marijuana During Pregnancy Are 1.5 Times More Likely to Have a Child With Autism, According to the Largest Study of Its Kind" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Pilar Melendez titled "[Former] Victoria's Secret Mogul [Leslie Wexner] May Finally Have to Explain His [Jeffrey] Epstein Ties" was posted at [thedailybeast.com](https://www.thedailybeast.com) on Aug. 10, 2020.
- An article by Inyoung Choi titled "As Fewer Students Choose to Enroll in the Wake of Coronavirus, Some Colleges Are Promising Tuition-Free Semesters" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Aug. 10, 2020.
- A Reuters article by P.J. Huffstutter titled "Monday Storm Impacts Some 10 Million Acres of Iowa Farmland" was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on Aug. 11, 2020.
- An article by Sophie Lewis titled "Bald Eagle Attacks \$950 Drone, Sends It to Bottom of Lake Michigan" was posted at [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com) on Aug. 13, 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."