

Eye on the World

Feb. 27, 2021

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 Feb. 27, 2021.

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 Patrick Goodenough titled “U.N. Human Rights Council to Address Systemic Racism in U.S., but Not Abuses in China or Russia” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 22, 2021. Following is the article.

The U.N. Human Rights Council, boosted by the Biden administration’s decision to reengage, kicks off its first session of the year on Monday with a program that is silent on two pressing situations taking place in two of its most powerful member states—China’s mass rights violations against minority Muslims in Xinjiang, and Russia’s persecution of the anti-Putin activist Alexei Navalny.

The session will make time for discussions on “systematic racism” against black Americans at the hands of U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Specifically, the HRC’s 47 members will receive an “oral update by the High Commissioner on systematic racism, violations and international human rights law against Africans and people of African descent by law enforcement agencies, especially those incidents that resulted in the death of George Floyd and other Africans and of people of African descent.”

Also on the agenda are no fewer than four separate reports focused on Israel—one “ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”; one on “the consequences of settlement activity and other steps taken towards formal annexation in the

occupied Palestinian territory”; one on “human rights in the Occupied Syrian Golan”; and a report on the implementation of two resolutions condemning Israel, adopted during two “special sessions” more than a decade ago.

Israel features in virtually every regular session of the HRC, as it—alone out of 193 U.N. member-states—is the subject of a permanent agenda item.

In addition to its regular three sessions a year, the council occasionally holds “special sessions,” when they are requested by at least one-third of its members.

Of 29 such extraordinary sessions held during the council’s 15-year history, Israel has been the focus of eight—more than any other country. The Syrian civil war has accounted for five special sessions, and crises in Burma for three. No special sessions have been called in response to situations in North Korea, Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Russia, or China.

The regular session starting Monday, and running through March 23, will discuss human rights situations in some of those countries, notably Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, and Syria.

But neither China, whose treatment of Uyghur and other minority Muslims has outraged human rights advocates around the world—constituting genocide and war crimes, in the view of the U.S.—nor Russia, whose imprisonment of Navalny shortly after he survived an assassination attempt for which he blames the Kremlin’s security services, will be put in the spotlight.

China and Russia are themselves members, both returning to the HRC this year for fresh three-year terms. The two permanent U.N. Security Council members have been members of the U.N.’s top human rights intergovernmental body more often than not during its 15-year existence—China for 86 percent of the time and Russia for 66 percent of the time. (Other countries that have been members for more than 80 percent of the HRC’s lifespan include Cuba, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.)

Echoing the assertions made by the Obama administration more than a decade ago, Biden administration officials argue that U.S. engagement offers the best opportunity to work for improvements at the HRC. But the factors that enable rights-abusing regimes to seek and win seats year after year are inbuilt, and the council has defied efforts by the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations to press for reforms.

“We recognize that the Human Rights Council is a flawed body, in need of reform to its agenda, membership, and focus, including its disproportionate focus on Israel,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken said earlier this month. “However, our withdrawal in June 2018 did nothing to encourage meaningful change, but instead created a vacuum of U.S. leadership, which countries with authoritarian agendas have used to their advantage.”

The administration’s decision to re-engage with the HRC will not mean immediate membership, as elections to fill vacant seats were held in New York last fall. But U.S. diplomats will be active observers this year, and the U.S. may run for a seat later this year for a 2022-2024 term.

As an observer, Blinken said, the U.S. “will have the opportunity to speak in the council, participate in negotiations, and partner with others to introduce resolutions. It is our view that the best way to improve the council is to engage with it and its members in a principled fashion. We strongly believe that when the United States engages constructively with the council, in concert with our allies and friends, positive change is within reach.”

On the day Blinken made the announcement, the chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Mission in Geneva, Mark Cassayre, took part in an HRC organizational meeting in preparation for the session that begins on Monday, and pledged that the U.S. would engage with a “spirit of introspection, collaboration, and renewal.”

The administration is also expected to resume funding, after the Trump administration in fiscal years 2017-2020 withheld from U.S. contributions to the U.N. regular budget a proportionate amount that would have gone to the HRC.

Appropriations legislation signed into law in December 2019 prohibits funding for the HRC unless the secretary of state certifies that U.S. participation is important to U.S. national interests, and determines that the council is “taking significant steps to remove Israel as a permanent agenda item” and “taking actions to ensure integrity in the election of members.” Neither condition has been met.

U.S. taxpayers account for 22 percent—more than one-fifth—of the U.N. regular budget. For the other four permanent Security Council members the amounts are: China 12.0 percent, Britain 4.5 percent, France 4.4 percent, and Russia 2.4 percent.



An article by Frances Martel titled “U.N. Welcomes Maduro After Declaring Him Guilty of ‘Crimes Against Humanity’ ” was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 22, 2021. Following is the article.

The United Nations Human Rights Council welcomed Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro to deliver remarks at its annual regular session on Monday, despite the fact U.N. human rights experts have accused Maduro of committing crimes against humanity.

“Crimes against humanity” is an elaborately defined crime that includes most human rights abuses committed outside of the context of war, including murder, rape, torture, and slavery. A top investigator at the U.N.’s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published a report late last year that “found reasonable grounds” to accuse Maduro and his socialist regime of crimes against humanity.

The report did not stop the United Nations from allowing Venezuela to remain on the Human Rights Council. While Maduro has not been Venezuela’s legitimate, constitutional head of state since January 2019, the United Nations has refused to recognize the country’s true president, Juan Guaidó, as wielding power.

The Human Rights Council also hosts several other rogue states credibly accused of human rights atrocities, including China, Russia, Cuba, Libya, and Pakistan.

Maduro used his time to address the Council—about ten minutes—to condemn the United States and urge the world to “change the system of economic, capitalist, predator organizations” in light of the Chinese coronavirus pandemic. He also claimed that he had managed to bring Venezuela’s coronavirus cases under control through several dubious, uncorroborated methods he would “humbly” share with the world.

“The grave and unexpected circumstances of Covid-19 [Chinese coronavirus] that humanity faces demands of world leaders a greater commitment to the work for a better future, common and shared,” Maduro told the Council. “An emergency of such a magnitude has put in evidence the need to accept health as a fundamental human right. Multilateralism is showing it is the only path available to overcome global difficulties and to construct better living conditions for peoples.”

Maduro applauded the World Health Organization (W.H.O.)—a U.N. body widely decried for hiding the true threat of the pandemic and allowing the Chinese Communist Party to spread unchecked misinformation—for its role in the pandemic, and applauded himself for allegedly controlling the pandemic in Venezuela.

The Maduro regime claims to have documented only 136,068 cases and 1,316 deaths attributable to coronavirus since the pandemic began, compared to millions of cases in neighboring Colombia and Brazil. While Maduro has claimed that his use of “rectal ozone therapy”—which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has warned against—and other “miracle” cures are responsible for those statistics, polling within Venezuela shows that as many as 87 percent of people told by their doctors they have Chinese coronavirus do not receive PCR tests—and thus do not show up in official statistics.

Maduro also used his time before the Human Rights Council to reject any investigation into Venezuela’s dire human rights situation.

“I reiterate that the Venezuelan state will decidedly work with the actors of this Human Rights Council, just as I ratify that we will not accept the intervention of any inquisitor mechanism against our nation, Venezuela, that seeks to use the just cause of human rights as a political tool for a government, or a regime, change in our country,” Maduro asserted. “Those who think that Venezuela will diminish the cooperation achieved with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as a consequence of these ideological provocations of a small group of governments are wrong.”

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights found “reasonable grounds” to believe Maduro guilty of crimes against humanity in a report published in September.

“The Mission found reasonable grounds to believe that Venezuelan authorities and security forces have since 2014 planned and executed serious human rights violations,” chief investigator Marta Valinas said at the time, “some of which—including arbitrary killings and the systematic use of torture—amount to crimes against humanity.”

"Far from being isolated acts, these crimes were coordinated and committed pursuant to State policies, with the knowledge or direct support of commanding officers and senior government officials," Valinas said. "Security forces used lethal force against the victim when it was not strictly unavoidable to protect lives. Security forces also used less-lethal weapons in a lethal manner, which resulted in the death of the demonstrators." The high commissioner herself, former Chilean socialist president Michelle Bachelet, has also accused Maduro of "grave human rights violations."

The International Criminal Court at the Hague (ICC), the top world court to process human rights crimes, also issued a statement in December finding Maduro similarly suspect of committing human rights atrocities. The ICC stated that "a reasonable basis to believe" Maduro is guilty of crimes against humanity existed, opening the door to Maduro being prosecuted by the court. The ICC has jurisdiction against individuals accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide.

The official legal definition of "crimes against humanity" requires a finding of "a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack" featuring at least one of a long list of crimes, including murder, "extermination," rape, torture, slavery, or "other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health."



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "[Joe] Biden Makes 3 'Concessions' to Iranian Regime as Administration Looks to Re-Engage" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Feb. 19, 2021. Following are excerpts of the article.

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- Reconsidering previous sanctions
 - Considering a return to talks with Iran
 - Informing that the stringent travel restrictions placed on diplomats in mid-2019 were no longer in force.



An article by Kamran Bokhari titled "The Coming Turkish Iranian Confrontation" was posted at [newlinesmag.com](https://www.newlinesmag.com) on Feb. 24, 2021. Following is the article.

On Feb. 16, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoan announced that his country will expand its cross-border operations against Kurdish militants in Iraq after the killing of 13 kidnapped Turkish citizens. Speaking to a gathering of supporters of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), Erdoan said, "We will stay in the areas we secure as long as necessary to prevent similar attacks again."

This statement came two days after an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia threatened to attack Turkish military forces in northern Iraq. Harakat Hezbollah al-

Nujaba, a powerful Shiite militia incorporated into the Iraqi state security apparatus, warned: "If the government continues to remain silent, the Iraqi people and the resistance will face the occupiers and will adopt a determined stance to repulse them." This Turkish-Iranian conflict in northern Iraq betokens a rising cold war between two regional powerhouses.

Though Turkey and Iran may appear to cooperate more than they compete, a confrontation between them is inescapable, especially as Tehran has all but won a 40-year conflict with Saudi Arabia. While the Saudi kingdom was not able to put up much resistance as Iran was carving out its sphere of influence in the region since 1979, Tehran will have a very tough time defending it against an increasingly assertive Turkey. For the moment, the Iranians are blocking the Turkish path into the Arab world, but Ankara has more staying power than Tehran. This Turkey-Iran struggle will define the region for a long time to come, particularly because the interests of the United States and Turkey are aligned when it comes to rolling back Iran's influence in the region.

