

Eye on the World

Feb. 26, 2022

This compilation of material for “Eye on the World” is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Feb. 26, 2022.

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 Dennis Prager titled “Is Canada Becoming Cuba?” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 22, 2022. Following is the article.

Canada is leaving the Western world.

In terms of all-encompassing government, suppression of dissent and the denial of fundamental human rights to many of its citizens, Canada is now more similar to Cuba than to any free country. Canada may eventually return to Western civilization, but as of this writing the majority of Canadians appear to have no interest in it doing so. According to Maru Public Opinion, “two-thirds (66%) of Canadians support Prime Minister Justin Trudeau bringing in the Emergencies Act . . . A majority (56%) of Canadians do not support the truckers who are protesting in any way, shape, or form . . . This is a majority view held in every province/region across the country.”

I suspect that most Americans—and certainly most people outside of America or Canada—do not know precisely what Canada’s Marxist prime minister, Justin Trudeau, is doing to his country.

So allow me to review.

Last week, for only the second time in Canadian history other than wartime—the first time was under Justin Trudeau’s father, Pierre Trudeau, the other

Marxist to govern Canada—Justin Trudeau invoked the Emergencies Act. This statute enables a Canadian prime minister to suspend fundamental human rights and rule as a dictator.

The CBC described in detail how Trudeau is using the Emergencies Act to destroy the lives of Canadian dissidents. This should be read carefully. Such policies have never been enacted by a Western country against its own citizens (with the extremely rare exceptions of those actively engaged in terrorism):

“Using powers granted under the Emergencies Act, the federal government has directed banks and other financial institutions to stop doing business with people associated with the anti-vaccine mandate convoy occupying the nation’s capital.

“The government’s new directive, called the ‘emergency economic measures order,’ goes beyond asking banks to simply stop transferring funds to protest organizers. The government wants banks to stop doing business with some people altogether.

“The order says that banks and other financial entities (like credit unions, co-ops, loan companies, trusts and cryptocurrency platforms) must stop ‘providing any financial or related services’ to people associated with the protests—a move that will result in frozen accounts, stranded money and canceled credit cards.

“The Emergencies Act gives authorities the power to freeze the finances of those connected to blockades and protests, and the consequences could last long after the demonstrations end . . .

“The regulation’s definition of a “designated person” also includes . . . anyone sending funds to support these protests . . .

“Mark Blumberg is a lawyer at Blumberg Segal LLP who specializes in non-profit and charity law. In an interview, he said that, while the Emergencies Act gives banks time-limited powers, these institutions ‘may just decide to shut the person’s account down’ because there could be ‘huge risks’ for banks servicing these customers in the future. Banks will be working with law enforcement to decide who should be ‘de-banked.’

“A senior government official said . . . police could gather the names and license plate numbers of people participating in a protest or an unlawful assembly and share that information with FINTRAC (Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada) . . .

“Former CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service) senior strategic analyst Jessica Davis (said) ‘the people who are participating in the protest aren’t going to be able to do things like pay bills, pay their hotel bills. They will eventually run out of supplies as well . . .

“With access to bank accounts and credit cards and other financial instruments suspended, protesters won’t be able to pay for things like hotel and fuel bills . . .

“Over the longer term, Davis said, it may be hard for some of the truckers participating to ever find work again because they could lack the necessary

insurance to operate a big rig. 'Paying bills, paying rent and any kind of day-to-day financial transaction can be stopped for people who are part of the protest movement,' she said. There may also be some 'unintended consequences' from frozen accounts, such as suspended alimony and child support payments, Davis said. 'It's going to be very difficult for them.'

"Banks have been granted immunity against legal action in the event of disputes over whether someone should have been denied financial services. 'No proceedings under the Emergencies Act and no civil proceedings lie against an entity for complying with this Order,' the regulations read."

None of these life-ruining, due-process-defying measures is necessary. The truckers' demonstrations could have been ended by arresting drivers who would not move their trucks or simply just towing their trucks. The purpose of these regulations is to destroy dissenters and deter future dissent. In a word, it is to ruin the lives of those who disobey Justin Trudeau.

As one who has followed Canadian life over the decades—I have lectured in nine of Canada's 10 provinces—the moral descent of Canada is depressing but not especially surprising. Since I was in college in the 1970s, I traveled abroad every year of my life except in 2020—to some 130 countries. I not only took interest in the countries I visited but in the tourists who visited them. I recall well that when I was young, many young Canadians stitched a Canadian flag onto their backpacks. As almost no tourists from other nations did that, I asked Canadians why they did. Their reason was to identify themselves as Canadian rather than as American.

I am not the first observer of Canadians to note that a major part of Canadian identity—especially among Canadian elites—is being a not-American. Many Canadians were and remain first and foremost not-Americans. Other than that, not much defines Canadians. And when a nation stands essentially for nothing, bad things eventually happen—because nothingness is eventually filled or replaced by bad.

On my radio show, I once asked the late Charles Krauthammer, one of the most insightful commentators of this era, what he saw as the greatest difference between his native Canada and his adopted country, the United States. Without hesitation, he said that in America the national motto is "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," and in Canada it is "Peace, Order, and Good Government."

