

Eye on the World

May 23, 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 23, 2020.

Compiled by Dave Havar

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).



A Reuters article by Lisa Barrington titled "Wear a Mask or Face Jail in Kuwait and Qatar" was posted at reuters.com on May 17, 2020. Following is the article.

Kuwait and Qatar both said on Sunday they would start jailing people or fining them thousands of dollars for failing to wear a facemask to combat the novel coronavirus.

Kuwait's health ministry said anyone caught could face up to three months in prison, while Qatar state TV reported the maximum penalty there would be three years.

In Kuwait the maximum fine stood at 5,000 dinars (\$16,200) and in Qatar 200,000 riyals (\$55,000).

- \$1.00 = 0.3090 Kuwaiti dinars
- \$1.00 = 3.6650 Qatar riyals

The six Gulf states have reported a total of more than 137,400 infections with 693 deaths from the virus. Cases in the region were initially linked to travel but later saw a spread among low-income migrant workers in cramped quarters.

Saudi Arabia, with a population of around 30 million people, has the largest count at more than 54,700 cases with 312 deaths.

Qatar, a nation of some 2.8 million, has the second highest infection count at above 32,600, with 15 deaths.

The United Arab Emirates has the second highest number of COVID-19 deaths among the six states at 220. It has reported more than 23,350 cases.



An article by Nikhil Inamdar titled "Coronavirus: Can India Replace China As World's Factory?" was posted at [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) on May 17, 2020. Following is the article.

With Covid-19 infecting millions across the world, China is facing an unprecedented global backlash that could destabilise its reign as the world's factory of choice.

Its neighbor India has sensed an opportunity and is keen to make inroads to a space it hopes China will vacate sooner rather than later.

China's weakened global position is a "blessing in disguise" for India to attract more investment, transport minister Nitin Gadkari said in a recent interview. The northern state of Uttar Pradesh, which has a population the size of Brazil, is already forming an economic task force to attract firms keen to ditch China.

India is also readying a pool of land twice the size of Luxembourg to offer companies that want to move manufacturing out of China, and has reached out to 1,000 American multinationals, Bloomberg reported.

"This outreach has been an ongoing process," Deepak Bagla, chief executive of Invest India, the government's national investment promotion agency told the BBC. "Covid will only accelerate the process of de-risking from China for many of these companies."

The US-India Business Council (USIBC), a powerful lobby group that works to enhance investment flows between India and the US, also said that India has significantly stepped up its pitch.

"We are seeing India prioritize efforts to attract supply chains, both at central and state government level," Nisha Biswal, President of USIBC and the former assistant secretary of state for south and central Asian affairs in the US Department of State, told the BBC.

"Companies that already have some manufacturing in India may be earlier movers in reducing output in plants in China and scaling up in production in India."

But things are still at an evaluation stage and decisions are unlikely to be made in a hurry, she added.

In an environment where global balance sheets are fractured, relocating entire supply chains is easier said than done.

"Many of these companies are facing severe cash and capital constraints because of the pandemic, and will therefore be very cautious before making quick moves," independent economist Rupa Subramanya said.

According to Rahul Jacob, a long-time China watcher and former *Financial Times* bureau chief in Hong Kong, the Indian government putting together

land banks is a step in the right direction, but large companies are unlikely to move their operations just because land is made available.

“Production lines and supply chains are far more sticky than most people seem to understand. It is very difficult to pull them apart overnight,” he said.

“China offers integrated infrastructure like large ports and highways, top quality labor and sophisticated logistics, all of which are critical factors to meet strict deadlines that international companies operate on.”

Another reason India might not be the obvious choice for global multinationals is because it isn't well integrated with major global supply chains.

Last year Delhi pulled out of a crucial multilateral trade agreement with 12 other Asian countries, collectively known as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), despite seven years of negotiations. Decisions like these make it difficult for Indian exporters to benefit from tariff-free access to destination markets or offer reciprocity to its trading partners.

“Why would I make something that I want to sell to Singapore in India? Being connected in trade agreements institutionally is as important as offering competitive prices,” Parag Khanna, author of *The Future is Asian*, told the BBC.

Regional integration is particularly crucial he believes, as global trade begins to follow the “sell where you make” model where companies so-called “near-source” rather than out-source production and bring it closer to demand.

India's volatile relationship with foreign direct investment (FDI) and uneven regulation is also something that continues to bother global companies.

From prohibiting e-commerce companies to sell non-essential items and tweaking FDI rules to disallow easier capital flows from neighboring countries, the fear is that India has used the pandemic to build protectionist walls around itself.

In a recent address to the nation, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made “be vocal for local” his rallying cry. New stimulus proposals meanwhile have increased thresholds for foreign companies bidding for Indian contracts.

“The more that India can improve regulatory stability, the better its chances of persuading more global businesses to establish hubs in India,” says Mr. Biswal.

So then who, if not India?

As things stand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, South Korea and Taiwan seem to be favorites to benefit from the backlash against China. The latter two at the “high-tech end of the spectrum” and Vietnam and Bangladesh at the lower end, according to Mr. Jacob.

Image caption President Trump has blamed China for not doing enough to stop the spread of the coronavirus

Multinationals began moving production out of China into these countries nearly a decade ago due to rising and environmental costs. The slow exodus has only gathered pace as US-China trade tensions have increased in recent years.

Since June 2018, a month before the trade war began, US goods imports from Vietnam have soared by more than 50% and those from Taiwan by 30%, according to calculations made by the South China Morning Post newspaper.

India is seen to have lost out because it failed to create conditions allowing multinationals to supply not only the local market, but also to use the country as a production base to export to the world.

In recent weeks, several states have begun making moves to address some concerns around the ease of doing business—prime among them being making contentious changes to India’s archaic laws, put in place to reduce exploitation.

Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh states, for instance, have suspended significant protections exempting factories from even maintaining basic requirements like cleanliness, ventilation, lighting and toilets.

The intention is to improve the investment climate and attract global capital.

But such decisions could become counterproductive and hurt rather than help, says Mr. Jacob: “International companies would be very wary about this. They have strict codes of conduct on, environment and safety standards for suppliers.”

The 2013 collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory in Bangladesh that supplied retailers like Walmart was a turning point. It forced Bangladesh to significantly improve factory infrastructure and safety to clinch more investment, he cautions.

“India has to follow better standards. These are white board ideas drafted on Powerpoint by bureaucrats who are completely divorced from the reality of global trade.”

But with the US weighing punitive action against China, Japan paying its corporations to move out of the country and UK lawmakers coming under pressure to reconsider their decision to allow Chinese telecoms giant Huawei a role in building the country’s new 5G data network, global anti-China sentiment is increasing.

The time is ripe, say experts, for India to undertake broad-based structural reforms and use these sweeping geopolitical shifts to modify its trading relationship with the world.



Looking back to 2014, an article by Liat Clark titled “Bill Gates: Poverty Eradicated by 2035 and Innovative Pharma Growth in India, China and Brazil” was posted at wired.co.uk on Jan. 21, 2014. Following are excerpts of the article.