Most observers continue to identify the main regional conflict in the Middle East as the struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran—who are seen as leading their respective Sunni and Shiite camps. Few realize that this decades-old clash ended some four years ago when Iranian-supported Syrian forces captured Aleppo back from the rebels—dashing Saudi hopes that a collapse of the Assad regime would weaken Iran's position in the region. Not long after that, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates failed to defeat Tehran-backed and al-Houthi-led opposition forces in Yemen. That the Saudi-Iranian conflict ended in favor of Iran is not surprising.

Arab states have long been suffering from a chronic, intrinsic weakness—a condition that the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings exacerbated—that created strategic vacuums in the region. Already having immensely benefited from the 2003 U.S. move to effect regime change in Iraq, Iran's clerical regime was able to further enhance its regional position by exploiting the process of autocratic meltdown, which aggravated the preexisting crisis of Sunni Arab leadership. However, long before the weakening of autocratic Arab states provided greater openings, the Iranians were leveraging two older dynamics.

The first is the well-known phenomenon of jihadism, which has garnered a tremendous amount of attention since the 9/11 attacks. A second and more important dynamic is what I call geo-sectarianism. It is the Sunni-Shiite conflict in geopolitical (as opposed to religious) terms, in which these two sects behave as transnational identity camps. Surprisingly, geo-sectarianism has received far less attention despite its long history.

It begins in the 10th century, when centralized Sunni authority, which until then had a monopoly over much of Muslim geography, atrophied. The decline of the Abbasid dominion enabled the first wave of Shiite geopolitical ascension. Several different Shiite polities emerged, such as the Fatimid Caliphate in North Africa that extended into the Levant and the Red Sea coastal region of Hejaz; the Buwahid emirate centered in Mesopotamia and Persia; the Qarmatian state on the east coast of the Arabian Peninsula; and the Zaidi Imamate in Yemen.

Eventually, in the late 11th through the early 13th centuries, Sunnis regained their posture in the form of the rise of the Seljuk Empire, the Ayyubid dynasty, and the Mamluk Sultanate, forcing a contraction of Shiite power. This shift in the geo-sectarian balance of power, with the strategic weakening of the region's Sunni majority, paved the way for Shiite powers to fill the vacuum. The swing between Sunni and Shiite dominance has been cyclical, occurring roughly 500 years apart. About five centuries after the first occurrence, a second wave of Shiite resurgence took place with the rise of the Safavid empire in 1501. The Safavids posed a significant challenge to both the major Sunni powers of the time, the Ottomans in the Middle East and the Mughals in South Asia.

Fast forward another half a millennium or so to the late 20th century, and we are once again in an era of Shiite renaissance with the Islamic Republic of Iran at its vanguard. This latest manifestation of geo-sectarianism occurs again because of intense intra-Sunni competition. The Iranians understand well the unique moment they are in and are not going to let go of this historic opportunity. This explains Tehran's aggressive behavior in its efforts to try to alter the region's security architecture—despite being under severe international sanctions, which have taken a toll on the political and economic well-being of the Islamic Republic.

Hence their feverish efforts to exploit the three main regional tendencies—geo-sectarianism, jihadism, and autocratic meltdown. These are not three disparate dynamics in motion independent of one another; they are interconnected, each influencing the other. The outcome of this complex triangular process has been that Iran's net strategic position in the region has become far better than that of Saudi Arabia.

In fact, when the Arab Spring broke out, Iran was well-positioned to benefit from the hollowing out of the traditional powerhouses in the region. The ensuing chaos allowed the Iranians to expand their geopolitical footprint from the Mesopotamian-Levantine landmass to the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen is a prime example: Iran's surrogate al-Houthi movement has taken the geo-sectarian war into the Saudi heartland, something that Tehran's proxies in Bahrain, Iraq, and Syria did not do.

Despite all these gains, and like all powers, Iran faces constraints that limit the extent to which it can expand its regional influence. What is critical here, however, is that there are no countervailing forces in the Arab world that can push Tehran out of the areas that it already dominates by proxy (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen). Iran was able to make such deep inroads in the first place because there was nothing to block its forays.

That said, the uprising in Syria represented a major threat to Iran's strategic plans. A toppling of the Assad regime would have been akin to punching a critical hole in Iran's contiguous sphere of influence, which stretches west of the Zagros mountains to the Eastern Mediterranean. Iran would be cut off from its main regional proxy, Lebanon's Hezbollah, and a Syrian battlespace dominated by Sunni rebels threatened the fragile, pro-Iranian Shiite polity in Iraq. For Iran's clerical regime, this was a doomsday scenario representing the reversal of over 30 years of its foreign policy efforts.

Therefore, the Iranians invested heavily in their efforts to preserve the Assad regime. Given that their intelligence and military capabilities were far superior to

those of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian military proved far more effective than the rebels, the Islamic Republic was able to overcome the immediate threat to its regional plans. The key factor that worked in Iran's favor was that the Sunni side of the geo-sectarian equation had become even more divided than before. The Saudis never had a monopoly on influence in the Arab world, and the uprising in Syria led to the emergence of the Islamic State group, also known as ISIS, which became a much bigger challenge to the Saudis than al Qaeda ever was.

ISIS was able to exploit to its advantage the geo-sectarian conflict between the Saudis and Iranians. The more the Saudis supported the anti-Assad uprising in Syria, the more they were feeding the ISIS beast. Unlike their Iranian rivals, the Saudis performed poorly as far as tradecraft in proxy warfare was concerned. In addition, factions supported by the Saudis lost ground to both ISIS and al Qaeda.

Saudi Arabia alone could not manage this and has always needed assistance from the UAE. More importantly, Saudi Arabia also faced opposition from Qatar, given the latter's efforts to pursue a foreign policy independent of the kingdom. Riyadh has long been threatened by Doha's close links with Islamists of the Muslim Brotherhood persuasion, as well as other, far more radical elements. The Qataris themselves are not as big of a challenge to the Saudis as is the fact they are allies of Turkey.

The Turks saw in the Arab Spring an opportunity to reestablish themselves in their old stomping grounds. To this end, Turkey is trying to exploit the crisis of Sunni Arab leadership. Intra-Sunni struggles are thus transforming geo-sectarianism. The Saudi-Iranian conflict is being replaced by the struggle between Iran and Turkey—the two historical rivals in the region.

While Qatar is its only Arab state ally, Ankara's principal tool was the Muslim Brotherhood movement. In the early years following the Arab Spring uprisings, Turkey was hopeful that the Brotherhood would emerge as the main alternative to the Arab regimes. Its rise to power in Tunisia and Egypt was encouraging for Ankara; however, that optimism proved short-lived when a 2013 coup in Egypt ousted the Brotherhood government within a year of its taking office.

While unable to succeed against Iran in Syria, the Saudis and the Emiratis were able to check Turkey's efforts to expand its influence via the Brotherhood. In many ways, Turkey was not ready to take advantage of the Arab Spring on a regional scale given that it had been out of the Middle Eastern game for nearly a century. Since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and until the rise of the Erdoan regime, the Turks were focused on becoming a Western power. When the Islamist-rooted AKP of Erdoan came to power, Turkey reoriented its foreign policy focus toward the Middle East.

This shift was as much ideologically driven as it was geopolitical. The Turks realized that it would not gain European Union membership, which it had been unsuccessfully seeking for decades. Besides, membership in the EU was no longer as attractive as it once was. Turkey was trying to reassert itself as a regional power and was no longer content with limiting itself to acting multilaterally as a NATO member state. Ankara has been increasingly moving toward a unilateral foreign policy, and the one region where it can pursue this agenda is the Middle East.

Even though Turkey is the largest political, military, and economic power in the Middle East, it faces several obstacles in its path to geopolitical recovery. Perhaps the most significant is on the home front, where the ruling AKP continues to face several challenges. It began with the military-led Kemalist establishment, which it was able to overwhelm with the help of its one-time ally, the Gülen movement. However, it was not too long after civilian supremacy over the military was established that the AKP began feuding with the Gülenists, which culminated in the failed 2016 coup that facilitated Erdoğan's efforts to entrench himself in power.

Turkey's slide toward autocracy has weakened the AKP, as was demonstrated by the results of the latest municipal elections in which the ruling party lost control of the mayoralties of the country's three main urban centers. In addition, after many years of economic growth under AKP rule, the Turkish economy is on the wane. Meanwhile, the long-standing problem of Kurdish separatism is constraining Turkey from both a domestic and foreign policy point of view. Turkey also finds itself at odds with both the United States and Russia with regards to its Syria policy.

But even if these domestic factors constrain Turkey's desire for great-power status, the country cannot avoid entanglement in the conflict on its southern periphery. Already, the country has become home to some 3 million Syrian refugees. It fears that the growing influence of the Syrian Kurds, especially after the ethnic minority group played a lead role in dismantling the ISIS caliphate, could energize a domestic Kurdish movement. Additionally, ISIS is down but not out, and Salafist-jihadist groups dominate the rebel landscape in Idlib province.

In other words, there are plenty of other drivers that make it imperative that Turkey increase its military footprint in Syria. Of course, the first goal involves limiting the autonomy of Syrian Kurds. Ankara is in the process of assuming the patronship of the various rebel factions in order to marshal them into a coherent force—capable of weakening Kurdish control over areas formerly under ISIS control. Eventually, Turkey will want to change the nature of the Syrian regime, especially as it is arguably in an irreversible process of decay.

Iran saved the regime from the rebels, but by the time that happened, the Assad regime had become a shell of its former self. Syria is a country in disintegration, with President Bashar al-Assad leading the biggest militia coalition rather than an actual state. This status quo is unsustainable, and the Iranians lack options. Meanwhile, the Turks are determined to fill the growing vacuum on their southern frontier.

Iran understands it is only a matter of time before Turkey will pose a serious threat to the inroads Tehran has made in the region since the 1980s. The last time these two powers were locked in a geopolitical competition, the Turks controlled Iraq and Syria. The current situation is an unprecedented reversal of fortunes. Therefore, the Iranians seek to consolidate themselves as much as possible because this opportunity may not come again for centuries.

Each of these factors places Turkey directly in the crosshairs of Iran. Tehran realizes that if there is one actor that can pose a threat to its interests, it is

Ankara. From the Iranian strategic point of view, the present situation is a unique historical moment. For the first time since the early seventh century, Persians are dominant in Mesopotamia and the Levant. Moreover, they see themselves as blocking the Turks from the Arab world as opposed to being blocked by them, which was the case during the Ottoman-Safavid struggle.

