

Eye on the World

May 2, 2020

This compilation of material for “Eye on the World” is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of May 2, 2020.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man” (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “U.S. Has Run Up \$5.5 Trillion in Trade Deficits With China” was posted at cnsnews.com on April 29, 2020. Following is the article.

Since 1985, the first year for which the Census Bureau has posted this nation’s bilateral merchandise trade deficits on its website, the United States has accumulated \$5.5 trillion in trade deficits with China.

No other nation comes close.

In 2019, America’s seven top trading partners—when measured by the total dollar value of the bilateral trade in goods.

They were:

- Mexico—\$614.5 billion
- Canada—\$612.4 billion
- China—\$558.9 billion
- Japan—\$218.3 billion
- Germany—\$187.8 billion
- South Korea—\$134.4 billion
- United Kingdom—\$132.3 billion)

By far, however, the least balanced relationship—both last year and in recent decades—has been with China.

In the 35 years from 1985 through 2019, according to Census Bureau data, the United States ran a cumulative merchandise trade deficit with China of \$5,501,227,400,000.

Among the seven nations that were our leading trading partners as of 2019, the second-largest cumulative deficit over that 35-year period was the \$2,240,119,400,000 deficit the United States ran with Japan.

Thus, the cumulative trade deficit with China over the last 35 years was almost 2.5 times as large as the cumulative trade deficit with Japan.

The cumulative trade deficits with the other nations was much smaller.

- China—\$5,501,227,400,000
- Japan—\$2,240,119,400,000
- Mexico—\$1,276,017,400,000)
- Germany—\$1,222,887,800,000)
- Canada—\$1,065,139,400,000)
- South Korea—\$410,304,300,000
- United Kingdom—\$33,598,300,000nnn

In fact, in 16 of the 35 years on record, the United States actually ran a merchandise trade surplus with the United Kingdom.

But China is an outlier.

Of the approximately \$558.9 billion in goods traded between the United States and China last year, only \$106.6 billion were exported by the United States, while \$452.2 billion were imported.

The result: The United States ran a \$345.6 billion merchandise trade deficit with China.

America's next-largest merchandise trade deficit last year was with our top trading partner, Mexico. But that deficit was only \$101.8 billion less than one-third the \$345.6 billion deficit with China.

The United States ran only a \$27 billion trade deficit in 2019 with our other neighbor and second-largest trading partner, Canada. America's \$345.6 billion trade deficit with China was more than 12 times the trade deficit with Canada.

Despite having much smaller economies and populations than China, both Mexico and Canada managed to buy far more American-made goods than China did.

China, according to the CIA World Factbook, has the largest GDP in the world (\$25,360,000,000,000). Mexico's (\$2,463,000,000,000) is less than one-tenth that size, and Canada's (\$1,774,000,000,000) is less than one-fourteenth.

China, meanwhile, has by far the world's largest population (1,394,015,977). Mexico's population (128,649,565) is less than one-tenth that size, and Canada's (37,694,085) is about one-thirty-seventh that size

It is a fact, then, that even though China has both a GDP and a population that is about 10 times larger than Mexico's, Mexico, in 2019, purchased almost 2.5 times the American-made goods when measured in dollar value (\$256.4 billion) as China did (\$106.6 billion).

Similarly, even though China has a GDP that is about 14 times larger than Canada's and a population that is about 37 times larger, Canada purchased about 2.7 times the American-made goods (\$292.7 billion) that China did in 2019 (\$106.6 billion).

Can geographical proximity explain all of that disparity?

The United States normalized relations with China in 1979 but did not grant China permanent normal trade relations until more than 20 years later.

"President Bill Clinton and China's then-leader Jiang Zemin both came to see benefits in expanding bilateral economic ties, including working together to bring China into the WTO (World Trade Organization)," explains the Congressional Research Service.

"On October 10, 2000, Clinton signed into law P.L. 106-286, granting China permanent normal trade relations and paving the way for China to join the WTO, which it did in December 2001," says the Congressional Research Service.

What has been the trajectory of U.S. economic relations with China?

In 1985, the first year reported by the Census Bureau, the U.S. merchandise trade deficit with China was \$6 million. In 2001, when China joined the WTO, it was \$83 billion.

The next year, the U.S.-China trade deficit jumped to \$103 billion. By 2005, it was \$202 billion. By 2012, it was \$315 billion.

In 2018, it peaked at \$419 billion.

What is the United States buying from China?

In 2019, according to the Census Bureau, the top six imports American consumers purchased from China were "cell phones and other household goods" (\$64.5 billion); "computers" (\$42.3 billion); "toys, games, and sporting goods" (\$26.5 billion); "apparel, textiles, non wool or cotton" (\$24.4 billion); "telecommunications equipment" (\$24.4 billion)" and "computer accessories" (\$18.7 billion).

The State Department's 2019 report on human rights in China begins with these words: "The People's Republic of China (PRC) is an authoritarian state in which the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is the paramount authority. CCP members hold almost all top government and security apparatus positions."

