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Natural-gas production is now booming, thanks to new methods of obtaining gas from shale stone. But environmentalists want to end the drilling. A 12-page, four-color reprint adapted from the two main articles from the June 20, 2011 issue of TNA — pgs. 10-18. (2011, 12pp, \$.05ea) RPSGW

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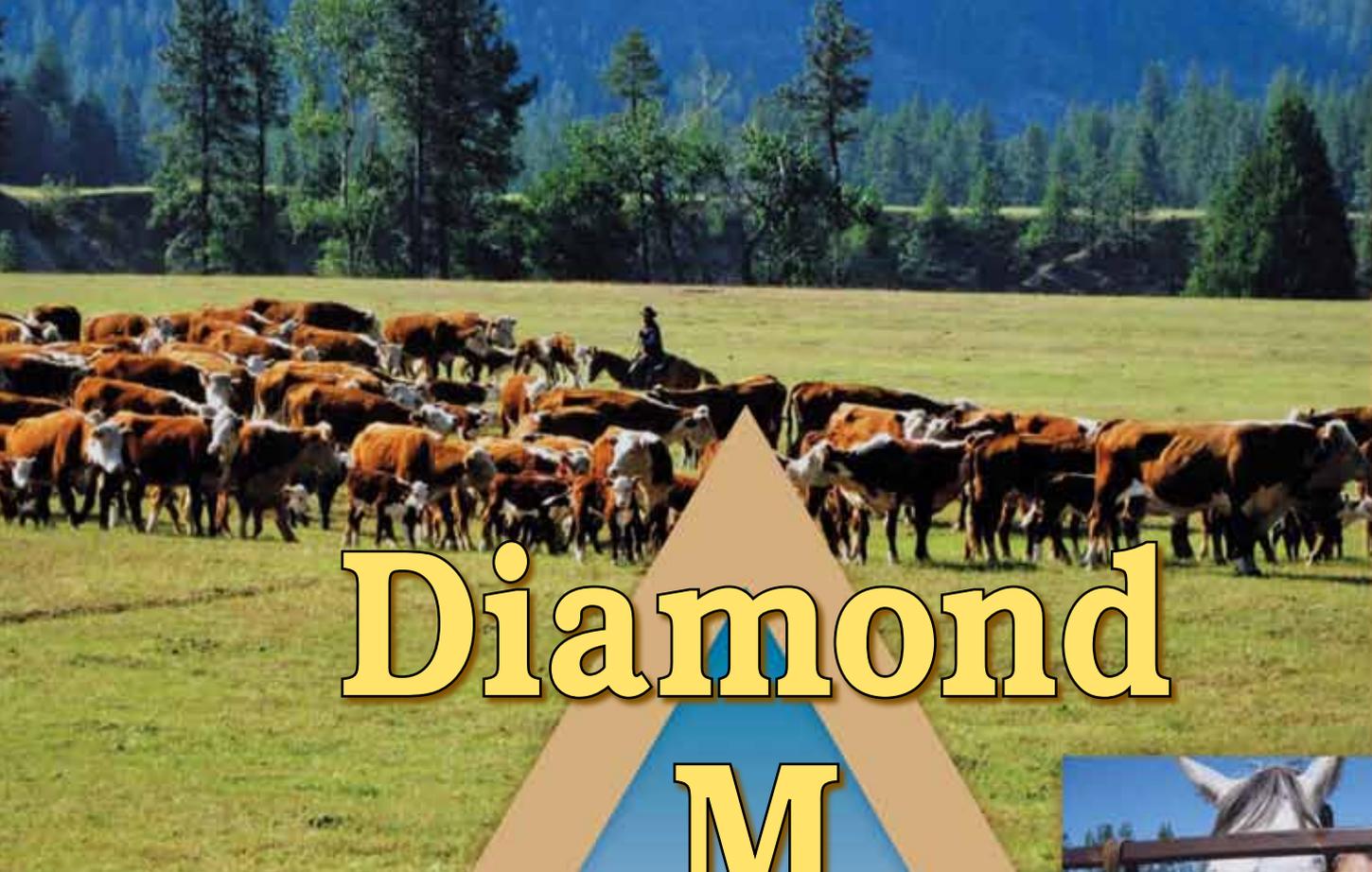


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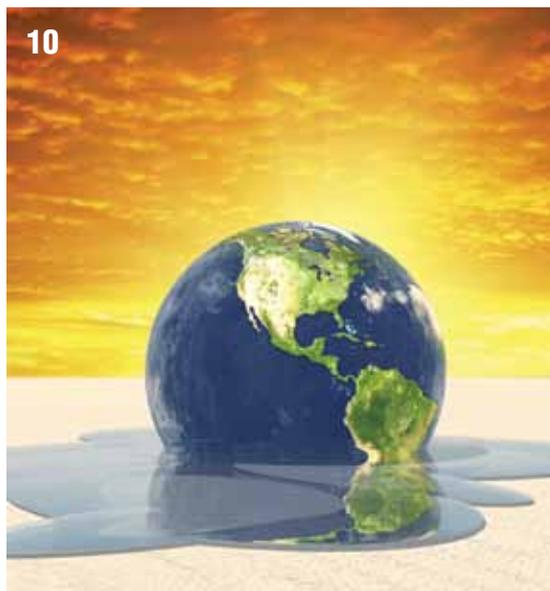
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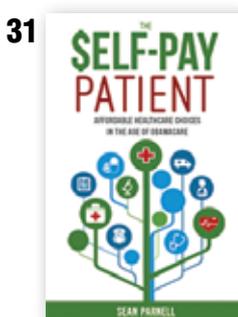
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Source: Among retail brands. Survey conducted in February 2014 of small animal veterinarians who recommended oral joint health supplements.

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Publisher
John F. McManus

Editor
Gary Benoit

Senior Editor
William F. Jasper

Associate Editor
Kurt Williamsen

Copy Editor
John T. Larabell

Foreign Correspondent
Alex Newman

Contributors
Bob Adelman • Dave Bohon
Raven Clabough • Selwyn Duke
Thomas R. Eddlem • Brian Farmer
Christian Gomez • Larry Greenley
Gregory A. Hession, J.D.
Ed Hiserodt • William P. Hoar
Jack Kenny • Patrick Krey, J.D.
Warren Mass
Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.
Rebecca Terrell • Fr. James Thornton
Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Art Director
Joseph W. Kelly

Graphic Designer
Katie Carder

Research
Bonnie M. Gillis

PR/Marketing Manager
Bill Hahn

Advertising/Circulation Manager
Julie DuFrane

The New American

Printed in the U.S.A. • ISSN 0885-6540
P.O. Box 8040 • Appleton, WI 54912
920-749-3784 • 920-749-3785 (fax)
www.thenewamerican.com
editorial@thenewamerican.com

Rates are \$49 per year (Canada, add \$9; foreign, add \$27) Copyright ©2015 by American Opinion Publishing, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send any address changes to THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912.

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Corporate People?

All right, I understand there is no issue worth convening an Article V constitutional convention to remedy, but corporations as people, as Christian Gomez advocated in the November 17 issue?

I got a reality check on corporate citizens during the phony “oil shortage” in the early seventies. A Mobil Oil executive on *Meet the Press* was asked what Mobil was doing to alleviate the situation. His reply: “You have to realize Mobil is a multinational corporation so cannot be overly concerned with the needs of any one particular nation.” Spoken like a true descendant of the merchants Thomas Jefferson referred to as having “no country. The mere spot they stand on does not constitute so strong an attachment as that from which they draw their gains.”

Unlike us people, those “people” have enormous funds to sway public opinion to feather their own nests. Recently in Oregon, corporate “people” spent \$24 million in advertising (more than double the grassroots sponsors) to defeat a measure requiring labeling of foods containing GMO’s.

DEAN WOLF
Tigard, Oregon

Christmas, Christian Giving

As we are in the season of giving and thanks, some are again saying that taking care of the poor and needy is a “Christian thing” to do.

I totally agree, but this is “never” to be done via the government. And let me explain the difference for all those well-meaning people who don’t understand.

When those in the private sector (churches, NGOs, charitable organizations, etc.) provide for the poor, the sick, the elderly, the mentally incompetent, it is done using voluntary donations. And in such cases both parties benefit greatly because of the joy of giving. This is what the Savior taught, and it is why Christians are lauded as being compassionate and loving.

When governments dole out welfare benefits, there is no element of voluntary giving. The resources for that welfare come from taxes, which is forced confiscation (or legal plunder). We can’t choose not to pay our taxes. *We must* do it.

Both givers and receivers suffer. There is resentment from those who are taxed of their hard-earned income; and those getting the benefits feel like it is an entitlement and don’t really appreciate the gesture. In fact, they often loathe the giver.

This basic difference makes government welfare totally contrary to Christian teachings.

JAMES CARLYLE GREEN
Heber City, Utah

Global-warming Claims

Your magazine is excellent with its in-depth articles. But as to your claims that global warming is not happening, it is really hard for the layman to know whom to believe, though I lean to the skeptic side.

Twice in 2014 the *Economist* magazine stated that Arctic sea ice is retreating as the Earth warms up due to increasing CO₂. Further, they say that Arctic ice has been shrinking by 11 percent a decade for the past 35 years. They present a graphic showing the shrinkage from 1979 to 2013 and say temps in the Arctic are two degrees centigrade higher than the long-term average.

They also claim that parts of the Arctic Ocean are hotter than they have been for at least 2,000 years and that summer sea ice is melting even faster than the gloomiest forecasts and that the world could see an ice-free Arctic summer by 2020.

One almost gives up on the subject.

RONALD BRACKNEY
Sent via e-mail

The editors respond: *As to global-warming claims made in the Economist, realize that Al Gore famously claimed that Arctic sea ice would be gone by 2014 — meaning that any ice melt is obviously less fast “than the gloomiest forecasts.” And, yes, the Arctic ice sheet has been growing in size. As to any other questions as to who is telling the truth, please see our two cover stories in this issue of THE NEW AMERICAN. We think they will allay any doubts.*

Send your letters to: THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912. Or e-mail: editorial@thenewamerican.com. Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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Gruber, Tavenner Answer to Congress for ObamaCare Controversies



AP Images

On December 9, ObamaCare architect Jonathan Gruber appeared before Congress to explain his controversial statements made in 2013 when he admitted that the healthcare law's writers took advantage of the "stupidity of the American voter."

Appearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Gruber was questioned by the committee's chairman, Representative Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), who had recently told Reuters that the public deserves an explanation from Gruber for his statements.

Gruber profusely apologized for his comments and admitted they were both "mean and insulting," as well as "glib, thoughtless and sometimes downright insulting." "I sincerely apologize for conjecturing with a tone of expertise and for doing so in such a disparaging fashion.... I knew better. I know better. I'm embarrassed and I'm sorry," Gruber said, also claiming that his own "inexcusable arrogance is not a flaw in the Affordable Care Act."

Also appearing at the hearing was Marilyn Tavenner, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). At the hearing, Issa slammed the CMS for allegedly inflating their enrollment numbers. The agency initially claimed enrollment of 7.3 million, but later revised that down to 6.7 million. Issa suggested this was an attempt to "doctor the books."

The Obama administration has gone to painstaking efforts to distance itself from Gruber and his controversial statements. On numerous occasions, the president and his fellow Democrats have attempted to argue that Gruber did not play a significant role in writing ObamaCare.

Gruber himself has endeavored to downplay his role in the design of ObamaCare, insisting that he was not a political advisor but instead developed a "complex economic microsimulation model" to evaluate the costs and benefits of healthcare policy changes.

The intentional political deception that went into the design of ObamaCare, as well as Obama's attempts to deceive the American people about Gruber's role in the legislation, and the inflated enrollment figures, have renewed concerns over the healthcare law.