The Islamic Republic has had nearly a 30-year head start in projecting influence into the Arab world, while the Turks are still struggling in the northern periphery of Syria. However, Iran cannot take this situation for granted because Turkey is both strong and ambitious in the region. The Iranian position in Syria (and by extension its regional sphere of influence) is thus highly vulnerable. What this means is that the Iranians will be working hard to limit the extent to which Turkey is able to gain a foothold in the country.

Conversely, for Turkey to be a regional player, it will have to break out of the Iranian blockade in Iraq and Syria. Northern Iraq (especially the Sinjar region) serves as a critical piece of geopolitical real estate that allows Iran to use Kurdish separatism to check Turkey's ambitions in both Iraq and Syria while managing the same problem at home. This is a direct outcome of Tehran emerging as the biggest beneficiary of the ISIS defeat. It is the prerequisite to being able to play a bigger role in the Arabian Peninsula/Persian Gulf region, and the wider Middle East. Like Tehran, Ankara also sees the vacuum created by autocratic meltdown in the Arab world as an opportunity to advance its strategic ambitions.

It is true that at present the Turks and the Iranians are playing nice with each other, but these are ephemeral moments; their respective imperatives will lead them to collide with one another regardless of their subjective preferences. Iran sees itself as the defender of Shiite interests and the vanguard of the region's "Resistance Axis," and Turkey, likewise, sees itself as the champion of Sunni Muslims.

Iran needs to protect its western flank extending out to the Mediterranean—the historical superhighway from where it has seen numerous invasions throughout history. Ideally, Tehran would want its allies to form strong governments in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Obviously, that is unlikely to happen. Therefore, it will focus on ensuring its proxies in all three countries can retain the influence they currently have.

From Turkey's point of view, Iran is in its way, and a deeply fragmented Sunnidom craves a patron. Of course, the Levant and Mesopotamia are not the only places the Turks are trying to push into. Ankara has been trying to carve out a sphere of influence in the strategic vacuum that is Libya. However, the energy-rich North African state is a bridge too far for now, especially with the competition it is facing from Russia, the UAE, and Egypt. For the foreseeable future, Libya will be a long-distance Turkish outpost in the Mediterranean, and Turkey's main arena of focus will be its land borders with the Arab world and places in which it cannot avoid conflicting with Iran, especially as Russian influence wanes due to its increasing financial limitations.

While the main theater for the Turkish-Iranian geopolitical struggle will be the Levant, a new and unexpected battlespace has emerged involving these two powers in the form of the 2020 war between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh, which has proven to be a watershed event. Sensing Russian weakness,

the Turks saw an opening and took it by providing close support to Azerbaijan's military operations that resulted in Baku retaking large swaths of territory that it had lost to the Armenians in the early 1990s. That Russia could not stop the Turks from effecting this shift in the balance of power in the South Caucasus speaks to Turkey's determination to expand its sphere of influence across a wide geography.

The territorial gains made by Azerbaijan have created two new realities. First, Turkey now has the makings of a land corridor from Nakhichevan through Nagorno-Karabakh to mainland Azerbaijan and beyond to the Caspian Sea & Central Asia. Second, and more importantly, is that Azerbaijan now has a longer border with Iran, which represents a huge threat to Tehran given its own restive ethnic Azeri minority, especially at a time when Iran is under significant pressure on numerous fronts (financial, Israeli attacks on its positions in the Levant, and even domestically). The Turks have inserted themselves into the South Caucasus by charting a geopolitical path between the Russians to the north and the Iranians to the south.

The degree to which the Iranians feel threatened by the Turkish gains on their northern frontier can be gauged from a Dec. 11 tweet from Iran's foreign minister, who bitterly chided Erdoan for reciting an Azeri-Iranian poem about the division of Azerbaijan's territory between Russia and Iran in the 19th century. "President Erdoan was not informed that what he ill-recited in Baku refers to the forcible separation of areash . . . from (the) Iranian motherland. NO ONE can talk about OUR beloved Azerbaijan," said Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif. Considering that Turkey and Iran (despite being on the opposite sides of the war in Syria) have had close relations, Zarif's tweet is a noteworthy shift in the tenor of bilateral ties.

Indeed, media reports showed that Erdoan's remarks were deemed highly offensive. Clearly, Tehran is feeling threatened that the outcome of the 2020 war has created a situation that could fan separatist tendencies among Iran's Azeri minority. The Iranian reaction also included summoning the Turkish ambassador to the foreign ministry, where he was "informed that the era of territorial claims and expansionist empires is over. Iran does not allow anyone to meddle in its territorial integrity."

Iran's sense of vulnerability is also informed by the fact that its geo-sectarian modus operandi has failed in the case of Azerbaijan. Though it is a Shiite majority nation, Azerbaijan's secular character has insulated it from Iranian efforts to expand its influence. On the contrary, the Iranians have long found themselves vulnerable to cross-border, ethnic Azeri (a Turkic people) dynamics. For the longest time, Iran took comfort from the fact its ally, Armenia, had the upper hand in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and that the Russians were managing the situation.

However, now that Ankara and its ally Baku are on a strong footing, the Iranians will have to worry about the Turks not just to their west but also to their north. What is interesting in all of this is that neither side seeks conflict with the other, but their respective objectives, shaped by shared geographic environs, are steering them toward greater conflict. The South Caucasus will remain a secondary arena for Iran and Turkey because the states in the region remain robust. In sharp contrast, Iraq and Syria are shattered states where armed, non-state actors represent the primary forces, which in the coming years will be the main Turkish-Iranian battlespace.

The relationship between Turkey and Iran makes it hard to see the burgeoning competition. The perception of a Turkey-Iran alignment is often reinforced by frequent diplomatic overtures, bilateral agreements, and the support of some allies against seemingly common adversaries. This would explain why even otherwise very informed people speak of an axis of Turkey, Iran, and Qatar versus the bloc that includes Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Israel, and Egypt.

There is often talk in policy circles about the need to roll back Iranian influence in the region. But the question is who will lead this effort, as Iran and its proxies will not be dislodged from the Arab world without the involvement of an external force. Certainly, the United States does not want to commit to another major military campaign, especially not in the Middle East. Israel is only concerned with making sure the Iranians do not get too comfortable to where they threaten the Jewish state. That leaves Turkey as the only power with both the intent and capability to confront the Iranians. It may not happen for a while, but it is inevitable.



“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 Dominic Green titled “Biden Is Set to Repeat Obama’s Mideast Failures—and Wipe Out U.S. Influence” was posted at nypost.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
 - A Reuters article by Parisa Hafezi titled “Khamenei Says Iran May Enrich Uranium to 60% Purity If Needed” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
 - An article by Caleb Larson titled “Israeli Air Force Could Soon Have More F-35 Fighters” was posted at realcleardefense.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
 - An article titled “Qatar to Pour \$60 Million Into New Israel-Gaza Gas Pipeline” was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 25, 2021.
 - An article by Qassim Abdul-Zahra titled “Recent Drone Attack on Saudi Royal Palace Launched From Iraq” was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 25, 2021.
 - An article by Lolita C. Baldor and Robert Burns titled “U.S. Bombs Facilities in Syria Used by Iran-Backed Militia” was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 25, 2021.
 - A Reuters article by Roxanne Liu and Ryan Woo titled “Over 43 Million Doses of [China National Pharmaceutical Group] Sinopharm’s Covid-19 Vaccines Used Globally: State Media” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
 - An article titled “China Says Japan-US Security Treaty a Product of Cold War” was posted at militarytimes.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
 - An article by Noah Manskar titled “Australia Passes News-Content Law After Battles With Facebook, Google” was posted at nypost.com on Feb. 25, 2021.

- A Reuters article by Robert Birsel and Frances Kerry titled "Huge Crowds in Myanmar Undeterred by Worst Day of Violence" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by John Magufuli titled "Tanzania's President Admits Country Has Covid-19 Problem" was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- A Reuters article by Sabine Siebold and Jan Strupczewski titled "Weary of New Covid Variants, EU Leaders Push to Step Up Vaccination" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 25, 2021.
- A Reuters article by Thomas Escritt and Paul Carrel titled "Pandemic Will Not End Until World Is Vaccinated, [Angela] Merkel Says" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Samuel Lovett titled "Not a Single Case of Flu Detected by Public Health England This Year as Covid Restrictions Suppress Virus" was posted at independent.co.uk on Feb. 25, 2021.
- An article by Patrick Grafton-Green titled "[Nottingham Forest] Footballer Lyle Taylor Says BLM Is 'Marxist' and That He Will No Longer Take the Knee" was posted at lbc.co.uk on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Connor McNulty titled "'Enough Was Enough': UK Footballer [Lyle Taylor] Slams Kneeling for BLM" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- A Reuters article by Sabine Siebold titled "Berlin Welcomes Biden's Announcement to Keep U.S. Troops in Germany" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Kate Connolly titled "Frustration Grows in Germany Over Sluggish Rollout of Covid Vaccines" was posted at theguardian.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Alberto Nardelli titled "Merkel Is Leaving and Macron Is Flailing; But the EU Has a New Heavyweight in [Italy's Mario] Draghi" was posted at bloomberg.com on Feb. 25, 2021.
- An article titled "France Imposing Local Covid-19 Restrictions to Avoid National Lockdown" was posted at newsmax.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- A Reuters article by Tuvan Gumrukcu titled "Turkey's Erdogan Says Common Interests With U.S. Outweigh Differences" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Tanzeel Akhtar titled "Canada's First Bitcoin ETF Hits \$421.8 Million AUM [Assets Under Management] in Two Days" was posted at coindesk.com on Feb. 20, 2021.



An article by David Rutz titled "Mark Levin Pays Tribute to Rush Limbaugh: 'He Made It Cool to Be a Patriot' " was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 17, 2021. Following is the article.

Fox News host and longtime conservative radio personality Mark Levin eulogized Rush Limbaugh Wednesday as someone who made it “cool to be a patriot” and spoke for tens of millions of Americans from behind his famed golden microphone.

“We lost a tremendous patriot,” Levin told Fox News host Harris Faulkner. “I’ve known Rush for 25 years. I want your audience to know how much he profoundly loved them . . . An incredibly wise man, a very, very smart man. A dear person. If you thought somebody needed help, he would help them. Nothing like what the liberal media has tried to do to him.”