But this authoritarian state run by the Communist Party provided the labor to produce tens of billions of dollars in cell phones and computers that were sold last year in the United States of America.

America ought to deliver a very simple message to the authoritarians in Beijing: As long as you are not a free country, you will not be able to freely sell your products here.



An article titled "Germany Bans Hezbollah, Conducts Raids to Find Suspected Members" was posted at aljazeera.com on April 30, 2020. Following is the article.

Germany has banned Hezbollah on its soil, designating the Iran-backed group a "terrorist" organization, the Federal Ministry of the Interior said on Thursday.

Police conducted early morning raids in Germany to detain suspected members of the political group, which is based in Lebanon under the leadership of Hassan Nasrallah.

Security officials believe as many as 1,050 people in Germany are part of Hezbollah's "extremist wing," Hezbollah does not acknowledge the existence of separate wings.

Police searched mosque associations in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen and Berlin which they believe are close to Hezbollah, and the private residences of the leaders of each association.

The associations under investigation are suspected of forming part of Hezbollah due to their financial support and propaganda for the organization, said the interior ministry.

"The activities of Hezbollah violate criminal law and the organization opposes the concept of international understanding," it said in a statement.

The move means that Hezbollah symbols are banned at gatherings and in publications or in the media. Hezbollah assets can be confiscated, but because it is a foreign organization, it was not possible to dissolve the group, the ministry said.

Earlier this month, the United States offered up to \$10m for information on Hezbollah commander Sheikh Mohammad al-Kawtharani, an associate of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani who was killed in a US air attack in January.

The group is already considered a "terrorist" organization by the US, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Israel as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab League.

Israel praises move

Applauding Germany's decision, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs Israel Katz said Berlin had taken "a significant step in the global fight against terrorism."

"I call on other European countries as well as the European Union to do the same. All the parts of Hezbollah, including the social, political and military wings are terror organizations and they should be treated as such," he added.

The American Jewish Committee also hailed Germany's move.

"This is a welcome, much-anticipated, and significant German decision," said AJC head David Harris.

As a legacy of the Holocaust, Germany feels a special responsibility towards protecting Israel.

Germany's interior ministry said Hezbollah calls for the violent elimination of the State of Israel and questions its right to exist.

"The organization is therefore fundamentally against the concept of international understanding, regardless of whether it presents itself as a political, social or military structure," it said.

Until now, Germany had only outlawed Hezbollah's military wing while tolerating its political wing, which is the current EU policy.

Hezbollah was established in 1982 during Lebanon's civil war. It is now a major political party in the country, where it holds a majority in Parliament along with its allies.

Israel and Hezbollah fought a war in 2006.

The movement also backs Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in the country's civil war.



An article by Lanav Harkov titled "Netanyahu Calls on Hezbollah to Be Banned Worldwide" was posted at jpost.com on April 30, 2020. Following is the article.

German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer ordered that Hezbollah's activities be banned due to violations of criminal law, he announced on Thursday.

Police in North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen and Berlin began searches in mosques and residences tied to Hezbollah, "due to their financial support and propaganda for the terrorist organization," after the ban was announced at 6 a.m.

Israel and the United States have long pushed for Germany to ban the Shi'ite terrorist group. Germany previously drew a distinction between Hezbollah's political arm and its military units, which fought alongside President Bashar Assad's army in Syria.

Hezbollah symbols may not be used publicly in any assembly, or in print, audio and visual material in Germany, and its assets will be confiscated "to the benefit of the Federal Republic of Germany," the Interior Ministry's press release read.

The ban is because Hezbollah is a terrorist group, and also because it "calls for the violent elimination of the State of Israel and questions the right of the State of Israel to exist.

"The organization is therefore fundamentally against the concept of international understanding, regardless of whether it presents itself as a political, social or military structure," the ministry said.

"Its violent denial of the right to exist of the State of Israel also fundamentally opposes Germany's national ethos," another Interior Ministry document states.

The order allows German authorities to “use all available instruments of the rule of law to crack down” on Hezbollah and its German sub-organization, the statement reads.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz praised the decision, saying it is “very important and values-based.”

Banning Hezbollah is “significant in the world battle against terror,” Katz added. “I want to express my appreciation to the German government for this step and am certain many governments in the Middle East and victims of Hezbollah’s terrorism share my gratitude.”

Katz called on additional European states and the EU to follow Germany’s lead and say that “Hezbollah, its military and political arms, is a terrorist organization and must be treated that way.”

“This is a welcome, much-anticipated and significant German decision,” said American Jewish Committee head David Harris. “We now hope other European nations will take a close look at Germany’s decision and reach the same conclusion about the true nature of Hezbollah.”

Yesh Atid-Telem leader Yair Lapid, who has long advocated for European countries to ban Hezbollah, praised Germany on Twitter.

“This is an important step in the fight against terror, and the time has come for all of Europe to follow Germany, the Netherlands and the UK,” Lapid wrote. “The money Hezbollah raises abroad turns into weapons against Israel. This requires an international effort and it is good that Germany is committed to it.”

Security officials believe that up to 1,050 people in Germany are associated with Hezbollah.