The first inspires a nation. The second doesn't.

Upon the death of Fidel Castro, Justin Trudeau gave the most positive assessment of the Cuban tyrant of any Western leader. It is worth quoting in full because it demonstrates Trudeau's affection for communism and because Trudeau is transforming Canada into Cuba:

"It is with deep sorrow that I learned today of the death of Cuba's longest-serving President. Fidel Castro was a larger than life leader who served his people

for almost half a century. A legendary revolutionary and orator, Mr. Castro made significant improvements to the education and healthcare of his island nation.

"While a controversial figure, both Mr. Castro's supporters and detractors recognized his tremendous dedication and love for the Cuban people who had a deep and lasting affection for 'el Comandante.'

"I know my father was very proud to call him a friend and I had the opportunity to meet Fidel when my father passed away. It was also a real honor to meet his three sons and his brother, President Raul Castro, during my recent visit to Cuba.

"On behalf of all Canadians, Sophie and I offer our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and many, many supporters of Mr. Castro. We join the people of Cuba today in mourning the loss of this remarkable leader."

There does remain one major difference between Canada and Cuba. Few Cubans support their Marxist leaders, but most Canadians support theirs. They don't know what they're in for.



An article by Kurt Schlichter titled "Trudeau's Canadian Fascism Is a Bigger Threat to America Than Putin" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 24, 2022. Following is the article.

Putin has sent has 100K+ troops into the fake separatist regions of Ukraine, and that's bad. But the morphing of Canada into a fascist state before our eyes is exponentially worse. A garbage elite on our border—with the disgraceful support of 65% of American Democrats—has declared war upon the working class, outraged that mere peasants are refusing to submit to their betters. Due process, free speech, not beating the brains out of old ladies with walkers—these basics have gone by the wayside and our senile president, with his coterie of aspiring Castros—though Castro was potent enough to impregnate Trudeau's trash mommy while our ruling class can't make it happen unless they are on a Zoom call—have said nothing publicly. But privately, they are taking notes. They love the idea of criminalizing dissent—look at the January 6th witch trials—and they are taking notes.

And while Ukraine is bad, this is about us and our country and whether we will remain free or slide into a corporate-abetted social credit dictatorship.

I like Ukrainians. I deployed with them. I trained them in Ukraine. They like to party and they like to fight invaders. I get no problem giving them weapons to kill Russians. I hope the corpses of invaders are piled like cordwood as the Ukes channel the Finns when the Russian dictator-du-jour Stalin sent troops into reindeer land back in 1939. But the worst-case scenario if Putin takes over Ukraine—he's actually only likely to secure some strategic chunks of it, but whatever—is that Putin adds Ukraine back into the Russian sphere of influence where it has resided for centuries anyway. As obnoxious as it is, we can live with that.

But we cannot live under tyranny here. Canada is right next door, and this is a dress rehearsal for the kind of tyranny our own garbage ruling class would love to inflict here. Sadly, the majority of Canadians and their disgusting MPs seem to support treating the Anglo-Saxon legacy of human rights and democracy like Eric Swalwell treats his boxers after a chili cook-off. They have proven themselves unfit to be a free people and are happy to slide into serfdom.

I don't care what happens to a bunch of maple leaf sissies who prefer a thug-powered nanny state that suppresses dissent and scoffs at due process. I do care that this constitutes inspiration to Democrats here at home. And for that reason, on Kurt's "Things I Care About" chart, "Canadian Fascism" is number one with a bullet.

It is tougher but not impossible for this to happen here. We have protections and structures that will help prevent that from ever having to happen again, like the Constitution. Canada doesn't. Nor does it have a heritage of freedom as we do. Canada is packed with the invertebrate descendants of the crown-groveling traitors who fled when we held our last revolution. Submission is in their blood but, we can hope, not ours.

With our federalist structure, the kind of goose-stepping conformity the black-faced caudillo can impose in Canada is not possible here. You can have bastions of the kind of mini-fascism that unsatisfied suburban chardonnay women love in California and New York, but you can also have free states like Florida and Texas. That takes the pressure off—if you get tired enough you move to where there's freedom (as millions have).

We also have courts that function, at least at the SCOTUS level. Certainly, they are not perfect, but there's at least some chance that if/when the government decided to steal the money of dissenters because of Muh Emergency—everything is always an emergency that requires we give them more of our money and freedom—the Supreme Court might step in to stop it, probably 5-4. This is because we have a Constitution that recognizes that rights are not privileges the government invented and can provide or withdraw as it pleases, but are instead endowed upon us by our Creator.

And if all that fails, we have 400 million guns.

Now, our garbage ruling class hates all that. Rights are an obstacle to them, and freedom is defiance. Recently, we were informed by the regime's minions that the idea of freedom is a manifestation of white supremacy. Geniuses on Twitter offer typically inept leftist memes—leftists simply cannot meme—that our freedom does not override wussy pinkos' safety. In fact, rights override everything, including wussy leftist lives. It overrides our lives too since we would rather die fighting for them than exist without them. After all, we are not submissives from Ottawa.