Limbaugh died Wednesday after a year-long battle with lung cancer. The conservative icon and author revolutionized the radio industry with the nationally syndicated “The Rush Limbaugh Show” beginning in 1988, and he is widely recognized as one of the most influential figures in broadcast and political history.

Limbaugh was close with former President Donald Trump and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from him last year, and he made plenty of enemies on the left with his acerbic brand of commentary.

Levin, who hosts “Life, Liberty, and Levin” in addition to his syndicated radio show, hailed Limbaugh as a mentor who paved the way for him and other conservatives on talk radio and was generous with his time.

“I just want him to be remembered the way he should be remembered,” Levin said. “A tremendous patriot of this country who refused to accept the attacks that came against this country from within. He refused to accept the ideological changes in this country. He defended the traditions of this country, and he spoke for tens of millions of us and, you know, I’ve met a lot of smart people in my life, dealt with a lot of smart people, never smarter than Rush, never wiser, and never kinder.”

Levin called it a “tremendously sad day” for people who “salute the flag” and “embrace the military.”

Limbaugh announced his diagnosis last January and continued to do broadcasts, taking time off occasionally for treatments and updating his audience on his health.

“We’ve lost a voice like no other and like there will never be again and particularly at a time when we need a voice like his,” Levin said, later adding, “He made it cool to be a patriot. He showed people how to stand up against the tide, the endless tide of tyranny.”



An article by Ken Blackwell titled “The Counterfeit Equality Act: The Left’s Assault on Religious Liberty” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 24, 2021. Following is the article.

Last year, we heard a lot about peaceful protests that, in reality, were not peaceful. This year, we are going to hear a lot about the Equality Act that, in reality, creates

inequality. If the past is any indication, proponents of the Equality Act will shamefully attempt to usurp the civil rights movement's history and legacy as they do.

In no way are one's sexual conduct and inclinations or gender dysphoria equivalent to skin color. Suggesting or implying as much diminishes the hard-fought gains of that movement. While the scientific evidence shows that "sexual orientation" is quite fluid and that "gender identity" changes regularly, science also shows that skin color is constant. Beyond that, the Equality Act would reinstitute the kind of legal system discrimination the civil rights movement sought to undo, only on ideological rather than racial grounds.

Where the civil rights movement sought to free millions of Americans from the oppression of government laws that treated people differently because of skin color, the Equality Act will require the law to treat people differently because of their religious beliefs.

Where the civil rights movement sought to create a world in which people would be judged only by the content of their character, the Equality Act will punish businesses, schools, and individuals simply for believing that a man cannot become a woman.

Where the civil rights movement sought to create a world in which professional opportunities were available equally to everyone, the Equality Act will punish medical professionals who do not want to surgically remove healthy body parts or give puberty blockers to a child.

Where the civil rights movement sought to create a world in which everyone would have an equal opportunity in their community, the Equality Act will force the closure of adoption agencies and foster care providers if their beliefs are disfavored.

While the civil rights movement sought educational opportunities for all, the Equality Act will ensure the closure of Christian colleges and universities that are faithful to the Bible's teachings about marriage, sexuality, and gender.

While the civil rights movement sought to create equal opportunity for men and women of all races, the Equality Act will ensure that men can always participate in women's sports if they want to. Women of all races will be subject to legal liability and public shaming if they object.

Where the civil rights movement created real equality, the Equality The act creates a separate, but equal, status based on deeply held beliefs. Under the Equality Act, those who reject a historical understanding of sexuality and gender have no concerns but those who hold to a historical understanding of sexuality and gender will have fewer professional, educational, and athletic options and face greater legal liabilities regardless of where they are or what they do.

Businesses owned by people with orthodox Christian, Jewish, or Muslim beliefs should eventually expect to have higher insurance rates as well because their legal exposure will be significantly higher because of those beliefs. That's not equality.

That is a force of destruction!



An article by Ken Blackwell titled "Black Inventors Are Often Overlooked in American History" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 25, 2021. Following is the article.

Each year, Black History Month allows us to reflect on so many great Black Americans who have contributed to the success of our nation. We reflect on the contributions of many well-known and not so well-known Black Americans. As we come to the end of another Black History Month, it's critical that we draw more attention to one group that has not gotten nearly enough attention—the Black inventor.

Thousands of African American inventors have transformed America. Black inventors have created groundbreaking products for centuries ranging from Lewis Lattimer, who helped construct a commercially viable lightbulb, to Marshall Jones, who pioneered laser use in industrial manufacturing.

Many of these innovative geniuses are unknown today, and it is critical to educate the public about the invaluable contributions of Black inventors.

I've written a great deal in recent years about America's role as the innovation leader of the world—largely because we created a system that defined ideas and invention as the intellectual property of those who created them. Our Founding Fathers enshrined patent protections in the Constitution because they valued innovation and believed individuals should be able to reap the fruits of their labor.

For much of our early history, Black Americans were prevented from taking part in the patent system in the face of slavery and second-class citizenship. Slaves were prevented from obtaining patents and many slave owners and others stole the inventions of worthy Black inventors.

Nevertheless, brave inventors continued to persevere and our groundbreaking patent system provided an opportunity for Black inventors as our nation moved forward.

In 1820, Thomas Jennings became the first African American to obtain a patent—at a time when many blacks were still enslaved in the South. Jennings patented his "dry-scouring" technique that served as a precursor to later dry-cleaning methods. Jennings used the profits from his invention to fund the local abolitionist movement and to fight for civil rights.

After Jennings' death, Frederick Douglass discussed his impact, arguing the United States Patent Office needed to recognize Jennings as a "citizen of the United States." In 1868, Martha Jones became the first black woman to obtain a U.S. patent for her "Improvement to the Corn Husker, Sheller."

Similar stories of Black inventors triumphing over seemingly insurmountable odds have occurred throughout American history. Elijah McCoy was the child of escaped slaves who grew up in poverty before patenting a lubricant allowing train engines to run continuously. McCoy didn't rest on his laurels but instead filed 56 other patents over his lifetime and even started his own company.

His reputation quickly spread, and when engineers were searching for top-end equipment, they would say they wanted “the real McCoy” because McCoy’s products were the best.

Without a patent system, it is unlikely McCoy would have been acknowledged by society for his achievements. Garrett Morgan, another Black Inventor, invented the gas mask and obtained a wide range of patents for inventions as different as haircare products and a traffic light.

Morgan used his gas mask to save two trapped workers from a collapsed tunnel in Ohio. Unfortunately, the public rejected his heroism because he was black, and he was denied several awards he richly deserved. Racism didn’t stop Morgan from obtaining more patents, and even in a hostile society, he profited from his inventions. In the middle of the Jim Crow era, the power of patents allowed Morgan to live secure, knowing his work was safe from theft.

This proud tradition of Black inventors continues today, as Lonnie Johnson has obtained over 100 patents. He is best known for inventing the Super Soaker, but his true passion is developing environmentally friendly technology that converts heat directly into electricity.

Dr. Marian Rogers Croak is another Black pioneer who has focused her vast energies on building secure ways to communicate over the internet and developed the Voiceover Internet Protocol (VoIP). Whenever you talk to someone over FaceTime or attend a Zoom meeting, it is partially because of Dr. Croak’s work.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Croak quickly invented technology allowing instant and secure donations to groups like the Red Cross, who needed funds to care for the victims.

Black inventors have shaped and will continue shaping America through their persistence and genius. We should all take a moment to appreciate these incredible Black men and women—and so many others like them for their innovation, creativity, and their example.



An article by Armstrong Williams titled “President Joe Biden’s Assault on Gun Owners” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 25, 2021. Following is the article.

For the duration of his 2020 presidential campaign—which at first appeared to be a long shot, especially given the far left’s vocal disdain for “old, white men”—Joe Biden ran on the promise that he would unite the country. He repeatedly spoke about the importance of America’s institutions and norms, and to the many who ultimately voted for him, those were the halcyon days of this country that they longed for and that Biden promised them. Unfortunately, it seems that more and more of his supporters are still patiently waiting for him to make good on his campaign promise.

It was, without a doubt, a noble promise. Even if you didn't agree with Biden or support his policies, Americans of all stripes would agree that a call for national unity amid years of division and political strife is necessary at this point. However, despite his lofty goals and plans, Biden has, unsurprisingly, returned to Washington as a creature of habit. As a result, instead of uniting the country, Biden is about to divide it even further and in a deeply profound, potentially irreparable way.

In a recent statement from the White House in which he commemorated those who were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Biden called for significant gun legislation.

In his statement, Biden declared that "this Administration will not wait for the next mass shooting to heed that call. We will take action to end our epidemic of gun violence and make our schools and communities safer. Today, I am calling on Congress to enact commonsense gun law reforms, including requiring background checks on all gun sales, banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and eliminating immunity for gun manufacturers who knowingly put weapons of war on our streets. We owe it to all those we've lost and to all those left behind to grieve to make a change. The time to act is now."

With a step that will undoubtedly cause millions of Americans to resist Biden and his agenda even more aggressively, the new president has effectively put a nail in his own coffin. He's lost any remaining benefit of the doubt that conservatives and Republicans were willing to give him based on his repeated calls for national unity.

Throughout his remarks, Biden mentioned the word violence five times, but not once did he attempt to identify or speculate on the root of the violence within America, nor did he offer any tangible solutions. Instead, he immediately pivoted to banning certain magazines and weapons while blatantly ignoring the fact that millions of Americans own AR-15s, the semi-automatic weapon that Biden is going after.

Keep in mind that most of America's gun owners are decent and law-abiding citizens who pose absolutely no threat to their peers, regardless of what type of weapon they own. By moving down this path, Biden is essentially asking us to ignore the real root of the problems that result in mass shootings, all the while punishing gun owners who don't break the law or commit crimes. There is a small, disgusting fraction of people who commit heinous acts, and yet the millions of law-abiding citizens are being targeted. Let's also not forget that thousands of young men have been killed in urban cities across the country using pistols. Yet, we're not talking about a ban on pistols. Instead, we argue that those young men need better resources, education, mentorship and other pathways that will help elevate them from poverty.

There are very serious issues when anyone harms another person for no reason other than to cause mass destruction, and there is not a single gun owner who would support such acts. In fact, many condemn these acts because they give the majority a bad rap. If Biden really wanted to address the issues he mentioned in his White House statement, he would focus on mental health, particularly the mental health of America's youth. He would focus on building stronger families so that families know what to look for if their child is going through depression or other men-

tal illness. He would focus on making sure urban cities have better education and trade centers; he would focus on working with the private sector to create job opportunities and to improve access to transportation and housing in those areas. These things would have a profound impact on urban communities and would help end gun violence. On the other hand, I can assure you that banning AR-15s will not.