The German Interior Ministry explained that there is no “Hezbollah Germany,” but its followers in the country meet at local mosques and try to keep their association secret to avoid detection by the authorities. However, supporters—especially the younger ones—declare themselves as such on social media and online forums, using the terrorist group’s symbols.

In addition, Hezbollah has used Germany as a base for recruitment and fundraising.

Ministry documents quote Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and others at length in demonstrating the Shi’ite terrorist group’s aim of destroying Israel.

The ban includes images of Hezbollah symbols that may not be displayed. First is its yellow flag with a green logo and a stylized text of the word “Hezbollah” with a hand grasping a gun. Another is the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts, the Hezbollah youth movement, which looks similar to the international scouts’ fleur-de-lis logo, but with a hand and a Lebanese cedar on it.

“Germany’s long-awaited action today is significant for many reasons. It underscores that even while the world is seeking to address health threats posed by Covid-19, it is not ignoring national security threats. Germany’s decision accentuates the need for all of Europe to counter the malign activities of Iran-backed proxies wherever they may act,” said Toby Dershowitz,

Senior Vice President for Government Relations and Strategy at the non-partisan Foundation for Defense of Democracies, who has written about Hezbollah's illicit activities.

She notes that "Many parts of the US government have worked with their counterparts in Europe to take this action."

In 2019, Congress once again urged Germany to designate the entire organization as a terrorist entity, not only its military.

Representatives Ted Deutch, Grace Meng, Gus Bilirakus and Lee Zeldin wrote a letter to Chancellor Merkel in June 2019 saying in part: "The alliance between our two countries, whether for combating terrorism or supporting democracy, has been a cornerstone of the transatlantic relationship and NATO alliance, and our coordinated efforts have been critical to our collective national security. That is why we hope that Germany will consider this decision to, once and for all, fully designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization."

The letter came after the Bundestag failed to pass a resolution that would refer to the entire organization as a terrorist group.

On a trip to Berlin last year, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hoped Germany would follow Britain in banning Hezbollah. The UK introduced legislation in February of last year that classified Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

Pompeo commended Germany's "strong action against Hezbollah" and called on other "EU member states to follow suite in holding Hezbollah accountable."



An article by Alaa Elassar titled "New York City Will Distribute 500,000 Free Halal Meals to Muslims During Ramadan" was posted at [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) on April 24, 2020. Following is the article.

The coronavirus pandemic has turned life upside down for many New Yorkers, including those who wish to safely practice their faiths.

Muslims, who began the holy month of Ramadan on Thursday, are no exception. The holy month involving fasting from sunup to sundown, charity and prayer is typically celebrated as a community.

But due to social distancing, that's not possible this year. To help families celebrate, especially those who've lost income due to shutdowns, New York City has announced plans to serve more than 500,000 halal meals to Muslims during Ramadan.

A halal meal is one that is prepared in accordance with Islamic law.

"One of Ramadan's most noble callings is to feed the hungry," Mayor Bill de Blasio said during a press conference on Thursday. "It's a crucial part of how the holiday is celebrated, to remember to be there for those in need, and that is now harder than ever."

With more than 22 percent of American Muslims living in New York City, the public health crisis is upending the annual celebration.

During Ramadan, mosques typically open their doors and host dinners to feed the less fortunate. This year, with mosques closed and breadwinners out of work, those very communities are in need of help.

As part of ongoing efforts to support New Yorkers during the pandemic, the city will increase the supply and distribution of halal meals at 32 Grab and Go sites across all five boroughs where there are large Muslim populations. More than 400,000 halal meals will be available at 435 school sites where all New Yorkers can go for food.

Another 100,000 halal meals will be distributed through soup kitchens, food pantries and community organizations.

City officials plan to serve 10 million free meals to all New Yorkers in April and another 15 million in May, as De Blasio estimates that nearly 2 million people could go hungry because of the virus.

“No New Yorker will go hungry,” de Blasio promised. “Your city will provide.”

Ramadan, which ends on May 23, culminates with the holiday of Eid al-Fitr, observed with communal prayers, donations to charity and special meals.

Because Islam follows a lunar calendar, Ramadan—celebrated during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar—shifts each year as calculated by Western calendars.



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

■ An article by Elisabetta Bianchini titled “COVID-19 in Canada: Ontario to Release Plan to Reopen Economy, Trudeau Slashes Rent for Businesses” was posted at yahoo.com on April 24, 2020.

■ A Reuters article titled “ ‘I Want My Life Back’: Germans Protest Against Lockdown” was posted at reuters.com on April 25, 2020.

■ A Reuters article by Yoshifumi Takemoto titled “Japan Preparing to Extend Coronavirus Emergency for About a Month” was posted at reuters.com on April 29, 2020.

■ An article by Mari Yamaguchi titled “Many Japanese Defy Appeals to Stay Home to Curb Virus” was posted at apnews.com on April 29, 2020.

■ An article by Almudena Calatrava and Michael Weissenstein titled “As Virus Cases Surge, Brazil Starts to Worry Its Neighbors” was posted at apnews.com on April 29, 2020.