But the danger is there, and that peril dwarfs the dangers of some Slavic squabble across the globe. Again, this does not mean Ukraine is unimportant; Putin's campaign will have all sorts of bad effects, though mostly for the Western Europeans who imagined that great power competition ended simply because the US imposed a Pax Americana. Sniveling weasels like the insufferable David French want to focus on Ukraine over Canada for obvious reasons—

it's much more beneficial to the ruling caste to focus on some far-flung fracas than the ruling caste's corruption, failure, and tyranny initiative here at home.

The rulers of Canada have more in common with the American establishment than with their own people, and America's establishment clearly prefers Trudeauans to those knuckle-dragging Jesus gun people who sweat when they work. The idea that what happened in Canada cannot happen here—particularly with the eager participation of corporate accomplices to create a Chi Com-esque social credit regime that punishes dissent by eliminating dissenters' ability to work and live within the economy—is ludicrous. It not only can happen here but the Democrats actively want it to.

Ukraine has its challenge, but we have our own. Good luck to Ukraine, but if it is ruled by corrupt Ukrainians—on my first trip there we were delayed because the government would not let us take off without a bribe—or by corrupt Russians is much less significant to us than the vital question of whether the dictatorship metastasizing on our northern border is going to spread into our country.

Good luck, Ukrainians. We wish you well. Kill lots of Putin's thugs. We are happy to provide you the means to do it. But we need to solve our problems here before we solve yours there. There is nothing more important than our freedom, and that's under attack right now right next door.



An article by Jeff M. Lewis titled "You Will Know Them by Their Fruits" was posted at americanthinker.com on Feb. 19, 2022. Following are excerpts of the article.

Sometimes it takes me a while for the impact of events to sink in. I try to tune out the talking heads with their conventional wisdom, and not rush to judgment. I believe that most Americans and I usually try to give most folks the benefit of the doubt. However, it is increasingly clear we can no longer do that.

With every issue, with every passing day, there is more news (when the news is honestly reported) that shows us exactly who these people are. They have anointed and installed themselves at the top of our government, from the Oval Office to each executive branch and its myriad government bureaucracies. They have established a clear pattern of behavior and are no longer hiding their motives or their intentions. Everything is on full display.

All of which reminds me of a quote from the Bible; the New Testament Gospel of Matthew, chapter 7: "Beware the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits."

Leftists are leftists, whether in America, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Venezuela, Cuba, or China. They are easily identified. We are increasingly able to discern the truth about who they are, and that they intend to rule over us or they will crush us and burn everything down around us. There is no longer any question about it.

Canada's "Freedom Truckers" have peacefully demonstrated against the oppressive covid mandates. It is no secret these mandates have had a crushing effect on the economy, the supply chain, and have caused a ripple effect throughout the labor market.

So what is a leftist dictator and wolf in sheep's clothing to do? Well, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau refused to be challenged on "the science" and the governance. There was no overture of concern when he invited the truckers to sit down with him and discuss the issue so that he could listen to their demands, or maybe even to make some half-baked, symbolic gestures of goodwill.

Nope.

- First, Trudeau ran away and hid, citing a positive test for covid.
- Then he let everyone who was listening know he's a leftist, statist dictator.
- He has continued to slander the movement by calling it "racist" and "fringe."
- Trudeau repeatedly threatened to employ the power of the state against the truckers to disperse their demonstrations—something his police finally did on Friday.

Trudeau's Stalinist-inspired machine has seized the money deposited in the truckers' GoFundMe account. Canada's version of state-controlled, propaganda ministers and Pravda media outlets have sung in collective unison to denounce the freedom movement and have made sure there is ne'er a good word uttered in favor of any of the freedoms on which they also depend.

Meanwhile, for those old enough to remember, there are clear parallels between the current uprisings of the people and the Polish Solidarity movement of the 1980s.

[Joe Biden] stepped up to the teleprompter and weighed in on the tussle north of the border, encouraging Trudeau to use his "federal powers" to disperse the peaceful demonstrations. Knowing that, would the current occupant of the Oval Office ever do to us what Trudeau is doing to the Canadians? Will he have the courage to do that to American citizens?

Bet on it, because [Joe Biden] has been complicit with the Leftist cabal that installed him, and that steers the actions and policies coming from the White House. He apparently has no problem defying the Constitution or denying the constitutional rights promised to every American citizen.

The conservative news and information consumer must know where to look for updates, but one glaring example of the Biden administration's statist, Stalinist, views of governance is the denial of due process to those who protested at the Capitol. Biden's Justice Department has kept those people locked up in a manner that utterly violates the Constitution and oath of office of the President.

Their tactics are so repetitive and predictable it is pathetic. When citizens wear the wrong color ball cap or peacefully assemble to demand a redress of grievances before the government or demonstrate against a leftist cause or policy, one can be sure they have an effective, even devastating argument when the response from the left is "racist!" or "fascist!" or any other "-ist!" The adher-

ents to leftist ideologies detest that they must debate and win their arguments in the arena of ideas so, instead, they use every dirty trick they can think of.