Biden's priorities are misplaced, and the steps he's preparing to take will only cause further division in a nation that's already struggling to hang on by a thread. He should focus on the root of the problems because that is how we can solve them. Banning certain guns won't make a difference, because the underlying problems will persist. These are problems that are so pervasive that focusing on guns instead of realistic solutions is seemingly the only political answer to complex problems.

Democrats such as Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas are proposing far-reaching bills to make it more difficult to purchase firearms. In addition to extending the waiting period, Lee's bill would create a national registry of all firearm owners and require various new licenses specific to certain types of weapons. It would also ban certain types of ammunition. This is funny coming from Lee because from what I hear, she herself enjoys going to the range; but we'll save that for a future column.

However, there are states that are pushing back, such as Indiana, which recently eliminated the requirement to have a license to carry a handgun—certainly a victory for Second Amendment supporters, but also a sign that many states will begin to take things into their own hands in preparation for what's to come from the Biden White House.

If Joe Biden is serious about healing America and bringing this nation together, this isn't the way to do it. Instead, focusing on mental illness, the importance of family structure, education, trade schools, economic opportunities and better housing is what will help our inner cities. When people are mentally and spiritually sound and are comfortable in life with a good job, fair pay and a great home, violence will inevitably go down without infringing on the rights of other American citizens.



An article by Derek Hunter titled "Media Fluffs Biden" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 23, 2021. Following is the article.

When Donald Trump sneezed, the entire media fact checked it. If he mentioned the time, someone at CNN declared he was off by a nanosecond and a total fraud. There was literally no event from 2017 through January 20th of this year that wasn't framed as some sort of attack against the president of the United States. Suddenly, as if magic, things changed. The media went from confrontation to fluffer overnight.

When Joe Biden lies, the nation's hall monitors at CNN, Politifact, Snopes, The Washington Post, etc., snap into action. "He misspoke," "It was his stutter," "It's insignificant," you name it, they've posited it to justify whatever he says or does.

Actually, it's mostly been what he's says, they're big fans of what he does. They have no problem with that, no matter how terrible or how much power he abuses.

And executive order rewriting laws—no biggie; shutting down all immigration law, even for illegal aliens who commit crimes in this country—all good. Pravda was more skeptical of Soviet leaders than The New York Times is of anything Biden does.

In response to Biden's handling, if you can call it that, of the winter storm that caused problems in Texas, Biden has been largely absent. That's cool with The Washington Post. Americans are suffering, people are dying, and Joe is . . . who knows what Joe is doing, and the Post's headline reads, "Biden's low-key approach to storm wins praise but courts risks."

Oh no, not "risks" for Joe Biden!?! The entire state is struggling, Texas Governor Greg Abbott requests help, and Joe declares only 77 out of 254 counties disaster areas, and the Post is worried about the risk to Biden?

This is the opening paragraph under that headline, "Democratic state Rep. James Talarico says the most he's heard of federal help in his area during the devastating winter storm is a FEMA water truck that apparently got stuck in ice. K.P. George, the top elected official in Fort Bend County, Tex., said federal officials have told him help is on the way—just not fast enough: 'We can't wait another 72 hours to get food and blankets and things like that,' he said."

Do you see any connection between that headline and that lead?

As if they were on the White House communications team, the story includes, "As the Biden administration faces its first natural disaster, the president himself is taking a notably low-key approach. He has not visited the stricken region or delivered prime-time remarks; he did not mention the disaster at a recent town hall; and he is studiously avoiding the controversy over whether wind energy or fossil fuels are to blame for widespread power failures."

Basically, he's not mentioned it and done next to nothing, may well be personally unaware of what's happening, but it's all good because he's a Democrat.

Meanwhile, the media have gone wall-to-wall with stories of Senator Ted Cruz taking his family to Mexico during the crisis. A United States senator has literally nothing to do with the problems and no power to do anything about it, but he's a monster for not caring enough, or something.

The Post worries, "While Biden has won praise for his quieter, more businesslike approach, he is also running the risk that he—and the federal government—can appear almost absent."

He can only appear absent because he is absent.

There are questions as to whether or not Joe was mentally up to the job, but this is deeper than that. Of all the things Joe Biden, the man who hasn't held a real job since being a lifeguard while getting his leg hair petted by small children and nearly rumbling with "Corn Pop," is, the consummate politician is on top of the list. He knows how to pretend to care. He can read a teleprompter (most of the time) and furrow his brow at the right moments to give the impression he's empathetic, like all politicians do. In this case, he's not even trying.

Maybe he doesn't care? Texas didn't vote for him, and Joe has always been a vindictive person toward those who disagree with him. Or maybe he's slipping faster than we know, and further than we realized? We won't know for sure because the people with the jobs to find out are too busy fawning over everything the man does to give a damn about anything else.



An article by Michelle Malkin titled "Dear Woke Asians: Stop Blaming Whitey" was posted at creators.com on Feb. 23, 2021. Following is the article

Pssst. Can I have your attention, please? I'm going to share a little secret that liberal "people of color" and their public relations agents in the media don't want you to know. The recent crime wave against Asians in America's big cities is not the fault of Donald Trump, MAGA activists, conservative talk radio, or white people. It's the fault of the perpetrators and the perpetrators alone—most of whom happen to be thugs "of color."

Let's pop the delusional bubble of left-wing Asians who marched this weekend in New York City, Oakland and San Francisco in "unity" protests against "white supremacy." These "wokesters" blame "anti-Asian bias" created by an imagined backlash by imagined "white supremacists" against China because of covid-19. Donning "Black and Asian unity" T-shirts, they embraced the self-defeating attitude of Oakland organizer Eddy Zheng, who wheedled: "Supporting our Asian community is not about dividing us. This support is for all of us suffering under white supremacy. We need to understand that so we can triumph and have public and personal safety."

Reality check: Just last week in Vallejo, California, Filipino-American store owner Marc Quidit was shot four times in the leg by a gang of armed robbers. They were black.

Two weeks ago, in Oakland's Chinatown, a 91-year-old Asian man was assaulted by an assailant amidst a crime wave of more than 20 robberies and violent attacks in that neighborhood. The attacker wasn't a white-hooded white man in a KKK robe. He was a masked black man in a black hoodie.

In Daly City, California, an 84-year-old Thai grandfather died after a brutal attack while on a daytime walk in his neighborhood. His attacker was a teenage black street criminal.

Viral videos have exposed several vicious attacks on elderly Asian subway riders and pedestrians in New York City since last fall. An inconvenient detail that anyone with functional eyes can see: The perpetrators in the security camera footage aren't wearing MAGA hats. They don't have flaming crosses in hand. Inconveniently for the "defund the police" hipsters, the opportunists robbing, punching and shooting Asians on those videos aren't white people. They are black—and that's just plain fact.

More facts: Federal Bureau of Justice statistics data show that of nearly 600,000 violent interracial victimizations involving blacks and whites, black suspects committed 537,204 interracial felonies (not including homicides), or 90%, and whites committed 56,394 of them, or less than 10%. The Red Elephants blog points out that black perpetrators are also overrepresented among all perpetrators of hate crimes—by 50%—according to the most recent Justice Department data from 2017. Whites are underrepresented by 24%.

You never hear these facts from the national propagandists in the so-called mainstream media. It's a sin of omission that amounts to journalistic malpractice. The leftist Trump Derangement Syndrome sufferers have zero evidence that the thugs robbing and punching and murdering vulnerable elderly Asians have ever cared one iota about politics, covid-19, race or Donald Trump. They have zero evidence that these street attacks were inspired by "anti-Asian hate"—as opposed to pure opportunism, criminal malice or plain evil.

These crimes in liberal cities are spiking as radical, George Soros-backed district attorneys enact soft-on-crime policies such as "restorative justice" that let violent criminals run free. Chesa Boudin, San Francisco's Soros-supported D.A. and son of convicted Weather Underground terrorists, dropped robbery, elder abuse and hate crime charges last year against a 20-year-old black suspect caught on tape attacking an elderly Asian man. Burglaries, arson and motor vehicle thefts have all spiked as Boudin has abandoned prosecution of "quality of life" crimes, as well as prosecutions for felony arrests.

When you elect soft-on-crime politicians and prosecutors, you get more crime. When you defund and demonize the police, all innocent citizens are unsafe—whatever their color.

Blaming whitey may get you a few virtue-signaling points, but at what price in blood? What's truly insane is that Asian-American liberals are marching arm and arm with the very dangerous zealots whose policies incentivized these street crimes against the vulnerable and defenseless in the first place.

Remember: What you permit, you promote. What you allow, you encourage. What you condone, you own.



An article by Ben Shapiro titled "The Authoritarian Left Is on the March" was posted at creators.com on Feb. 24, 2021. Following is the article.

This week, Democratic Reps. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., and Jerry McNerny, D-N.J., sent out a series of letters to America's largest communications corporations: AT&T, Alphabet Inc., Cox Communications, Dish Network, Comcast, Apple, Amazon and others. Their letters demanded answers from these corporations on one simple topic: Why would these platforms continue to allow the dissemination of "misinformation" from conservative outlets?

“Our country’s public discourse is plagued by misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy theories, and lies,” the House Democrats wrote. “These phenomena undergird the radicalization of seditious individuals who committed acts of insurrection on January 6th, and it contributes to a growing distrust of public health measures necessary to crush the pandemic . . . Are you planning to continue carrying Fox News, Newsmax, and OANN?”

The overt move by members of the government to cudgel private corporations into silencing unpopular viewpoints was clearly violative of First Amendment principles. The Constitution clearly provides that Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of speech or the press; Democrats have now hit upon a convenient work-around where they bully private actors into doing their censorious bidding.

This clever gambit is rooted in the conflation between “disinformation” and “misinformation” promulgated by the establishment media since 2016. After the 2016 election, the media went berserk with the theory that Hillary Clinton had lost the election thanks only to Russian interference. “Russian disinformation”—meaning false information promulgated by a foreign government for the purpose of interfering in domestic politics—had twisted the election. Now even disinformation promulgated on American soil is protected by the First Amendment. But it soon became clear that the authoritarian left wasn’t interested merely in active disinformation springing from foreign sources. It was troubled by *any narrative or information that contradicted its point of view*. This information could quickly and easily be labeled “misinformation.”

And “misinformation,” it said, had to be policed.