■ An article by Andy Wells titled “Australians Told to Get Down the Pub for a ‘Sunday Sesh’ to Celebrate End of Coronavirus Lockdown” was posted at yahoonews.com on April 30, 2020.

- An article by Andy Wells titled "Boris Johnson Could Keep Coronavirus Lockdown in Place Until End of May" was posted at yahoonews.com on April 30, 2020.
- An article by James Morris titled " 'Worrying' Graph That Shows Brits Are Getting Back in Their Cars in Defiance of Lockdown" was posted at yahoo.com on April 29, 2020.
- An article titled "Saudi Arabia Bans Flogging As a Punishment After Human Rights Activist Dies in Detention" was posted at afp.com on April 25, 2020.
- An article by Lianna Brinded titled "US Blacklists Amazon's Websites in UK, Germany, France, India and Canada" was posted at yahoo.com on April 30, 2020.



A letter to the editor by Steve Weeks titled "Democrats Were Impeaching Trump When Action Against Coronavirus Was Needed" was posted at latimes.com on April 22, 2020. Following is the letter.



I got down on my knees this weekend and begged by wife, with all the fervor of my first marriage proposal, to cancel her Sunday subscription to the *Los Angeles Times*. The anti-Trump hysteria in this newspaper is beyond nauseating. ("How Trump let the U.S. fall behind the curve on coronavirus threat," April 19)

I am no huge fan of President Trump myself, but I also know that the left was all consumed with impeachment during the critical periods in January and early February when action taken against the coronavirus might have made a difference.

At no point during any of the Democratic primary debates before Super Tuesday did a candidate suggest that the country should have been locked down or taken other social distancing measures.



An article by CNSNews.com Staff titled "Barack Obama: 'This Pandemic Has Magnified. . .the Deep and Real Racial Disparities in Our Society' " was posted at cnsnews.com on April 27, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.



Former President Barack Obama sent out a tweet on Monday afternoon saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified both the racial disparities in American society and the burdens on working mothers.

"The pandemic has magnified the financial insecurity of too many American families, the deep and real racial disparities in our society—and the imbalanced burden on working moms," Obama said in his tweet.

"We have to create something better for America on the other side of this," he said.



An article by Susan Jones titled “McConnell: People Outraged Over Kavanaugh Allegations ‘Seem to Have Little Or No Interest’ in Biden’s Accuser” was posted at cnsnews.com on April 28, 2020. Following is the article.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) was asked on Monday about allegations that in 1993, then-Sen. Joe Biden sexually assaulted a young staffer named Tara Reade, something Biden has not been asked about in his many recent (liberal media) interviews. His campaign denies it.

Fox Radio host Guy Benson asked McConnell about the subject.

Benson: “What is a fair way of contemplating the allegation in a way that respects due process and the presumption of innocence?”

McConnell: “Well, at the very least it’s pretty obvious that the same people who were outraged about allegations—unproven allegations against Justice Kavanaugh when he was in high school seem to have little or no interest, or certainly not as much interest in suggestions of improper behavior by an adult who’s in the Senate.

“I think if—these things ought to be dealt with symmetrically, no matter who the accuser is, and no matter who the accused is. I think what most Americans would like is sort of a symmetrical evaluation of these allegations rather than what we have seen, at least so far.”

Benson: “Biden has not been asked about this directly,” Benson noted. “He has not said a word about it. Is that a strategy that you think could have worked for Brett Kavanaugh?”

McConnell: “No, I don’t think that would have worked for Justice Kavanaugh.

“And look . . . I can’t imagine that this kind of an issue isn’t going to be discussed during the presidential campaign. Surely those in the reporting world who were so animated about the investigation of Justice Kavanaugh would have an equal interest in—in this subject.”

That is not the case so far, however.

On Friday, NewsBusters uncovered video that appears to show Reade’s mother calling in to CNN’s “Larry King Live” in 1993 and referencing her daughter’s accusations against Biden at the time. (Newsbusters and CNSNews are both part of the Media Research Center.)

Reade made her allegations against Biden in March. Since then, four people have come forward, saying Reade told them about the alleged assault around the time she says it happened.

Business Insider reported on Monday that two of those four “sources” include a former neighbor of Reade’s, who told *Business Insider*, “This happened, and I know it did because I remember talking about it” with Reade in the mid-1990s.

According to *Business Insider*: “The other source, Lorraine Sanchez, who worked with Reade in the office of a California state senator in the mid-’90s, told Insider that she recalls Reade complaining at the time that her former boss in Washington, DC, had sexually harassed her, and that she had been fired after raising concerns.”



An article by Brent Bozell titled “Bozell Statement: CNN Is Colluding With Biden to Bury Tara Reade Story” was posted at [newsbusters.org](https://www.newsbusters.org) on April 26, 2020. Following is the article.

First it was omission, now it is outright collusion with the Biden presidential campaign.

First, CNN kept hidden their own footage that links Biden to a sexual assault. CNN would have succeeded in keeping that hidden but for the MRC that also had, and released, the footage.