Bill Gates is an optimistic philanthropist. He has predicted that almost no country will be in poverty by 2035, and has issued high praise to the vaccine world’s unsung heroes—Indian, Brazilian and Chinese pharmaceutical companies that are continuing to innovate and challenge traditional players in the sector.

The comments were made in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s annual letter and a blog for the World Economic Forum ahead of its annual meeting in Davos this week [2014].

The first was written as a call for others' sustained optimism, and Gates used it to dispel three myths he says hold people back from donating to worthy causes.

- Number one: Poor countries will remain poor no matter what we do.
- Number two: Foreign aid is a waste of tax money, and will be misspent because of corruption or lead to an unhealthy dependency.
- Number three: Saving lives leads to overpopulation.

Barring war and political issues (such as those in North Korea), Gates says: "I am optimistic enough about this that I am willing to make a prediction. By 2035, there will be almost no poor countries left in the world. Almost all countries will be what we now call lower-middle income or richer. Countries will learn from their most productive neighbors and benefit from innovations like new vaccines, better seeds, and the digital revolution. Their labor forces, buoyed by expanded education, will attract new investments."

Gates goes on to explain that US foreign aid is just one percent of national budget, that the US spends 60 times more on the military than on health aid and that corruption among recipients is a rarity, no matter what the papers say.

These solutions will partially come in the form of financial aid, but as with anything it's where that aid is going.

Gates has made a point of marking out India, Brazil and China's pharmaceutical industry for its innovations and progress. As with many of the best innovations, part of these countries' success is down to necessity.



Looking back to 2019, an article by Matthew J. Belvedere titled "Bill Gates: My 'Best Investment' Turned \$10 Billion Into \$200 Billion Worth of Economic Benefit" was posted at [cnbc.com](https://www.cnbc.com) on Jan. 23, 2019. Following is an excerpt of the article.

Investing in global health organizations aimed at increasing access to vaccines creates a 20-to-1 return in economic benefit, billionaire Microsoft MSFT co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates told CNBC [in Davos] on Wednesday [Jan. 23, 2019].

Over the past two decades, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has donated "a bit more than \$10 billion" into mainly three groups: The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

"We feel there's been over a 20-to-1 return," yielding \$200 billion over those 20 or so years, Gates told CNBC's Becky Quick on "Squawk Box" from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "Helping young children live, get the right nutrition, contribute to their countries—that has a payback that goes beyond any typical financial return."

As a comparison, Gates echoed what he wrote in an essay in *The Wall Street Journal* last week under the banner "The Best Investment I've Ever Made,"

saying that same \$10 billion put into the S&P 500 would have grown only to \$17 billion over 18 years, factoring in reinvested dividends.



Looking back to April, an article by Jason Gale titled "Potential Coronavirus Drugs Cost As Little As \$1.00, Study Says" was posted at bloomberg.com on April 10, 2020. Following is the article.

Potential coronavirus treatments could be made for as little as \$1, well below their typical price tags in pharmacies, according to an analysis of nine drugs in clinical trials.

If their promise is confirmed in ongoing studies, medicines for Covid-19, including hydroxychloroquine, which President Donald Trump touted as a treatment, and Gilead Sciences Inc.'s remdesivir could be manufactured from \$1 to \$29 a course, a study published Friday in the Journal of Virus Eradication found.

Results of randomized, controlled trials of several new treatments will emerge in the next three months. If the drugs show promise, there is a potential to massively scale up production and provide low-cost generic supplies worldwide, said Andrew Hill, a senior visiting research fellow in the pharmacology department at Liverpool University and a co-author of the paper.

"At these low prices, anyone needing treatment for coronavirus, in any country, should be able to access the treatment they need," Hill said in an email. Some of these drugs are sold for hundreds of times more than the cost of production, particularly in the U.S., he added.

"We urgently need worldwide access to effective antiviral treatments for coronavirus to hold back the epidemic for the next 18 months until a vaccine can be produced," Hill said.

"We already know how to mass produce and distribute low-cost drugs to treat HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. It is time to repeat these success stories for coronavirus, but this time much more quickly."

Manufacturing costs were estimated for nine drugs considered to be leading candidates for the treatment of Covid-19 based on recent reviews and analysis of ongoing clinical trials, Hill and his co-authors said.

Hepatitis, HIV

Minimum costs of production were estimated from the prices of active pharmaceutical ingredients using established methodology, which had good predictive accuracy for medicines for hepatitis C and HIV among others, according to the study.

Estimated manufacturing costs are shown below.

- Drug (chemical name)—Cost per treatment
- Chloroquine—\$0.30
- Hydroxychloroquine—\$1
- Azithromycin—\$1.40
- Lopinavir/ritonavir—\$4
- Sofosbuvir/daclatasvir—\$5
- Remdesivir—\$9
- Favipiravir—\$20
- Pirfenidone—\$31
- Tocilizumab—n/a

“This pricing study shows clearly that potential medicines to treat COVID-19 are not at all expensive to produce and could be priced such that anyone who needs treatment should be able to access it,” said Jessica Burry, a pharmacist with medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres’ Access Campaign, in a statement.



An article by Hayley Dixon and Harry Yorke titled “Risk of Coronavirus Spreading in Schools ‘Extremely Low,’ [Australian] Study Finds” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on May 17, 2020. Following are excerpts from the article.

Coronavirus does not spread widely in schools, according to a major study being considered by [Australian] Government advisers.

The research looked at 18 infected teachers and students in 15 schools and found that despite them coming into contact with 863 people at the schools, only two had been infected.

It is the only major study of transmission among children and teachers and shows that the spread of the virus is “limited” in classrooms.

Previous studies have suggested that younger children are likely to only contract a mild form of coronavirus and do not play a major role in the spread of the disease, but this is the first time the spread of Covid-19 in primary and secondary schools has been directly studied.



Looking back to March, an article by Jane Gerster titled “5 Things More Likely to Kill You in Canada Than Coronavirus” was posted at globalnews.ca on March 20, 2020. Following is an excerpt from the article.

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- Cancer
 - Cardiovascular Disease
 - Accidents Including a Car Crash
 - Flu
 - Suicide



“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 Chris Jewers titled “Fury in Germany As Thousands Join Protests Across Country Over Lockdown Measures and a Vaccine Plan by Bill Gates As Angela Merkel’s Popularity Falls” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on May 16, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Swim But Don’t Sunbathe; French Riviera Beach Reopens With Post-Lockdown Rules” was posted at reuters.com on May 16, 2020.
- An article titled “India Extends Coronavirus Lockdown by Two Weeks” was posted at bbc.com on May 17, 2020.
- An article by Jorge Guerrero titled “In Spain, Bar Bot Serves Up Contact-Free Beers” was posted at afp.com on May 20, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Stephanie Nebehay titled “China Defends Handling of Coronavirus, Backs Review of Global Response Under WHO” was posted at reuters.com on May 18, 2020.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “Trump to WHO: Commit to Major Reforms or U.S. Will Stop Funding Permanently and ‘Reconsider’ Membership” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 18, 2020.
- An article by Alexandra Ma titled “China Outplayed the World on the Day It Was Meant to Face a Reckoning Over Its Coronavirus Response” was posted at businessinsider.com on May 19, 2020.
- A Reuters article by David Brunnstrom and Humeyra Pamuk titled “[Mike] Pompeo Calls China Virus Response ‘Paltry’ Compared to Damage Done” was posted at reuters.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article titled “Chili Virus Cases Soar As Soldiers Deploy Following Unrest” was posted at afp.com on May 19, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Preacher Who Claimed Christians Immune to Virus Appears in Myanmar Court [for Organizing Services in Defiance of a Ban on Gatherings]” was posted at reuters.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Ed Mazza titled “Pastor [in Cameroon] Who Claimed to Cure Coronavirus With Faith Dies of Coronavirus” was posted at huffpost.com on May 21, 2020.
- An article titled “Quarantine and a Monitoring Bracelet for Hong Kong Returnees” was posted at fox5ny.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article titled “Algeria Cracks Down on Facebook Activists” was posted at afp.com on May 20, 2020.