Snowden Receives "Alternative Nobel" for Human Rights

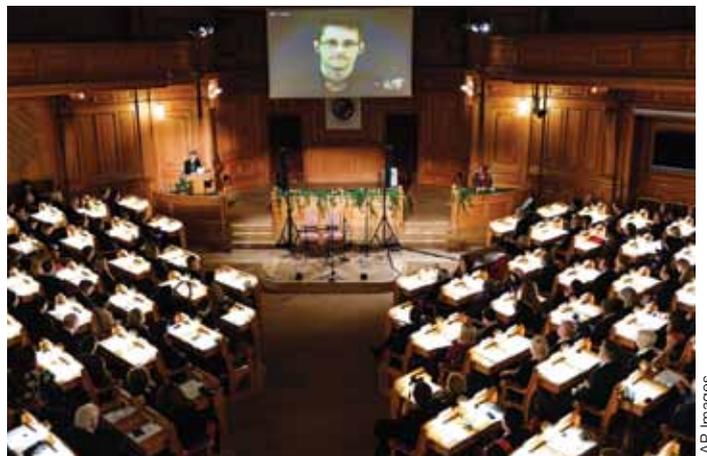
Edward Snowden was among those who received the Right Livelihood Award on December 1 in Sweden's parliament. Snowden's award citation said he was being awarded "for his courage and skill in revealing the unprecedented extent of state surveillance violating basic democratic processes and constitutional rights."

The Right Livelihood Award is considered the "Alternative Nobel" by many who believe that the Nobel has become a politically motivated award. Snowden was unable to attend the awards ceremony in person because his passport has been revoked. Instead, he delivered his address to the ceremony from Moscow via a Google Hangout that was shown on a large screen. *The Guardian* on December 1 noted that Jakob von Uexküll, who is responsible for establishing the award, told Snowden during the award ceremony — with the Swedish parliament present — "So Mr. Snowden, your Right Livelihood Award is waiting for you. We trust that Sweden will make it possible for you to collect your award here in Stockholm in person in the very near future."

In receiving the award, Snowden said that he was not alone: "I can only accept this collectively. This award recognizes the work of so many, not just over recent years, but over decades, who recognize that human rights is a new name for an old concept, the concept of liberty."

At the end of his acceptance speech, Snowden said that the

public debate that has followed the revelations of mass surveillance by governments has already begun to produce reform, though, he added, "There is so much more to do." He also called for the UN to get more involved in the issues of privacy and digital rights. This is the one dark spot in an otherwise thoughtful and thought-provoking address. Governments need to be held accountable, but the UN is not the body to do that. It falls to the people of the nations involved to preserve those rights.



AP Images

House Committee Releases Report on “Operation Choke Point”

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (HOGRC) released a 20-page investigative report on December 8 showing that officials at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) schemed to destroy lawful businesses they found morally objectionable.

The vehicle through which this was done was Operation Choke Point, an Obama administration effort ostensibly designed to “choke off” access to the U.S. financial system by illegal operations, but it’s also being applied to legal ones that certain ideologues personally dislike. Its primary target is the short-term lending industry, but its other victims include entities such as firearms and ammunition merchants, home-based charities, coin dealers, and purveyors of pharmaceutical drugs — lawful enterprises all.

Of particular concern to many is the use of Operation Choke Point to destroy firearms dealers. Since gun control has become increasingly unpopular from a legislative standpoint, its proponents have consequently turned to tactics beyond the ballot box, such as using the judicial system and suing firearms manufacturers and, now, using the bureaucratic system to regulate the industry’s retailers into oblivion. As the *Blaze* wrote on December 8 of the HOGRC’s findings:

In the case of gun dealers, [HOGRC Chairman Darrell] Issa’s committee found that the FDIC in some cases reached “memorandums of understanding” with banks that explicitly prohibited them from dealing with these companies.

“MOUs between supervised banks and FDIC Regional Offices, as well as bank policies submitted pursuant to FDIC Consent Orders, variously ‘prohibit’ payment processing for firearms merchants, characterize loans to firearms dealers as ‘undesirable,’ and generally subject firearms and ammunition merchants to significantly higher due diligence standards,” it said.

If the precedent that bureaucrats may apply their own values and whims in determining who should be allowed to engage in commerce is accepted, would it really end with firearms and coin dealers or short-term lenders? What’s to stop future morality police from targeting those selling books and other items relating to Christianity or other politically incorrect products? What’s to prevent imperious bureaucrats from targeting any group finding itself on the wrong side of political fashions?

Senate Intelligence Committee Releases Report on CIA Torture

The Senate Intelligence Committee on December 9 released its report on the torture — including “waterboarding” — of prisoners held by the Central Intelligence Agency during the George W. Bush administration. The report was ordered and released by the Intelligence Committee chairman, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), and a copy was posted on the committee’s webpage. The redacted summary released December 9 had the names of CIA personnel, countries that hosted the agency’s secret prisons, and other sensitive data blacked out.

The news of the report’s impending release produced immediate contrasting statements from Washington political leaders, with Republicans generally being highly critical of the report and Democrats defending it. In the report’s foreword, Feinstein wrote:

Pressure, fear, and expectation of further terrorist plots do not justify, temper, or excuse improper actions taken by individuals or organizations in the name of national security. The major lesson of this report is that regardless of the pressures and the need to act, the Intelligence Community’s actions must always reflect who we are as a nation, and adhere to our laws and standards.

Perhaps surprisingly, Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) spoke in defense of the report. He recalled, “I know from personal experience that the abuse of prisoners will produce more bad than good intelligence.”

Senators Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Jim Risch (R-Idaho), in a joint statement made late on December 8, called the release of

the report a “partisan effort” by Democrats on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and asserted that the report is not “serious or constructive.”

Those of the constitutionalist persuasion do not often agree with Senators John McCain or Dianne Feinstein about much of anything. But on the issue of condoning the CIA’s use of “enhanced interrogation techniques,” such as waterboarding, these senators at least have the honesty and humanity to call these actions what they are — torture.

Of course, many of those who are now rebuking the Bush administration’s torture regime also support Obama’s use of drones to kill people suspected of participating in terrorism — as well as the killing of anyone near them. ■



AP Images

What Are You if You “Lead” and No One Follows?

“I learned a long time ago if you’re a leader and nobody’s following you, you’re just a guy out for a walk.”

*Pressed for an answer by Congressman Tom Cole (R-Okla.) about why he was letting “the guys who didn’t vote for you (to be Speaker) drive the conference,” House Speaker **John Boehner** admitted he was indeed trying to gain support for his agenda from hardline conservative congressmen who are unimpressed with his leadership.*



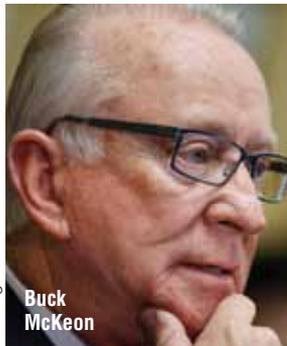
John
Boehner

AP Images

Newly Elected Congressman Explains What Drove Him to Seek Election

“I saw the consequences of failed leadership in Washington. I think the politicians didn’t know what they were doing when they got us into Iraq, and then they didn’t have our backs when we were there.”

*After graduating from Harvard University in 2001, **Seth Moulton** earned a commission in the Marine Corps and served two tours of duty in Iraq, where he was twice decorated for heroism. He recently won election as a Massachusetts Democrat representing the state’s Sixth Congressional District.*



Buck
McKeon

AP Images

Pointing a Finger at the President’s Inability to Retain Leaders

“When the president goes through three secretaries of defense, he should ask, ‘Is it them, or is it me?’”

*Congressman **Buck McKeon** was referring to former Secretaries of Defense Robert Gates, Leon Panetta, and Chuck Hagel, each of whom served for a time and then left the office.*

Presidential Powers Are Supposed to Be Limited

“No matter how a president begs or cajoles or commands, his power is to ‘take care that the laws be faithfully executed.’ His power starts after laws and appropriations are enacted. It does not start with the State of the Union speech or a declaration at a press conference.”

*Barron’s editorial page editor **Thomas Donlan** correctly summarized the limited authority possessed by any president.*

Bombing Becomes the New Norm in the Land Where the Arab Spring Began

“We warned the people two days ago not to use those airports, so no innocent people get caught up in our airstrikes. We are moving the fight to the western region.”

*With the Libyan capital and airports in its largest cities falling under control of Libya Dawn, a coalition of extreme Islamist groups, the opposition forces led by **Soqr Joroshi** conducted air raids hoping to defeat the uprising.*

U.S. Birthrate Continues to Decline

“Americans haven’t worried much about birthrates in the past because we have the faucet of immigration to turn on and off. It’s a bigger problem in Europe where countries like Germany and Spain have much lower rates.”

*A family demographer at Johns Hopkins University, **Andrew Cherlin** points to America’s 1.86 children per woman fertility rate when 2.1 babies per woman is the minimum needed for a stable population — unless one opens the immigration spigots.*

Making a Strong Point in a Humorous Way

“Thank you, Federal Reserve, for printing all that money for the past half dozen years. Although, Fed, if you print some more, I wouldn’t mind you sending it directly to my bank account instead of sending it to the enormous bank where my bank account is.”

*Originally published in The Daily Beast, the column from which the above comment is excerpted was written by **P.J. O’Rourke** who, with tongue in cheek, thanked many government groups and individuals for their damnable and ridiculous deeds. ■*

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



P.J.
O’Rourke

Is Global Warming a Hoax?



Climate alarmists consistently ignore actual temperature data because it refutes their outlandish claims that mankind is destroying the Earth and undermines their goals of higher taxes, bigger government, and “alternative” energy.

by Ed Hiserodt & Rebecca Terrell

In our information age, we’re bombarded with statistics on every danger the number crunchers can conjure — people struck by lightning, airplane vs. automotive deaths, and even drownings in bathtubs. But one statistic

is curiously missing from the list. Even though President Obama and other global-warming alarmists warn of a looming climate apocalypse, they avoid giving a metric to prove their claims. They blame man-made climate change for a vast array of ills, including floods, droughts, wildfires, and tornados. But they never quan-

tify what they say is the driving force behind it all: temperature.

They have a very good reason. Actual temperature data doesn’t cooperate with their party line that mankind is ruining the planet with its addiction to so-called fossil fuels and its appetite for ample, affordable energy. Too few taxpayers are de-

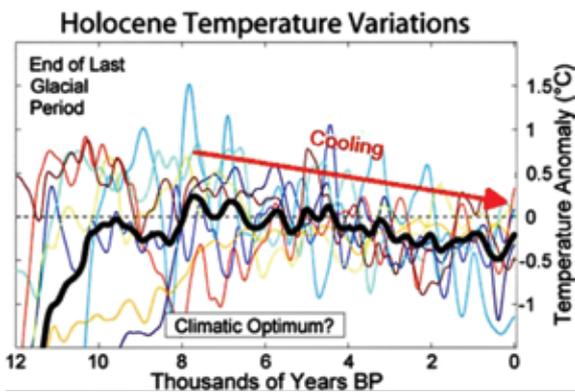


Figure 1: Warm temperatures of the Holocene period have spawned agricultural and industrial advances over the past 10,000 years, making modern civilization possible.

manding proof, and too many are willing to accept global-warming fictions on blind faith, opening the door for federal regulators to foist irrational energy restrictions on the public. Understanding Earth’s climate fluctuations will make us much less willing to let them stifle our economic, industrial, and social progress, while understanding environmentalists’ true motives may incite us to expose their deceit.

The Holocene Period

Paleoclimatologists are scientists who study Earth’s climate history, and two specific studies outshine others in their field in terms of scope and consensus in the scientific community. The multinational European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica (EPICA) lasted from January 1996 until December 2006, earning the European Union’s 2008 Descartes Prize for Research. Investigation at the Russian Vostok Station in Antarctica has been going on since the 1970s. Both groups have studied ice cores as deep as two miles, establishing climate chronology from changes in layering thickness and measuring historic temperature data from varying ratios of oxygen isotopes in entrapped air bubbles.

Figure 1 plots ice core data, covering the past 11,700 years — an age known as the Holocene period — with present day included at the far right of the graph. The thick black line traces the average of eight different temperature reconstructions. It highlights the Holocene Optimum, which occurred between 4,000 and 8,000 years ago. Climate alarmists conveniently overlook evidence during the

Holocene optimum where there were extended periods of temperatures exceeding the averages by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius above present temperatures.