After being exposed and forced to report on the story they had for years, within a day CNN has now taken it down again, trying to expunge the evidence from their online platforms.

This is not China, or North Korea. In the United States, a “news” network doesn’t work overtime to keep the truth from the American people—unless it’s doing the bidding of the Biden presidential campaign.

Rest assured the MRC will provide what CNN is trying to censor. That CNN video is available at MRCTV and will remain there.

Here again, is the video and transcript from 1993:

Larry King: We’re back—a couple more phone calls on this very important topic. Our guests are former United States Senator Howard Baker; Richard Allen, former National Security Adviser; and Lois Romano of *The Washington Post*. San Luis Obispo, California, hello.

Caller: Yes, hello. I’m wondering what a staffer would do besides go to the press in Washington? My daughter has just left there, after working for a prominent senator, and could not get through with her problems at all, and the only thing she could have done was go to the press, and she chose not to do it out of respect for him.

King: In other words, she had a story to tell but, out of respect for the person she worked for, she didn’t tell it?

Caller: That’s true.

King: Yes, but these are the people who do come to the Lois Romanos, right?

Lois Romano (*The Washington Post*): Uh-huh.

King: The staff worker who says, ‘I want to let you know about what’s going on either with my boss or the guy down the hall.’

Romano: ‘This is going on, and I’m troubled.’ Uh-huh. And a lot of these people have a sense of obligation. They feel that this public official should be accountable, if it’s something wrong.

King: They’re whistle-blowers to the press.

Romano: Exactly.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "All Virus, All the Time" was posted at patriotpост.us on April 25 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

The number of deaths that took place in the U.S. last year was 2,813,503, with about 40% of them the result of heart disease and cancer. Accidents (in the home and on the road) accounted for 170,000. Respiratory diseases, strokes and Alzheimer's added another 425,000. Diabetes, the flu and pneumonia, were the cause in 140,000 fatalities. Suicides put 50,000 unhappy souls in the ground.

Those are all pretty big numbers, even in a nation of about 325 million.

Even without a vaccine, the coronavirus is not likely to make a very big difference in those numbers. Certainly not big enough to have emptied the streets, the schools, the churches and the office buildings.

I mean, if hardly anybody ever died, I can see taking a laundry list of precautions. But when roughly 3,000,000 people are expected to die of what we have come to regard as natural causes, the response to the Kung Flu strikes me as way over the top.

If dealing with it had been left up to me, I would have quarantined people over the age of, say, 65, and let the work force continue life as usual. My guess is that with traffic back to normal, more people would have died in car accidents than from the virus.

But one thing I am certain about is that we wouldn't have over 20 million people signed up for unemployment, we wouldn't be an additional two trillion dollars in debt and our economy wouldn't be teetering on the edge of a recession.

And, perhaps best of all, I wouldn't find myself spending more time with Dr. Anthony Fauci than with my dog.

■ A few musings

Accompanying a batch of coronavirus one-liners he had sent me, Chuck Morrison mused "Imagine if there had been Internet during the Great Depression."

I pointed out that hardly anyone could have afforded a computer in those days.

"Keep in mind," he replied, "that apples were selling for two cents apiece back then."

Even though I own an Apple, it took me a moment to get it.

The best of the other lines he sent me:

"Half of us will come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will emerge with a drinking problem."

"I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator."

"Every few days, it's a good idea to try on your jeans just to make sure they still fit. Pajamas and a bathrobe will have you convinced you haven't gained an ounce."

"Homeschooling is going about as well as expected: Two students suspended for fighting, one teacher fired for boozing on the job."

"This morning, I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought the cat understood her. I came back in the house and told my dog. We both laughed about it."

"I used to spin the toilet paper like I was Pat Sajak on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe."

Suzan Reiner added: "If you think things are bad now, just realize that in 20 years this country will be run by people who were home-schooled by crazy people who had been driven to drink by several weeks of home-confinement."

Chuck Morrison decided he, too, would get in on the act, sending me two pages of virus-related musings.

"I don't think anyone expected when we changed the clocks that we'd be going from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone."

"Quarantine Day 5: I went to this restaurant called the Kitchen. You have to supply all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place stays in business."

Classified Ad: "Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for some good clean fun."

"Day 8 of Homeschooling: My son called in a bomb threat. If he hadn't, I would have."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Obama Delivers the Kiss of Death" was posted at patriotpost.us on April 27, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

It finally happened. All the black candidates dropped out. Then Bernie Sanders dropped out. At long last, Obama had no option but to either endorse Joe Biden or vote for Donald Trump. So, after flipping a coin, he came out for the last person he wanted to see on the ballot in November.

I suspect that Biden, the man who kept his lips locked on Obama's butt for eight long years, was asking himself "Where was the schmuck when I needed him before turning things around in North Carolina?"

■ Belated endorsement

He may still be grateful for the belated endorsement, but he shouldn't be. Obama has a miserable record when it comes to electing anyone but himself.

Whether he was trying to help some Democrat win a governorship or a Senate seat, Obama's record has been abominable. By now, he must be something like 0-40.