- An article titled “ ‘License to Kill’: Inside Rio’s [Rio De Janeiro] Record Year of Police Killings [1,814 People Killed by Police Last Year]” was posted at thetodaynews.com.pk on May 18, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Dominique Patton and Colin Packham titled “China Hits Australia With Barley Tariff in Latest Blow to Relations” was posted at reuters.com on May 18, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Iran Supreme Leader Says Americans Will Be Expelled From Iraq and Syria” was posted at reuters.com on May 17, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Iran Will Support Any Nation or Group That Fights Israel: Supreme Leader” was posted at reuters.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Julian Borger titled “Palestinian Leader Mahmond Abbas Ends Security Agreement With Israel and U.S. [Citing Imminent Threat of Israel Annexation of Parts of West Bank]” was posted at theguardian.com on May 19, 2020.
- An article titled “UAE Cargo Plane [Etihad Airways] Lands in Israel ‘for First Time’; Carrying Coronavirus Aid for Palestinians” was posted at yahoo.com on May 20, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “U.S. to Sell Taiwan \$180 Million of Torpedoes, Angering China” was posted at reuters.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Antony Sguazzin titled “Mass Elephant Deaths Baffle Home of World’s Largest Herd [in Botswana Which Is a Landlocked Nation in Southern Africa]” was posted at bloomberg.com on May 20, 2020.



An article by Kevin D. Williamson titled “No Oil Bailout Is Worth the Green New Deal” was posted at nationalreview.com on May 14, 2020. Following is the article.

“Oil is dead.” So goes the wishful thinking of the Left in Canada. And not just in Canada.

Canada’s oil industry, like others around the world, has taken a beating. Before the coronavirus epidemic, prices already were low and declining, with U.S. shale producers fracking the world into oil abundance, sending prices down from over \$100 a barrel in 2014 to less than \$30 a barrel just two years later.

Reasons for decline

- The failure of the joint Saudi–Russian effort to cut production sent prices down even more.
- Then came the coronavirus epidemic, which cut demand off at the legs and sent oil prices all the way down to \$0.00 and then briefly into negative territory as oil traders looked to escape paying storage costs for the unprofitable commodity.

In Canada, resistance from the Left

In Alberta, the Canadian energy heartland, oil is the economic lifeblood. But efforts led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of the Liberal Party to provide emergency assistance to the oil industry—just as his government is assisting many other industries—ran into resistance from the Left.

Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet, engaged in textbook question-begging, insists that oil is “condemned” and that the government should not provide any assistance to firms “that will not be self-sufficient in any time in the future.”

Elizabeth May of the Green Party put it bluntly: “Oil is dead.” She suggested funding a transition program for Alberta’s energy-sector workers and then letting the oil business die of not-quite-natural causes.

U.S. industry not looking for help

- Unlike their Canadian colleagues, the leaders of the U.S. oil industry aren’t really looking for help.

- They’ve been through a price crash before—it was the stupendous output enabled by the shale revolution, not the epidemic, that brought down oil prices to begin with—and they learned to adjust. The big oil companies have diversified operations, and they do not live or die by the daily price of crude.

“Any effort by government will come with a very high price from the Democrats,” says Thomas Pyle of the American Energy Alliance. “They’ll want to trade that for parts of the Green New Deal, which is a bad deal for us.”

Pyle says that some producers, especially smaller firms, might benefit from the same sort of assistance offered to businesses in any other industry, but that protectionist measures such as tariffs and subsidies are help that’s not wanted. Any help that is offered, he argues, should be general rather than industry-specific.

The Left hates oil industry

But the true believers of the Left have a very industry-specific view of the oil business—they hate it and wish to see it destroyed. It is not only Canadian progressives eager to see an entire industry go under: The Obama administration took roughly the same view of coal, a perennial bogeyman for the Left.

- Conservatives have pointed to the suffering and economic ruination of the coronavirus quarantine as a preview of the so-called Green New Deal, which is less a legislative proposal than a slop bucket into which almost any left-wing priority can be poured.

It may be necessary, conservatives say, for government simply to mandate that important economic activities come to a halt, but this is what it looks like.

Left sees virus helping change

The Left, in turn, insists that what is good for a virus crisis in the here and now is good for a climate crisis at some point in the future, and that with the right leadership—always that—the command-and-control policies adopted as

emergency measures during the epidemic can be reconstituted as a world-wide decarbonization project.

“Give us the power of the Trump administration,” they say, “and we’ll do better with it than Donald Trump did.” Conservatives hear Rahm Emanuel whispering about never letting a good crisis go to waste.

The progressives are absolutely certain about the mandate, as they tend to be, but remain a little fuzzy on the details even as the new emergency-powers rhetoric sweeps the Democratic Party from the top to the bottom.

Arn Menconi, a Democrat running for state office in Colorado, insists that the epidemic “has proved we can afford the Green New Deal.” The “proof” includes unemployment expected to peak above 20 percent and an unprecedented spike in federal debt, which might easily be taken for proof of the opposite.

Biden supports green

Joe Biden is singing from the same hymnal as the Democratic Socialists of America, with the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee promising “an FDR-size presidency,” as *New York* magazine put it, and endorsing expensive proposals for “immense green enterprises.”

Biden has hardly even snorted in the direction of accounting for the costs of all that, probably because his advisers have realized that he does not have to: This is to be a moral crusade, pure and simple, begun in a fog of terror and anxiety.

Virus and climate change

The political opportunism here is impossible to miss.

Helen Mountford of the World Resources Institute told *Bloomberg* that the current crisis presents “a great opportunity now to transition more quickly.”

■ The political strategy is to present the coronavirus epidemic and climate change as a continuity of crisis.

And so Mountford describes the possibility of getting the economy up and running again without imposing a new political discipline on it as “coming out of one health crisis and trying to boost the economy by leading us into another health crisis in terms of air pollution and climate change.”

There is a kind of magical transference at work there.

Not existential threat

The Left’s climate-change story has been around for a long time, and, despite efforts to inflate global warming into the dispositive and final crisis of capitalism, the world has stubbornly declined to treat it as an existential threat and adopt the hysteria and obedience that the Left demands.

This is true not only of the purported cowboy capitalists of the United States or right-wing populists. It is Justin Trudeau who is working to save Canada’s oil industry, not some snowbound northern reincarnation of Clayton Williams.