Though temperatures have been falling ever since, the decline hasn’t been steady. About 3,300 years ago temperatures peaked during the Minoan Warm Period, and again during the Roman Warm Period some 2,000 years ago. The Medieval Warm Period occurred 1,000 years ago, when wine vineyards dotted the landscape in Great Britain and Vikings grew corn and barley in Greenland. Each of these eras was warmer than today. Additionally, two significantly low dips are the 8200 Cold Period and the Little Ice Age, 400 to 500 years ago.

The Little Ice Age, Greenland, and Some Glaciers

The Little Ice Age is troublesome for global-warming alarmists, since historical evidence suggests the period had extremely low global temperatures, which began recovering only as recently as the mid-19th century. During this era, the Thames River in England froze solid during the winter with ice so thick Londoners held “frost

fairs” on it. Noted 17th-century English diarist John Evelyn described what he saw at the fair of 1683-84:

Coaches [carriages] plied from Westminster to the Temple, and from several other stairs too and fro, as in the streets; sleds, sliding with skeetes, a bull-baiting, horse and coach races, puppet plays and interludes, cooks, tipling and other lewd places, so that it seemed to be a bacchanalian triumph, or carnival on the water.

There were five winters during the Little Ice Age when the Thames froze thick enough to hold a frost fair: 1683-84, 1716, 1739-40, 1789, and 1814. According to Tom de Castella, writing for *BBC News Magazine* in January 2014, during the last of these, carnival-goers watched an elephant tramp across the river.

But Evelyn’s diary also describes the extreme misery of such severe winters. “The fowls, fish and birds, and all our exotic plants and greens universally perishing,” he wrote. “Many parks of deer were destroyed, and all sorts of fuel so dear that there were great contributions to keep the poor alive.”

The harsh conditions weren’t limited to London or to latitudes north of England. As recently as the American Civil War, the Little Ice Age still had a grip on



When did warming begin? Earth has been warming since the Little Ice Age, as evidenced by the frost fairs on the Thames River in London as late as 1814.

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the Southern United States. In his book *The Civil War Quadrennium*, Sir William O'Donnell relates that temperatures were so cold during the winter of 1863-64 that the "Arkansas River was frozen solid at Little Rock for many months," and people could easily trudge from north to south banks without fear.

Such climate records prove the planet has been warming for hundreds of years from the Little Ice Age minimum. Hence a slow increase in temperature is the norm over the last century or so, and not a catastrophe in the making.

But the Little Ice Age is not warmists' only antagonist. Global-warming alarmists see red at the mere mention of "Greenland." In 986 A.D. Erik the Red arrived and built a prosperous civilization there. The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History website describes archeological expeditions that have uncovered abandoned Viking settlements beneath the country's now-frozen tundra and remains of ancient forests far above the current natural tree line. Yet by 1450 A.D., most Norsemen had left the country. Why? "Most likely, the extinction resulted from a complex set of events related to climatic cooling, over-population and economic stress," states the Smithsonian website.

Strange to hear "climatic cooling" blamed for human woes, and overpopulation in a land that, according to the World Bank, is now the least-densely populated country in the world. Obviously Greenland was much warmer when the Vikings thrived there than it is today.

Like Greenland and the Little Ice Age, glaciers aren't cooperating with climate alarmists either, though glacier retreat is supposedly a harbinger of doom for our warming planet. On the contrary, it has been following the pattern you would expect during recovery from the Little Ice Age. The website for the U.S. Geologi-

cal Survey's Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center (NOROCK) offers the example of Glacier National Park (GNP) in Montana. An estimated 150 glaciers blanketed the land in 1850, most of which still existed in 1910 when the park was established. "In 2010, we consider there to be only 25 glaciers larger than 25 acres remaining in GNP," reads the site.

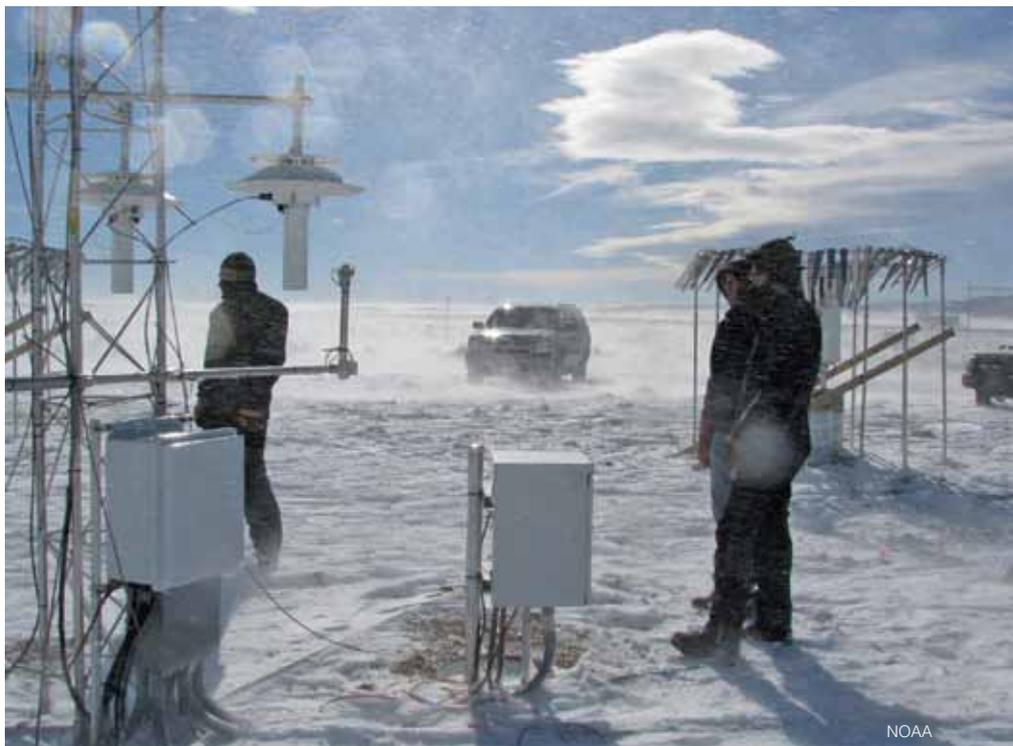
But the exciting news is what's popping up from underneath these retreating ice rivers. "Ancient trees emerge from frozen forest 'tomb,'" reported the *Juneau Empire* in September 2013, quoting a University of Alaska Southeast geology professor who dates tree stumps from under the Mendenhall Glacier between 1,400 and 2,350 years old, corresponding to both the Medieval and Roman Warm Periods.

Forests aren't the only finds. In 2003, Swiss archaeologists discovered clothes, weapons, and animal remains at the edge of the retreating Alpine Schnidejoch Glacier. According to German newspaper *Tages Spiegel*, the researchers were excited about the relics from a time when the glacial zone began roughly 700 meters higher than it does today, the "timber line had climbed substantially," and "temperatures in the Swiss Alps were up to two degrees over today's."

It's clear such evidence and scientific consensus don't play along with the climate-change charade. Instead, they free mankind from blame for climate fluctuations.

Satellite vs. Surface

We rely on ice core analysis to discover temperature trends of the past millennia because there was no reliable measurement system prior to 1714 when Daniel Fahrenheit invented the first mercury-in-glass thermometer. His device came into general use in the late 1800s, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) confirms

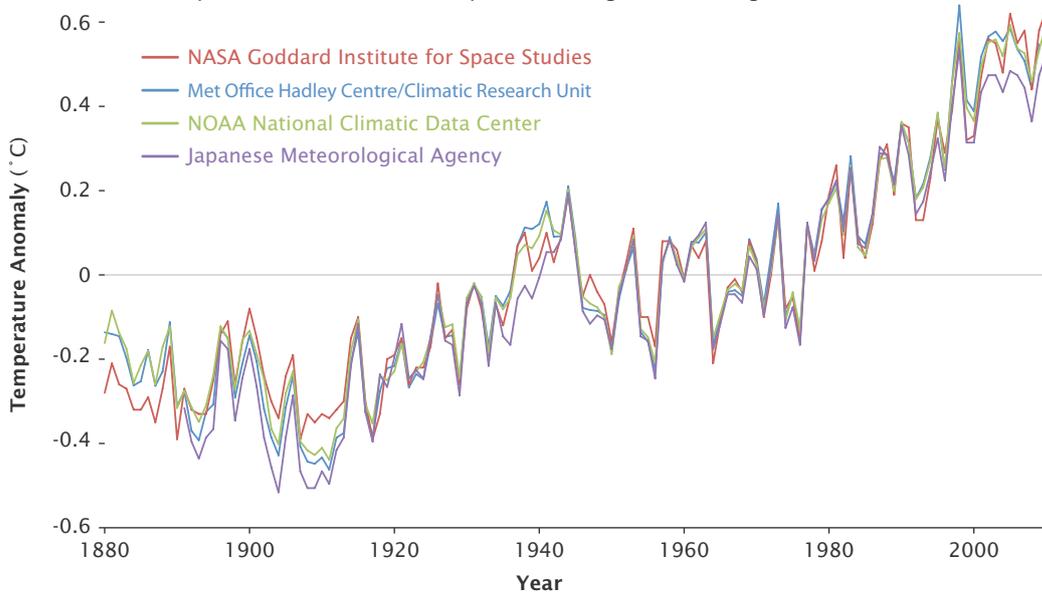


Unbiased temperature measurements: One of 114 un-manned weather stations uniformly covering the United States. Data from these stations, which avoid the "urban heating effect," show a decrease in temperature over the last eight years.

NOAA

Global Surface Temperatures

Four independent records show nearly identical long-term warming trends.



Credit: NASA Earth Observatory/Robert Simmon

Data Sources: NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, NOAA National Climatic Data Center, Met Office Hadley Centre/Climatic Research Unit, and the Japanese Meteorological Agency.

that “there was a net global warming of about 0.4° Celsius between the 1880s and 1970s.”

The year 1979 saw the launch of the first temperature-gauging satellites, and suddenly we were not limited to data from ground stations, sea buoys, merchant vessels, and weather balloons. Research by environmental economist Dr. Ross McKittrick of Canada’s University of Guelph explains the drastic effect satellites had on how global temperatures are measured.

He found that pre-satellite data is inconsistent because monitored portions of Earth’s surface have changed continuously since the late 1800s, with scant attention to the Southern Hemisphere, and that even by 2000 only 50 percent of the Earth’s surface had thermometer coverage. To add to the confusion, “about 90 percent of the land-based data now being used to construct global averages are sampled in cities,” contaminating readings with an “urban heat island” effect. This issue became the subject of two independent studies: *Is the U.S. Surface Temperature Record Reliable?* published in 2009 by the Heartland Institute and the 2011 critique by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), *Climate Monitoring: NOAA Can Improve Management of the U.S. Historical Climatology Network*. The studies revealed

incomplete and erroneous reporting of temperature data and, even more shocking, that nearly 90 percent of U.S. locations are in violation of the National Weather Service’s siting requirements that recording devices must not be placed near sources of artificial or radiated/reflected heat such as exhaust fans, asphalt or concrete surfaces, or rooftops. McKittrick reported urbanization in Europe has produced the same phenomenon.

Violations such as these generated the sharp upward spike on the right portion of Figure 2. This graph charts global surface temperatures recorded by four separate agencies: NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Met Office (which is the United Kingdom’s weather service), and the Japanese Meteorological Agency.

Ironically, NASA data from this same graph sparked the “coming ice age” scare of the 1970s. Note the temperature change of -0.2 degrees Celsius between 1940 and 1980. This two-tenths difference brought on a storm of ice age predictions by major media and government agents. In 1971, the *Washington Post* reported that research based on climate modeling developed by NASA scientist James Hansen predicted that glaciers would cover much of the globe within 50 years — by 2021 — because of mankind’s fossil-fuel dust blotting out the sun. (Hansen, who

Figure 2: Global surface temperature measurements, unlike the satellite data that goes back only to 1979, have been subject to a number of confounding factors including the “urban heat island effect.”

later became director of GISS and retired in 2013, continues to make headlines, advocating a steep carbon tax on fossil fuels to stave off global warming, reported the *Des Moines Register* last October.)