Why, precisely, wouldn’t the answer to misinformation be factual rebuttal? Because, the authoritarian left argued, misinformation led to “incitement.” Now, there is a legal standard for “incitement”—and it’s a high bar to reach. But the authoritarian left has broadened out the meaning of incitement to include any verbiage that elicits strong emotions . . . so long as conservatives are responsible for such verbiage. Thus, it’s possible incitement to call people by their biological pronouns but perfectly innocent fun to wink and nod at widespread looting and rioting.

The answer to “misinformation” and “incitement,” however, can’t lie within government. So Democrats have turned toward hijacking the private instruments of informational dissemination, all in the name of reestablishing an informational monopoly the left lost with the death of the Fairness Doctrine in 1987, and with a monopoly that collapsed completely with the rise of the open internet.

And corporations are going along with all of this. This week, Amazon banned a book on transgender people, “When Harry Became Sally,” presumably because it took a non-woke line on the subject. Coca-Cola is now apparently indoctrinating its employees into the cult of Robin DiAngelo “anti-racism.” Facebook and Twitter and Google are all preparing new measures aimed at cracking down on “misinformation”—opaque guidelines and nonrigorous standards that will surely cut in favor of the same establishment media now pushing censorship, and the Democrats they support.

The establishment media are fond of saying that we're experiencing a crisis of authoritarianism in America; they point to the criminal acts of Jan. 6 and suggest that right-wing authoritarianism threatens democracy itself. The far greater threat to democracy, however, lies with an authoritarian left that is now ascendant in virtually every powerful institution in America.



An article by Y.G. Hyghtstorm titled "Joe Biden Is Following the BLM Playbook—And Here's What Could Be Next" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 20, 2021. Following are excerpts of the article.

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- Decriminalizing failure to pay child Support
 - Abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - Repealing gang-related offenses
 - Funding abortion with taxpayer dollars
 - Teaching our kids in schools that America is evil



"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 Joseph Zeballos-Roig titled "Democrats Are Planning at Least Another \$2 Trillion in Stimulus Spending, Shrugging Off Growing Debt" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Brad Polumbo titled "New 'Covid' Legislation Contains \$300 Billion in Unrelated Spending, Budget Watchdog Warns" was posted at fee.org on Feb. 18, 2021.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "These Are Some of the Garbage Items House Dems Added to Their New Covid Relief Bill" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 20, 2021.

Federal reserve

- An article titled "Fed's Powell Pledges Low Rates Until Inflation Exceeds 2%" was posted at afp.com on Feb. 23, 2021.

Comments about abortion

- An article by Lexi Lonas titled “Tennessee Lawmakers Propose Bill That Would Let Biological Fathers Stop Abortions” was posted at thehill.com on Feb. 15, 2021.
- An article by CNSNews.com Staff titled “Nancy Pelosi: ‘Every Life Lost Is a Profound Tragedy’ [When Discussing 500,000 Deaths Attributed to Covid, While Supporting Abortion]” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Tristan Justice titled “Biden’s HHS Nominee Xavier Becerra Falsely Claimed He Never Sued Nuns Over Abortion Coverage” was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “[Xavier] Becerra Won’t Say If Baby Killed in a Late-Term Abortion Should Be Given Anesthesia to Lessen His or Her Pain” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Alexandra DeSanctis titled “Planned Parenthood’s Annual Report Proves It’s an Abortion Group” was posted at nationalreview.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Katie Yoder titled “Planned Parenthood’s New Report Reveals More Than 8.6 Million Abortions [Since 1970]” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 24, 2021.

Rich people are getting richer

- Looking back to December 2020, an article by Liz Hoffman and Jennifer Maloney titled “For Many Big Businesses, 2020 Was a Surprisingly Good Year” was posted at wsj.com on Dec. 18, 2020.
- Looking back to December 2020, an article by John Romano titled “Small Businesses Like Mine Didn’t Cause Covid, But Governments Are Making Us Pay for It” was posted at thefederalist.com on Dec. 18, 2020.
- Looking back to January, an article by Yelena Dzhanova titled “Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk Increased Their Wealth by \$217 Billion in 2020; For This Amount, Over 100 Million Americans Could Get \$2,000 Checks was posted at businessinsider.com on Jan. 2, 2021.
- A video and an article by Noah David Alter titled “Watch: Dem Rep [Ro Khanna of California] Admits He Doesn’t Care About Independent Small Businesses” were posted at thepostmillennial.com on Feb. 21, 2021.

Tragedies of lock-down

- Looking back to November, an article by Brad Polumbo titled “4 Life-Threatening Unintended Consequences of the Lockdowns” was posted at fee.org on Nov. 25, 2020. (The four consequences are: (1) Massive Spikes in Suicide Rates and Mental Health Crises, (2) Uptick in Drug Overdoses and Substance Abuse, (3) Economic Devastation Leads to Hunger and (4) Surge in Domestic Violence Under Covid-19 Lockdowns.)

Comments about teacher unions

- An article by Quinn Weimer titled “[Mark] Levin: ‘I’m Sick and Tired’ of ‘Mobster’ Teachers Unions ‘Shaking Down’ Parents” was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Kyle Sammin titled “Leftists Want America to Be Like Europe—Except on Reopening Schools” was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Margot Cleveland titled “Biden Administration’s Obvious Politics-Playing on Opening Schools Is Alienating Even Progressive Parents” was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Freedom Foundation titled “Schools Still Closed in California, Blame the Unions” was posted at [redstate.com](https://www.redstate.com) on Feb. 23, 2021.

Finances

- An article by Jeff Cox titled “Household Debt Rises to \$14.6 Trillion Due to Record-Breaking Rise in Mortgage Loans” was posted at [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) on Feb. 17, 2021.
- An article by James Leggate titled “Carnival CEO Predicts ‘Most, If Not All’ of Cruise Fleet Will Return to Seas This Year” was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Sarah Whitten and Noah Higgins-Dunn titled “Movie Theaters in New York City Can Open in March at 25% Capacity” was posted at [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Catie Perry titled “US Can’t Compete With Cheap Chinese Solar Panels” was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Yun Li titled “Hedge Funds That Hunkered Down After GameStop Are Now Missing Out on Market Gains” was posted at [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.
- A Reuters article by Pete Schroeder titled “U.S. Bank Profits Fell 36.5% in 2020 on Pandemic Concerns—FDIC” was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article titled “Lawsuits Filed Against Auto Insurers Over Rates in Pandemic” was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Audrey Conklin titled “Utah Estimates \$1.5 Billion Budget Surplus After a Year of Covid” was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 23, 2021.

Minimum wage

- An article by Megan Henney titled “Top Biden Economic Adviser [Brian Deese] Downplays Potential Job Losses From \$15 Minimum Wage” was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Thomas Catenacci titled “Nation’s Top Small Business Group [National Federation of Independent Businesses] Doubles Down in Minimum Wage Fight [to Defeat an Increase]” was posted at [dailycaller.com](https://www.dailycaller.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.

- An article by Megan Henney titled "Romney, Cotton Unveil Plan to Boost Minimum Wage to \$10 Per Hour" was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Evie Fordham titled "Costco to Raise Minimum Wage to \$16 Per Hour—Above Amazon, Target" was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 25, 2021.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Sen. Graham: Waffle House's Minimum Wage Plan [Indexing Increases to Inflation] Sizzles, But Dems' Proposal Would Batter Small Businesses" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Feb. 25, 2021.

Keystone pipeline

- An article by Mike Hunter titled "The Keystone Pipeline Is Good for America" was posted at [nationalreview.com](https://www.nationalreview.com) on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Joel B. Pollak titled "Biden-Trudeau 'Roadmap' Commits to Fight 'Systemic Racism' and Climate Change; Excludes Keystone XL" was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.

Stimulus checks

- An article by Steve Scalise and Tim Phillips titled "We Already Went 'Big' on Coronavirus Relief; More of the Same Won't Solve the Problem" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article titled "A Biden Edge in Covid-19 Bill; Dems Reluctant to Wound Him" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article titled "Biden Asked What Could Be Cut From His Covid Relief Package; Here Are Some Ideas" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Jacob Pramuk titled "House Democrats Aim to Pass \$1.9 Trillion Covid Relief Bill on Friday" was posted at [cnbc.com](https://www.cnbc.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Federal Bureaucrats Are Expected to Receive a Special Covid 'Relief' Benefit" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Scalise: Dems' 'Covid Relief' Bill California \$40 Billion Bailout Despite State's \$1 Billion Surplus" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Megan Henney titled "Dems' \$2T Coronavirus Relief Bill Includes \$500 Million for Museums, Libraries" was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.

Green New Deal

- Looking back to July 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](https://www.foxnews.com) on July 12, 2019.
- Looking back to Feb. 2019, an article by Gregg Re titled "Green New Deal Would Cost Up to \$93 Trillion, or \$600,000 Per Household, Study Says" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Feb. 25, 2019.

- Looking back to November, an article by Bradford Betz titled “Obama Criticizes Americans for Liking ‘Cheap Gas and Big Cars’ More Than ‘The Environment’ ” was posted at foxbusiness.com on Nov. 30, 2020.
- An article by Hank Berrien titled “Ocasio-Cortez Slams Texas: That’s What Happens ‘When You Don’t Pursue a Green New Deal’ ” was posted at dailywire.com on Feb. 17, 2021.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled “[Chuck] Schumer: ‘Texas Is Paying the Price’ for Ignoring Climate Change, ‘I Hope They Learned a Lesson’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- A video and an article by James Anthony titled “Watch: ‘There’s No Faking It on This One’—John Kerry Says We Have 9 Years Before Climate Catastrophe” were posted at thepostmillennial.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Lucas Nolan titled “Facebook Says It Will Fact Check Global Warming ‘Misinformation’ ” was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Duggan Flanakin titled “The Myth and Phony Math of ‘Green’ Jobs” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 20, 2021.

Winter storm in South

- An article by Melanie Arter titled “Homeland Security Advisor [Liz Sherwood-Randall]: ‘Not Physically Feasible’ to Connect Texas to National Grid” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 18, 2021.
- An article by Annabelle Williams titled “Damages Tied to the ‘Life-Threatening Crisis’ Caused by the Winter Storm in Texas Could Approach \$50 Billion” was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Irina Ivanova titled “Texas’ Frozen Power Grid Is a Preview of Climate Change Disasters to Come” was posted at CBSnews.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Tim O’Donnell titled “Individuals in 77 Texas Counties Eligible for Federal Assistance After Biden Approves Disaster Declaration” was posted at theweek.com on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Kelsey Vlamis titled “Texas Is Barring Electricity Companies From Shutting Off Service for Unpaid Bills After Storms Caused Prices to Surge” was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- A Reuters article titled “Texas [Governor Greg] Abbott to Temporarily Ban Electric Bills” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Susan Jones titled “Energy Expert [Chuck DeVore]: ‘One of the Most Resilient Types of Power Is a Coal-Fired Power Plant’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Jordan Davidson titled “One Week Into Texas Winter Disaster, Biden Finally Plans to Meet With FEMA” was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 19, 2021.