“If we are to move forward in transforming our economy towards lower emissions and clean processes, workers and innovators in Alberta and across the country in the energy sector are going to be an essential part of that transition,” Trudeau tells Global News.

Beating back Green New Deal

Beating back Green New Deal shenanigans and affirming the role of the oil-and-gas industry ought to be a political dunk for the Trump-era Republican Party.

Setting aside the complicating fact that U.S. energy independence is really North American energy independence—Canada and Mexico are our top two national suppliers of petroleum, which the United States continues to import because many of our refineries still are optimized for relatively high-sulfur imported oil rather than the “light sweet” stuff from Texas—this is an opportunity so simple and clear that even Republican candidates for public office should not be able to get it entirely wrong.

Real-world industry or a pet project?

It pits a successful real-world industry creating and sustaining hundreds of thousands of jobs—many of them in swing states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania—with real-world names and faces attached to them against a pet project of the Davos set, one that has achieved quasi-religious status among affluent elites but hardly registers at all in the polls.

In the January Gallup survey of top issues informing voters’ choices in the 2020 election, climate change was second from last, ahead only of gay rights and far behind such concerns as the budget deficit, taxes, and immigration.

Warm house or fuzzy feelings?

The question of energy vs. the Green New Deal is a question of real things you can see vs. possible things someone might imagine, your warm house vs. the warm fuzzy feeling of self-righteousness, people you know vs. people you don’t.

“We think these decisions should be made on the basis of financial accounting, not ideological,” says Frank Macchiarola of the American Petroleum Institute.

Not seeking a bailout

The oil industry has generally supported policies such as the CARES Act and efforts to inject liquidity into the financial markets, but has resisted industry-specific measures as being likely to distort markets and impede long-term recovery.

“We’re not advocating additional policy measures, or any economic or financial relief, directly targeted toward the oil and gas industry,” Macchiarola says. “We believe this is a challenge across the economy.”

■ The current situation is painful, but the U.S. oil industry believes that in the long term the numbers are on its side.

■ With a growing world population and a growing global middle class, energy consumption is expected to increase by as much as 20 percent in the next 20 years—and half of that energy will come from oil and gas.

That matters for the cost of filling up your F-150, but it also matters for the diplomatic, security, and trade position of the United States. The day before yesterday, the big worry was our “dependence on” or “addiction to” despised “foreign oil.”

From depletion to abundance

Technological innovations have made the United States the biggest oil and gas producer around, and our short-term problem right now is that we have more oil than anybody wants and nowhere to put it. The problem of depletion has become the problem of superabundance. That’s a better problem to have.

Canada is likely to end up doing something for its oil producers. But the situation in Alberta is an excellent illustration of why you do not want major industries to be dependent upon the whims of politics.

Even after the long-term decline in prices from the shale boom, the shock of the Saudi–Russian price war, and the cratering demand from the coronavirus shut-down, the major oil producers in the United States are, for the most part, asking to be left alone, or for oil businesses to be treated like any other businesses.

There is value in that kind of resilience, which should be even more obvious in uncertain times such as these.



An article by Joseph Vazquez and Gabriel Hays titled “#Privileged: A Billion Ways Hollywood Lefties Hate Americans Who Want to Go Back to Work” was posted at newsbusters.org on May 20, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

In one of the richest counties in America, hundreds of cars line up for food assistance. It’s a scene repeated around the country.

But mega-millionaire actor Robert De Niro wants the economy to stay shut down, warning of “a global ecological collapse.”

Business owners have been fined or jailed from New York to California just for trying to serve their customers, but to fat cat celebrities Rob Reiner and Kathy Griffin, these people are ignorant “patriots” who are angry they can’t get their “hair done” or go “golfing.”

In all, more than 36 million Americans are newly unemployed following the nationwide shutdown due to the coronavirus. And Hollywood couldn’t care less. Struggling Americans protesting lockdowns have become the brunt of jokes and the subject of mockery for insulated entertainment industry millionaires.

Eleven Hollywood lefties—whose combined net worth is a whopping \$1,109,000,000—have ripped Americans who support or are desperate for the economy to reopen.

All 11 are multi-millionaires who couldn't care less if they have to hunker down with their luxurious wealth while the rest of America suffers.

Though millions of ordinary people are suffering, some arrogant, conservative-bashing stars smeared protesters as a bunch of selfish jerks who want to get their "hair done" or "go golfing."

The hypocrisy is staggering. The Hollywood hypocrites below are ranked and listed in terms of their calculated net worth.

- Robert De Niro—Net Worth is \$500 million
- Bette Midler—Net Worth is \$250 million
- Rob Reiner—Net Worth is \$100 million
- Whoopi Goldberg—Net Worth is \$60 million
- Jimmy Kimmel—Net Worth is \$50 million
- Michael Moore—Net Worth is \$50 million
- Joy Behar—Net Worth is \$30 million
- Kathy Griffin—Net Worth is \$30 million
- Ron Perlman—Net Worth is \$15 million
- Patton Oswalt—Net Worth is \$14 million
- Alyssa Milano—Net Worth is \$10 million

Ordinary Americans have been without work across the country for at least two months now.

Many are so desperate to return to work that they're risking arrest or other forms of punishment and surveillance from local bureaucracies, not to mention they are risking catching coronavirus.

But there's hardly a single word of empathy for these struggling folks from these multi-millionaire entertainers, which is ironic considering many of them flaunt their concern for the weak and disenfranchised on social media constantly.

More than 36 million Americans are unemployed as of the publication of this article. These people are the disenfranchised and marginalized. This is the crisis.



An article by Andrew Keshner titled "This Is How Fast Americans Are Spending Their Stimulus Checks—And Here's a Breakdown of What They Are Buying" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 18, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

When Americans received stimulus checks during the Great Recession, studies indicated many spent at least a portion of their money on cars.

During the 2008 stimulus program, up to 90% of the rise in durable good spending had to do with auto spending, according to previous research by the American Economic Association.

(At that time, the government paid an individual between \$300 and \$600 and couples received between \$600 and \$1,200. The government paid \$300 per child as well.)

When Americans received their \$1,200 stimulus check, as many have used it to keep a roof over their head and food on the table, according to new research by a team of economists.

In late March, lawmakers passed the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act, which included \$290 billion in direct payments. The program allowed \$1,200 for people making less than \$75,000 and couples making less than \$150,000. It also paid \$500 per child.

"Given the size of the 2020 stimulus checks, we might have expected large impacts on categories like automobile spending, electronics, appliances, and home furnishings," according to economists at Columbia University, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago and the University of Southern Denmark.

"Instead, it seems that individuals are catching up with rent and bill payments as well as engaging in spending on food, personal care, and nondurables."