Obviously, Hansen has ignored satellite measurements in favor of faulty surface readings. Since 1979, 14 satellite instruments have daily been recording global temperatures throughout different layers of the atmosphere by monitoring thermal emissions. In contrast to surface monitoring, McKittrick reports that

satellites cover 95 percent of the Earth with continuous and consistent measurement techniques. The data are available at the University of Alabama in Huntsville website, and anomalies are plotted in Figure 3. The red line is the running average over 13 months while the data points are monthly. What a difference between this and the four-agency surface temperature records! No sharp upward trends, and nothing to cause the public backlash that fear-mongering climate alarmists crave.

It Gets Even Cooler

Adding to the anti-climax of satellite data are findings from a fleet of more than 3,500 Argo floats launched by a collaboration of 30 United Nations members beginning in 1999. Designed to profile the temperature and salinity of ocean water, these buoys are scattered around the Earth’s oceans, covering nearly three-quarters of the globe. Yet you don’t hear much of the Argo floats because so far they have recorded cooling, not warming. Researchers published findings in the 2010 *International Journal of Geosciences*, reporting that rates of change in ocean heat content are “preponderantly negative.” This is particularly significant because many climate-change alarmists conjecture that the reason global tem-

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peratures of the 21st century are lower than their faulty climate models originally predicted is that the Earth's oceans are absorbing all the excess heat. On the contrary, Argo researchers concluded that the data did “not support the existence of either a large positive radiative imbalance or a ‘missing energy.’” In other words, the notion that Earth's oceans are sponging up all the heat just doesn't hold water.

NOAA's U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) has also revealed a cooling trend. Established in answer to criticism about NOAA's site violations, the USCRN is comprised of 114 temperature stations in pristine locations throughout the United States. Meteorologist Anthony Watts plotted the raw USCRN data as shown in Figure 4, which reveals a cooling of 0.72 degrees Fahrenheit since the network began operating in January 2005.

Of course, satellites, Argo floats, and USCRN stations are so new, they should be considered still in their pilot phases. In fact, even surface temperature readings since 1880 are a mere blip on the Holocene radar. If you add to Figure 1 data from any

of the subsequent charts shown here, you would not be able to discern a difference in the updated graph. Regardless, even temperatures from the most contaminated sources fall well within natural variations. Taken in the broader Holocene context, the modern-day hubbub over climate change is a tempest in a teapot.

Why Global Warming?

Despite the overwhelming evidence against human-caused global warming, why is actual temperature data consistently ignored? Current climate fluctuations are trivial and well within historical limits. They prove that catastrophic global warming is a hoax. Though all the information presented here is publicly available and well known in both scientific and political circles, why does this false notion prevail that mankind is destroying the planet? Could the motive behind such madness be something other than saving the Earth?

Realizing that the USCRN is part of Obama's own federal agency, NOAA, consider his remarks during a televised

address from the September 2014 UN Climate Change Summit in New York City:

There's one issue that will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other, and that is the urgent and growing threat of a changing climate.... We cannot condemn our children, and their children, to a future that is beyond their capacity to repair.

Is the president ignorant of USCRN data? Are United Nations members who applauded his remarks oblivious to their own Argo research? Have none of them heard of the weather satellites orbiting our globe? Or could their implausible climate-change claims have more to do with a lucrative global carbon market in which corporations buy permits to emit greenhouse gases? Reuters financial analysts estimate the 2014 market was worth around \$87 billion. Perhaps globalists' “green” agenda involves cash, not climate or some altruistic moral cause.

While business enterprises worldwide are footing the global carbon market bill and passing the extra costs along to consumers, Obama is fleecing taxpayers back home. In a recent report by the Science and Environmental Policy Project, Ken Haapala outlined U.S. federal spending on climate change over the past decade, which totaled more than \$165 billion. In 2013 alone “government expenditures on alternative energy sources were 78% greater than [National Institutes of Health] expenditures on all categories of clinical research on known threats to human health.”

White House and Homeland Security Department reports reveal global warming received nearly twice as much in 2013 tax funding as did border security. Representative Jim Bridenstine (R-Okla.) chided the president for spending “30 times as much money on global warming research as he does on weather forecasting and warning,” calling it a “gross misallocation” of tax dollars. Haapala reproached, “The fear of climate change has distorted spending priorities in the Federal government.”

If Obama does not want to “condemn our children” to a future beyond repair, why is he ignoring real threats, hiding

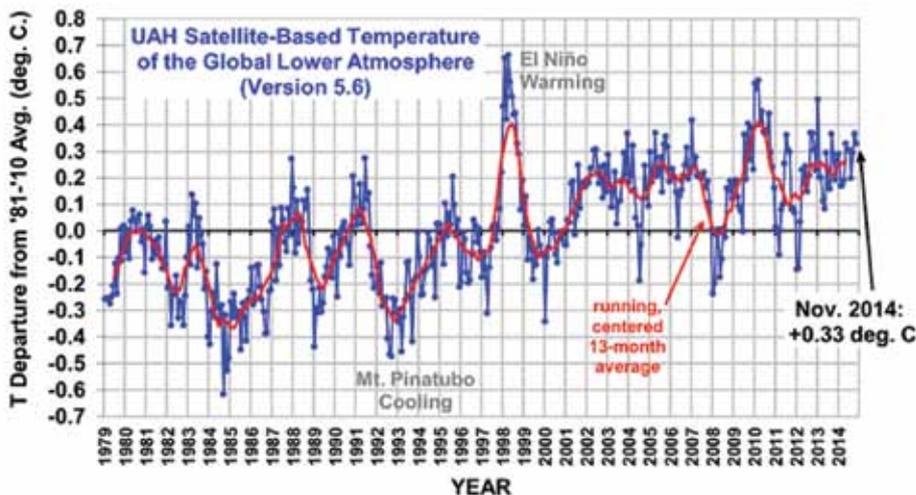


Figure 3: Dr. Roy Spencer of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, author of *Climate Confusion*, maintains a running tally of satellite temperatures on his website.

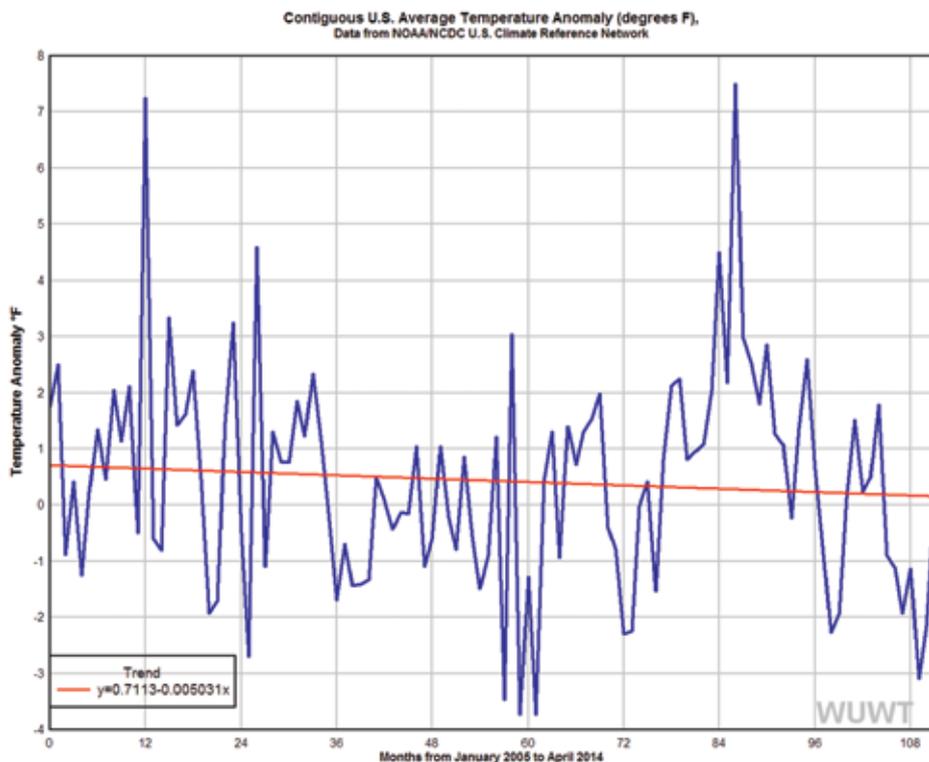


Figure 4: Designed for accuracy and a 50-100 year lifetime, U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) stations have shown a U.S. temperature decline since becoming operational in 2005.

real data, and wasting billions blaming an uninformed public for a fictitious problem that he says can only be solved by bigger government and more taxation?

In his speech at the climate summit, he claimed, “Our citizens keep marching. We cannot pretend we do not hear them. We have to answer the call.” What call? The latest Pew Research polls reveal that most Americans identify human-caused climate change as a fraud. Surveys conducted in 2013 and 2014 found a majority of Americans do not see global warming as a major threat and rank it near the bottom of the list of priorities for the president and Congress.

If America and other developed nations want to maintain their high standards of living, and if developing nations hope to improve theirs, we must realize that climate-change politics are diametrically opposed to these goals. A “high standard of living” doesn’t mean driving nice cars and wearing designer clothes. It refers to ample food supplies, a dependable infrastructure, employment-generating industry, adequate medical services, and decent education levels. The reliable, affordable power sources responsible for such prosperity — especially coal, oil, and natural

gas — sit in the crosshairs of “green” policy restrictions.

Radical environmentalists tout so-called renewables such as wind and solar, but “renewable energy” effectively means no energy at all. Wind and solar will never be able to power an industrial economy. These technologies only “generate electricity when their resource is available, not when it is needed,” writes electrical power engineer Bryan Leyland for the industry journal *EnergyCentral*. “In any power system, the generation must match the demand on a second-by-second basis.” That means when the sun isn’t shining and the wind isn’t blowing, the lights go out, unless renewables have reliable power sources as back-up. These are termed base-load providers, and it’s an expensive process for them to ramp up and down in answer to the variability of wind and solar.

Forcing power companies to include renewables in their energy mix is a costly mistake. Germany, a world leader in aggressive renewable policies, faces an industrial exodus and economic recession, with electricity prices that have risen approximately 60 percent since 2007. The German Chambers of Commerce report

that 25 percent of heavy industrial users are considering relocating abroad.

In the United States, where renewable portfolio standards vary from state to state, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that electricity prices broke all-time records in July 2014, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts even higher rates this winter. A report published in November by consulting firm Energy Ventures Analysis, *Energy Market Impacts of Recent Federal Regulations on the Electric Power Sector*, predicts that commercial and industrial customers’ power and gas bills will rise 60 percent over the next five years. Individuals will pay for these costs through higher prices for consumer goods, while their own utility bills will also experience a 60-percent increase between now and 2020.

Why are we imitating Germany’s folly? Because, while the Obama administration is forcing renewables into the power portfolio, it is squeezing base-load providers out. EPA-mandated emission limits on conventional sources of electricity, especially coal-fired power plants, are so restrictive that current technology cannot meet their demands. Paul Loeffelman, director of Corporate External Affairs for utility giant American Electric Power, states that the EPA’s regulations will force more than 50 gigawatts of coal generation — about 300 power plants — to be retired by 2016. The EPA is also poised to impose similar restrictions on new power plants, prompting U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) to complain, “Never before has the federal government forced an industry to do something that is technologically impossible. If these regulations go into effect, American jobs will be lost, electricity prices will soar, and economic uncertainty will grow.”

