

Eye on the World

Dec. 7, 2019

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Dec. 7, 2019.

Compiled by Dave Haver

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 titled "UN Chief Says Humanity's 'War Against Nature' Must Stop" was posted at afp.com on Dec. 1, 2019. Following is the article.

The devastating impact of global warming that threatens humanity is a push-back from Nature under assault, UN chief Antonio Guterres warned Sunday ahead of a key climate conference.

"For many decades the human species has been at war with the planet, and now the planet is fighting back," he said, decrying the "utterly inadequate" efforts of the world's major economies to curb carbon pollution.

"We must stop our war against nature, and science tells us we can do it."

Guterres flagged a UN report to be released in a few days confirming the last five years are the warmest on record, with 2019 likely to be the second hottest ever.

"Climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent, more deadly, more destructive," he said on the eve of the 196-nation COP25 climate change talks in Madrid.

Every year, air pollution associated with climate change kills seven million people, he noted, adding that human health and food security are at risk.

The UN chief's comments were clearly aimed at the handful of countries responsible for more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions, though he did not call them out by name.

President Donald Trump has set in motion the process that would see the United States withdraw from the Paris deal by the end of the year, and other major emitters—China, India, Russia and Brazil—have given scant indication that they will deepen their commitments.

Guterres singled out the European Union as playing a constructive role, saying the 28-nation bloc could help lead the way towards a net-zero global economy by 2050.

The Paris Agreement calls for capping global warming at under two degrees Celsius, and 1.5C if feasible.

But current national pledges—if carried out—would see global temperatures rise by at least 3C, a recipe for human misery, according to scientists.

Despite growing public pressure, the 12-day negotiating session is likely to remain technical in nature, focused on finalizing the “rulebook” for the Paris Agreement, which becomes operation at the end of next year.

Climate change is no longer a long-term problem, Guterres said.

“We are confronted now with a global climate crisis and the point of no return is no longer over the horizon—it is in sight and hurtling towards us.”



An letter by Alexander Schenk titled “Climate Change Is a Natural Occurrence” was posted at hudsonreporter.com on Dec. 3, 2019. Following is the letter.

Two months ago we had this great climate summit at the United Nations. What a horse and pony show and what a farce.

Let us review the composition of our atmosphere: 78 percent Nitrogen, 21 percent Oxygen, that adds up to 99 percent. The last one percent is a mixture of miscellaneous gases.

One of these miscellaneous gases is Carbon Dioxide at now 0.4 percent. It is reported that 120 years ago the Carbon Dioxide concentration was 0.2 percent. Another value to be found for Carbon Dioxide 120 years ago in scientific literature is 240 parts per million (ppm). That equates to 0.24 percent.

Considering that measuring instruments were much less advanced 120 years ago and had a tendency to under-measure very small quantities, I consider it safe to assume the correct amount of Carbon Dioxide 120 years ago was closer to 3 percent.

So, over the past 120 years Carbon Dioxide increased by 0.1 percentage points.

Compared to the total mass of the atmosphere, Carbon Dioxide increased in mass by only 0.001 percent of the total mass of our atmosphere.

And this is supposed to induce this "catastrophic" climate change? Really?

How much has our educational system and our press dumbed us down that so many citizens believe this nonsense?

Climate change exists, but it is a natural occurrence. It happens in 1,000 year cycles.

It happened 1,000 years ago when the Vikings sailed the northern route from Norway to Newfoundland.

It happened 2,000 years ago when the Roman Empire had its northern most expansion into England. The Romans were able to maintain their Mediterranean lifestyle including their public baths and olive groves. The English winters are still too cool to maintain olive groves today.

Furthermore, during the Jurassic age, when we had the most lavish expression of life on earth, Carbon Dioxide concentration was 2 percent.

The only catastrophe we are facing is the lies, the hatred and the deception coming from the Left-Liberal-Socialist movement as displayed during the United Nations Climate Change Summit.

Unfortunately we can no longer believe what our main stream press reports. We now receive DOGMA, not TRUTH from our press.

Citizen beware and do your own research!



An article titled "Hundreds Rally in Myanmar to Show Support for Suu Kyi" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Dec. 1, 2019. Following is the article.

About 700 people rallied Sunday to show support for Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, as she prepares to defend the country against charges of genocide at the U.N.'s highest court.

Members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party swelled the ranks in front of the colonial-era City Hall in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, as the crowd waved national flags and listened to music and poetry. A popular local singer told them that "Mother Suu is the bravest human being in the world - her weapon is love."

Many carried banners saying, "We stand with you, Mother Suu."

The case before the International Court of Justice in The Hague relates to a harsh counterinsurgency campaign waged by Myanmar's military against members of the country's Muslim Rohingya community in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack.

More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings and the torching of homes.

The head of a U.N. fact-finding mission on Myanmar warned recently that "there is a serious risk of genocide recurring."

Gambia filed the case at the ICJ, also known as the world court, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The case alleges that Myanmar's actions against the Rohingya are "genocidal in character because they are intended to destroy the Rohingya group in whole or in part."

Myanmar has strongly denied the charges but says it stands ready to take action against wrong-doers if there is sufficient evidence.

A statement on the website of the Ministry of the Interior said recently that the renewed international pressure on the country was due to a lack of understanding of "the complexities of the issue and the narratives of the people of Myanmar."

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, will lead the delegation to The Hague in her capacity as foreign minister.

Hearings are due to start on Dec. 10. The case is expected to last several years.



An article by Mason Boycott-Owen titled "Roman Empire Did Not Fall Because of Plague, Study Claims" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Dec. 2, 2019. Following is the article.

A bubonic plague which was thought to have wiped out half of the world's population and helped topple the Roman Empire was far exaggerated by scholars, a new study claims.

The Justinianic Plague which preceded the Black Death by more than 800 years plague was thought to have killed around 50 million people across the Roman and Byzantine Empires between 541-750 AD.

The plague, spread in part by rats along trade routes, was believed to leave the Roman Empire vulnerable after the population loss hit its trade and military might across the Mediterranean, Africa and the East.

An international team of scholars led by researchers from the University of Maryland have now called into question the scale of the plague, as the available evidence paints a different picture.

Lead author, Lee Mordechai, from of Princeton's Climate Change and History Research Initiative, said: "If this plague was a key moment in human history that killed between a third and half the population of the Mediterranean

world in just a few years, as is often claimed, we should have evidence for it but our survey of datasets found none.”

The researchers analysis ancient texts alongside, pollen samples, plague genomes and the archeology around graves to debunk previous consensus around the scale of the outbreak.

Several sources across antiquity that had attributed important world events to the outbreak of the plague, such as the fall of the Roman Empire.

However, the researchers found that previous scholars had focused on evocative written accounts, ignoring hundreds of contemporary texts that did not mention the outbreak.

“We found no reason to argue that the plague killed tens of millions of people as many have claimed,” said co-author Timothy Newfield.

“Plague is often construed as shifting the course of history. It’s an easy explanation, too easy. It’s essential to establish a causal connection,” he said.

Analysis of evidence such as pollen samples and burial sites also found that the millions of supposed deaths did not quite add up.

Where there should be more mass graves and less pollen from the lack of farming as a result, the researcher’s findings showed no evidence of the mass deaths.

Co-author of the study, Janet Kay, said: “We investigated a large dataset of human burials from before and after the plague outbreak, and the plague did not result in a significant change whether people buried the dead alone or with many others. The Black Death killed vast numbers of people and did change how people disposed of corpses.”