Looking at the spending and saving habits of more than 1,600 people who received their stimulus check by April 21 in an approximate 6,000-person sample, the researchers found:

- In the first three days after the stimulus-check receipt, spending increased between \$50 to \$75 apiece on expenditures like food and non-durable goods, a category that includes supplies like laundry detergent, pens, paper and other items with a shorter life span.
- During that same time, the purchase of durable goods increased by \$20 in those first three days. This category includes cars, appliances, furniture and others things meant for longer use.
- On the whole, households spent around one quarter to one third of their stimulus check money within 10 days of receipt.
- If people had less than \$500 in their account, they went through almost half of their money within 10 days. People with over \$3,000 in their accounts had essentially no extra spending after getting their check.
- A person who made less than \$1,000 a month was twice as likely to spend money after getting their check, compared to someone making at least \$5,000, researchers noted. That fits a historical pattern from past stimulus programs, the study said.

It's too soon to see what the stimulus checks accomplish for families and the economy as a whole, Columbia Business School Professor R. A. Farrokhnia, the study's co-author, told *MarketWatch*. "What we can tell for fact is consumer behavior is different," compared to their 2008 stimulus spending habits.

On Wednesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said 40% of people in households making less than \$40,000 per year in February lost their jobs

in March. When April's rent came due, nearly one-third of renters struggled to pay it, data said.

The Internal Revenue Service has distributed more than 128 million checks and paid over \$218 billion as of early May.



An article by [Black Conservative] Larry Elder titled "Cue the 'Race' Hysteria" was posted at townhall.com on May 21, 2020. Following is the article.

In February, a black man named Ahmaud Arbery was shot and killed in Brunswick, Georgia. Cue the "this regularly happens to black men in America" hysteria.

Initial news reports described Arbery as jogging through a predominately white neighborhood when two armed white men, for reasons still under investigation, told police they thought Arbery was actually a criminal behind recent break-ins in the neighborhood.

Arbery, while jogging, stopped and spent several minutes at the construction site of an unfinished home. He resumed jogging, but two adult men, a father and his son, followed him in a truck. A confrontation between Arbery and one of the armed men left Arbery dead, shot three times.

One of the men involved in the shooting is an ex-cop and former investigator for the district attorney's office. Because of ties to one of the alleged shooters, two prosecutors recused themselves, allowing the case to drag on.

Then, in early May, came a video showing part of the confrontation.

- Ironically, an attorney and professional colleague of the elder accused says he downloaded the video onto a thumb drive, which the accused then personally delivered to a local radio station, mistakenly assuming the public would see the armed men as having acted lawfully.

- Instead, the video had the opposite reaction and sparked condemnation of the local authorities for failing to bring charges. Shortly thereafter, the men, a father and son, were charged with murder.

The case was then turned over to a grand jury, but because of the coronavirus pandemic, the grand jury has yet to convene. All of this added to the growing feeling that this case was being covered up.

So, cue the racial hysteria.

Before the men were charged, NBA basketball star LeBron James tweeted: "We're literally hunted EVERYDAY/EVERYTIME we step foot outside the comfort of our homes! Can't even go for a damn jog man! Like WTF man are you kidding me?!?!?!?!?! No man fr ARE YOU KIDDING ME!!!! I'm sorry Ahmaud (Rest In Paradise) and my prayers and blessings sent to the heavens above to your family!!"

“We’re literally hunted EVERYDAY/EVERYTIME we step foot outside the comfort of our homes”?

Really?

Two weeks ago, in a store in Flint, Michigan, a security guard and father of nine asked a woman to put on a mask. She refused. He asks her to leave the store. She leaves. Her husband and her adult son soon return. The guard was fatally shot in the back of the head.

Days ago, in Delaware, a black man is suspected of murdering an elderly couple, an 86-year-old Army vet and his 85-year-old wife, who were visiting their son’s grave at a veteran’s cemetery. In the Flint killing, all parties were black. In the Delaware double homicide, the shooter was black, and the couple was white.

In 2018, according to the FBI’s Bureau of Justice Statistics, there were about 600,000 nonhomicide violent black-white crimes each year, with 90% involving a black perpetrator and a white victim.

According to economist John Lott, writing in 2014: “Based on the most recent available FBI crime numbers, black male teenagers were nine times more likely to commit murder than were their white counterparts. That’s right, nine times, and the gap in these urban areas is undoubtedly even larger.”

Blacks kill twice as many whites (500 in 2015) as whites kill blacks (229 in 2015).

Blacks, at 13% of the population, commit 50% of murders, and 90% of black murder victims are killed by other blacks.

The *Wall Street Journal’s* Jason Riley wrote in 2014: “Blacks commit violent crimes at 7 to 10 times the rate that whites do. The fact that their victims tend to be of the same race suggests that young black men in the ghetto live in danger of being shot by each other, not cops.”

The No. 1 cause of preventable deaths for young white men is accidents, like car accidents.

The No. 1 cause of deaths, preventable or otherwise, for young black men is homicide.

In absolute numbers, Chicago often has more murders than any other city in America. The population of Chicago is approximately one-third black, one-third white and one-third Hispanic. Yet, blacks account for over 80% of the city’s homicide victims.

As to this narrative of blacks being “hunted,” several recent studies found cops more hesitant, more reluctant to shoot a black suspect than a white suspect. One such study was conducted by black Harvard economist Roland Fryer, who called his conclusion the most “surprising result of my career.”

As for LeBron James, his work in the black community shows how much he cares. But his biggest contribution is that he married the mother of his children. If he encouraged young black men to follow that example, he’d make a far greater contribution than by promoting racial victimhood.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Modern Day Heroes” was posted at patriotpост.us on May 16, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

For far too long, we’ve become accustomed to thinking that heroes only pop up on battlefields and football fields. Lately, we’ve come to understand that doctors and nurses also deserve medals and trophies and our appreciation.

■ Sheriffs in Virginia

But there are others. For instance, there are those sheriffs in Virginia and elsewhere who are refusing to enforce their governors’ unconstitutional infringements on the Second Amendment.

In part, the Founding Fathers created a totally unnecessary controversy when they drew up the second of our inalienable rights. It reads, as I’m sure you all know: “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

If only the entire Amendment consisted of those final 14 words, we’d all be a lot better off. Without that opening rationale, the Leftists wouldn’t be able to argue that individual Americans aren’t part of a Militia. Frankly, I don’t know why they felt the need to explain the purpose of that right when they didn’t feel called upon to explain the logic behind any of the others.

■ Shelley Luther in Texas

I don’t have a lot of heroes, but I have just recently added a name to the short list. It’s Shelley Luther. She doesn’t wield a gun or a stethoscope, just a comb and a curling iron. But she’s got plenty of what Tom Wolfe attributed to the astronauts, the right stuff.

She’s the owner of the Salon a la Mode in Dallas who was arrested and sentenced to a week in jail and fined \$7,000 for opening her business before the authorities gave her permission.

She followed the rules about limiting the number of people allowed in her salon at any one time and maintaining the 6-foot distancing between her customers. But that cut no ice with Judge Eric V. Moyés, a black liberal activist, who gave her the opportunity to avoid jail time if she would admit what she had done was wrong and apologize for “being selfish.”

Instead, she explained that being shut down for two months had eaten up her savings and she had two children at home who needed to be fed. So, no, the Texas patriot replied, she wouldn’t apologize for believing that two hungry kids trumped executive orders.