He could have said economic uncertainty will skyrocket, which is exactly what happens to society when access to adequate, affordable electricity is restricted. Figure 5 illustrates that countries with strong gross domestic products — the value of goods and services produced within a country annually — boast correspondingly high electrification levels (the percentage of households with electricity). The first 10 countries listed are top in the world ranked by GDP, and the remaining nations represent areas with relatively low electrification

Rank by GDP	Country	GDP (millions of US\$)	Household Electrification Level (%)
1	United States	16,244,600	100
2	China	8,358,400	99.4
3	Japan	5,960,180	100
4	Germany	3,425,956	100
5	France	2,611,221	100
6	United Kingdom	2,471,600	100
7	Brazil	2,254,109	97.0
8	Russia	2,029,812	Unavailable
9	Italy	2,013,392	100
10	India	1,875,213	75.3
57	Bangladesh	127,195	41.0
68	Myanmar (Burma)	59,444	13.0
92	Yemen	32,831	39.6
97	Bolivia	27,035	77.5
106	Uganda	21,736	9.0
108	Afghanistan	20,364	15.5
110	Honduras	18,564	70.3
118	Mozambique	14,605	11.7
120	North Korea	14,411	26.0
122	Cambodia	14,038	24.0
128	Burkina Faso	10,687	14.6
144	Haiti	7,187	38.5

Figure 5: Comparison of select countries by GDP and electrification level (information compiled from *Human Development Report 2007/2008* by the United Nations Development Programme; *World Energy Outlook 2011* by the International Energy Agency; *GDP and its breakdown at current prices in US Dollars* by the United Nations Statistics Division, December 2013).

levels in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Note the marked difference in GDP between countries with ample electricity and those without.

Obviously, energy poverty breeds economic stagnation and vice versa. The International Energy Agency (IEA), an intergovernmental policy advising organization, explains that “access to electricity is particularly crucial to human development” and “cannot easily be replaced by other forms of energy.” IEA claims, “Individuals’ access to electricity is one of the most clear and undistorted indications of a country’s energy poverty status.”

But just as Obama’s climate-change cronies turn a blind eye to factual weather data, so do they ignore the need for reliable access to energy. The president’s senior science and technology advisor, John Holdren, advocates transferring billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to developing countries annually, supposedly

to combat climate change. Of course, the climate policies our tax dollars help enact will further shackle those energy-impooverished nations.

Nonetheless, Obama is fulfilling Holdren’s wishes. At November’s G20 Summit in Australia, the president pledged \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, a wealth redistribution mechanism established under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush entangled our nation in this international treaty, setting the stage for UN control of our energy sources in the name of “sustainable development.” If that sounds far-fetched, consider that the treaty’s main architect was former UN diplomat Maurice Strong, who declared

at its unveiling, “We may get to the point where the only way of saving the world will be for industrialized civilization to collapse.”

UN officials still toe the same party line. In November the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) — another brainchild of globalist billionaire Strong — published the final volume of its latest assessment report. Full of grim projections, the study says, “Decarbonizing (i.e., reducing the carbon intensity of) electricity generation is a key component” of IPCC’s recommended climate policies and recommends that carbon-emitting fossil fuel power generation be “phased out almost entirely by 2100.”

Radical environmentalists know that human-caused global warming is a hoax. Temperature data shows no catastrophic warming trend, and archaeological evidence proves the planet has undergone periods of much more intense warming and cooling than our modern age has experienced. The purpose of the manufactured environmental crisis is not to save the Earth but to enslave it by restricting access to reliable, affordable energy.

“Partisans for world government take advantage of any contrived crisis to aid them in their drive to rule the planet,” John McManus, president of The John Birch Society (JBS), told THE NEW AMERICAN. “The global-warming/climate-change hysteria was created to empower a few who intend to dominate all mankind.”

But JBS Vice President Marty Ohlson offers a solution. “Concerned citizens should outreach to others to overcome the engineered ignorance about this subject,” he said, pointing to the “treasure trove” of information available at the organization’s website: www.jbs.org/issues-pages/environment. The key, Ohlson says, is education. “Tree-huggers of good character will likely re-think the issue after seeing it through the prism of truth.” ■



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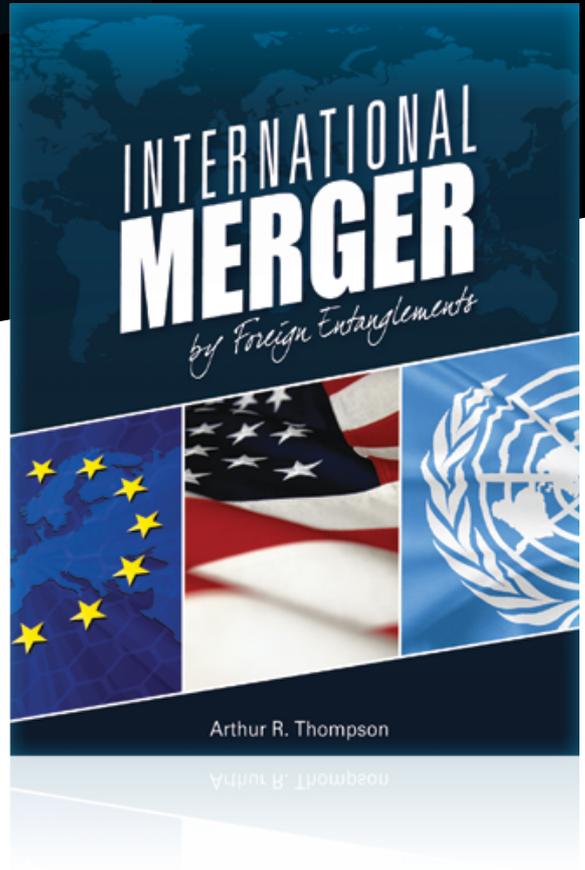
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The Rise of DOUBLETHINK



Believing two contradictory ideas at the same time — doublethink — is surprisingly common. In the debate over man-made global warming, it's the alarmists who are guilty.

by John Larabell

“To know and not to know, to be conscious of complete truthfulness while telling carefully constructed lies, to hold simultaneously two opinions which cancelled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them....

The power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.... To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient.” — George Orwell, 1984

In George Orwell's dystopian novel *1984*, citizens of Oceania were required to exercise *doublethink* on a regular basis in order to believe and go along with the lies that “Big Brother” told them. One particularly notable feature of doublethink in Orwell's novel was that most, if not all, of the people were

unaware that they were even engaging in such a display of mental gymnastics, or if they were aware of it, they would deny they were doing it. Readers of *1984* might be shocked or even cynically amused that such a mental exercise could even take place among anyone, much less a large segment of the population. We regret to announce that doublethink is alive and well in modern society, and it has a name: belief in catastrophic man-made global warming. To put it more precisely, believing that the Earth is approximately 4.5 billion years old and has gone through various geological ages and periods (which the majority of scientists today claim to be the case) and simultaneously believing that industrial emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere will have catastrophic effects upon the Earth's climate is a perfect example of doublethink.

Global-warming believers almost uni-

versally accept the idea of a 4.5-billion-year-old Earth, so for the purposes of this article, we will refer to the geological ages of the Earth as propounded by the majority of modern scientists. We are not making any claims as to the age of the Earth, as there are many people (including scientists) who believe that the Earth is much younger than several billion years. But to point out the glaring contradictions in the views of man-made global-warming believers, we need to examine the model of modern secular science that teaches an “old Earth.”

We will examine four areas of concern for many global-warming believers — atmospheric CO₂ levels, global temperatures, melting ice, and sea level rise — in the context of the modern science model of a 4.5-billion-year-old Earth. Then we will determine whether or not the view of global-warming believers regarding each of these four areas is indeed doublethink.

Exhibit A: Atmospheric CO₂ Levels

Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere are a constant source of worry for environmentalists and people who believe in man-made global warming. Currently at around 400 parts per million (ppm), or 0.04 percent of the

total atmosphere, CO₂ acts as a greenhouse gas, trapping heat and potentially causing the Earth to warm.

The argument goes like this: The more CO₂ that is put into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal, natural gas, etc.), the greater the greenhouse effect, and the warmer the Earth will get. Eventually this will lead to a “tipping point,” at which all sorts of climate catastrophes occur. A “runaway greenhouse” is even possible if CO₂ levels get too high, leading to continuous heating to the point that the planet as we know it will literally be destroyed. Many climatologists say we are very near the “tipping point,” and that the ideal CO₂ level is around 350 ppm (which we have already exceeded). For instance, in 2007, popular environmentalist Bill McKibben launched 350.org, an activist organization that aims to pressure world leaders to enact climate-change legislation with the goal of reducing atmospheric CO₂ content to 350 ppm or less.

So let’s take a look at the claims of modern science regarding CO₂ levels. Ancient CO₂ levels are typically determined by measuring the CO₂ uptake in the weathering of certain minerals, and CO₂ release during the erosion of fossilized organic matter.

More recent CO₂ levels can be determined by examining ice cores from Greenland or Antarctica. Using these and other methods, many models indicate that CO₂ levels are currently very *low* when compared to past levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels, according to the GEOCARB III (2001) model by Robert Berner and Zavareth Kothavala of the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Yale, were at various times *several thousand* parts per million. Other models place CO₂ levels lower than the GEOCARB III estimates, but all place past levels far higher than those of today. As Figure 1 illustrates, atmospheric CO₂ levels of 10 times, and even 15 times, modern levels were not uncommon.

According to the “old Earth” model, the current geological period has exhibited the *lowest* concentration of atmospheric CO₂ since life proliferated. That bears repeating: The “pre-industrial” 300 ppm and even the current 400 ppm are the some of the lowest CO₂ levels ever seen on the Earth! Even with CO₂ at several thousand parts per million, the planet did not spiral into a runaway greenhouse; the Earth was just fine. Furthermore, CO₂ levels have fluctuated greatly over the past geological ages, and all of this tremendous fluctuation happened complete-

ly independent of the industrial burning of fossil fuels, which has been going on for less than 200 years.

The verdict? Believing the popular scientific view of a 4.5-billion-year-old Earth that has passed through various geological ages with vastly higher CO₂ levels than at present, during which plant and animal life flourished, while simultaneously believing that atmospheric CO₂ levels of 400 ppm are dangerous and the planet is at risk of climate disaster is, indeed, doublethink.

Exhibit B: Global Temperatures

In addition to rising CO₂ levels, global surface temperatures are another point of constant fear among global-warming believers. Even a (very) slight rise in average temperature over a period of a few decades is said to be a harbinger of doom, and predictions of skyrocketing future temperatures and the accompanying natural disasters (floods, storms, droughts, fires, etc.) are often heard on mainstream media news programs. If current atmospheric CO₂ levels are no cause for alarm, then what about temperatures?

Back we go to our “conventional science” model of a 4.5-billion-year-old Earth. Past temperatures are determined through various means, such as measuring the oxygen isotope and mineral content in fossilized sea life (warmer or cooler oceans will lead to changes in these elements), plant leaf shape (tropical-type plants existing in higher latitudes suggest warmer climate), and the carbon and oxygen content in certain minerals. As one might guess from reading the above information regarding CO₂ levels, temperatures throughout most (but not all) of the Earth’s past have been much higher than they are today. For example, a 2004 study by Dana Royer et al. published in *GSA Today* placed temperatures in the very ancient past at levels approaching 25 °F warmer than those of today. While estimates of the distant past temperatures are very approximate, and increase in accuracy the closer they get to the present, Figure 2 shows clearly that modern temperatures are quite low compared to what the Earth has experienced for most of its history. And high temperatures did not always correspond to higher CO₂ levels, and vice versa. There were times in

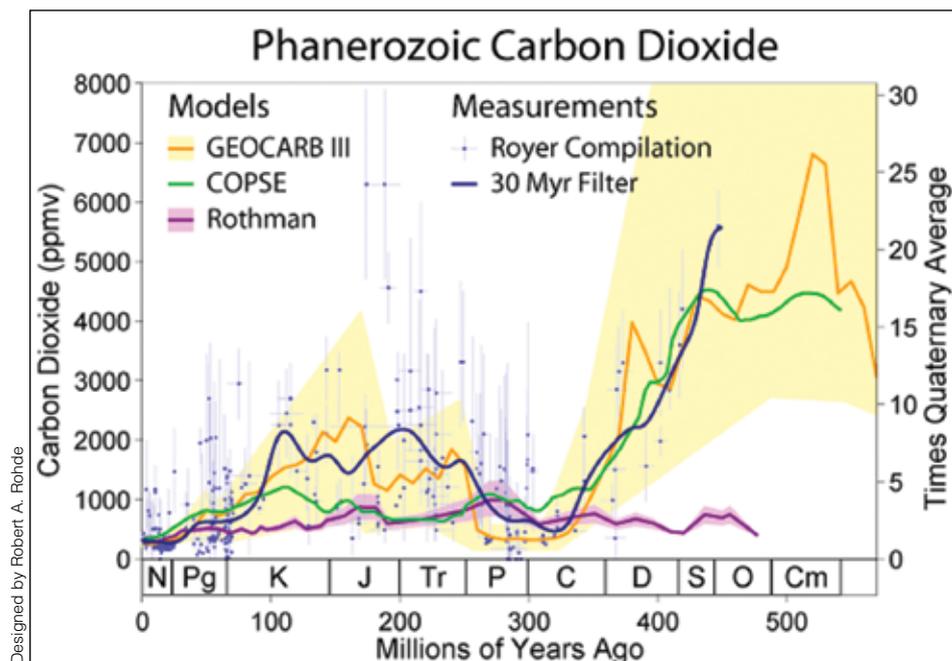


Figure 1: This chart depicts atmospheric CO₂ levels throughout various geological ages according to several “modern science” models. While measurements are approximate, CO₂ levels were quite clearly higher in the past. The modern increase in CO₂ levels is imperceptible on this scale.