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

■ A Reuters article by Dave Graham titled “Shootings in Northern Mexico Town Kill 20, Pile Pressure on President [Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador]” was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 1, 2019.

■ An article titled “Trump Signs Bills in Support of Hong Kong; China Furious” was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 27, 2019.

■ An article by Amy Russo titled “Hong Kong Protesters Wave Trump-Rocky Poster at Pro-Democracy Rally” was posted at huffpost.com on Nov. 30, 2019.

■ A Reuters article titled “Hong Kong Protesters Sing U.S. Anthem to Thank Trump” was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 1, 2019.

- An article titled "China to Suspend U.S. Navy Visits to Hong Kong Over New Law" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 2, 2019.
- An article by Steven Russolillo and Stella Yifan Xie titled "Protests Have Turned Hong Kong Disneyland Into a 'Ghost Town' " was posted at wsj.com on Dec. 1, 2019.
- An article by Karen Leigh, Natalie Lung and Manuel Baigorri titled "Tear Gas Fired As Protesters Return to Streets: Hong Kong Update" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 1, 2019.
- An article by Amber Wang and Yan Zhao titled "Protests Send Hong Kongers to Taiwan in Search of New Lives" was posted at afp.com on Dec. 1, 2019.
- An article by Jamie Fullerton titled "Rare Mass Protest Breaks Out in Chinese Province [Town of Wenlou in Guangdong Province] Near Hong Kong" was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 1, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Yawen Chen and Se Young Lee titled "China's Factory Activity Unexpectedly Returns to Growth in November" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article titled "All Eyes on Top Polluter China As Global Climate Talks Begin" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 1, 2019.
- An article titled "Japan Won't Sign China-Backed Trade Deal If India Doesn't Join" was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 28, 2019.
- An article titled "India and Japan Hold Inaugural Security Talks" was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 30, 2019.
- An article by Anirban Nag titled "India's Slumping Growth Opens the Door for More Rate Cuts" was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 30, 2019.
- A Reuters article by John Davison titled "Iraq PM Says He Will Quit After Cleric's Call, But Violence Rages On" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- A Reuters article by John Davison titled "Iraq Protesters Burn Shrine Entrance in Holy City, PM Quitting 'Not Enough' " was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 30, 2019.
- An article by Jon Gambrell titled "Iran Opposition Leader [Long-Detained] Compares Supreme Leader to Shah [After Bloody Crackdown of Protests]" was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 30, 2019.
- An article titled "Iran Begins Registering Candidates for Parliamentary Polls" was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 30, 2019.
- An article titled "UAE and Saudi Arabia Confirm Plans for Joint Digital Currency" was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 28, 2019.
- An article titled "Saudi Arabia Signals It's Had Enough of OPEC Quota Cheats" was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article by Erin Roman, Kitty Donaldson and Greg Ritchie titled "U.K. Police Shoot Man After Potential Terrorist Attack in London" was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 29, 2019.

- An article by Caroline Hallemann titled "Buckingham Palace Responds to Scandalous New Allegations About Prince Andrew" was posted at town&country.com on Dec. 2, 2019.
- An article titled "This Czech Search Engine [Seznam] Was Beating Google Until Recently; It Says Google Isn't Playing Fair" was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article by Greg Norman titled "Black Friday No More in France? Climate Activists, Worried About Emissions, Push 'Block Friday' Boycott" was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 28, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Christian Lowe and Sarah White titled "French Activists Protest Against Amazon in Black Friday Backlash" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article titled "Tourists Ruined Venice; Now Floods Are Making It Uninhabitable" was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article by Leanne De Bassompierre titled "Sahara Winds Pose Challenge for Promising African Cocoa Crop" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 2, 2019.
- An article by Bert Church titled "Tennis Australia to Celebrate Margaret Court [Who Won 24 Grand Slam Victories Before Retiring From Tennis to Become a Pentecostal Pastor] But Oppose Her Personal Views [Against Same-Sex Marriage]" was posted at cnn.com on Nov. 30, 2019.
- An article by David Becker titled "Gold Price Prediction—Prices Rebound But End Month Down 3.2%" was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article titled "Christianity Now Most Persecuted Religion in the World: Report [Claiming 8 Out of 10 Victims of Religious Persecutions Are Christians]" was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article by Samuel Osborne titled "Gadhimai Hindu Festival: World's 'Largest Animal Sacrifice' Under Way in Defiance of Ban" was posted at independent.co.uk on Dec. 3, 2019.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Who Are the Racists?" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Nov. 27, 2019. Following is the article.

Former presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke said that racism in America is "foundational" and that people of color were under "mortal threat" from the "white supremacist in the White House."

Pete Buttigieg chimed in to explain that "systemic racism" will "be with us" no matter who is in the White House.

Senator Cory Booker called for “attacking systemic racism” in the “racially biased” criminal justice system. Let’s follow up by examining Booker’s concern about a “racially biased” criminal justice system.

To do that, we can turn to a recent article by Heather Mac Donald, who is a senior fellow at the New York-based *Manhattan Institute*. She is a contributing editor of *City Journal*, and a *New York Times* bestselling author. Her most recent article, “A Platform of Urban Decline,” which appeared in *Manhattan Institute’s* publication *Eye On The News*, addresses race and crime. She reveals government statistics you’ve never read before.

According to leftist rhetoric, whites pose a severe, if not mortal, threat to blacks. Mac Donald says that may have once been true, but it is no longer so today. To make her case, she uses the latest Bureau of Justice Statistics 2018 survey of criminal victimization.

Mac Donald writes: “According to the study, there were 593,598 interracial violent victimizations (excluding homicide) between blacks and whites last year, including white-on-black and black-on-white attacks. Blacks committed 537,204 of those interracial felonies, or 90 percent, and whites committed 56,394 of them, or less than 10 percent. That ratio is becoming more skewed, despite the Democratic claim of Trump-inspired white violence. In 2012-13, blacks committed 85 percent of all interracial victimizations between blacks and whites; whites committed 15 percent. From 2015 to 2018, the total number of white victims and the incidence of white victimization have grown as well.”

There are other stark figures not talked about often.

According to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting for 2018, of the homicide victims for whom race was known, 53.3% were black, 43.8% were white and 2.8% were of other races. In cases where the race of the offender was known, 54.9% were black, 42.4% were white, and 2.7% were of other races.

- White and black liberals, who claim that blacks face a “mortal threat” from the “white supremacist in the White House” are perpetuating a cruel hoax.
- The primary victims of that hoax are black people. We face the difficult, and sometimes embarrassing, task of confronting reality.
- Mac Donald says that Barack Obama’s 2008 Father’s Day speech in Chicago would be seen today as an “unforgivable outburst of white supremacy.”

Here’s what Obama told his predominantly black audience in a South Side church: “If we are honest with ourselves,” too many fathers are “missing—missing from too many lives and too many homes. They have abandoned their responsibilities, acting like boys instead of men.”

Then-Senator Obama went on to say, “Children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of schools and 20 times more likely to end up in prison.”

- White liberals deem that any speaker's references to personal responsibility brands the speaker as bigoted. Black people cannot afford to buy into the white liberal agenda.
- White liberals don't pay the same price. They don't live in neighborhoods where their children can get shot simply sitting on their porches.
- White liberals don't go to bed with the sounds of gunshots.
- White liberals don't live in neighborhoods that have become economic wastelands. Their children don't attend violent schools where they have to enter through metal detectors.
- White liberals help the Democratic Party maintain political control over cities, where many black residents live in despair, such as Baltimore, St. Louis, Detroit, Chicago.