Shortly prior to her incarceration, Dallas released a thousand prisoners, lest they contract Covid-19. So, Judge Moyés was sending her into an environ-

ment where the authorities felt she might die, all because she had helped a small number of Texas ladies get over two months of bad hair days.

I'm sure, the Judge would have preferred that Ms. Luther be locked in a stock in the public square so people could pelt her with ripe tomatoes, but, unfortunately, those contraptions had pretty much gone out of style after the Salem witch trials. But then, one would have hoped, so had judges like Cotton Mather and Eric Moyés.

In a just world, Shelley Luther would run against Moyes and win. Then she could be a judge and feed her kids quite well on the \$150,000-a-year salary and even wear her bathrobe to work.

I should add that Texas Governor Greg Abbott rescinded his executive order, but only after Ms. Luther had spent two nights in jail. It shouldn't take a backlash from the people to force a Republican governor to stop behaving like a typical Democrat with fascistic leanings.

■ Cuomo explained C-19 virus

New York Gov. Cuomo told me more about the C-19 virus in one report than Anthony Fauci and Deborah Birx have in two months.

In a detailed report about his state, he said that of the thousands of people hospitalized 1% were in the prison system; 2% were from the homeless population; 22% from assisted living facilities; and a whopping 66% from those who had remained quarantined in their homes and apartments!

He also broke down by age those who had been hospitalized: 0-10 years, 1%; 11-20, 2%; 21-50, 8%; 51-60, 14%; 61-70, 20%; 71-80, 19%; 81-90, 14%; 91+, 6%.

Since New York has been the state hardest hit by the virus, the numbers are significant. They are not a small sample. They tell us that staying indoors is dangerous. They also tell us that it's only those over 50, and particularly over 60, who have been in gravest danger.

And yet none of those facts seem to have influenced the regulations laid down by the experts and the politically-motivated governors and mayors and members of Congress.

■ Trying to stretch out shutdown?

Speaking of which, anyone who thinks that Schumer, Pelosi and their Democratic colleagues aren't stretching out the shutdown because they know the best—perhaps the only—way to derail Trump's re-election is by destroying the nation's economy are naïve at best, incredibly stupid at worst.

■ Biden and "always be believed"

Although I wish we could get rid of the Education Department, Secretary Betsy DeVos has recently undone the damage that Joe Biden did when he was Barack Obama's righthand flunkey. It was Biden who pressured America's col-

leges and universities to deny male students accused of sexual assault their right to defend themselves against the vile charges.

It was Biden's mission to guarantee that female accusers would always be believed and that their male targets would always be punished, turning the concept of due process and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty on its head.

It was merely Biden's way of wooing well-heeled radical feminists so they would support him on that future date when he'd be running for president.

But, now, thanks to Tara Reade's accusation, Biden is grateful that his policy only covered campuses and wasn't national policy. It is amusing, though, to see the likes of Hillary Clinton, Mazie Hirono, Kamala Harris and all the others who were carrying the torches and lynch rope when Brett Kavanaugh stood accused, lining up behind Biden, insisting that every woman needs to be believed unless the person being targeted is a Democrat.

As for Biden's reversal, it's proof that an old dog can learn new tricks, especially when it's his bone that's in jeopardy.

■ Moved factories to China

Bill Clinton picked up where Richard Nixon had left off, when he allowed China to join the World Trade Organization. We now know that he played nice with China because they were helping to finance his re-election campaign. It didn't matter to him, George W. Bush or Barack Obama, that China took advantage of our goodwill gesture by moving our factories to their country, costing us two million manufacturing jobs; absconding with a major portion of our pharmaceutical industry; continuing to steal our intellectual property; and manipulate their currency, the better to beat our brains out on trade deals.

■ Getting out of WHO?

Missouri's Josh Hawley, who is quickly becoming one of the two or three best GOP senators, is working to get us out of the WTO.

Like the UN and the WHO, the WTO is one more entangling foreign alliance that Washington and Hamilton warned us against.

■ How about defending these rights?

I never had much use for the A.C.L.U., but it has only grown worse with the passage of time. Today, when the State is employing its powers to deny citizens their civil liberties, even going so far as to shut down churches and synagogues, and arresting and fining ministers, rabbis and their congregants, in violation of the First Amendment, the group is devoting all its attention to making mail-in ballots the norm, in order to make it easier for Democrats to employ voter fraud to win elections.

It would be a move in the right direction if they stopped defending the rights of bums and addicts to use our city streets as their urinals, and, instead, pressured governors and state legislatures to once again enforce vagrancy

laws and provide the mentally incompetent with asylums where they could be treated and safely housed.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Biden, Then & Now" was posted at patriotpост.us on May 18, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

So far as I'm concerned, too much attention is being paid to Biden's possibly boorish behavior in 1993 and not enough to his questionable activities as the Vice-President between 2009 and 2017 and his loutish kerfuffle with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in 1982.

Biden might be forgiven for kissing up to Obama for eight years, that being the main function of vice-presidents.

■ Threatened to cut aid to Israel

Going back to the 80s, Buz Chertok sent me a heated exchange between Sen. Biden and P.M. Begin. Biden was threatening to cut off U.S. aid to the Jewish nation if Begin didn't agree to remove his people from the so-called settlements. Begin refused to be bullied. He suggested Biden was out of line and reminded him that Israel required the aid in order to defend itself against the two hundred million Arab and Muslim enemies that surrounded the tiny nation and added that it would never expect a single American soldier to risk his life in her defense.

Biden was livid. But thanks to Ronald Reagan, Israel received the funds.

But I partly blame Israel. I always thought it was dumb to refer to Israeli communities as settlements. It made them sound temporary which, in fact, in too many cases they proved to be as one foolish Israeli administration after another kept trying to buy peace by relinquishing territory.

■ Second amendment battle

Virginia, where the electorate were happy to turn a blind eye to Gov. Ralph Northam's appearing in black face and Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, who has a black face, but was accused by two women of rape, is in the midst of a battle over the Second Amendment.

Culpeper County Sheriff Scott Jenkins reports that State Senator Janet Howell has a plan to hit back at recalcitrant sheriffs who refuse to enforce unconstitutional laws that infringe on the Second Amendment. Apparently, Senator Howell has introduced a bill that would remove their pensions for living up to their oaths to defend the Constitution.

Sheriff Jenkins has also been personally targeted for saying that before he would dis-arm law-abiding citizens, he would swear in thousands of them as deputies.

■ Authoritarian instincts on display

It's growing increasingly alarming how many governors, mayors and other state officials, are putting their authoritarian instincts on display these days, whether it's denying people the right to defend themselves against robbers and rapists or denying them their inalienable First Amendment right to attend church services.

■ Good question

Greg Palko wonders, if masks work, why businesses need to be closed. And if they don't work, why are we being forced to wear them?

■ Plastic bags in California

Here in California, we have gone full-circle. Whereas, plastic bags were once outlawed, thanks to the virus, they are back in groceries. In fact, those reusable bags they insisted we buy and use are now verboten. Now, we have to only use their thin plastic bags. What's more, we have to pay 10 cents each for them.

■ Good answer

According to Howard Last, when a six-year-old was asked why he thought the schools were closed, he guessed it was because they had run out of toilet paper.