“interglacials” in 40,000 to 100,000-year intervals, in which ice sheets advanced and retreated over the Earth’s surface, greatly influencing global climate and temperatures. We are currently experiencing an interglacial period, referred to as the Holocene, that began some 11,000 years ago, at the end of what is known colloquially as the Ice Age.

We can make several important observations at this point. First, the normal state of the Earth is to *not* have permanent ice sheets. Glacial periods are abnormalities that occur occasionally on Earth’s geological timeline. Second, atmospheric CO₂ levels have little correlation to glacial events. Glaciations have occurred while CO₂ levels were, according to some models, 10 times higher than they are currently, and the modern low CO₂ levels during the current glaciation are abnormal when compared to historic levels during glaciations. Third, since past glacial stages lasted tens of millions of years, the current glaciation will likely last much longer. The current “interglacial” that we are experiencing could someday come to an end, and continental ice sheets could once again advance to cover Canada, the northern United States, much of Europe, etc. Fourth, all of these glaciations began and ended independent of any human activity. Not even our current interglacial that began around 10,000 years ago was brought about by industrial activity.

The verdict? Believing in a 4.5-billion-year-old Earth that has passed through various geological ages in which the normal state is a warm environment with no permanent ice sheets, punctuated by several periods of glaciation, while simultaneously believing that any recent melting of the polar ice sheets is disastrous is doublethink.

Exhibit D: Sea Level Rise

Rising sea levels are a companion problem to melting ice sheets in the theory of catastrophic man-made global warming. If sea levels continue to rise, goes the theory, millions of people living in low-lying coastal areas will be forced to evacuate. Entire island chains, such as the Maldives, which lie to the southwest of India, are only a few feet above sea level on average. Rising sea levels naturally would cause a great deal of hardship for people in such



Ice sheets forever? These penguins are jumping into the water off the coast of Antarctica. Many scientists say that for most of the Earth’s geological history, such polar ice did not exist. According to this view, the polar ice sheets might once again expand, covering much of North America and Europe, or they might melt completely, as they have done in the past with no human influence.

areas. But are sea levels really rising at a dangerous rate, and can any modern sea-level fluctuations really be attributed to human industrial activity?

Global sea levels fluctuate for a variety of reasons. Plate tectonics and resultant changing depths of the ocean basins have a slow, long-term effect on sea levels. Short-term changes (relatively speaking) in sea levels can be attributed to the advancing and melting of polar ice sheets associated with glaciations. Other, very minor, influences on global sea levels include changes in water temperature, changes in the salinity of the water, and seasonal variations owing to precipitation and wind patterns, etc.

So what does the geological record tell us about global sea levels? According to the “modern science” view of the Earth’s history, sea levels over the past eons have seen tremendous variation and, for the most part, have been much higher than they are currently.

According to a 1977 study by Peter Vail et al. commissioned by Exxon, sea levels frequently reached 100 to 250 meters (around 330 to 820 feet) higher than they are today. A 1983 study by Anthony Hallam et al. places very ancient sea levels even higher, peaking nearly 400 meters (around 1,300 feet) above modern levels. (The Vail and Hallam sea-level curve models can be seen in Figure 4.) Past sea

levels are difficult to determine, and but studies done on sea-level changes, such as those done by Bilal Haq in 1987 and K.G. Miller et al. in 2005, suggest that sea levels over the last 100 million years follow the same curve as the Vail and Hallam models but suggest a lower amplitude of change, with sea levels peaking at 100-150 meters (330-500 feet) above today’s levels. While certainly lower than what is suggested by Vail and Hallam, these levels are still enormously higher than the tiny amount of sea-level change recorded in recent years that has many people worried about impending climate doom.

So what about modern sea-level rise? Modern sea-level measurements, which began around 1880, show a nice linear increase beginning in 1900 and extending to the present. These measurements indicate a 20th-century sea-level rise of a whopping eight or nine inches, an amount not even visible on most charts of sea-level rise since the last glaciation. (See Figure 5.) Just as with CO₂ levels, temperatures, and glaciations, sea levels have changed dramatically over the Earth’s geological history, and they are currently at a low point on the geologic timescale. In fact, only during periods of intense glaciation have sea levels been significantly lower (a few feet is not significant) than they are today.

The verdict? Believing in a 4.5-billion-year-old Earth that has passed through various geological ages in which sea levels fluctuated greatly, and were normally much higher than they are now, while simultaneously believing that the 20th-century sea-level rise of around eight inches is disastrous and caused by human activity is doublethink.

The Final Verdict

As mentioned above, nearly everyone believing in catastrophic man-made global warming also believes that the Earth is 4.5 billion years old and has experienced the dramatic climate change illustrated in this article. Only by engaging in doublethink could a person believe that any modern climate events are indications that the

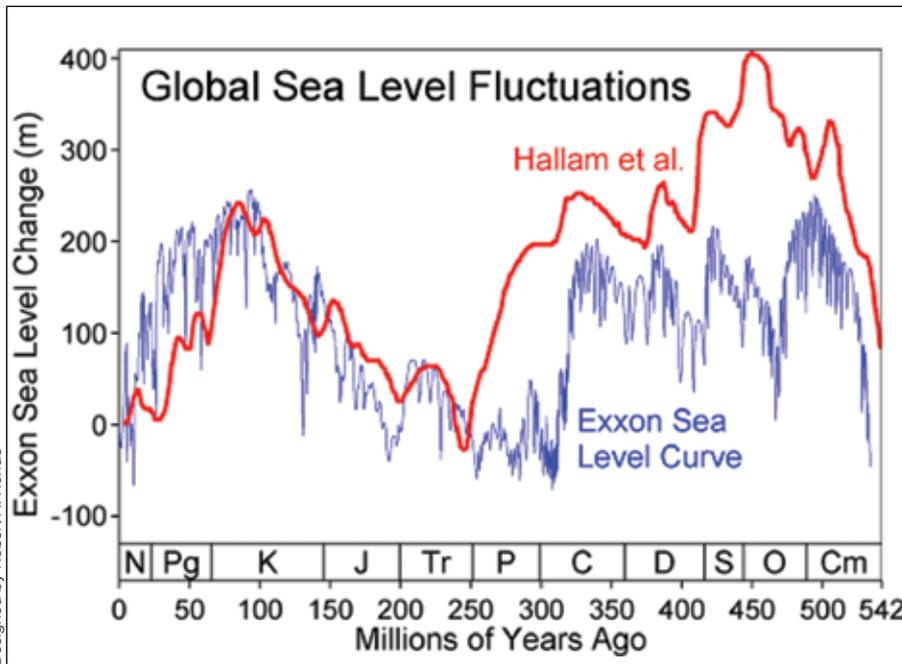
Earth is heading for disaster, and that this is caused by human industrial activity.

Global-warming believers, to be consistent, must either deny any past climate changes or explain how any very slight recent climate change is catastrophic when the Earth has experienced climatic changes more drastic by far than anything in recent history. For instance, how did CO₂ levels get so high in the past, and how did they get so low (relatively) at present? How did ice sheets form during the various glaciations, and how did they melt? All of this happened without industrial CO₂ emissions.

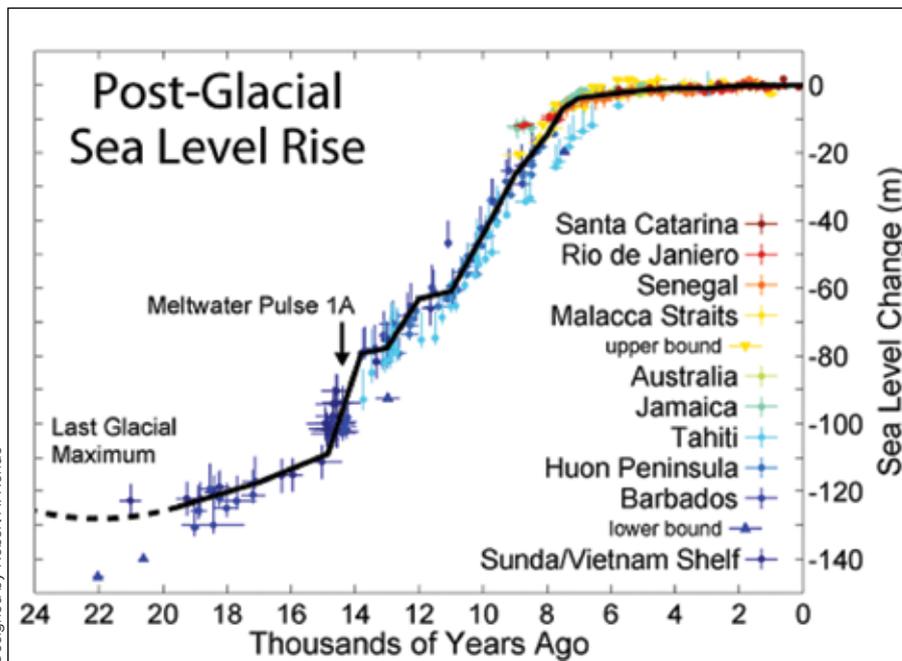
Few who believe in a 4.5-billion-year-old Earth would seriously claim that the planet's climate from the beginning of life until the Industrial Revolution was held at a constant, unchanging state. If so, why is "change" now considered so dangerous? Using a "pre-industrial" climate of 1850-1880 as a baseline, which is often done for CO₂ levels and sea levels, only makes sense if the Earth began at that point. Using the climate of 1950-1980 as a baseline, which is frequently done for average global temperatures, makes even less sense.

James Hansen et al. noted in a 2008 paper published in the *Open Atmospheric Science Journal* that "Paleoclimate evidence and ongoing global changes imply that today's CO₂, about 385 ppm, is already too high to maintain the climate to which humanity, wildlife, and the rest of the biosphere are adapted." It is true that human civilization began in, and is thus adapted to, the current Holocene climate that began after the last glacial event, but to think that the Earth will be forever locked in its present climate state barring any human-caused increases in CO₂ levels is silly. And to imagine that we can keep the Earth forever locked in its present climate state if we reduce industrial CO₂ emissions is arrogant and demonstrates a profound lack of critical thinking skills. The polar ice sheets could melt completely as they have done in the past, causing sea levels to rise dramatically. Or the Earth could enter another glacial period. The point is, Earth's climate has always changed, and it will continue to change regardless of what humans do or do not do, long after fossil fuel supplies have been exhausted.

Believing in the views of science and believing in catastrophic man-made global warming is illogical. It is contradictory. It is doublethink. ■



Designed by Robert A. Rohde



Designed by Robert A. Rohde

Figures 4 and 5: Top chart shows two sea-level curve models over a geologic timeline according to the "old Earth" model. Sea levels have normally been much higher than at present. Bottom: Sea level rise since the Last Glacial Maximum. Twentieth-century sea-level rise is imperceptible.