Black people cannot afford to remain fodder for the liberal agenda. With that in mind, we should not be a one-party people in a two-party system.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Virtues of Gratitude" was posted at patriotpost.us on Nov. 30, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

If there is one thing I wish I could instill in America's youth, it would be a sense of gratitude. I first became somewhat aware of this deficiency about 20 years ago when my wife and I would bring gifts to the children of our hosts instead of the usual flowers, candy or wine. Sometimes, it was in addition to that standard stuff, but either way we began to notice the youngsters never said, "thank you."

One might expect that Queen Victoria or the Aga Khan would assume gifts to be their due, but 8 and 10 and 12-year-olds? On occasion, the parents would notice and prompt them to express their thanks. Naturally, after a while we ignored the kids. Their rooms already resembled a Toys R Us outlet, so why add to their clutter or our resentment?

- Taking benefits for granted

The problem is that by now, we've had a couple of generations who aren't grateful for anything. They take all the benefits of modern technology for granted. Even though they can't add a column of numbers, write or speak a coherent sentence or begin to grasp the genius of the Founding Fathers, they feel fully entitled to take their good fortune—whether it's possessing all the modern technological gadgets, having painless dentistry available to them or having all the rights and freedoms that other, better, braver, people have bled and died for—available to them.

- Viewing their nation as vile

Worst of all, they not only aren't grateful for having been born in America, they have been taught and have come to believe that their nation is the vilest on the face of the earth. One can surely blame the media, the school system and in, many cases, their parents and grandparents for raising the ungrateful little pinheads, but that's letting them off too easy.

If they possessed even the slightest bit of intellectual curiosity, the least desire to separate themselves from the herd, they could easily enough educate themselves. Surely, in their own personal lives, they must recognize that there are no slave-supported plantations, no concentration camps for homosexuals and transgenders, no oppression of women.

■ Fairly tales in exchange for votes

And yet, they blithely absorb the falsehoods told to them by those who will blatantly lie and fill their heads with fairy tales about free college, free health care and a living wage, in exchange for their votes.

If you gave toddlers the presidential vote, they would elect Santa Claus. Their older brothers and sisters will line up to vote for Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren or Pete Buttigieg.

■ Ignoring Hillary and Russia

It's amazing how short the memories of Liberals are. Today, they're prepared to hang President Trump from a lamppost because, they insist, he is Vladimir Putin's puppet. But it never troubled them when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pushed the reset button with her Russian counterpart, handed over a quarter of our nation's uranium resources to Russian oligarchs or accepted massive donations from Russia to her family's favorite charity.

■ Obama teased Romney

They even chuckled right along with Barack Obama when he teased Mitt Romney for insisting that Russia was our major geo-political enemy in the world in 2012.

■ Deval Patrick and Bain Capital

Speaking of Mitt Romney, when he ran against Obama, the Democrats used his connection to Bain Capital, to accuse him of letting women die of cancer so long as it improved Bain's bottom line.

I wonder if they will now bash Obama's good friend Deval Patrick, who succeeded Romney as governor of Massachusetts and is now the latest entry in the Democratic primary race. After all, since leaving the governor's office in 2014, he has made millions working as the managing director of (a drumroll, please) . . . Bain Capital.

I'm pretty sure that Obama will not cast the first stone.

■ Notice the truth

According to Bloomberg News: "The first public impeachment hearing against Donald Trump laid out how a handful of loyalists led by Rudy Giuliani wrested control of U.S. foreign policy from seasoned diplomats."

That is certainly one way of presenting the news.

Another way, and one that happens to be in sync with the U.S. Constitution, would be to report that the first public impeachment hearing against Donald Trump laid out how a cabal of partisan traitors burrowed into the dim, dank recesses of the State Department, the CIA, the FBI and the NSA, in concert with their cohorts in Congress and the media, attempted to wrest control of foreign policy from the one person with the constitutional authority to oversee foreign relations, the President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump.

■ Do you believe in conspiracy theories?

When Maralyn Polak ran a conspiracy theory past me, I said that although I had come around to believing in a few ever since I'd seen what the Deep State has been up to in recent years, I still tend to be skeptical because I think it's next to impossible for most people to keep a secret.

■ What about the Reichstag fire?

She then asked about the Reichstag fire that helped Hitler take the reins of Germany. I acknowledged that it was a conspiracy carried out by the Nazis in order to lay the blame at the feet of Jews and Communists.

"But," I continued, "the reason that Germans believed the lie was because they chose to believe it. They wanted to believe the reason they were suffering in the aftermath of losing World War I was because of those two groups of treasonous scapegoats and, if only they got behind Hitler and allowed him to carry out his promise to rid Germany of Communists and Jews, all would be well again.

■ Wanting so much to believe

We see the identical mindset among Democrats today. They want so much to believe that Trump has committed a slew of impeachable offenses that they are only too happy to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the lies and deceptions of Nancy Pelosi and Adam Schiff.

So far as the Democratic base is concerned, Trump's first and least-forgivable impeachable offense was defeating Hillary Clinton in 2016.

■ Correction

Finally, we arrive at one of those moments I truly hate, when I have to confess to a mistake. In the article I recently wrote involving the role that Sen. Edmund Ross played during the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, I made a glaring error that some people, much to their unseemly delight, have called to my attention.

Even though I devoted a good deal of attention to President Johnson, I was mainly focused on the heroic act performed by Sen. Ross in preventing his party from impeaching Johnson on spurious grounds for strictly partisan reasons, paralleling the shenanigans the Democrats are up to these days.

That singular focus led me to suggest that it was Ross who had been taught to read by his wife when he was in his 20s. It was actually President Johnson.

I just hope that nobody lost a bar bet thanks to me.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "What Is Income Inequality?" was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 2, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Of all the nonsense that Leftists spew, perhaps only the crapola about climate change is more absurd than income inequality. But since it is basically at the core of all the drivel that Karl Marx was pushing 150 years ago, there's no way that Socialists are about to give it a rest at this late date.

You can't really blame them. The two words themselves scream of unfairness. After all, how dare some people make more money than others! How dare Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, George Soros or Mark Zuckerberg be richer than I am!

■ Coveting what others have

But people aren't really measuring themselves against billionaires. After all, nobody can even imagine what that much money looks like. Instead, they compare themselves to their friends or neighbors or maybe their relatives. All over the nation, people are looking at their brother-in-law and thinking "How can that bozo be richer than me? How can he have a vacation home and a boat?"

■ Replaceable politicians

The fact is most people don't think they're paid enough, so income inequality strikes a chord with nearly everyone. Even I am not immune. But I have specific high-earners in mind. My bugaboo happens to be politicians. It's not just that they get paid far more than they're worth, but that, unlike most high-earners, they are easily replaceable.

There isn't even special education required to get the job. All they have to do is win an election, which is basically a popularity contest in which the competition is someone as unappealing as they are. Then, once they have the job, all they are ever called upon to do is vote. A chimpanzee could do it. And so long as the chimp wasn't a Democrat, he or she could do it better than most.