There is no longer any doubt: Leftists intend to govern by force, against the will of the people if need be and, according to leftists, we had better get accustomed to it.



An article by Dr. Gary M. Galles titled "Democracy vs. Liberty" was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 21, 2022. Following is the article.

In America, "democracy" or "democratic" is among the most common words used to justify or endorse positions or policies. "Democratic" is attached as an adjective whenever something is considered good politically (e.g., "our democratic way of life"), and "undemocratic" is attached to things being criticized (including almost everything that represents a loss for just about anyone).

Americans are constantly told we must fight for democracy. Leading up to elections, politicians extol the democratically expressed wisdom of the electorate they hope to represent (that those elected often then ignore or overturn). We are told that the American Revolution was for democracy, that people have died for our democratic right to vote, that each vote was crucial, that if you don't vote, you don't care about America, and so on. We even hear proposals to replace the Electoral College because it isn't democratic enough.

Such rhetoric ignores the fact that democracy can destroy liberty as well as preserve it.

- For a minor example, ask, "Would I have more or less liberty if a majority vote picked my clothes each morning and my dinner each night?"
- More importantly, ask, "Would I have more or less liberty if that was how my religion, my spouse, or my job was chosen, or how my take-home pay was determined?"

Currently, the "democratic" equals "I approve" approach has turned into a cottage industry about how America and the world face massive threats to our democracy. Good examples are President Biden's statement that "Democracy doesn't happen by accident. We have to defend it, fight for it, strengthen it, renew it," and his "Summit on Democracy" (ignoring the irony of how many things his administration has imposed or tried to impose against the wishes of most Americans). It is also illustrated by a Google search that turned up over 4.5 million hits for "threat to democracy."

Unfortunately, while democratically determining who will be entrusted with the reins of government may generally be the best hope to enable governments to change without bloodshed (although the precedent set by John Adams' acceptance of electoral defeat at the hands of Thomas Jefferson is also a critical American precedent), democracy is not America's core. Liberty is.

Democracy, from America's Founding on, has been important only insofar as it served and defended liberty. You cannot take seriously our Founders' words without coming to that conclusion (e.g., George Washington's statement that "Your union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty . . . the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other"). It is why we have the Constitution, and particularly the Bill of Rights. After all, if whatever the majority decided "democratically" at a given time were always to be law, there would be no purpose in restrictions that explicitly put certain rights against government impositions beyond majority determination. It is also why Alexis de Tocqueville wrote that liberty, not democracy, was the central reason for our country's greatness in "Democracy in America."

Today, however, many fail to recognize liberty's primacy over democracy, and the lessons history teaches us about losing liberty despite, or sometimes because of, democracy. That makes it important to refocus attention on that central issue that gets so little attention in policy discussions.

The equation of democracy with liberty fails to distinguish between two quite different things. One is whether there is excessive power in government hands. The other is how those who will administer the government will be selected. Of crucial importance is that electing those who will wield excessive power does not eliminate, or even necessarily reduce, the threats such power poses to citizens the government is supposed to protect. After all, the test of dominant preference looks a lot like "might makes right," which stands in sharp contrast with liberty. Or as James Bovard put it, "Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner." Democratic determination also means that the wishes of those who are in the minority on any issue are irrelevant to the outcome, rather than providing any significant voice in a result they will be forced to accept. Since all of us are in the minority on some issues, that is hardly an ideal to aim for.

The importance of understanding the very large gap between liberty and democracy was well expressed by F.A. Harper in his 1949 "Liberty: A Path to its Recovery": "Consider . . . all the acts of all the units of government for one day. How many among them were the proper functions of a liberal government . . . in how many instances did you have any opportunity or right to participate in the decision; if you disagreed with the decision, in how many instances was there anything that you could do about it? . . . Your 'liberty' in the process is that you enjoy the right to be forced to bow to the dictates of others, against your wisdom and conscience . . . the direct opposite of liberty."

Harper also recognized what is now driving an increasing wedge between democracy and liberty. We must remember that: "Government of even the best design should be used only where, in the interests of liberty, it becomes necessary to arrive at a singleness in pattern of conduct." When we need not all agree about our desires and the trade-offs we are willing to make—which is true for the vast majority of choices—liberty is the best democracy, in that each individual's choices matter. Substituting political democracy for economic democracy, when we need not agree on what to do, gives each of us less liberty in our lives (which is why federalism and freedom tend to increase or decrease together).

America is already far beyond what can be justified as advancing our mutual well-being. And our government seems determined to double down on how far it oversteps, a strategy which necessarily shrinks liberty and the benefits only liberty can provide. That makes it worth noting that a maximum of democracy means a minimum of reliable protection for citizens' rights, which in turn means a minimum of liberty. If we thought carefully about that, "democracy" would no longer be the go-to word for good in politics, and liberty might get more attention.



An article by Victor Davis Hanson titled "Why Is the Left Suddenly Worried About the End of Democracy?" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 24, 2022. Following is the article.