ESTABLISHMENT MEDIA

Openly Defends Rioting as Ferguson Burns

Blocking traffic, destroying property, stealing, and committing arson – against completely innocent persons – have been justified by major media. How can that be right?

by Alex Newman

After months of fomenting strife, hate, and unrest surrounding the fatal shooting of Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, the increasingly discredited establishment press — *Time* magazine, in particular, but others too — has taken it to the next level. On November 25, *Time* published an incendiary “opinion” piece headlined “Ferguson: In Defense of Rioting.” As the title suggests, the commentary defends the perpetration of violence following a grand jury’s decision not to indict Officer Wilson on charges of murder and manslaughter. But the piece goes even beyond that, calling riots “necessary” to the “evolution” of society.

Since the grand jury’s decision was announced November 24, Ferguson has

faced even more violence than was experienced in August in the immediate aftermath of the shooting. Outraged and agenda-driven agitators — many from out of town — seized on the news as an excuse to run wild, steal, destroy property, and more. Businesses were burned to the ground and looted. Even a local church was not spared by the frenzied and violent mob. According to news reports, numerous gunshots were fired by “protesters,” too. At least one man died amid the chaos. Pictures that emerged after the latest round of rioting and looting revealed an American suburb that looked more like a war zone.

Necessary Riots?

In response to the tragedy, *Time* magazine published its pro-rioting piece by Darlena Cunha, who also serves as a contributor

to a wide array of other establishment mouthpieces, including the *Washington Post*. “The violent protests in Ferguson, Mo., are part of the American experience,” reads the sub-header for the *Time* “Ideas” column promoting riots and senseless violence as a proper and effective means of achieving political goals. “Peaceful protesting is a luxury only available to those safely in mainstream culture.” Cunha then goes even further: “Riots are a necessary part of the evolution of society.” To defend her thesis, she even cites the Boston Tea Party, equating it with the current mayhem enveloping Ferguson.

“Because when you have succeeded, it ceases to be a possibility, in our capitalist society, that anyone else helped you,” Cunha continues, dismissing the explanation offered by one critic of the rioting who blamed the violence on the estab-

On November 25, *Time* published an incendiary “opinion” piece headlined “Ferguson: In Defense of Rioting.” As the title suggests, the commentary defends the perpetration of violence following a grand jury’s decision not to indict Officer Wilson.

ishment-promoted mentality of “blaming everyone else” for one’s own failures. “And if no one helped you succeed, then no one is holding anyone else back from succeeding. Except they did help you, and they are holding people back. So that blaming someone else for your failures in the United States may very well be an astute observation of reality, particularly as it comes to white privilege versus black privilege.”

Before saying blacks are more apt to riot, race-obsessed Cunha insists that she is not racist, styling herself a “realist” instead. “Until I have had to walk in a person of color’s skin, I will never understand, I will always take things for granted, and I will be inherently privileged,” she claimed. “But by ignoring the very real issues this country still faces in terms of race to promote an as-of-yet imaginary colorblind society, we contribute to

the problem at hand, which is centuries of abuses lobbied against other humans on no basis but that of their skin color.” Nowhere does *Time* or Cunha point out that the allegedly racist American people twice elected Obama, who is half black, to be president.

“I would put forth that peaceful protesting is a luxury of those already in mainstream culture, those who can be assured their voices will be heard without violence, those who can afford to wait for the change they want,” Cunha writes in her widely criticized and ridiculed defense of rioting. “Blacks in this country are more apt to riot because they are one of the populations here who still need to. In the case of the 1992 riots, 30 years of black people trying to talk about their struggles of racial profiling and muted, but still vastly unfair, treatment, came to a boil.” Of course, countless black Amer-

icans — including many whose businesses were looted and burned down in recent weeks — would likely take offense at the bizarre notion that their “population,” which in Cunha’s world is apparently defined solely by melanin content, “need” to riot.

Concluding the bizarre argument, Cunha goes on to defend the individuals involved in the violence, looting, and rioting, suggesting they are merely “angry” at “the system” and that stealing and destroying other people’s property while shooting randomly might be justified responses. “Instead of tearing down other human beings who are acting upon decades of pent-up anger at a system decidedly against them, a system that has told them they are less than human for years, we ought to be reaching out to help them regain the humanity they lost, not when a few set fire to the buildings in Ferguson, but when they were born the wrong color in the post-racial America,” she said. It was not immediately clear who told blacks they were “less than human for years” or how having slightly more melanin content made somebody the “wrong color.” One is forced to wonder, as well, why the author doesn’t justify the murder of innocents by blacks as well. Certainly, after hundreds of years of slavery, they must be justified in that too.

Cunha’s argument was promptly attacked by critics as absurd. Rick Moran at *American Thinker*, for example, pointed to the business owners (“almost all of them minorities”) who watched helplessly as their lifetime dreams went up in smoke. “There are, indeed, justifications for breaking the law. But there is nothing ‘political’ about destroying property not your own, injuring people, and taking what you want without payment,” he wrote, ridiculing the notion that burning, smashing, and looting could be legitimized as some sort of “political statement” that Americans had better submit to.

“Even if you buy into the dubious ‘white privilege’ sociological crap, you must recognize that when law and order break down, we are left with the rule of the jungle. And in a jungle, only the strong benefit from mayhem. The victims are those who can’t or won’t fight back,” Moran concluded. “So Ms. Cunha is actually supporting jungle law vs. civilization — a civilization



Beautiful carnage? This pile of rubble is all that remains of a beauty salon in Ferguson after being burned to the ground by rioters and looters egged on by the establishment media to pursue “justice.”

that makes possible her freedom to publish nonsensical screeds like this without worrying about anyone setting her house on fire or looting her belongings. Wouldn't that be a 'political' statement, too?"

Cunha was not alone in openly defending rioting. Gawker, a widely read website that largely peddles celebrity gossip, even published a piece purporting to make the "economic case" supposedly justifying wanton destruction of property and violence. "There is, of course, the historical case to be made for rioting: the past is replete with examples where rioting gets the goods," the piece argues. "But there is also, I'd submit, an even more straightforward case for rioting: at the right levels, rioting is economically efficient." According to Gawker's commentary, by rioting and looting, Ferguson residents are teaching authorities a lesson while making future shootings of citizens by police less likely through the imposition of heavy "costs" on taxpayers, businesses, and residents.

The Push to Riot

Meanwhile, more than a few analysts have suggested that the rioting and looting in Ferguson may have been deliberately fomented by the establishment and its mouthpieces in the press. "Either this was a case of almost unbelievable incompetence, or there was someone out there that actually wanted this to happen," argued analyst Mike Snyder with the popular Economic Collapse blog in a widely cited piece, citing 10 supposed "coincidences" that contributed to the latest chaos. "If someone out there is actually trying to provoke more violence in Ferguson, then the rioters are being played like a fiddle. Most of them have no idea that they could potentially just be pawns in a game that is far larger than they ever imagined. The only other alternative to explain what we just saw is incompetence on a level that is absolutely laughable."

Some in law enforcement even argued that Obama, outgoing Attorney General Eric Holder, and other top federal officials were subtly helping to instigate the mayhem in Ferguson. "When I heard the president call for calm after the rioting started, I questioned his sincerity because some of his political strategy



AP Images

Obama to the rescue? After both Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder made public appearances and reinforced the idea of racist cops, Obama met with officials and "community leaders" to plot the federalization of police in America — completely unaccountable police forces.

of divide and conquer fuels this sort of racial animosity between people," argued Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, who happens to be a black Democrat. "And so, I think when he called for calm after the rioting started, I believe it was done with a wink and a nod." Of course, the administration has already come under fire for inciting and fanning racial tensions and unrest on numerous occasions.

While the anti-capitalist screed in *Time* drew swift condemnation and ridicule from the alternative and conservative-leaning press, such half-baked agitation and promotion of unrest and division has actually become a staple among the mischaracterized "mainstream" media — though perhaps not quite as openly as Cunha's piece. From giving respectability and credibility to race-mongers and profiteers to wildly sensationalizing stories that help advance the Big Government agenda, the increasingly discredited establishment press appears to be becoming more and more brazen in its efforts to distort the facts and foment chaos for various purposes.

Indeed, the establishment-manufactured violence serves a number of important goals. For one, it helps keep the American people divided based on arbitrary characteristics such as "race," "class," "gender," and more. Fanning the flames of hate and division while keeping the public focused on blaming other races, classes, and genders also distracts from the real issues and the real sources of many real problems plaguing America today: Big Government, globalism, anti-constitutional governance, the looting of the nation by the establishment via its banking cartel and currency monopoly, and more.

The American people should reject the race-based hatred and division being deceitfully promoted by the establishment and its propaganda organs — along with the looting, violence, and rioting. Instead, Americans of goodwill should reach across the aisle to deal with the underlying causes of so many problems facing the nation today. There are many indeed. But contrary to *Time's* absurd narrative, a lack of riots, violence, and thievery to achieve "justice" are not among them. ■



AP Images

ISIS

The Best Terror Threat U.S. Tax Money Can Buy

ISIS, the throat-cutting, children-murdering Islamist terrorist organization that is taking over large segments of Iraq and Syria, owes its beginning to the U.S. government.

by Alex Newman

The self-styled “Islamic State,” the gaggle of medieval savages and barbarians often referred to as ISIS or ISIL, is now infamous worldwide for its unrestrained brutality. The al-Qaeda offshoot exploded onto the scene in 2014 amid its gruesome and bloody effort to build an Islamic “Caliphate,” exterminate “apostates,” and overthrow the “apostate” regime of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad. America and the West are supposedly next — at least that is what the public is being told.

Ever since ISIS emerged seemingly out of nowhere, Americans and people around the globe have been treated to a steady TV

diet of beheadings, massacres, crucifixions, and other unspeakable horrors perpetrated by the group. Even young children, whose only “crime” was professing faith in Jesus Christ, have been butchered in the most grotesque ways imaginable by the terror outfit. Eventually, ISIS leaders claim, the whole world will submit to the Islamic god, Allah, and his caliph on Earth, a mystery man who goes by the name “Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi” and was once detained in the U.S.-run prison Camp Bucca in Iraq.

The jihadist savagery perpetrated by ISIS is now well documented and well known, with the group’s atrocities being used as a pretext to further empower governments and the United Nations and at-

U.S. friends? Thanks to Obama and globalist support for the jihadist uprising against Syrian dictator Assad, ISIS terrorists have been able to seize control over large swaths of Syria.

tack liberty and national sovereignty on a global scale. What is less known, though, is how ISIS — like countless horror shows before it — represents merely the latest bitter fruit produced by U.S. foreign policy and the machinations of the globalist establishment that largely controls it.

How the Anti-ISIS Alliance Built ISIS

Indeed, without the U.S. government and Obama’s “coalition” of Sunni Islamist strongmen, the “Islamic State” would probably not exist — much less have the resources, weapons, manpower, and training needed to seize enough territory to create a “Caliphate” (Islamic Empire) of barbarism across large swaths of Iraq and Syria. This is hardly a secret to anyone who has been paying attention to anything other than the establishment media.

In fact, at least two of the administration’s top officials — Vice President Joe Biden and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Martin Dempsey — have publicly discussed the role of Obama’s “anti-ISIS” coalition in building up the terrorist group. Speaking at Harvard, Biden also admitted another truth long accepted as fact among credible analysts: Despite all of Obama’s rhetoric, there is no such thing as a “mod-

erate” force in Syria that the White House claims to have been supporting against Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

“The fact is, the ability to identify a moderate middle in Syria, um, was, uh — there was no moderate middle,” Biden stated, acknowledging that history was likely to record the facts. In other words, the entire notion that Obama and the U.S. government were arming “well-vetted moderate” jihadists in Syria to battle less-moderate jihadists is a fantasy — or a fraud. It was completely discredited by the president’s own deputy in a public speech!