■ Some skills pay more than others

The most common form of income inequality can be explained by the fact that some skills pay more than others. Whether it's the ability to sing and sell millions of records or star in movies that sell millions of tickets; whether it's the ability to hit, catch or pitch a baseball or throw a 60-yard spiral; or come up with an electronic system or device that a couple of billion people wish to purchase; if you stand out from the crowd in certain fields, you stand to become very rich.

■ Why does capitalism make sense?

Some people think Capitalism is evil because a bad actor can make a lot more money than a doctor or a teacher, a cop or a nurse. But it's the only economic system that makes sense because, unlike its main rival, Socialism, it takes human nature into consideration.

Everyone doesn't need or even want to be a millionaire. For some people, so long as they can make enough for food, clothes, shelter and maybe cable TV, they're happy finding satisfaction in their work, their family and their friends.

■ The curse of welfare

In America, most people make enough money to live on, so long as they're not the fools who decide that only cocaine or heroin can make life worthwhile. Furthermore, most people earn what they deserve. Besides so-called public servants, the only exception are those who depend on welfare.

They're the ones who don't have to wake up every morning and punch a clock. They don't have to leave the house and go to work. They don't have to dig a ditch or pick cotton or stock shelves or flip burgers or run a business.

They just have to keep breathing and every month, like clockwork, a check arrives thanks to the unappreciated labor of others, of strangers, of people who don't love them or know them, and would probably dislike them if they did know them.

■ Welfare from taxes, not giving

But it's not charity willingly bestowed, as it would be if the recipients were elderly or handicapped or wounded military veterans. The checks arrive because the tax man demands the money be available and the politicians decide who gets it. And the only thing that's asked of those who stay in bed or spend their days on the couch watching TV is that, periodically, they go out and show their appreciation by voting for the middlemen in this criminal enterprise.

■ True intentions

You are never very likely to hear honest words spoken by a politician. But perhaps because the media acts as a permanent shield for Democrats, occasionally they forget to censor their words. So it was that in the midst of the impeachment investigation, with the presidential election less than a year away, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, second in line to assume the presidency, said: "We can't leave Trump's fate up to the voters."

Of course not. Why should the people decide on a president when Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer and Adam Schiff are so much wiser than the rest of us?

■ Reversed Obama/Kerry Policy

In the grand scheme of things, it won't really make a world of difference. But sometimes it seems like good news is at such a premium, even the tiniest bit of it should be highlighted and applauded. So, just in case you missed it, President Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently reversed the Barack Obama-John Kerry policy towards Israeli settlements.

Those two anti-Semites referred to the settlements as the single greatest obstacle to peace in the region, but they said a lot of stupid things and did a lot of stupid things in the Middle East.

■ Obstacle to peace

Every sane and reasonable person knows that the two greatest obstacles to peace between Israel and its enemies are Arabs and Muslims.

For my part, I always thought it was foolish of Israel to refer to communities inside its borders as settlements. It made them sound temporary in nature, something to be traded away as bribes to their existential foes.

The Israelis might as well have called Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa mere settlements. It's certainly how their enemies saw them. After all, so far as the mullahs in Iran are concerned, all of Israel is a temporary settlement.

■ Blacks often disapprove of homosexuality

Pete Buttigieg may be soaring to the stratosphere in the Iowa polls. But he shouldn't leave home without a parachute. No matter if he wins the Iowa caucus or even goes on to carry New Hampshire, his Waterloo in the form of South Carolina looms ahead. The majority of voters in that state are black and among them, Buttigieg is scoring 0%.

It isn't that blacks have anything against Indiana or against a 38-year-old whose work experience includes being the mayor of a small city in deep doo-doo. Heck, blacks don't even consider that a bad thing. They're accustomed to electing lousy mayors. In fact, they're the only kind they'd even consider electing.

Mayor Pete's problem is the very thing that's so appealing to white Democrats. He is openly homosexual. In big cities like New York, Chicago, L.A. and San Francisco, most Democrats think electing a gay president is even cooler than electing a woman or a black.

Unfortunately, for Buttigieg, even non-religious blacks disapprove of homosexuality. It was the majority vote by blacks that got Proposition 8 passed in California. That was the proposition that declared that only marriages between a man and a woman were legitimate. Whites split 50-50, but blacks voted by a 60-40% margin in favor of the bill.



"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 David J. Lynch titled "Corporate Debt Nears a Record \$10 Trillion, and Borrowing Binge Poses New Risks" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Nov. 29, 2019.

■ An article by Enda Curran titled "The Way Out of a World Economy Hooked on Debt? Yet More Debt" was posted at bloomberg.com Dec. 1, 2019.

■ An article by Albert Hunt titled “Trillion-Dollar Deficits As Far As the Eye Can See, and Hardly a Voice of Caution to Be Heard” was posted at thehill.com on Dec. 1, 2019.

Finances

■ An article by Stephen Cunningham titled “U.S. Posts First Month in 70 Years As a Net Petroleum Exporter” was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 30, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Nandita Bose titled “U.S. Black Friday Shoppers Stay Away From Stores, Make \$7 Billion-Plus Splurge Online” was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 30, 2019.

■ An article by Kevin Webb titled “Protesters Are Gathering Outside of Jeff Bezos’ \$80 Million NYC Penthouse to Call Attention to Working Conditions at Amazon’s Warehouses (AMZN)” was posted at businessinsider.com on Dec. 2, 2019.

■ An article by Robert Frank titled “Hedge Fund Billionaire [Steven Schonefeld] Buys Florida Mansion for \$111 Million, Setting State Record” was posted at cnbc.com on Dec. 3, 2019.

Trade war

■ An article titled “Trump Administration Shelling Out Billions to Farmers Hit by China Trade War” was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 28, 2019.

■ An article by Steve Goldstein titled “Trump’s Comment on Waiting Until After Election for China Trade Deal Could Reflect Bluster—Or Difficult State of Talks” was posted at marketwatch.com on Dec. 3, 2019.

Green New Deal

■ An article by Daniella Silva titled “Black Friday Sales, Climate Protests Kick Off Around the World” was posted at nbcnews.com on Nov. 29, 2019.

■ An article by Andrea Felsted titled “Boycott Black Friday and Save the World” was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 29, 2019.

■ An article by Maureen Lee Lenker titled “*Young Sheldon* Star [11-Year-Old Iain Armitage] Protests With Jane Fonda, Paul Scheer, Arrested at D.C. Event” was posted at ew.com on Nov. 29, 2019.

■ An article by Khristina Narizhnaya, Gabrielle Fonrouge and Ebony Bowden titled “NYPD Cuffs 27 People Over Black Friday Climate Change Protest” was posted at nypost.com on Nov. 29, 2019.

■ An article titled “Youth Climate Activists Boycott Black Friday Shopping, Stage Demonstrations in Santa Monica” was posted at ktla.com (Los Angeles) on Nov. 29, 2019.