What is behind recent pessimistic appraisals of democracy's future, from Hillary Clinton, Adam Schiff, Brian Williams and other elite intellectuals, media personalities, and politicians on the Left? Some are warning about its possible erosion in 2024. Others predict democracy's downturn as early as 2022, with scary scenarios of "autocracy" and Trump "coups."

To answer that question, understand first what is not behind these shrill forecasts.

They are not worried about 2 million foreign nationals crashing the border in a single year, without vaccinations during a pandemic. Yet it seems insurrectionary for a government simply to nullify its own immigration laws.

They are not worried that some 800,000 foreign nationals, some residing illegally, will now vote in New York City elections.

They are not worried that there are formal efforts underway to dismantle the U.S. Constitution by junking the 233-year-old Electoral College or the pre-eminence of the states in establishing ballot laws in national elections.

They are not worried that we are witnessing an unprecedented left-wing effort to scrap the 180-year-old filibuster, the 150-year-old nine-person Supreme Court, and the 60-year tradition of 50 states, for naked political advantage.

They are not worried that the Senate this year put on trial an impeached ex-president and private citizen, without the chief justice in attendance, without a special prosecutor or witnesses, and without a formal commission report of presidential high crimes and misdemeanors.

They are not worried that the FBI, Justice Department, CIA, Hillary Clinton, and members of the Obama administration systematically sought to use U.S. government agencies to sabotage a presidential campaign, transition, and presidency, via the use of a foreign national and ex-spy Christopher Steele and his coterie of discredited Russian sources.

They are not worried that the Pentagon suddenly has lost the majority support of the American people. Top current and retired officers have flagrantly

violated the chain-of-command, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and without data or evidence have announced a hunt in the ranks for anyone suspected of "white rage" or "white supremacy."

They are not worried that in 2020, a record 64 percent of the electorate did not cast their ballots on Election Day.

Nor are they worried that the usual rejection rate in most states of non-Election Day ballots plunged - even as an unprecedented 101 million ballots were cast by mail or early voting.

And they are certainly not worried that partisan billionaires of Silicon Valley poured well over \$400 million into selected precincts in swing states to "help" public agencies conduct the election.

What then is behind this new left-wing hysteria about the supposed looming end of democracy?

It is quite simple. The Left expects to lose power over the next two years - both because of the way it gained and used it, and because of its radical, top-down agendas that never had any public support.

After gaining control of both houses of Congress and the presidency - with an obsequious media and the support of Wall Street, Silicon Valley, higher education, popular culture, entertainment and professional sports - the Left has managed in just 11 months to alienate a majority of voters.

The nation has been wracked by unprecedented crime and nonenforcement of the borders. Leftist district attorneys either won't indict criminals; they let them out of jails or both.

Illegal immigration and inflation are soaring. Deliberate cuts in gas and oil production helped spike fuel prices.

All this bad news is on top of the Afghanistan disaster, worsening racial relations, and an enfeebled president.

Democrats are running 10 points behind the Republicans in generic polls, with the midterms less than a year away.

Joe Biden's negatives run between 50 and 57 percent - in Donald Trump's own former underwater territory.

Less than a third of the country wants Biden to run for reelection. In many head-to-head polls, Trump now defeats Biden.

In other words, leftist elites are terrified that democracy will work too robustly.

After the Russian collusion hoax, two impeachments, the Hunter Biden laptop stories, the staged melodramas of the Kavanaugh hearings, the Jussie Smollett con, the Covington kids smear, and the Rittenhouse trial race frenzy, the people are not just worn out by leftist hysterias, but they also weary of how the Left gains power and administers it.

If Joe Biden were polling at 70 percent approval, and his policies at 60 percent, the current doomsayers would be reassuring us of the “health of the system.”

They are fearful and angry not because democracy doesn’t work, but because it does despite their own media and political efforts to warp it.

When a party is hijacked by radicals and uses almost any means necessary to gain and use power for agendas that few Americans support, then average voters express their disapproval.

That reality apparently terrifies an elite. It then claims any system that allows the people to vote against the Left is not people power at all.



An article by Matt Vespa titled “The Two Tweets From Harris and Biden About Russia That Did Not Age Well” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 22, 2022. Following are excerpts of the article.

Russia invaded Ukraine yesterday. Russian troops entered the eastern part of the country, where the two would-be Russian separatist republics were recognized as independent states by Moscow. Biden did nothing. Oh no, wait—that’s not fair. He sanctioned them, which I’m sure sent chill down Putin’s spine. Moscow knows it can inch closer and closer on this issue because Joe can’t do anything. He won’t do anything. He’s part of the old Obama era, who were kicked around all over the world because everyone knew their hand. Joe is even worse. Yet, he was Mr. ‘Tommy Toughnuts’ when it came to Russia during the 2020 election.

■ “Vladimir Putin doesn’t want me to be President. He doesn’t want me to be our nominee. If you’re wondering why—it’s because I’m the only person in this field who’s ever gone toe-to-toe with him,” Biden said in a tweet back in February of 2020.

He wants you to be president—because he knows you can’t do the job. He’s invaded. We’re running away again. And all you did was slap some sanctions.