- An article by Jason Hayes titled “Texas Blackouts Warning to Biden and All of Us: Renewables Do Play a Role in Grid Problems” was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Eric Wolff, Debra Kahn and Zack Colman titled “Texas and California Built Different Power Grids, but Neither Stood Up to Climate Change” was posted at politico.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Patrick Strickland titled “After Winter Storm, \$1 Billion Class Action Lawsuit Puts Heat on [Wholesale Power Retailer] Griddy” was posted at dallasobserver.com on Feb. 23, 2021.

News about the media

- An article by Warner Todd Huston and Ezra Dulis titled “ ‘Saturday Night Live’ Goes 4 Weeks Without Depicting Biden or Harris in a Sketch” was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Hannah Yasharoff titled “OAN Parent Company Ordered to Pay MSNBC [and] Rachel Maddow \$250,000 After Losing Defamation Lawsuit” was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 9, 2021.
- An article by Nihal Krishan titled “House Democrats Push TV Carriers to Stop Hosting Fox, OAN and Newsmax; Citing ‘Misinformation’ ” was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled “Democrats Send Insane Letter to Cable Carriers and Big Tech, Demanding a Ban on Conservative Media” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Andrew Stiles titled “Trump Leaves [and] CNN Grieves [Because] Network Suffers Post-Impeachment Ratings Dive; Fox News Back on Top” was posted at freebeacon.com on Feb. 18, 2021.
- An article by Shelby Talcott titled “Fox News’ Janice Dean Slams ‘Liberal Media’—Says They Played Role in Covering for Gov. [Andrew] Cuomo’s Nursing Home Failure” was posted at dailycaller.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Tristan Justice titled “PolitiFact Is Ticked That We Fact-Checked Their False Fact-Check of Our Fact-Check of Their Fact-Check” was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Allum Bokhari titled “Report: Biden Administration Is Teaming Up With Big Tech to Censor Vaccine Skeptics” was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by James D. Agresti titled “The New York Times Regularly Publishes Falsehoods That Spur Violent Unrest and Civic Dysfunction” was posted at justfactsdaily.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Guy Benson titled “Beyond Parody: MSNBC Attacks DeSantis—Over Prioritizing Covid Vaccines for Vulnerable Florida Seniors” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 22, 2021.

- An article by Brian Flood titled “NBC News Criticizes Gov. DeSantis’ Coronavirus Vaccine Plan for Prioritizing Seniors, Holocaust Survivors” was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Evie Fordham titled “John Kerry ‘Colluded’ With Iran to Undermine Trump, Report Says” was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Evie Fordham titled “John Kerry Meetings With Iran and Michael Flynn Talks With Russian Officials: Two Different Treatments?” was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Evita Duffy titled “Political Hacks at Newsweek Run Anti-Science ‘Fact Check’ on Study Promoting Hydroxychloroquine” was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Scott Morefield titled “Tucker Carlson: It Took ‘An Hour’ to Prove That Democrats’ Claims of 11 Million Illegals ‘Is a Lie’ ” was posted at dailycaller.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled “Networks Ignore Harassment Claims Against Cuomo, ‘Let’s Play Strip Poker’ ” was posted at newsbusters.org on Feb. 24, 2021.

Variant coronavirus strain

- An article by Mary Van Beusekom titled “New Covid Variant With 5 Mutations Identified in California” was posted at cidrap.umn.edu on Feb. 12, 2021.
- An article by Erin Allday titled “California Coronavirus Variant Possibly More Infectious, Might Cause More Serious Illness; S.F. Studies Show” was posted at sfchronicle.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Mike Whitney titled “Is the ‘Variant’ Being Used to Scare People Into Getting Vaccinated?” was posted at unz.com on Feb. 23, 2021.

Coronavirus vaccine

- An article by Erin Coates titled “Studies: People Who Have Already Had Covid Don’t Need the Same Vaccine Regimen” was posted at westernjournal.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Noah David Alter titled “Vaccines Can Be Stored in Normal Freezers: Pfizer Says” was posted at thepostmillennial.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Tim O’Donnell titled “Israeli Data Shows Pfizer Vaccine Nearly 99 Percent Effective at Preventing Covid-19 Death Two Weeks After 2nd Dose” was posted at theweek.com on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Theo Golden titled “Pfizer Commits to Doubling Vaccine Supply in Response to President Biden’s Call for a Quicker Rollout” was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 20, 2021.

- An article by Rob Stein titled "California Will Begin Setting Aside 10% of Covid-19 Vaccine Doses for Teachers" was posted at npr.org on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Tim O'Donnell titled "Fauci Expects U.S. Will Make Up Weather-Related Vaccine Delays as Soon as the 'Middle of the Week' " was posted at theweek.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Orion Rummier titled "Pfizer and Moderna Expect to Double Vaccine Shipments by Spring" was posted at axios.com on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Edmund DeMarche titled "Fauci Cautions Against Dining Out, Even When Vaccinated" was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Andrea Michelson titled "Pfizer Is Testing a 3rd Booster Shot to Bolster Its Covid-19 Vaccine Against New Variants" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 25, 2021.

Coronavirus and civil liberties

- An article by Marty Makary titled "We'll Have Herd Immunity by April" was posted at wsj.com on Feb. 18, 2021.
- An article by Holly Gainer titled "U.S. Could Reach Herd Immunity by Late Spring" was posted at uab.edu on Feb. 23, 2021.
- A video and an article by Noah David Alter titled "Watch: Gov. Kristi Noem Says There Will Be No Mask Mandates in South Dakota—Slams CDC's Double Masking Guidance" were posted at thepostmillennial.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Kelsey Vlamis titled "States Are Lifting Covid-19 Mask Mandates, but With the Pace of Vaccinations and Spread of Variants, Experts Say It's Too Soon" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by David Krayden titled " 'We Are Turning Into a Version of a Totalitarian State': Liberal Author Naomi Wolf Knocks Lockdowns" was posted at dailycaller.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article titled "Fauci Fatigue? Americans Are Weary of Mixed Messages on Masks, Quarantines and Vaccines" was posted at christiannewsjournal.com on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Adrianna Hargrove and Henry Graff titled "[Virginia] Gov. Northam Announces Changes to Coronavirus Restrictions, Lifts Stay-at-Home Curfew" was posted at nbc12.com on Feb. 24, 2021.

Comments about police "misconduct"

- An article by Beth Musgrave titled "Lexington Council Fires Officer for Sending Information on Cops to BLM Protesters" was posted at kentucky.com on Feb. 18, 2021.
- An article by Zack Linly titled "Black Man Sues Chicago Police Accused of Brutalizing Him After Stopping Him Because He Had 'A Shocked Look on His Face' " was posted at theroot.com on Feb. 21, 2021.

- An article by Jeff Truesdell titled "Texas Police [in Plano] Arrest Black Teen [Age 18] Walking in Road to Avoid the Icy Sidewalks; Charge Is Dropped" was posted at people.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Ashley Collman titled "A Louisiana Police Officer Was Filmed Pinning a 13-Year-Old Black Teen to the Ground With an Arm Around His Neck" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Darlene Aderoju titled "Stevie Wonder Tells Oprah He Is Permanently Moving to Ghana to Protect Grandchildren From Injustice" was posted at people.com on Feb. 23 2021.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Catlin McFall titled "Border Mayor [of Del Rio, Texas] Begs Biden to Stop Releasing Illegal Immigrants Into His City Amid Winter Storm" was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by Joshua Q. Nelson titled "Biden Revival of Immigration 'Catch and Release' Won't Work: Former CBP Chief [Mark Morgan]" was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Theodore Bunker titled "Biden Drops Trump Citizenship Test" was posted at newsmax.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Liz George titled "Report: Biden Administration Plan Would Effectively Abolish ICE" was posted at americanmilitarynews.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Stef W. Kight titled "More Than 700 Unaccompanied Kids Held in Border Patrol Custody Without Their Parents" was posted at Axios.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Human Events Staff titled "Biden Cancels Trump's 'Operation Talon' Program That Targeted Sex Offenders Living in U.S. Illegally" was posted at humanevents.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Erin Snodgrass titled "A Honduran Man Who Spent Nearly 4 Years Living in a Church to Escape Deportation Has Finally Come Out of Hiding" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Neil Munro titled "Texas Towns Cope With Migrant Wave Not Tested for Coronavirus" was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Gabe Kaminsky titled "[Ben] Domenech: Biden Administration Incentivizing Open Borders Run by Mexican Drug Cartels" was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 25, 2021.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Jonathan Garber titled "Gunmaker Sturm Ruger Ramps Up Hiring As Demand Soars" was posted at foxbusiness.com on Feb. 18, 2021.

- An article by Beth Baumann titled “These Are Roughly 200 Businesses Whose Leaders Are Backing Gun Control Initiatives” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Michael Ruiz and Brie Stimson titled “Louisiana Shooting Spree Leaves 3 Dead; Armed Citizens Credited With Saving Lives” was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Catey Hill titled “ ‘I’m 73 and Fed Up With California and Want a Gun-Friendly, Affordable City With Good Weather—So Where Should I Retire?’ ” was posted at marketwatch.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- A Reuters article by Jonathan Stempel titled “NRA Sues NY Attorney General [Letitia James], Says She Wants to Destroy Her ‘Political Enemy’ ” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Stephen Gutowski titled “[State of] Washington Appeals Court Unanimously Strikes Down Local Gun-Control Law” was posted at freebeacon.com on Feb. 24, 2021.

Comments about transgenders

- An article by Bill Donahue titled “Biden Endorses ‘Equality Act,’ Embarking on Collision Course With Bishops” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- An article by CNSNews.com Staff titled “Catholic Bishops: Stop Biden-Backed Equality Act That Would ‘Force Girls . . . to Share . . . Shower Spaces With Biological Males’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Bill Donahue titled “Equality Act Is Anti-Christian” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Joseph Simonson titled “States Set for Clash With Biden Administration Over Transgender Athletes” was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Neil Munro titled “Kevin McCarthy: Transgender Bill Threatens Girls’ Sports, Religious Freedom” was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Henry Rodgers titled “House Passes Equality Act, Provides Civil Rights Protections to Gay and Transgender People” was posted at daily-caller.com on Feb. 25, 2021.