■ An article by Dominique Mosbergen titled “John Kerry Launches New Climate Coalition ‘World War Zero’ With Famous Friends” was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 1, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Chantal Da Silva titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Accuses Congress Members of Blindly Funneling Money to ICE So It Could Set Up 'Fake Universities to Trap Students' " was posted at newsweek.com on Nov. 28, 2019.
- An article by Sam Dorman titled "Progressives Decry Fake ICE University— Turns Out It Was Created Under President Obama" was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 29, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Matt Vespa titled "Did Virginia Democrats Awaken a 'Sleeping Giant' With Their Anti-Gun Agenda?" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 28, 2019.
- Looking back to September, an article by Chris Cilizza titled "Is Beto O'Rourke Single-Handedly Dooming a Gun Control Bill?" was posted at cnn.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- Looking back to October, an article titled "How Beto O'Rourke Has Helped America's Gun Lobby" was posted at economist.com on Oct. 22, 2019.
- An article by Lawrence Keane titled "Record Sale Show Americans Are Voting for Guns With Their Wallets" was posted at thefederalist.com on Dec. 4, 2019.
- An article by Paul Bedard titled "AFT: 423 Million Guns in America, 1.2 [Guns] Per Person; 8.1 Billion Rounds of Ammunition a Year" was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Dec. 4, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Margot Cleveland titled "New Fusion GPS Info Confirms the Special Counsel Probe Was a Hit Job" was posted at thefederalist.com on Nov. 26, 2019.
- An article titled "Democrats Can't Beat Trump, Says America's First Black Billionaire [Bob Johnson to CNBC]" was posted at independent.co.uk on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Nunes Says He Hopes the Democrats Hold More Impeachment Hearings" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 25, 2019.
- An article by David Harsanyi titled "Is Impeachment Backfiring on the Democrats?" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 30, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Ari Fleischer titled "Democrats Haven't Made Case for Impeachment; They Should Censure Trump Instead" was posted at usatoday.com on Dec. 2, 2019.
- An article by Cnsnews.com Staff titled "Pelosi Says 'Prayerful' Democrats (Following Founders 'Firm Reliance on Divine Providence') Will Impeach Trump" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 5, 2019.

- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Geraldo: Pelosi's Dems 'Just Doomed Us to Holiday Season Dirtied Up by Partisan Mud Wrestling' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 5, 2019.
- An article by Natasha Korecki titled "Biden Says He Doesn't Need Obama's Endorsement" was posted at politico.com on Dec. 2, 2019.
- An article by Bernie Becker titled "Biden Proposes \$3.2 Trillion in Tax Increases, Less Than Democratic Rivals" was posted at politico.com on Dec. 4, 2019.
- An article titled "Questions Mount As Elizabeth Warren Slips in National Polls" was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 30, 2019.
- An article titled "Former Clinton Adviser [Richard Goodstein] Says Pete Buttigieg's Surge in Iowa Reflects 'Resurgence of the Moderates' " was posted at foxnews.com on Dec. 1, 2019.
- An article by Kyle Olson titled "Will She/Won't She? Hillary Still Considering 2020 [During An Appearance on Britain's Graham Norton Show Over the Weekend]" was posted at theamericanmirror.com on Dec. 2, 2019.
- An article by Janet Hook titled "As Joe Biden Woos Iowa Voters, Pete Buttigieg Seems Increasingly to Be in His Way" was posted at latimes.com on Dec. 3, 2019.
- An article by Eliza Relman titled "Pete Buttigieg and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Got Into a Nasty Fight Over Free Public College; It's Part of a Larger Battle Between Progressive and Centrist Democrats" was posted at businessinsider.com on Dec. 3, 2019.
- An article by Rebecca Morin titled "Three 2020 Candidates [Steve Bullock, Kamala Harris and Joe Sestak] Dropped Out in Less Than 48 Hours" was posted at usatoday.com on Dec. 3, 2019.
- An article by Ed Kilgore titled "Does Harris's Withdrawal Mean the Next Debate Will Be All White? [With the 6 Qualifying Candidates Being Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Tom Steyer]" was posted at nymag.com on Dec. 3, 2019.
- An article titled "Trump Immigration Official [Ken Cuccinelli] Forced Out of Bar As Ex-Maryland Governor [Martin O'Malley] Slams Him [With Intense Heckling] for 'Putting Children in Cages' " was posted at independent.co.uk on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article by Julia Reinstein titled "World Leaders [Justin Trudeau, Boris Johnson, Emmanuel Macron, Mark Rutte and Princess Anne] Were Caught on Video Apparently Mocking Trump at the NATO Summit" was posted at buzzfeednews.com on Dec. 4, 2019.

Deval Patrick

- An article by Paul Steinhauser and Rob DiRienzo titled "Deval Patrick, in 2020 Stop, Warns Fellow Dems: Hating Republicans and Business Is Not Good Politics" was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 25, 2019.

■ An article by Adam Sexton titled “[Deval] Patrick Shares Stories of Up-bringing in Chicago With NH [New Hampshire] Voters” was posted at wmur.com on Dec. 3, 2019.

Kamala Harris

■ An article titled “Bloomberg Overtakes Harris in New Poll [Him 6% and Her 2%]” was posted at thehill.com on Dec. 2, 2019.

■ An article by Christopher Cadelago and Caitlin Oprysko titled “ ‘One of the Hardest Decisions of My Life’: Kamala Harris Ends Once-Promising Campaign” was posted at politico.com on Dec. 3, 2019.

■ An article by Alanna Vagianos titled “With Kamala Harris Out, Democrats’ Leading Candidates Are All White” was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 3, 2019.

■ Looking back to November, an article by Taylor Nicole Rogers titled “Kamala Harris Has More Billionaire Donors Than Any Other Democrat Running for President” was posted at businessinsider.com on Nov. 21, 2019.

■ An article by David Catanese and Ben Wieder titled “Kamala Harris’ 2020 Exit Sets Off Scramble for Her Big-Money Donors” was posted at mcclatchy-dc.com on Dec. 3, 2019.

■ An article by Marc Caputo titled “Biden Says He’ll Consider Harris As His Running Mate” was posted at politico.com on Dec. 4, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O’Rourke

■ Looking back to August, an article by Rebecca Morin titled “Beto O’Rourke: ‘I Will Not in Any Scenario Run for the United States Senate’ ” was posted at usatoday.com on Aug. 16, 2019.

■ An article by Julie Fine titled “Some Backers Still Hope O’Rourke Runs for Senate” was posted at nbcdfw.com on Dec. 3, 2019.

■ An article by Todd J. Gillman titled “Beto O’Rourke Backers Cite Poll Showing He’d Sail Through Senate Primary; Cornyn Wary He’ll Heed the Call” was posted at nbcdfw.com on Dec. 3, 2019.

■ An article titled “How Do I File to Run? [Mentions That the Deadline to Appear on the March 3, 2020 Ballot Is December 9]” was posted at texasdems.org.

News about the media

■ An article by John Anderer titled “Survey: The Average Person Will Watch More Than 78,000 Hours of TV [in His Life]” was posted at studyfinds.org on Dec. 2, 2019.

■ An article by Lee Moran titled “Fox News’ Neil Cavuto Hits Donald Trump With a Reminder About How Journalism Works” was posted at huffpost.com on Nov. 19, 2019.

■ An article by Mollie Hemingway titled “How the Media’s Impeachment Push Harms Democrats” was posted at thefederalist.com on Nov. 26, 2019.