Over the weekend, it was reported that Putin and Biden would meet for a summit on the basis that Russia does not invade Ukraine. It was one of those ‘in principle’ agreements. Yeah, that’s not happening. The Russians say there are no concrete plans on their end, and with this invasion—it’s probably not going to happen.

Yet, meeting one-on-one with the Russian president. Isn’t that a bad idea or something? That’s what Harris felt in 2018 when Trump was in office.

■ “The President [Trump] should not be meeting one-on-one with Vladimir Putin. We must hold Russia accountable for their attacks in 2016.”

Yeah, neither of these chest-beating declarations aged well.



An article by Trent Baker titled "GOP Sen. [John] Thune: Biden Energy Policy Meant to Push People Out of 'Fuel-Based Vehicles' " was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 20, 2022. Following is the article.

Sunday on New York WABC 770 AM radio's "The Cats Roundtable," Senate Minority Whip John Thune (R-SD) argued that President Joe Biden and his administration intended to "push people out of" fuel-based vehicles with their energy policy.

Thune told host John Catsimatidis that Democrats want to be more "eco-friendly," so they have decided to push people toward electric vehicles.

"I think honestly, that's part of the strategy," Thune outlined. "I think it's to push people out of, you know, fuel-based vehicles. But you are absolutely going to crush the economy and a lot of middle-income families, many of whom are not going to be able to convert to [electric vehicles]."

"The requirements that we're going to have to meet in this country for the foreseeable future are going to have to be met with fuel oil, which we have an abundance of in this country, but because of policies that are out of whack relative to what the real economy is dictating, [is] not being developed," he added. "It's unfortunate and sad that the United States of America is going to go hat in hand to countries in the Middle East like the Saudis asking them to produce more energy so that we can fuel our economy here in the United States when we can do it on our own."

Thune also slammed Biden's decision to shut down the Keystone XL pipeline and instead "support" the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

"The notion that the United States of America would shut down an American pipeline and yet . . . support one that Putin is using to keep his economy going . . . the irony of that and the absolute hypocrisy of that you can't even fathom," he concluded.



An article by Aurora Almendral titled "Lithium-Ion Batteries Are Fueling the Fire on a Burning Cargo Ship" was posted at [qz.com](https://www.qz.com) on Feb. 21, 2022. Following is the article.

The cargo ship *Felicity Ace* is aflame from bow to stern with a lithium-ion battery fire that can't be put out with water alone.

The fire has been burning since Wednesday (Feb. 16), as the ship drifts in the Atlantic about 200 miles southwest of Portugal's Azores Islands. Its 22-person crew abandoned ship and was rescued on Thursday.

The ship left Germany on Feb. 10 and headed for the U.S. with about 4,000 Porsches, Bentleys and other luxury cars aboard, and some of those were electric vehicles. It's not clear if the batteries contributed to the fire starting in the

first place—a greasy rag in a lubricant-slicked engine room or a fuel leak are the usual suspects in ship fires—but the batteries are keeping the flames going now. A forensic investigation will take months to determine the cause.

On Saturday, João Mendes Cabeças, captain of the port of Faial, the nearest Azorean island, told Reuters that the batteries in the ship's cargo are "keeping the fire alive." Cabeças added that reinforcements with specialist equipment to extinguish the fire were on their way. At the time of the interview, the fire hadn't reached the ship's fuel tank, but was closing in.

Large quantities of dry chemicals are needed to smother lithium ion battery fires, which burn hotter and release noxious gases in the process.

Pouring water onto the *Felicity Ace* wouldn't put out a lithium-ion battery fire, Cabeças told Reuters, and the added water weight could make the ship more unstable.

Lithium-ion batteries pose a special fire risk

Electric vehicle fires are rare, but pose their own kind of flammability risk, and one that becomes heightened as EVs go mainstream. Large numbers of EVs grouped together, as when they are transported by cargo ship, or electric buses parked in an overnight lot, raise the risk that one flaming battery could ignite a chain reaction in adjacent batteries. According to a research proposal at the National Academy of Sciences' Transportation Research Board, "Lithium-ion battery fire risks are currently undermanaged in transit operations."

There have been more than 35 large lithium-ion battery fires since 2018, Paul Christensen, an expert in lithium fires, told the Financial Times, including a 13-ton Tesla megapack storage battery in Victoria Australia that burned for three days. An electric ferry in Norway caught fire in 2019, and in April 2021, a battery fire at a Beijing mall killed two firefighters.

In addition, car-carrying ships and ferries can face higher risks from fires, according to insurer Allianz Global's head of marine risk. Due to the internal areas not being divided to make it easier to transport cars, when a fire starts it can spread more easily.



Looking back to January 2015, an article by Chris Isidore titled "The Obama Oil Boom" was posted at cnn.com on Jan. 28, 2015. Following is the article.

The greatest oil boom in this nation's history has occurred during the tenure of self-proclaimed environmentalist Barack Obama.

Under Obama, the steady drop in U.S. oil production which had occurred virtually unchecked since 1971 has been reversed. Crude oil production has risen every year of his administration. It has jumped 72% since he took office, producing about 3.6 million additional barrels a day during that time.