It sounded like a more logical reason than any of the others I've heard. Perhaps we should draft him to debate with Joe Biden.

■ Surprise ending

Dennis Stockton sent along the following joke from Australia. At least I think it's a joke.

Little 8-year-old Mary was in the backyard filling in a hole when her nosy, obnoxious neighbor peered over the fence and asked her what she was doing.

"My goldfish died," the little girl said through her tears. "I've just buried her."

The neighbor laughed and said, condescendingly: "Don't you think that's an awfully big hole for an itty-bitty goldfish?"

Mary patted down the last bit of earth with her shovel and replied: "That's because she's inside your cat."



Looking back to April, an article by Wes Papaport titled "Texas Military: COVID-19 Is a 'Different Type of Event' Than Other Deployments [of National Guard]" was posted at kxan.com (Austin) on April 7, 2020. Following is an excerpt of the article.

■ Helping with drive-through testing operations

■ Assisting to identify bed capacities

- Partner with agencies to distribute personal protection equipment and other commodities
- Major General Tracy Norris: No planning for any mission that would require the Texas National Guard to be armed.



“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 Ryan McMaken titled “Spending Has Exploded [\$3.3 Trillion for First 7 Months of Fiscal Year] and Here’s How High the Deficit Has Climbed [\$737 Billion for April Alone and \$25 Trillion for Year]” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 19, 2020.

Federal reserve

- An article by Sunny Oh titled “Fed Says Risks to the Financial System Are Worrying Insiders” was posted at marketwatch.com on May 16, 2020.
- An article by Ranjeetha Pakiam and Elena Mazneva titled “Gold Jumps to 7-Year High After Fed’s Warning on Stocks, Growth” was posted at bloomberg.com on May 18, 2020.
- An article by Susan Jones titled “Fed Chair Powell Expects Economy to Recover Steadily Through Second Half of 2020” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 18, 2020.

Coronavirus and civil liberties

- Looking back to March, an article by Simon Chandler titled “Coronavirus Could Infect Privacy and Civil Liberties Forever” was posted at forbes.com on March 23, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled “Oregon Governor Kate Brown’s Shady Way of Shutting Down Businesses—Sticking CPS [Child Protective Services] on Parents” was posted at townhall.com on May 16, 2020.
- An article by Brad Slager titled “Democrats Drunk With Pandemic Power Could Be Undercutting Themselves Come November” was posted at townhall.com on May 16, 2020.
- An article by Jack Baer titled “[NFL Quarterback] Aaron Rodgers Says He Has Questions About Coronavirus Self-Isolation, Compares It to ‘House Arrest’ ” was posted at yahoosports.com on May 17, 2020.

- An article by Merrill Matthews titled "Will Government Mandate COVID-19 Vaccinations?" was posted at thehill.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Bob Barr titled "H.R. 6666 [House Bill Involving Testing and Tracking] May Not Be Satanic, But It Is Devilish" was posted at townhall.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Kristin Tate titled "Wuhan Flu Lockdowns Are Teaching Local Police to Manhandle Citizens" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 21, 2020.

Coronavirus and religion

- An article by Tristan Justice titled "Democrat Governors Start to Reopen Bars and Casinos While Limiting Church Services" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 21, 2020.
- An article by Aris Folley titled "Two Southern Churches [in Georgia and Texas] Forced [by Their Choice] to Reclose After Leaders, Congregants Get Coronavirus" was posted at thehill.com on May 19, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Dan Whitcomb titled "U.S. Department of Justice Warns California Governor Over Pandemic Church Closings" was posted at reuters.com on May 19, 2020.
- An article titled "Attorney: 1,200 California Pastors Agree to Reopen May 31 in Defiance of Stay-at-Home Order" was posted at cbsbayarea.com on May 21, 2020.
- An article titled "Mississippi Church [in Holly Springs] Suing on Virus Restrictions Burns Down [Suspected as Arson]" was posted at usatoday.com on May 21, 2020.

Stimulus checks

- An article by Tanza Loudanback titled "Instead of Relief Checks, 4 Million Americans Will Get Prepaid Debit Cards This Week, Treasury Says" was posted at businessinsider.com on May 18, 2020.

Finances

- An article by Dr. Rand Paul and Andy Biggs titled "Anthony Fauci Wants America Closed Until There's Nothing to Reopen" was posted at usatoday.com on May 21, 2020.
- An article by Christopher Rugaber and Danica Kirka titled "Coronavirus-Triggered Layoffs in US Hit Nearly 39 Million" was posted at apnews.com on May 21, 2020.
- An article by Jacob Roshgadol titled "Survey: 30% of Americans Have Raided Retirement Savings During Coronavirus Lockdown [Having Withdrawn an Average of \$6,757.20 Between March 1 Through May 1]" was posted at studyfinds.org on May 16, 2020.
- An article by Lolita C. Baldor titled "Thousands Defer Plans to Leave the Military During [Financial] Crisis" was posted at apnews.com on May 18, 2020.

- An article by Jacob Passy titled "Over 4 Million Americans Are Now Skipping Their Mortgage Payments" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 18, 2020.
- An article by Kelly Tyko titled "J.C. Penney Says It Plans to Close Nearly 29% of Stores (or 242 Locations) As Part of Its Bankruptcy" was posted at usatoday.com on May 18, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Hilary Russ titled "As Coronavirus Crushes Small Restaurants, Big Chains See Room to Move In" was posted at reuters.com on May 19, 2020.
- An article by Diana Olick titled "Weekly Mortgage Applications Point to a Remarkable Recovery in Home Buying" was posted at cnbc.com on May 20, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Alex Lawler titled "Oil at Highest Since March on Lower U.S. Inventories, Recovering Demand" was posted at reuters.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Irina Slav titled "Oil Soars on Bullish EIA Inventory Report" was posted at oilprice.com on May 20, 2020.

Coronavirus and professional sports

- An article by Will Leitch titled "It's Probably Not Safe for Sports to Come Back; It Doesn't Matter [Because Owners and Players Desire Money]" was posted at nymag.com on May 19, 2020.
- An article titled "Sudden Vanishing of Sports Due to Coronavirus Will Cost at Least \$12 Billion, Analysis Says" was posted at espn.com on May 1, 2020.
- An article by Dayn Perry titled "MLB [Major League Baseball] Owners Claim They'll Lose More Than \$600 K Per Game Without Fans, Report Says" was posted at cbssports.com on May 18, 2020.
- An article by Craig Calcaterra titled "Blake Snell [Major League Pitcher] Says He Won't Risk His Life for Reduced Pay [From \$7 Million 2020 Salary]" was posted at nbc sports.com on May 14, 2020.
- An article by John Romano titled "Your Honor, My Client (Blake Snell) Pleads Temporary Stupidity" was posted at tampabay.com on May 14, 2020.
- Looking back to March, an article by David Close, Amanda Jackson and Jason Hanna titled "NBA Suspends Season After Jazz Center Rudy Gobert Tests Positive for Coronavirus" was posted at cnn.com on March 12, 2020.
- Looking back to April, an article by Adrian Wojnarowski titled "NBA Players to Receive 25% Less in Paychecks Starting May 15" was posted at espn.com on April 17, 2020.
- Looking back to April, an article by Nick Ziegler titled "Los Angeles Lakers: LeBron James Wants to Finish the Season [Because He Wants a Championship in His Quest to Be Like Michael Jordan]" was posted at lasportshub.com on April 30, 2020.
- An article by Ben Rohrbach titled "The NBA's Great Debate: Revenue vs. Safety" was posted at yahoosports.com on May 15, 2020.