- An article by Alex Christy titled “CNN’s Chris Cillizza Blames Thanksgiving, Christmas for Bad Impeachment Polls” was posted at newsbusters.org on Nov. 27, 2019.
- An article by Aris Folley titled “Tucker Carlson Calls Trump ‘Full-Blown BS Artist’ in Segment Defending Him From Media Coverage” was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 28, 2019.
- An article titled “MSNBC Contributor [Malcom Nance] Compares Trump Supporters to ISIS Followers” was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 29, 2019.
- An article titled “Media Facing Credibility Crisis As Trump Continues to Prove Pundits Wrong” was posted at foxnews.com on Nov. 30, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Chris White titled “Exclusive: Bill Clinton Was Jeffrey Epstein’s Closest ‘Celebrity Mate’ and a Frequent Guest at His New Mexico Ranch With Wife Hillary, Staying at the Pedophile’s Cowboy-Themed Village; Say Estate Workers” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Dec. 3, 2019.
- An article by Aylin Woodward titled “Life Expectancy in the US Keeps Going Down, and a New Study Says America’s Worsening Inequity Could Be to Blame” was posted at businessinsider.com on Nov. 30, 2019.
- An article by Mary Papenfuss titled “2 Hikers Fall to Their Deaths in Utah’s Arches National Park” was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 1, 2019.
- An article by Kyle Phillippi titled “‘Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer’ Bullying Scenes Blasted by Viewers” was posted at popculture.com on Dec. 2, 2019.
- An article by Antonio Farzan titled “A Small Town [Cave Junction, Oregon] Can’t Afford Cops at Night, So It’s Turning to Cameras Watched by Citizen Patrols” was posted at washingtonpost.com on Dec. 2, 2019.
- An article titled “[New England] Patriots Set NFL Record With 17th Straight Season With at Least 10 Wins” was posted at cbsboston.com on Nov. 24, 2019.
- An article by Bruce Haring titled “Buffalo Bills-Dallas Cowboys Thanksgiving Day Game [Was] Most-Watched on CBS in 27 Years” was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 29, 2019.



Looking back to September, an article by Max DeNike titled “The 50 Richest American Families by State” was posted at familyminded.com on Sept. 6, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

America’s richest families are taking the whole idea of “born with a silver spoon” to another level. These clans aren’t just rich, their filthy stinking rich.

Many made their fortunes through excellent investments or by getting into an industry at the perfect time (i.e., oil and natural gas drilling in the 1960s and '70s). Others were big players in fashion, food production or healthcare, and in recent years, tech and the internet have created oodles of new money.

But while it was mostly one family member who created the initial wealth—some of whom started with a mere \$250 loan and turned it into \$5 billion—many heirs have taken their pieces of the pie and created even more riches.

No matter what they've done with their money, there's no doubt these families will be wealthy for quite a long time.

■ **Alabama: Rane Family—Estimated worth: \$1 billion**

When Jimmy Rane and his brother, Greg, took over their family's yard treatment business in the 1970s, it was doing \$22,000 a year in sales. Nowadays, Great Southern Wood Preserving generates \$1 billion in annual revenue while featuring Jimmy in the company's advertisements as the "Yella Fella."

Jimmy has also funded hundreds of scholarships over the years and spent massive amounts to revitalize his hometown of Abbeville.

■ **Alaska: Gillam Family—Estimated worth: \$700 million**

Robert B. Gillam made his fortune as the president and CEO of McKinley Capital Management, an investment adviser that has made more than \$7 billion in assets since the business started in 1990.

Before dying abruptly in late 2018, Gillam was best known for vehemently opposing a mining project that would've been close to his fishing lodge by pouring \$30 million into the successful effort to quash it. Now his son, Robert A. Gillam, runs the company as CEO and CIO.

■ **Arizona: Shoen Family—Estimated worth: \$8.5 billion**

The Shoens' wealth comes from their 40 percent ownership of U-Haul, which is based in Phoenix and pioneered the concept of moving your own belongings with a rented vehicle.

The company was founded by Leonard Shoen and Anna Mary Carty in 1945. They left their fortune and stake in the company to their children and grandchildren, who now run U-Haul.

■ **Arkansas: Walton Family—Estimated worth: \$163 billion**

There's no family in the U.S. with more personal wealth than the Waltons, whose patriarch founded Walmart. The company's 12,000 stores across the world generate \$500 billion in annual revenue, which is the most of any major retailer in the world.

Today, nearly 50 percent of the company is controlled by the children of Sam and James Walton, the brothers who started the chain in 1962.

■ California: Zuckerberg Family—Estimated worth: \$74 billion

The wealthiest clan in the nation's largest state is also one of the youngest families on this list. Priscilla and Mark Zuckerberg are firmly in their mid-30s and have two young children.

Their fortune came, of course, through the ingenuity of The Zuck and his revolutionary idea hatched in a Harvard dorm room called Facebook. The Zuckerbergs have pledged the vast majority of their wealth to charitable causes.

■ Colorado: Anschutz Family—Estimated worth: \$12.7 billion

Philip Anschutz inherited an oil and railroad fortune from his father before creating even greater riches himself through a variety of endeavors, such as telecom and real estate.

Among Anschutz Entertainment Group's brands are the Los Angeles Kings hockey team, the Staples Center arena in downtown L.A. and the Coachella Music Festival. He also owns a variety of other businesses in energy, railroads, newspapers and movies (theaters and production).

■ Connecticut: Sackler Family—Estimated worth: \$13 billion

Brothers Raymond and Mortimer Sackler made billions off medicine with their Purdue Pharma empire, which they left 100 percent ownership of to their respective families.

However, most of the wealth was amassed via the controversial opiate drug OxyContin, which was released in 1996 and is highly addictive. The Sacklers' aggressive marketing of the drug is credited with starting the nation's opioid crisis.

■ Delaware: Gore Family—Estimated worth: Reporting \$3.7 billion in annual revenues

Not to be confused with former vice president Al Gore's family, Wilbert L. (Bill) and Genevieve (Vieve) Gore from Delaware are responsible for one of the greatest success stories in textiles, which was largely the result of dumb luck. Gore-Tex, the hugely popular waterproof fabric used in sports and medicine, was accidentally created in a lab in 1969.

The family nearly lost the patent rights to the material in the 1970s, but eventually prevailed in court and went on to make a fortune off Gore-Tex—which still generates more than \$3 billion in annual revenue.

■ Florida: Peterffy Family—Estimated worth: \$25.7 billion

Thomas Peterffy, who was born in a war-ravaged Hungary in 1944 and immigrated to the U.S. in the 1960s, is a key figure in the development of electronic securities trading and one of the first people to buy a seat on the American Stock Exchange.

The family is known for its conservative politics and charitable work.

■ Georgia: Cox Family—Estimated worth: \$3.2 billion

Fascinated with seeds since childhood, Harry Stine made billions off licensing corn and soybean genetics to Monsanto, Syngenta and other multinational companies. Those deals generate more than \$1 billion annually for the family.

Stine continues to experiment with plant genetics, hoping to create better yields and pesticide-resistant seeds. The family has also bequeathed a considerable amount of its fortune to Iowa universities and a senior nursing facility.

■ Kansas: Koch Family—Estimated worth: \$103 billion

The Koch family business started in the 1930s by patriarch Fred Koch by developing a new process for refining oil. Then, in the early 1980s, two of the four Koch brothers decided to cash out of the family business for some \$800 million.

The other two brothers, David and Charles, then turned Koch Industries into one of the largest privately held companies in the U.S., with more than \$100 billion in annual sales. Besides their business interests, the brothers have been known for supporting ultra-conservative causes. David recently passed away in August at the age of 79.

■ Kentucky: Brown Family—Estimated worth: \$12.3 billion

The Brown-Forman Corp. produces one of the most recognizable alcohol brands in the world: Jack Daniel's whiskey. That alone would make the family billionaires, but they also produce popular brands Finlandia vodka and Herradura tequila.

George Garvin Brown founded the company in 1870, and the Browns still own some 51 percent of it, with George Garvin Brown IV serving a board chair.