■ Voter suppression—check the numbers

Heck, even campaigning with Michelle in Georgia, a state that is 31% black, the two of them couldn't get Stacey Abrams into the governor's mansion. Democrats would insist, as the Obamas and Ms. Abrams have been doing for the past two years, that she lost because of voter suppression. It's a tough argument to make because in a state with a population of 10,500,000--3,150,000 of whom are black—she received nearly two million votes. Her problem was that Brian Kemp received 55,000 more than her. It hardly seems like voter suppression when 74% of all registered voters, including blacks, cast votes in that election.

If anything, I would suspect voter fraud when 74% of the voters show up in an off-year election when the presidency isn't at stake.

■ Pushing to have mail-in ballots

In the meantime, Mrs. Obama is pushing for mail-in ballots across the nation, since she and the Democrats know that their best, perhaps their only, shot at defeating Trump in November is by cheating their way to victory.

■ Abrams bandwagon

Joe Biden has jumped on the bandwagon, while using that Amos 'n Andy accent they all adopt when seeking the black vote, parroting the usual non-sense about the disenfranchisement of black Americans.

Well, he didn't actually jump on the bandwagon. At 77, he needed a boost, which Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg and Beto O'Rourke, were only too happy to provide—all of them insisting that were it not for the alleged suppression, Stacey Abrams would be the governor of Georgia.

Frankly, I don't understand their fascination with Ms. Abrams, surely as unimpressive a human being as Maxine Waters, Donna Brazile, Valerie Jarrett or Michelle Obama. But, then, what sane person can possibly imagine what passes for a thought process inside the heads of liberals?

■ Obama's best decision?

In endorsing the last man standing, if only barely, Obama said: "Choosing Joe as my running mate was one of the best decisions I ever made."

The sad truth is that he's right. If anything, he's being too modest. Choosing Biden to be his number two is far and away the wisest decision he ever made. Just consider all the other decisions competing for that honor.

■ To end ballot harvesting

Along with making photo IDs mandatory for voting, another change that should occur is putting an end to ballot harvesting. It's an inducement to

election fraud when one person can deliver a hundred or a thousand ballots to a polling place. It's supposed to provide a service for the elderly confined to nursing homes and other shut-ins, but of course it's just another way for Democrats to cheat their way to victory.

The inevitable result could be plainly seen in the 2018 congressional elections when all the GOP candidates, including longtime incumbents, were defeated in Orange County, one of the more conservative areas in California.

■ China hid true numbers

It is estimated there have been 2.9 million cases of coronavirus in China. The Chinese claim the number is 83,000. I think it's fair to assume the actual number is somewhere between those two figures, most likely 2,899,999.

It's a theory, but a reasonable one, that China delayed alerting the world to its home-grown virus, not simply out of a concern for its public image, but so they could stock up on surgical masks, gowns and ventilators, before anyone woke up to the fact that they'd soon be in very short supply.

■ Waking up about China

In fact, if there's a silver lining to the virus, it's that a lot of Americans are waking up to the fact that China is our mortal enemy and that every time, for diplomatic reasons, President Trump says something nice about Xi Jinping, he's got his fingers crossed behind his back.

■ Clinton, Bush and Obama

But we should all give the poor guy a break. It's not Trump's fault that Clinton, Bush and Obama, handed over our pharmaceutical industry to the Communists. At least, Clinton received campaign contributions from Beijing in exchange for selling out America. I really have no idea what Bush and Obama got for their compliance.

■ *Washington Post* perspective

If the mainstream media was capable of experiencing shame, it should have been red-faced when Tucker Carlson pointed out that on Oct. 27, 2019, when an Islamic terrorist died, the *Washington Post* ran this headline: "Al-Bagh-dadi, Austere Religious Scholar at Helm of Islamic State, Dies at 48."

But on April 13, 2020, when a Christian minister passed away on Easter weekend, they reported the news this way: "Prominent VA Pastor Who Said, 'God Is Larger Than This Dreaded Virus,' Dies of COVID-19."

The implied message is that he was a fool to suggest that God is great and let's hear it for the virus for teaching him a lesson.

But, editorial opinion aside, that rag can't even get its facts straight. The other day, it claimed that most Americans are spending their stimulus checks to buy food and gas. Americans aren't driving anywhere, so why on earth would they be buying gas? As some wag pointed out, these days most of us are getting three weeks to a gallon.

■ 4,300 inmates

Here in L.A., the county's sheriff released 4,300 inmates out of concern that the virus might spread through the prison system. So, he decided that on balance, it made more sense to let them loose on society, where I guarantee you they will wreak more havoc on innocent people than the virus would have wrought on the guilty.

The virus may or may not have killed a few more criminals, but it wouldn't rob or rape anybody or sexually abuse anyone's children.

■ Cut off funding to WHO

It's great news that the President has decided to cut off funding to the World Health Organization. Next, I would hope, once the virus is in our rearview mirror, that he will fire Anthony Fauci. The little ferret served as the chief cheerleader for the vile WHO and its left-wing China-loving director, the extraordinarily corrupt Dr. Tedros.