Oil production has grown so much that last summer the nation caught and passed Saudi Arabia as the world's largest oil producer. Before Obama leaves office, domestic oil production could top the U.S. record set in 1970.

A combination of new technology, primarily fracking, has unlocked oil that was previously out of reach of drillers. That, coupled with high oil prices during much of his term has encouraged investment in the oil exploration, experts say.

The administration has been a bystander during the oil boom, neither encouraging nor discouraging it, they say.

"You can't credit or blame the president [for the oil boom]," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst with the Oil Price Information Service. "It's been the twin pillars of price and technology. It's capitalism at work."

Production is up only slightly on federal lands, contributing to the boom towns in North Dakota. But most of the gains have been on private land. Meanwhile, in the face of cheaper on-shore oil, production has fallen from expensive off-shore wells leased from the federal government. Offshore production reached its peak in 2010, the year of BP's (BP) Deepwater Horizon disaster.

"This nation's energy renaissance has been totally dependent on private investment on private land," said Andy Radford, a senior policy adviser with the American Petroleum Institute.

Critics of the Obama administration, especially Republicans, have long accused him of not doing enough to encourage oil production.

President Obama speaking at an oil and gas production fields on federal lands in New Mexico in 2012.

The administration has taken some steps to limit production, including a temporary moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon disaster and support for alternative energy. It has also proposed cutting \$4 billion in yearly tax breaks on the oil industry, but that never got past Republicans in Congress. The latest fight has been over the administration refusal to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline to carry oil from Canada and North Dakota to refineries and terminals on the Gulf Coast.

But the Obama administration has not tried to block the growth in fracking. This week it announced plans to allow offshore oil drilling along the Atlantic Coast from Virginia to Georgia. It would be the first time offshore drilling would be allowed there. The proposal brought criticism from Obama's usual allies in the environmental community and the oil industry complained that it didn't open enough offshore areas to drilling,

Despite environmentalists' anger over the offshore drilling proposal, Athan Manuel, a lobbyist for the Sierra Club, says the administration has been a friend to the environment on oil issues.

He could have done more to regulate fracking, he said, but even with much tougher rules "the fracking boom would have happened."

“It’s harder to regulate on private land,” said Manuel. “With Bush we were fighting over drilling on public land.”

Especially the new fuel economy standards his administration has implemented. They’ll require automobiles to get an average of 54 miles per gallon by 2025, roughly double from when he took office, and that will have a huge impact on limiting demand for oil.



Looking back to August 2019, an article by Dan K. Eberhart titled “Thank Trump for America’s New Oil Markets” was posted at cnn.com on Aug. 9, 2019. Following is the article.

President Trump has made good on his promise to put “America First.” That fact is perhaps most evident in his economic policy, specifically his treatment of the US energy sector.

Trump is using America’s vast oil and natural gas resources as a tool of influence around the world. The administration is joining its desire to expand America’s access to overseas oil and gas markets—with the more significant aim of advancing its national security goals.

This tariff-based strategy is a far more aggressive use of energy diplomacy than we are used to seeing out of Washington and will benefit our country, both in economic growth and geopolitical power.

Indeed, failing to seize on America’s energy dominance and create economic opportunities for ourselves would be a failure of leadership, especially given that the United States saw the most massive annual increase in oil and natural gas production in history last year.

As a result of the shale boom, the US is the world’s largest oil producer, with output expected to average 12.4 million barrels a day this year and 13.3 million barrels a day in 2020. Likewise, America is the world’s largest producer of natural gas, producing an average of 91.3 billion cubic feet of LNG a day this year and 92.7 billion cubic feet a day in 2020.

Global oil production outpaced demand by 900,000 barrels a day in the first half of the year. Last year, global oil production grew by 2.2 million barrels a day, more than double the 10-year average. The entirety of that net growth came from new US barrels, mainly light sweet crude from Permian Basin shale in west Texas and New Mexico.

As output continues to grow over the next decade, new barrels of crude and molecules of gas will need to find markets abroad. That’s because US refiners, petrochemical makers and electric utilities have run out of capacity to process more American energy supplies. This is a big reason why expanding energy export markets is a priority for the Trump administration.

Trump has advanced this strategy on several fronts. He has hit bad actors like Iran and Venezuela, two big OPEC producers, with harsh sanctions that have dramatically reduced their ability to fund their activities with oil revenue. Meanwhile, Trump has helped persuade Saudi-led OPEC to continue making price-supportive supply cuts of 1.2 million barrels a day. The net effect has made room for growing US oil production, which is now singlehandedly meeting the growth in global oil demand.

This is no small feat, but it does require some political will to sustain. Trump has been criticized for keeping close ties with the Saudi leadership and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in particular, following the murder of Saudi journalist and US resident Jamal Khashoggi, including vetoing Congress's attempts to block US arms sales to Riyadh.

The administration has also maintained Obama-era sanctions on Russia that limit Moscow's long-term capacity to develop its oil reserves. It is now considering new measures that would target new Russian gas pipelines into Europe. Trump's objective is to make Europe less vulnerable to Kremlin influence while making more room for US exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

At present, Russia is the dominant gas supplier to Europe, accounting for nearly 40% of the market. Such dependence weakens US allies in Europe and gives Putin significant influence over the continent.