■ Louisiana: Benson Family—Estimated worth: \$3 billion

The Benson family fortune derives from Tom Benson's ownership of the Saints football team and Pelicans basketball team, both located in New Orleans.

Before he died in 2018, his third wife, Gayle Benson, inherited the family estate, which led to a lawsuit from Tom's daughter and grandchildren over control of the assets. They reached a confidential settlement in 2017, and Gayle now owns both teams. Before their marriage, she was an interior designer.

■ Maine: Alford Family—Estimated worth: \$6.5 billion

The Alford's money came through the sale of Dexter Shoe Co. in 1993 to Berkshire Hathaway, which was one of Warren Buffett's only mistakes as a businessman—in fact, he's called it the "worst deal I've made." The deal was worth \$433 million in Berkshire stock, which is now worth billions since the Alford family held onto it.

Patriarch Harold Alford spent his later years writing huge checks to Maine universities and hospitals. Two of his children, Bill and Ted, own a minority stake in the Boston Red Sox baseball team.

■ **Maryland: Lerner Family—Estimated worth: \$5.1 billion**

What started with a \$250 loan in 1952 to start a real estate company has grown to a development enterprise consisting of 20 million square feet of commercial and retail space, hotels and apartments. In fact, Ted Lerner borrowed the money from his wife, making this a true family affair.

The family owns the Washington Nationals baseball team and donates to Children's National Hospital and George Washington University, both in Washington, D.C., along with Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

■ **Massachusetts: Johnson Family—Estimated worth: \$31.6 billion**

The Johnson family derives its wealth from a 49 percent stake in Fidelity, the second-largest mutual fund company in the world that manages almost \$2 trillion in assets. The Boston firm was founded in 1946 by Edward C. Johnson II.

Granddaughter Abigail now serves as CEO, while Edward Johnson IV runs the family's real estate company. Only four heirs share the family fortune.

■ **Michigan: Meijer Family—Estimated worth: \$7.2 billion**

Midwesterners will certainly recognize the Meijer name, as the family operates more than 400 grocery stores throughout the region. Dutch immigrant Hendrick Meijer started the business during the Great Depression, and he and son Frederik are credited with driving the concept of the one-stop shopping experience in 1962.

Frederik's sons, Hank and Doug, now run the company, which generates an estimated \$15 billion in sales annually.

■ **Minnesota: Cargill-MacMillan Family—Estimated worth: \$42.3 billion**

This family has more billionaires at 14 than any other family in the world, according to Forbes magazine. They own 88 percent of agribusiness conglomerate Cargill, which counts \$108 billion in annual revenue by selling food, processing crops, trading commodities, sourcing ingredients and taking on financial risk management.

Cargill was originally a grain storage company founded in 1865. The family allows Cargill to keep 80 percent of its net income inside the company for reinvestment.

■ **Mississippi: Duff Family—Estimated worth: \$2.4 billion**

Duff Capital Investors, which generates more than \$2.6 billion in revenue every year, was founded by brothers James and Thomas Duff in 2007.

The company's largest investment is Southern Tire Mart, which the siblings inherited from their father. Over the years, they've acquired a trucking company, construction firm and energy provider.

■ **Missouri: Busch Family—Estimated worth: \$13.4 billion**

Budweiser was able to survive Prohibition to become the largest beer brand in the U.S., but it couldn't fend off InBev's takeover of Anheuser-Busch in

2008. August Busch IV was CEO at the time of the sale, and the issue was that the family had sold an estimated 25 percent stake in the business over two decades and thus didn't have the power to stop the \$52 billion buyout.

Since the sale, family members have returned to the brewing world with much smaller brands such as William K. Busch Brewing that was founded in 2011.

■ **Montana: Washington Family—Estimated worth: \$5.9 billion**

From humble beginnings as a carpenter, Dennis Washington built a massive enterprise called Washington Companies that now owns a copper mine, two diamond mines and a regional railroad. And it all started with a \$30,000 loan.

Dennis and his wife, Phyllis, started a family foundation with \$840 million that has already given out \$300 million to some 1,000 different causes. Dennis also invested in his son, Kyle's, container ship business.

■ **Nebraska: Buffett Family—Estimated worth: \$85 billion**

The "Oracle of Omaha" Warren Buffett is one of the most successful investors in history, creating Berkshire Hathaway that owns major brands such as Duracell, Dairy Queen and Geico.

Along with Microsoft founder Bill Gates, he created the Giving Pledge in 2010 that aims to persuade billionaires to donate at least half of their wealth to charity. Buffett has pledged to give away 99 percent of his fortune.

■ **Nevada: Adelson Family—Estimated worth: \$42.8 billion**

Thanks to patriarch Sheldon Adelson's 50 percent-plus stake in Las Vegas Sands—a casino empire that generates \$14 billion in annual revenue—the family can gamble as much as it wants to and will still be filthy rich.

Adelson is a big supporter of Jewish organizations like Birthright, which funds trips to Israel for young Jewish adults. He has given \$410 million to the organization. The family is also a major donor to Republican campaigns and candidates.

■ **New Hampshire: Reimann-Ciardelli Family —Estimated worth: \$1.1 billion**

Andrea Reimann-Ciardelli, a German who became a U.S. citizen, sold her 11 percent stake in her family's Luxembourg-based investment firm JAB in 2003.

The company's holdings include Peet's Coffee, Krispy Kreme and Panera Bread. The Reimann-Ciardelli family maintains an incredibly private life.

■ **New Jersey: Dorrance Family—Estimated worth: \$17.1 billion**

John T. Dorrance created the formula for Campbell's original condensed soup in 1897 and then took over the company 17 years later. His descendants now enjoy incredible riches thanks to his invention.

It's believed that at least 11 members of the family collectively own more than 50 percent of the food company, which counts more than \$8 billion in annual revenue and also owns Prego, V8 and Pepperidge Farm. Dorrance's

billionaire grandchildren Mary Alice D. Malone and Bennett Dorrance, as well as great-grandson Archbold D. van Beuren, sit on the company's board.

■ New Mexico: Chase Family—Estimated worth: \$700 million

Mark C. Chase made the family fortune in oil and natural gas in the 1960s and '70s. He first worked on wells with his father and brother, but by 1979, had partnered with John Gray to found Marbob Energy to offer pumping services to well owners in New Mexico.

When they split, Chase started Mack Energy Corp. His sons and daughter-in-law are still involved with the business.

■ New York: Hearst Family—Estimated worth: \$24.5 billion

The Hearst family is one of the largest publishers in the world thanks to patriarch media mogul William Randolph Hearst—who also happened to be the inspiration behind Charles Foster Kane in Orson Welles' legendary film "Citizen Kane."

Hearst's dozens of living descendants share the family fortune, with William Randolph Hearst III serving as chairman of the Hearst Corp., which owns 46 newspapers, 340 magazines worldwide, and stakes in ESPN, Lifetime and A&E.

■ North Carolina: Goodnight Family—Estimated worth: \$9.9 billion

The Goodnights' wealth comes from analytics software firm SAS, which was co-founded in 1976 by James Goodnight to parse agricultural data. He has led the company since the beginning, and its products are now used by more than 83,000 organizations worldwide. Annual revenue stands at more than \$3.27 billion.

Along with SAS co-founder John Sall, the pair started private school Cary Academy and co-own a country club and hotel.