■ An article by Mark Maske titled “NFL ‘Will Have Positive Cases’ in Bid to Play Season Amid Pandemic, League’s Top Medical Officer Says” was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on May 19, 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](https://www.foxnews.com) on July 12, 2019.

Illegal immigration

■ An article by Brianna Provenzano titled “California Is the First State to Offer COVID-19 Aid to Undocumented Immigrants” was posted at [refinery29.com](https://www.refinery29.com) on May 18, 2020.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Nick Keppler titled “Gun Sales Are Up Across Appalachia” was posted at [yesmagazine.org](https://www.yesmagazine.org) on May 11, 2020.

■ An article by Chuck Goudie, Barb Markoff, Christine Tressel and Ross Weidner titled “Illinois Gun Sales Surge Amid Coronavirus Pandemic, Shop Owners Say; Upswing Echoed Nationwide” was posted at [abc7chicago.com](https://www.abc7chicago.com) on May 18, 2020.

■ An article by Michael W. Chapman titled “Report: 1,797,910 Firearms Sold in April 2020—a 71.3% Increase Over April 2019” was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 20, 2020.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled “Geraldo Rivera: Do You Hate Trump’s Medicine Just Because You Hate Trump?” was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 21, 2020.

■ An article by Margot Cleveland titled “Susan Rice’s Email Proves FBI Had No Legitimate Reason to Question [Michael] Flynn” was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on May 20, 2020.

■ An article by Kristian Skurk titled “6 Ways the Obama Administration Railroaded the Rule of Law to Destroy Michael Flynn” was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on May 20, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Dominic Patten titled “Barack Obama Pummels Unnamed Donald Trump Over ‘Why Things Are So Screwed Up’ in ‘Graduate Together’ Commencement Speech” was posted at [deadline.com](https://www.deadline.com) on May 16, 2020.

■ An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “Biden Slams Trump for Cuba’s Human Rights Council Candidacy; [Yet] Under Obama Cuba Was Elected 3 Times” was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 18, 2020.

■ An article by Jeanine Santucci titled “Lindsey Graham Pushes Back on Trump’s Call to Have Obama Testify About Russia, Flynn” was posted at [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) on May 14, 2020.

- An article by Alan Smith titled "Barr Says It's Unlikely Justice Department Will Investigate Obama or Biden" was posted at nbcnews.com on May 18, 2020.
- An article by Kyle Cheney titled "Lindsey Graham Seeks Broad Authority to Subpoena Former Obama Officials" was posted at politico.com on May 18, 2020.
- An article by Will Weissert titled "Biden's VP Search Puts Spotlight on How Long He'll Serve" was posted at apnews.com on May 17, 2020.
- An article by Kenny Xu titled "California Democrats Try to Legalize Racial Discrimination During Pandemic" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 21, 2020.
- An article by Andrew Naughtie titled "[Former Presidential Candidate] Marianne Williamson Endorses Nancy Pelosi's Left-Wing Opponent [Mr. Shahid Buttar]" was posted at independent.co.uk on May 18, 2020.
- An article by Alex Thompson titled "Progressives Thought They'd Over-taken the Democratic Party; Now They're in Despair" was posted at politico.com on May 18, 2020.

News about the media

- Looking back to April, an article by Geoffry Dickens titled "Journalists Coldly Claim Trump and GOP Want Thousands to Die" was posted at newsbusters.org on April 21, 2020.
- An article by Joe Schaeffer titled "NBC News Chief and the Left's New Hero Andy Lack Takes on Trump" was posted at libertynation.com on April 30, 2020.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "[Mark] Levin: 'Media Seem Confused About Their Own Reporting' Implicating Obama's WH in Surveillance of Flynn" was posted at cnsnews.com on May, 18, 2020.
- An article by Ted Johnson titled "Political Commentator Karine Jean-Pierre Joins Joe Biden's Campaign; Will No Longer Be NBC or MSNBC Contributor" was posted at deadline.com on May 20, 2020.

General interest

- An article by Charles Davis titled "Michigan Declares An Emergency After 2 Dams Collapse Threatening a Town [Midland] With 9 Feet of Flooding" was posted at businessinsider.com on May 19, 2020.
- An article by Chaffin Mitchell titled "State of Emergency Declared, Evacuations Underway for 10,000 Residents in [Midland] Michigan Following Dam Failure" was posted at accuweather.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article titled "Willis Tower [in Chicago] Still Without Power After Floods" was posted at nbccchicago.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Janet Adamy titled "U.S. Birthrates Fall to Record Low" was posted at wsj.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Alison Sider, Benjamin Katz and Mike Cherney titled "The New Airline Travel: Fewer Flights, More Layovers, Rules for Bathrooms" was posted at wsj.com on May 18, 2020.

- An article by Amy Graff titled “More Than 500 Earthquakes Rattle Western Nevada After 6.5 Hit Less Than a Week Ago” was posted at sfgate.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Brendan Farrington titled “Florida Panhandle Beach [Grayton Beach State Park; 23 Miles East of Destin] Named Top in US by ‘Dr. Beach’ ” was posted at nbcmiami.com on May 21, 2020.
- An article by Taylor Dolven titled “No Information, No Way Off; 100,000 Crew Members Remain in Cruise Ship Limbo for Months” was posted at miamiherald.com on May 17, 2020.
- An article titled “Royal Caribbean [Cruise Company] Loses \$1.4 Billion in First Quarter” was posted at apnews.com on May 20, 2020.
- An article by Alan Boyle titled “Judge Clears the Way for Salvagers to Open Up the Titanic [Which Sank in 1912 Killing 1,500 People] and Retrieve Marconi Radio” was posted at geekwire.com on May 19, 2020.
- Looking back to April, an article by ABC7.com Staff titled “LA Doctor [Dr. Anthony Cardillo] Seeing Success With Zinc and Hydroxychloroquine to Treat COVID-19” was posted at abc7.com on April 7, 2020.
- An article by Brian P. Dunleavy titled “Zinc Might Boost Effectiveness of Malaria Drug [Hydroxychloroquin] Against COVID-19, Experts Say” was posted at upi.com on May 13, 2020.
- An article by Kurt Helin titled “Isiah Thomas Regrets It, Laimbeer Does Not; Pistons Refusal to Shake Hands [When They Lost to the Chicago Bulls] Sparks 30-Year-Old Controversy” was posted at nbcsports.com on April 27, 2020.
- An article by Nico Martinez titled “Only 3 Players From the Bad Boy Pistons [Joe Dumars, Vinnie Johnson and John Salley] Congratulated the Bulls and Didn’t Walk Off the Court” was posted at fadeawayworld.net on April 28, 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.”