■ Thankful for Secret Service

Thank God that the Secret Service is apparently the one federal agency whose members take their oaths seriously. Otherwise, I have no doubt that Donald Trump would have joined Abe Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy, on the list of assassinated presidents long before now. Instead, his enemies have had to settle for trying to assassinate the great man's character.

What I find most noteworthy about the list is that the murders took place in 1865, 1881, 1901 and 1963. In other words, in a matter of just 36 years, three presidents were killed. And we think we live in violent times!

■ Recent memes

Of the recent memes, my two favorites included one showing Obama telling Biden: "I'm endorsing you Joe" and Joe replying: "For what?"

The second was a text message reading: "My husband and I decided we don't want to have children. We'll be breaking the news to them at dinner tonight."



"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 Lisa Mascaro titled "Pelosi: States, Cities Seek \$1 Trillion to Avert Layoffs From Virus" was posted at apnews.com on April 30, 2020.

Federal reserve

■ An article by Nick Timiraos titled "Fed's Powell Says More Spending Will Be Needed From Congress" was posted at wsj.com on April 29, 2020.

Coronavirus and civil liberties

- An article by Chris Matthews titled "After Coronavirus, the U.S. Will 'Never Return to Free-Market Capitalism As We Knew It,' Says Guggenheim's Miner" was posted at marketwatch.com on April 27, 2020.
- An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "Barr Memo: 'The Constitution Is Not Suspended in Times of Crisis' " was posted at townhall.com on April 28, 2020.

Stimulus checks

- An article by Charles Davis titled "Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the Lone Democrat to Vote Against the Latest Stimulus Bill, Tells Republicans to Start Legislating 'Like Rent Was Due' " was posted at businessinsider.com on April 23, 2020.

Finances

- An article by Brian Sozzi titled "Home Depot Co-Founder [Bernie Marcus]: States Should Decide When to Reopen Economy After Worst of Coronavirus" was posted at yahoofinance.com on April 22, 2020.
- An article by Mark DeCambre titled " 'It's Going to Be Brutal,' Billionaire Mark Cuban Says of Economy's Recovery From Coronavirus, and 'There's No Way to Sugarcoat It' " was posted at marketwatch.com on April 25, 2020.
- An article titled "Billionaire Barry Diller Says 'No Chance' of Economic Rebound by Fall, Calls Trump a 'Witch Doctor' " was posted at cbsnews.com on April 26, 2020.
- An article by Lianna Brinded titled "Coronavirus Marks the Real Beginning of the End of Cash" was posted at yahoo.com on April 26, 2020.
- An article by Jacob Passy titled "3 Million Americans Are Skipping Mortgage Payments, but Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Will Cut Mortgage Servicers a Break" was posted at marketwatch.com on April 26, 2020.
- An article by Colin Beresford titled "Used-Car Buyers Could See Big Savings If They Time Purchases Right" was posted at caranddriver.com on April 25, 2020.
- An article by Rob Wile titled "Official Florida Jobless Claims Rise by 326,000—Most of Any State" was posted at miamiherald.com on April 30, 2020.
- An article titled "New Vehicle Sales Continue Downward Slide in April, Edmunds Forecasts [Worst Sales in 30 Years]" was posted at edmunds.com on April 30, 2020.

Are coronavirus deaths accurate?

- An article by Nina Schwalbe titled "We Could be Vastly Overestimating the Death Rate for COVID-19" was posted at weforum.org (World Economic Forum) on April 4, 2020.
- An article by Jacqueline Howard titled "US Coronavirus Death Count Likely An Underestimate" was posted at cnn.com on April 6, 2020.

■ An article by John Burn-Murdoch, Valentina Romei and Chris Giles titled "Global Coronavirus Death Toll Could Be 60% Higher Than Reported" was posted at ft.com on April 26, 2020.

Coronavirus and religion

■ An article by Alex Woodward titled "Coronavirus: Pastor [Pentecostal Preacher Tony Spell] Under House Arrest Defies Stay-At-Home Order and Holds Packed Church Service [in Louisiana]" was posted at independent.co.uk on April 26, 2020.

Green New Deal

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

Illegal immigration

■ An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Democrats Working Hard to Give Taxpayer Money to Illegal Aliens" was posted at townhall.com on April 23, 2020.

■ An article by Michael Stratford titled "Democrats: [Education Secretary Betsy] DeVos Overstepped by Blocking Emergency Aid to Undocumented College Students" was posted at politico.com on April 27, 2020.

■ An article titled "Gov. Newsom Ordered by California Supreme Court to Defend \$75 Million Giveaway to Illegal Immigrants" was posted at foxnews.com on April 28, 2020.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Stephen Gutkowski titled "Federal Judge Rules California Ammo Law Unconstitutional" was posted at freebeacon.com on April 24, 2020.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Wayne Allyn Root titled "Are You Enjoying Your First Test Drive of Socialist America?" was posted at townhall.com on April 26, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by James Stansbury titled "Virginia Wants to Allow COVID-19 Research With Aborted Fetal Tissue" was posted at americanthinker.com on April 24, 2020.