■ North Dakota: Tharaldson Family—Estimated worth: \$900 million

Apparently budget motels can create quite a fortune. Gary Tharaldson bought his first Super 8 in 1982 and continued to acquire properties and build hotels nationwide, amassing a portfolio of 350 properties.

According to Forbes magazine, he made \$1.2 billion in 2006 by selling 130 hotels to Goldman Sachs. The money was then invested into commercial and residential land developments. The family also owns an ethanol plant.

■ Ohio: Wexner Family—Estimated worth: \$5.4 billion

L Brands was founded by Les Wexner in 1963 with a \$5,000 loan, and now the global retail empire owns iconic labels Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works.

He bought Victoria's Secret in 1982 when it was a failing chain in San Francisco and turned it into a \$12 billion lingerie, soap and candle behemoth that operates more than 3,000 stores worldwide. The family also donates hundreds of millions of dollars to Ohio institutions like the Wexner Medical Center at Ohio State University in Columbus.

■ Oklahoma: Hamm Family—Estimated worth: \$19.5 billion

Harold Hamm was the first oil extractor to use horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, which today is known simply as “fracking.” The process transformed the oil industry and is now extremely controversial.

It’s also responsible for the family’s vast wealth—Hamm’s Continental Resources produces 200,000 barrels a day using the method. On the philanthropy side, Hamm established a diabetes research center in his name at the University of Oklahoma via a \$30 million donation, as he suffers from the disease.

■ Oregon: Knight Family—Estimated worth: \$30.7 billion

For 52 years, Phil Knight helmed the shoe company he co-founded: Nike, one of the world’s most recognizable brands. It was originally called Blue Ribbon Sports and was conceived with the help of Knight’s college track coach Bill Bowerman at the University of Oregon.

Knight would later donate almost \$800 million to the school, along with a \$500 million gift to Stanford University, where he received his masters in business. Nike has annual revenue of \$36.4 billion and offices in 52 countries.

■ Pennsylvania: Mellon Family—Estimated worth: \$12 billion

Irish immigrant Thomas Mellon created a large fortune before the 20th century and bequeathed it to his children in hopes that they would grow it, which is exactly what happened.

East Coast residents are no doubt familiar with the Mellon name, as it graces universities, medical centers and cultural institutions across the Northeast. One family member created a bank. Another publishes the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. One was the longest-serving U.S. Treasury secretary. And another founded Gulf Oil.

■ Rhode Island: Nelson Family—Estimated worth: \$1.8 billion

The Nelson family’s riches are thanks to Jonathan Nelson’s private equity firm, Providence Equity Partners, which he started in 1989. Its investments are mainly in media, communications, education and information, with 180 total investments.

One of its largest returns was the Ironman triathlon, which Providence sold for \$900 million in 2015 at four times its initial investment.

■ South Carolina: Zucker Family—Estimated worth: \$4 billion

Anita and Jerry Zucker built their family’s wealth through the chemical company, InterTech Group, which they founded in 1982. Anita serves as CEO, and Jerry passed away in 2008.

InterTech owns an aerospace engineering company and vast commercial real estate, and it’s annual revenue is pegged at \$3 billion. The Zuckers are major donors to education and health causes.

■ South Dakota: Sanford Family—Estimated worth: \$2.5 billion

For a family whose fortune comes from high-risk borrowers, they at least give a considerable amount of it to charitable causes. T. Denny Sanford founded First Premier Bank to give out credit cards with low limits and high interest rates. The bank only has 12 branches, but is one of the nation's largest issuers of Visas and Mastercards.

And although Sanford has pledged to die broke, the bank is so successful that the family has doled out \$1.6 billion to charities and still has billions more.

■ Tennessee: Frist Family—Estimated worth: \$12.5 billion

The Frists founded Hospital Corporation of America, which is the world's largest operator of private healthcare facilities with 179 hospitals and 119 surgical centers throughout the U.S. and London.

The family is also known for its philanthropic efforts, and one member, Bill Frist, was a senator and senate majority leader from 2003-07.

■ Texas: Duncan Family—Estimated worth: \$26 billion

Dan Duncan grew up poor in rural Texas, but his four children are now extraordinarily wealthy thanks to their father's oil and gas holdings. Duncan founded Enterprise Products in 1968. By 2010, the year he died, the company had \$34 billion in annual revenue.

The four kids inherited a \$10 billion estate and have more than doubled it since 2010.

■ Utah: Miller Family—Estimated worth: \$1.4 billion

Larry and Gail Miller started with a single Toyota dealership that grew to 64 with \$5.1 billion in sales. They also bought the Utah Jazz basketball team in 1986 for \$22 million, and today, it's worth \$1.4 billion.

When Larry died in 2009, Gail inherited control of the estate and all its holdings. In 2017, she placed the Jazz in a family legacy trust, so her heirs won't be able to sell or move the team.

■ Vermont: Abele Family—Estimated worth: \$630 million

John Abele co-founded the medical device company Boston Scientific in 1979. It's best known for its Taxus Stent for opening clogged arteries and for making medical devices more affordable and accessible.

After retiring in 2005, the then-billionaire sold most of his stake in Boston Scientific and began donating his fortune to charitable causes. He is no longer a billionaire, but the family is hardly hurting for cash.

■ Virginia: Mars Family—Estimated worth: \$89.7 billion

The Mars family owns Mars Inc., which thanks to its \$33 billion-plus in annual sales is one of the largest private companies in the world. The company's portfolio is vast—it counts Uncle Ben's rice and pet food brands Pedigree and Whiskas among its holdings—but Mars is most famous for its candy products.

It invented M&Ms and the malt-flavored nougat that is the basis of several candy bars, including Milky Way and Snickers.

■ Washington: Bezos Family—Estimated worth: \$162 billion

The founder and CEO of Amazon, Jeff Bezos is the richest person in the world thanks to his 16 percent stake in the online commerce behemoth. In 2018 alone, the company recorded \$230 billion in sales and \$10 billion in net profit.

Bezos also owns the *The Washington Post* and an aerospace company called Blue Origin that's trying to develop a rocket for commercial space travel.

■ West Virginia: Justice Family—Estimated worth: \$1.9 billion

The Justice family owns coal mines in five states and dozens of other companies, while patriarch Jim Justice is also the governor of West Virginia.

It's a good thing the family is so wealthy since in recent years they've been hit with court orders and tax liens to the tune of tens of millions of dollars. The state of Virginia also estimates that the family's coal companies are on the hook for \$200 million in reclamation liabilities.

■ Wisconsin: Johnson Family—Estimated worth: \$30 billion

This Johnson family—not related to the Johnsons of Massachusetts, who also appear in this story—owe their riches to cleaning product manufacturer SC Johnson. The company produces Ziploc, Pledge and Glade products.

The family business started in the 1880s when S.C. Johnson developed a wax for parquet flooring, which he sold. Today, it does \$9.6 billion in annual sales.

■ Wyoming: Wyss Family—Estimated worth: \$5.8 billion

The Wyss clan became billionaires when in 2012 patriarch Hansjoerg Wyss, a Swiss immigrant, sold his medical device manufacturer, Synthes, to Johnson & Johnson for \$20.2 billion. Wyss still has interests in several biotech companies, but he's dedicating his later years to philanthropic efforts.

His charitable foundations have assets valued at more than \$2 billion, and in a 2018 op-ed in *The New York Times*, he pledged to donate \$1 billion over the next decade to conservation causes.



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."