Trump thinks the US can help Europe reduce the use of Russian gas while making a buck off America's own LNG exports. Weaning the continent off Russian gas won't be easy since Russia's pipelines can typically deliver gas cheaper than US LNG can be shipped to Europe. But even modest success would be great for America, both in economic and national security terms.

Asia has been trickier. The US trade war with China, the world's fastest-growing energy market, has hurt American oil and gas producers. China's retaliatory tariffs on US LNG have eliminated that market for US exporters. China has also largely halted imports of US oil this year as the trade war has ramped up, yet the country has not slapped tariffs on our oil.

Vast US energy supplies remain a crucial bargaining chip—one that Trump continues to play—in broader trade negotiations between energy-hungry China and the US. If the net result is a fair trade deal with Beijing that includes long-term supply agreements for oil and gas, America's producers and the business community, in general, will be pleased.

India, the world's third-largest oil importer, has already begun replacing Iranian barrels with American ones after many thought New Delhi would defy U.S. sanctions. China has also reduced its Iranian imports but has not halted them altogether. Beijing paid the price for continuing to buy Iranian oil, though, with the US blacklisting one of China's top trading firms, Zhuhai Zhenrong.

Trump's sanctions on Iran have slashed the Islamic Republic's exports to historic lows—from 2.4 million barrels a day in early 2018 to well below 500,000 barrels a day today. Iran's economy is faltering. The same goes for Vene-

zuela, which some think could see output fall below 500,000 barrels a day by the end of this year from nearly 2 million barrels a day in 2017.

Meanwhile, the US keeps gaining market share. The International Energy Agency believes the US will account for 70% of the total increase in global oil production capacity to 2024, adding a massive 4 million barrels a day in output. That should push America past Russia in oil exports and close to Saudi Arabia.

Trump understands the current opportunity for the United States to gain the upper hand on economic and national security matters. And he is pushing it to the limit all in the name of putting America first.



An article by Caroline Klapp titled "Oakwood Adventist Basketball Team [in Huntsville, Ala.] Plans to Forfeit; AHSAA [Alabama High School Athletic Association] Won't Change Playoff Time Scheduled During Sabbath" was posted at waff.com on Feb. 18, 2022. Following is the article.

A group of Huntsville High School students is being put to the test, but this one doesn't require a pen or pencil. It's all about standing strong in their faith.

WAFF learned the Oakwood Adventist Academy High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team is planning to forfeit a playoff game Saturday, giving up a chance for a state championship. That's because the game falls on the Sabbath for Seventh-day Adventists.

The team advanced to the sweet sixteen playoff round after winning a game Tuesday. When they learned they were given a 4:30 p.m. game time, they asked the Alabama High School Athletic Association and other teams in the regional tournament if they would switch them to the 7:30 p.m. game. WAFF is told the AHSAA denied that request.

"When God created the earth, on the seventh day he rested, he calls us to rest on that day and give that day to him. I'm not going to play on that day no matter what, because it's bigger than basketball," senior team captain Raynon Andrews said.

Andrews says it's a very hard reality for his team who has poured so much into this season, making it further in the playoffs than any other boys' basketball team in the school's history.

"People want us to play, they say, 'just play on Saturday,' but I got to stick to my faith and stand up for what's right and believe God will make a way for us to play," Andrews said.

Athletic director for Oakwood Adventist Academy Calvin Morton says it's a simple switch.

"We're not asking to change a venue, we're not asking to change a date," Morton said. "We're just simply asking to change a 4:30 time to a 7:30 time

to accommodate our religion and our faith. We're just pleading on our behalf to make a reasonable accommodation for a simple time switch."

Morton said the Alabama High School Athletic Association has denied that request twice over email, making the likelihood of a forfeit in this team's future very high.

"This is bigger than basketball, these guys know that and staying disciplined in their faith, that's the most important thing," Morton said.

If the AHSAA sticks with its answer, the team will not play. As difficult as the situation is, an associate pastor and parent of a player says it's a defining moment in these students' lives.

"We have to allow our young men to say there are going to be moments when you're going to be tested, and do you really believe what you believe, are you going to stand on the bible," Pastor Toussaint Williams said.

WAFF reached out to AHSAA for a statement. It reads, "All games at each regional are expected to be played as scheduled. This is the AHSAA's only statement."

[Following is an update posted at waff.com on Feb. 21: "Although Oakwood Academy took the forfeit, they traveled to the tournament at Jacksonville State University to cheer on the two teams that offered to trade times with them. Senior captain of the Oakwood Adventist basketball team, Raynon Andrews, says he has no regrets about the decision to forfeit the game. 'There is a whole Facebook community, there are people all around the world texting parents, saying how proud they are of us,' said Andrews. 'That means a lot and I know for the team that means a lot too.' Andrews says they have not heard anything from the state athletic association. He hopes their choice to not play will help create change, so this doesn't happen to another team in the future."]



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."