■ An article by Griffin Connolly titled "Retired Republican Senator Jeff Flake Will Vote for Biden Over Trump and Says GOP Needs 'A Sound Defeat' in 2020 Election" was posted at independent.co.uk on April 28, 2020.

■ An article by Reid Wilson titled "Governors in All 50 States Get Better Marks Than Trump for COVID Response" was posted at thehill.com on April 30, 2020.

■ An article by Liz Peek titled "As Biden Struggles, Hillary Waits for the Call" was posted at thehill.com on April 30, 2020.

- An article by Beth Baumann titled “[Adam] Schiff: Thousands of Americans Are Dead Because We Didn’t Successfully Impeach and Remove Trump” was posted at townhall.com on April 25, 2020.
- Looking back to March, an article by Alexander Bolton titled “McConnell: Impeachment Distracted Government From Coronavirus Threat” was posted at thehill.com on March 31, 2020.
- An article by Robby Soave titled “*The New York Times* Is Extremely Skeptical of Tara Reade’s Sexual Assault Accusation Against Joe Biden; Imagine That” was posted at reason.com on April 12, 2020.
- An article by Robby Soave titled “*New York Times* Editor [Dean Baquet] Excuses Paper’s Slow Tara Reade Coverage: ‘Kavanaugh Was a Running, Hot Story’ ” was posted at reason.com on April 14, 2020.
- An article by Alanna Vagianos titled “Potential Joe Biden VP Candidates Largely Silent on Latest Tara Reade Revelations” was posted at huffpost.com on April 28, 2020.
- An article by Matt Wilstein titled “Don Lemon [of CNN] Grills Stacey Abrams on Joe Biden Sexual Assault Allegation” was posted at thedailybeast.com on April 28, 2020.
- An article by Hayley Miller titled “New York Times Refutes Biden Campaign’s Reported Talking Points on Tara Reade Allegation” was posted at huffpost.com on April 29, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Pelosi Defends Biden Amid Tara Reade Allegations” was posted at reuters.com on April 30, 2020.

News about the media

- An article by Julio Rosas titled “[MSNBC Host] Nicole Wallace Sees Silver Lining in Wuhan Coronavirus Pandemic: It Hurts Trump Politically” was posted at townhall.com on April 24, 2020.
- An article by Lindsey Ellefson titled “MSNBC’s Mika Brzezinski Rails Against Fox News ‘Puppets’ for ‘Endangering Lives’ With Coronavirus Coverage” was posted at thewrap.com on April 24, 2020.
- An article by Reed Richardson titled “Fox News Cuts Ties With Trump Superfans Diamond and Silk After Pair Pushed Covid-19 Conspiracies” was posted at mediaite.com on April 27, 2020.
- An article by Lee Moran titled “Chris Hayes [of MSNBC] Delivers 7-Minute Takedown of Fox News’ ‘Coronavirus Trutherism’ ” was posted at huffpost.com on April 29, 2020.
- An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled “CBS, NBC Rail Against Red States for Reopening, Shelter Blue States From Scorn” was posted at newsbusters.org on April 27, 2020.

- An article by Kristine Marsh titled "Whoopi: Trump 'Suggesting' Kids Drink Bleach, Like Nazi Death Camp Doctor" was posted at newsbusters.org on April 27, 2020.
- An article by Gabriel Hays titled " 'Take Disinfectant & Drop Dead': Celebs Rip Trump Voters As Nazi-Sympathizers" was posted at newsbusters.org on April 27, 2020.
- An article by Corinne Weaver titled "Facebook Fact-Checker: Trump 'Did NOT Urge People to Inject Disinfectants' " was posted at newsbusters.org on April 27, 2020.
- An article by Brad Slager titled "Curious Why US News Networks Are Supportive of Chinese Government? Just Look at the Corporate Ownership" was posted at townhall.com on April 24, 2020.
- An article by Alexandra Canal titled "Why Coronavirus Could Lead to the Demise of Cable TV As More Consumers Cut the Cord" was posted at yahoo.com on April 25, 2020.

General interest

- An article by Don Reisinger titled "There's Evidence That Kids Stuck in Quarantine May Experience Higher Levels of Depression and Anxiety" was posted at businessinsider.com on April 24, 2020.
- An article by Bill Bostock titled "The World's Largest Vaccine Maker [the Serum Institute of India Which Produces 1.5 Billion Vaccine Doses a Year] Is Producing 40 Million Units of a Coronavirus Vaccine on Trial in Oxford, Without Knowing Whether It Works" was posted at businessinsider.com on April 27, 2020.
- An article by Kate King titled "People Were Leaving New York City Before the Coronavirus; Now What?" was posted at wsj.com on April 26, 2020.
- An article by Isobel Asher Hamilton titled "Jeff Bezos [of Amazon Is Worth \$140 Billion] Is Now Twice As Rich As Mark Zuckerberg [of Facebook Is Worth \$70 Billion]" was posted at businessinsider.com on April 29, 2020.



Isaiah 55:6-11—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."