Comments about reparations

- An article by John L. Dorman titled “ ‘Slavery Ended Over 130 Years Ago’: Former NFL Player Herschel Walker Says Black Americans Shouldn’t Get Reparations” was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Houston Keene titled “[Barack] Obama Says Reparations ‘Justified’ but ‘Politics of White Resistance’ Made It ‘Nonstarter’ to Propose” was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 24, 2021.

■ An article by Star Parker titled "Reparations Don't Buy Justice, Dignity or Freedom" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.

Biden supporters and detractors

■ An article by Pam Key titled "Biden: We Didn't Have the Vaccine When We Came Into Office" was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 16, 2021.

■ An article by Wendell Husebo titled "Fauci's Boss Francis Collins Contradicts Biden, Praises Trump's 'Operation Warp Speed' " was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.

■ An article by Christopher Bedford titled "31 Days In, Democrats Haven't Accomplished a Single Covid Promise to the American Worker" was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on Feb. 20, 2021.

■ An article by Neil Munro titled "Democrat Representatives Say Latinos Oppose Biden's Migration Flood" was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.

■ An article by Beth Baumann titled "Texas Democrats Issue a Stark Warning for Biden Over His Immigration Policies" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Feb. 20, 2021.

■ An article by Dante Chinni titled "The GOP Is Rapidly Becoming the Blue-Collar Party" was posted at [nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com) on Feb. 21, 2021.

■ An article by Jason Chaffetz titled "Biden-Harris' Disasterous Start—First Month Full of Hypocrisy, Scandal and Incompetence" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.

■ An article by Nolan Hicks and Bruce Golding titled "[Andrew] Cuomo Policy May Have Led to Over 1,000 Nursing Home Deaths, Watchdog Says" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.

■ An article by Reagan McCarthy titled "AOC Joins Calls for Investigation Into [Andrew] Cuomo" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Feb. 19, 2021.

■ An article by Chuck Ross titled "New York Legislature 'Inching Toward' Impeachment Probe of [Andrew] Cuomo, Democratic Assemblyman Says" was posted at [dailycaller.com](https://www.dailycaller.com) on Feb. 20, 2021.

■ An article by Miranda Devine titled "Finally, the Bully Governor [Andrew] Cuomo Has Been Exposed" was posted at [nypost.com](https://www.nypost.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.

■ An article by Michael Ruiz titled "Andrew Cuomo Accused of Sexual Harassment; Leading Liberal Women Refuse to Comment" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Feb. 25, 2021.

■ An article by Nikolas Lanum titled "California Special Election to Recall Newsom to Be Held This Fall, Movement Leader [Randy Economy] Says" was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on Feb. 25, 2021.

■ An article by Grant Atkinson titled "Gavin Newsom's Disasterous Handling of Covid Grinds Shipping to a Crawl, Could Have Costly Impact Across America" was posted at [westernjournal.com](https://www.westernjournal.com) on Feb. 20, 2021.

- An article by Tori Richards titled “ ‘Divisive and Offensive’ Race Theory Training Forced on San Diego County Healthcare Workers” was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Peter Aitken titled “LA District Attorney [George] Gascon Drops Death Penalty for Man Charged With Killing Police Officer” was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Haley Victory Smith titled “Virginia Lawmakers Approve Measure to Ban Death Penalty” was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Guy Benson titled “Update: ‘Defunding the Police’ Not Looking So Hot” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 19, 2021.
- A video and an article by Libby Emmons titled “Watch: Biden AG Pick [Merrick Garland] Says Antifa Attacks on Federal Courthouse May Not Be Domestic Terrorism Because They Happened at Night” were posted at thepost-millennial.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Julio Rosas titled “MSNBC Contributor [Jason Johnson]: Summer Protests Were Not Riots Because People ‘Were Attacked by Police’ ” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- Looking back to May 2020, an article by Noah Goldberg, Catherina Gioino, Ellen Moynihan and Dave Goldiner titled “Pair of Brooklyn Lawyers Including Ivy League Corporate Attorney Charged in Molotov Cocktail Attack on NYPD Cruiser” was posted at nydailynews.com on May 31, 2020.
- An article by Ben Feuerherd titled “Lawyers Accused of Torching NYPD Car With Molotov Cocktail [on May 29, 2020] Offered Plea Deal” was posted at nypost.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article titled “New Jersey Governor Signs Laws to Legalize Marijuana Use, Decriminalize Possession” was posted at cnbc.com on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Matt Vespa titled “And With That Key Resignation [of John Weaver], the Lincoln Project Is Over” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 13, 2021.
- An article by Matt Vespa titled “Why Ocasio-Cortez’s Texas Winter Storm Photo Op Flopped [Because the Temperature Was 65 Degrees]” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 23, 2021.
- An article by Lewis M. Andrews titled “Identity Politics Is Just a Mask for the Left’s Utter Ineptitude at Solving Real Problems” was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 25, 2021.

Trump supporters and detractors

- An article by Joshua Zitser titled “National Guard on Standby in DC for March 4—the Day QAnon Followers Believe That Trump Will Become President” was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 20, 2021.

- An article by John L. Dorman titled "Trump and Pence 'Departed Amicably' and 'They've Spoken Since' Leaving Office, Former Pence Chief of Staff [Marc Short] Says" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Feb. 21, 2021.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Justice Thomas: SCOTUS Refusal to Hear Pennsylvania Election Cases Is 'Inexplicable' " was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Andrew Mark Miller titled "MSNBC Analyst [Malcolm Nance] Who [Once] Told ISIS to Bomb Trump Tower Testifying in Domestic Terrorism Hearing" was posted at [washingtonexaminer.com](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Brie Stimson titled "Romney Says Trump Likely Republican Nominee If He Runs in 2024" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Wendell Husebo titled "Trump Announces First Endorsement: Bob Paduchik for GOP Chair of Ohio" was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by David Marcus titled "Senate Hearing on the Capitol Riot Exonerated Trump" was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on Feb. 24, 2021.

Criticism of conservatives

- An article by Douglas MacKinnon titled "Former New York Times Reporter [Alex Berenson] Shocked by Censorship Liberals Employ Against Conservative Authors" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Feb. 23, 2021.

Comments about Rush Limbaugh

- An article by Scott Whitlock titled "Just Why Are [Washington] Post and NY Times Obits Nicer to Terrorists Than Conservatives?" was posted at [newsbusters.org](https://www.newsbusters.org) on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Mary Papenfuss titled "Gov. DeSantis' Order to Lower Flags to Half-Staff for Rush Limbaugh Infuriates Critics" was posted at [huffpost.com](https://www.huffpost.com) on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Hannah Bleau titled "[Actress] Rosanna Arquette Rages at Ron DeSantis for Honoring 'Anti-Semitic' Rush Limbaugh With Half-Staff Flags" was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 20, 2021.
- An article by Staff titled "[Florida Agriculture Commissioner] Nikki Fried Says She Won't Lower Flags to Honor Rush Limbaugh Despite DeSantis' Order" was posted at [wfla.com](https://www.wfla.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by Mike Pence titled "Rush Limbaugh's Legacy—Here's How Conservative Americans Can Repay the Debt We Owe to Him" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.
- An article by David Rutz titled "Rush Limbaugh's Widow Announces Virtual Memorial Service for Radio Legend in Coming Weeks" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on Feb. 22, 2021.

■ An article by CNSNews.com Staff titled “[Rob Reiner] Shares His Final Thoughts on Rush: ‘Rush Limbaugh Is Gone [but There Is No Scarcity of Purveyors of Disinformation Left in His Wake]’” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 22, 2021.

■ An article by David Ng titled “Five Days After His Death, Bette Midler Compares Rush Limbaugh to Ku Klux Klan” was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 23, 2021.

Riot at Capitol on Jan. 6

■ An article by Rebecca Harrington, Madison Hall, Skye Gould, Azmi Haroun and Jacob Shamsain titled “More Than 250 People Have Been Charged in the Capitol [Alleged] Insurrection So Far” was posted at BusinessInsider.com on Feb. 18, 2021.

■ An article by Grace Panetta titled “DOJ Charges 6 More Defendants in the Oath Keepers Movement With Conspiracy in the Capitol [Alleged] Insurrection” was posted at BusinessInsider.com on Feb. 19, 2021.

■ An article by Connor Perrett titled “An Oath Keepers Leader [Jessica Watkins] Arrested for Participating in the Capitol Riot Said She Met With Secret Service and Was Providing ‘Security’ to Legislators and Other Key Figures” was posted at BusinessInsider.com on Feb. 21, 2021.

■ An article by Daniel Flatley titled “Fencing, Tightened Security at Capitol Staying in Place for Now” was posted at Bloomberg.com on Feb. 25, 2021.

■ An article by Tristan Justice titled “Estimates: George Floyd Riots to Cost 66 Times More Than Capitol Damage” was posted at TheFederalist.com on Feb. 26, 2021.

General interest

■ An article by Sarah Al-Arshani titled “Kids Represent a Small Fraction of Overall Covid-19 Deaths in the U.S., but 75% of Them Are Children of Color” was posted at BusinessInsider.com on Feb. 21, 2021.

■ An article by Mary Papenfuss titled “20% of Wisconsin Wolves to Be Killed After Court Sides With Hunters” was posted at HuffPost.com on Feb. 22, 2021.

■ An article by Todd Richmond titled “Wisconsin Hunters Exceed Wolf Target by Nearly 100 Animals” was posted at APNews.com on Feb. 25, 2021.

■ An article by James Crump titled “Niagara Falls Freezes Over as Storms Continue to Engulf U.S.” was posted at Independent.co.uk on Feb. 23, 2021.

■ An article by Nathan Strout titled “Air Force to Begin Assembly of Airborne Laser” was posted at C4ISRnet.com on Feb. 23, 2021.

■ An article by Brent Skarky titled “An Oklahoma Bill Seeks to Ban Teaching ‘Divisive Concepts’ [Supporters Claiming That Racism Is Actually Being Taught Under the Guise of Diversity]” was posted at KFOR.com on Feb. 23, 2021.

- An article by Valerie Richardson titled "Five Oregon Counties to Vote on Leaving State, Escaping to 'Greater Idaho' " was posted at washingtontimes.com on Feb. 24, 2021.
- An article by Marie Fischer titled "Leftist Tokenism Destroys Genuine Knowledge of America's Amazing Black History" was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 26, 2021.



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."