Biden also cited Obama’s “anti-ISIS” allies as the most important players behind the creation and empowerment of the terror group to begin with. “What my constant cry was, that our biggest problem was our allies — our allies in the region were our largest problem,” Biden continued. He specifically identified the Islamist rulers of Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, along with unspecified others such as Qatar, as the main culprits. “They were so determined to take down Assad and essentially have a proxy Sunni-Shia war,” Biden said. So, with that in mind, “What did they do?” the vice president asked before providing a partial answer. “They poured hundreds of millions of dollars and tens, thousands of tons of weapons into anyone who would fight against Assad; except that the people who were being supplied were Al Nusra and Al Qaeda and the extremist elements of jihadis coming from other parts of the world,” Biden said. He did not mention

the role of the CIA and the State Department in the process, of course, but that has been well documented by countless sources, as THE NEW AMERICAN has been reporting for years.

“Now you think I’m exaggerating — take a look,” Biden continued. “Where did all of this go? So now what’s happening? All of a sudden everybody’s awakened because this outfit called ISIL, which was Al Qaeda in Iraq, which when they were essentially thrown out of Iraq, found open space in territory in eastern Syria, work with Al Nusra who we declared a terrorist group early on, and we could not convince our colleagues to stop supplying them.”

Lest Biden’s uncharacteristic truth-telling be dismissed as the ravings of Obama’s “impeachment insurance,” as the vice president has come to be known, he is hardly the only senior official to acknowledge that the “anti-ISIS” coalition was actually responsible for ISIS. In a Senate hearing last fall, for example, neocon Senator Lindsey Graham — among the most ardent warmongers in Congress — asked General Dempsey whether he knew of any “major Arab ally” that embraces ISIS.

General Dempsey responded with an answer that Graham, a longtime advocate of arming and training more jihadists, was almost certainly not expecting. “I know of major Arab allies who *fund* them,” Dempsey explained. Graham stepped in, perhaps trying to save face, by downplaying the explosive admission. “They fund them because the Free Syrian Army couldn’t fight Assad,

they were trying to beat Assad,” the senator from South Carolina claimed. “Let’s don’t taint the Mideast unfairly.”

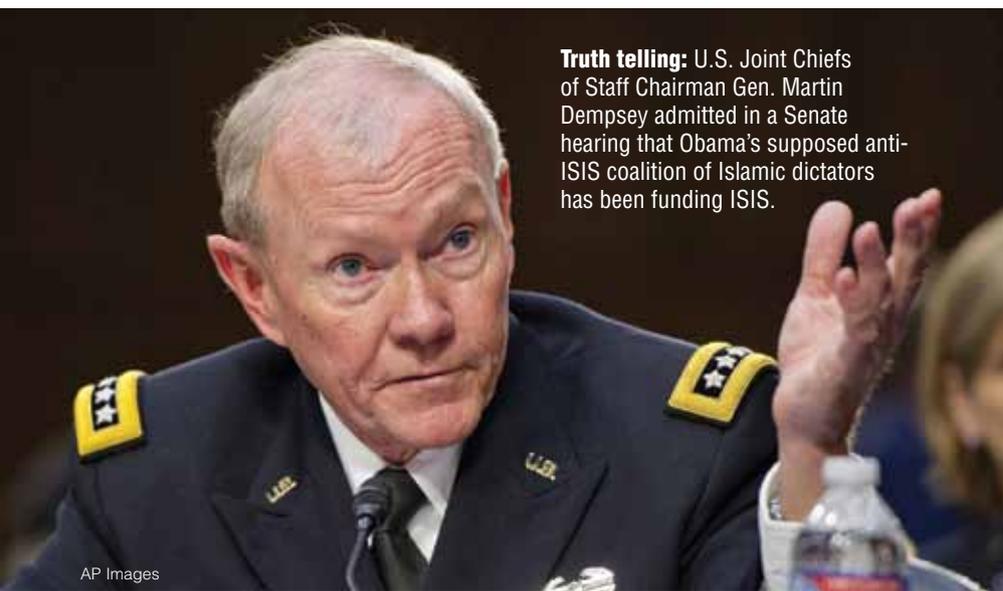
Obama Support for Jihadists Helped Produce ISIS, Too

Graham might have been correct that Obama’s anti-ISIS coalition was backing ISIS to overthrow Assad, Syria’s brutal dictator, who is viewed as an “apostate” among the jihadists seeking “regime change.” But Sunni Arab dictators with different views on Islam were hardly alone in that endeavor. In fact, the U.S. government and the upper echelons of the globalist foreign policy establishment at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and other strongholds of power were advocating and following precisely the same strategy long before ISIS officially emerged.

Mohamed “Ed” Husain, an “adjunct senior fellow for Middle Eastern studies” at the CFR, for example, is now pointing to the terrorist groups rampaging across Syria as a justification for “unifying” the Middle East under a European Union-style regime. In 2012, though, he was *celebrating* the role of al-Qaeda (elements of which went on to become ISIS) in furthering globalist aims. “The influx of jihadis brings discipline, religious fervor, battle experience from Iraq, funding from Sunni sympathizers in the Gulf, and most importantly, deadly results,” gushed Husain, a Sunni Muslim, in a piece for the CFR. “In short, the [Obama-backed Free Syrian Army] needs al-Qaeda now.” In reality, there was little to no difference between the FSA and al-Qaeda from the start, as mountains of evidence make clear.

Beyond the crucial support for ISIS and al-Qaeda provided by Obama’s purported allies in the alleged war against ISIS, though, the Obama administration itself has also proven essential to the emergence and strengthening of the terror group. Almost from the start of the Western-backed uprising in Syria, Obama boldly proclaimed his solidarity with the establishment-fueled “rebels.” At the time, little was known publicly about the character of the rebellion, with the “mainstream” press falsely presenting it as a “pro-democracy” uprising against tyranny, rather than a complex Western-backed Muslim Brotherhood operation.

Soon, though, the truth about the reb-



Truth telling: U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey admitted in a Senate hearing that Obama’s supposed anti-ISIS coalition of Islamic dictators has been funding ISIS.

AP Images



AP Images

“Free Syrian Army” jihadists, who are armed, funded, and trained by the Obama administration, openly work with ISIS against the Syrian regime, with countless FSA operatives joining ISIS with their U.S. weapons.

els began creeping out — this was a brutal Sunni-jihadist “revolution,” with powerful backers aiming to impose a sharia-run dictatorship in Syria after Assad was gone. Even the supposedly “moderate” rebels backed openly by Western powers — operating under the banner of the “Free Syrian Army” — were exposed as Islamists perpetrating war crimes and cannibalism, exterminating Christians, advocating ethnic cleansing, co-operating with al-Qaeda, and more.*

The war drums in the United States were already beating, though, and Obama was issuing secret and open proclamations purporting to authorize U.S. support — including arms shipments — for the jihadist rebels in Syria. Despite official claims that the arms were going to “moderates” (remember, Biden recently admitted to the world that there were no “moderates” among the Syrian rebels), even the establishment mouthpiece *New York Times* reported as early as October of 2012 that “most” of the U.S. weapons being showered on the Syrian rebels were going to “hard-line Islamic jihadists.” The rest were presumably going to regular Islamic jihadists.

A Syrian fighter defending locals in his area spoke with *THE NEW AMERICAN* last September. He was even more blunt than the *Times* or Biden. “Everyone who can

hold a gun here, be sure [he] is with the [Syrian] Army or he will be with ISIS,” explained the man, whose identity is being withheld for safety reasons.

Worse still, perhaps, is that Obama was reportedly training actual ISIS fighters in Jordan under the guise of helping “moderate” rebels overthrow Assad, according to Jordanian security officials cited by WND journalist Aaron Klein. “The officials said dozens of future ISIS members were trained at the time as part of covert aid to the insurgents targeting the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Syria,” Klein reported. “The Jordanian officials said all ISIS members who received U.S. training to fight in Syria were first vetted for any links to extremist groups like al-Qaida.”

Even among those Obama-backed rebel forces that were not “technically” ISIS or al-Qaeda to begin with, the line between them was virtually non-existent. For example, the international press has been packed with interviews by both “moderate” rebels and ISIS/al-Qaeda leaders boasting of their cooperation with each other in the fight against Assad to create an Islamic dictatorship.

“We are buying weapons from the FSA,” ISIS fighter Abu Atheer was quoted as saying by Al Jazeera, referring to the

Obama-backed “Free Syrian Army” jihadists. “We bought 200 anti-aircraft missiles and Koncourse anti-tank weapons. We have good relations with our brothers in the FSA. For us, the infidels are those who cooperate with the West to fight Islam.”

Separately, FSA commander Bassel Idriss told Lebanon’s *Daily Star* newspaper that his group is “collaborating with the Islamic State and the Nusra Front [al-Qaeda’s branch in Syria] by attacking the Syrian Army’s gatherings.” Countless other examples of Obama’s “moderates” and the non-moderate ISIS/al-Qaeda terrorists celebrating their cooperation and friendliness with each other can be found in media outlets around the globe.

Another FSA commander, Abdel Bas-set Al-Tawil, told Al Jazeera in June of 2013 (before ISIS emerged) that his Obama-backed rebels were working with al-Qaeda to build a state in Syria based on sharia law. “It is no secret that we have ties with everybody, even the brothers in the Nusra Front, and we cooperate in many places,” he boasted, calling for even more cooperation. Tawil then threatened that if Western powers did not promptly send even more weapons within a month, “we will reveal all the evidence we have” about the chemical weapons attack Obama unsuccessfully sought to blame on Assad as a pretext for launching direct military strikes. More weapons shipments began promptly — this time, even more openly.

In November, an FSA operative by the name of “Mahmoud” was quoted in media reports admitting that he now works with ISIS and Nusra to funnel fighters and supplies to the terror groups — and that he is not alone. “Many of my friends are doing the same now,” he told the U.K. *Telegraph*, adding that Obama should have sent even more weapons to rebels to stop them from joining ISIS and Nusra. “ISIL is the only solution for us.... The most important thing now though is to remove the regime and ISIL are [is??] the strongest group. I will do whatever it takes.”

Meanwhile, as if to drive the point home, multiple reports from human rights groups and news agencies suggested that

Despite all of Obama’s rhetoric, there is no such thing as a “moderate” force in Syria that the White House claims to have been supporting against Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

*For more information on Obama and globalist support for jihadists and terrorists in Syria, see “War in Syria: Empowering Islamists” in *THE NEW AMERICAN*’s October 21, 2013 issue.

ISIS and many of Obama's "moderates" signed a non-aggression pact brokered by the al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria, Jabhat al-Nusra. According to Agence France-Presse (AFP), the French news agency, the deal states that "the two parties will respect a truce until a final solution is found and they promise not to attack each other because they consider the principal enemy to be the Nussayri regime." The term "Nussayri" is a slur used to describe the Islamic Shia denomination to which Assad and many Syrians belong — a sect that a spokesman for the Obama-backed FSA vowed on TV to exterminate, along with all other Shias in Syria.

More recently still, last November, two of the key Obama-backed "moderate rebel" groups, the Harakat Hazm and the Syrian Revolutionary Front (SRF), both affiliated with the FSA, also defected to ISIS and al-Qaeda. Unsurprisingly, they took their U.S.-supplied weapons with them — including Grad rockets and Tow anti-tank missiles. Before that, an entire "moderate" brigade of 1,000 Syrian rebels known as Dawud, part of the Islamic Front's "Sham Army," also defected to ISIS, taking its tanks and weapons with it.

Much of the expensive military hardware showered on Iraq's U.S.-installed regime has also "mysteriously" ended up in ISIS hands, too, as have many supplies dropped from the air for "moderate" rebels. In October, meanwhile, even the establishment media was reporting that a massive amount of U.S. "foreign aid" was flowing *directly* to ISIS. The Daily Beast, for example, reported that "truckloads of U.S. and Western aid have been flowing into territory controlled by the jihadists."

Blunders Galore

Aside from the arming, training, and funding of jihadists in Syria, the "anti-ISIS" coalition's creation — ISIS — could not have come about without decades of previous U.S. foreign policy "blunders," as the establishment likes to call them. Without each successive piece of the puzzle falling into place, ISIS and the global jihadist movement being exploited by globalists today to advance their agenda would probably not exist.

Going back decades, the U.S. government and its allies were instrumental in creating the Islamist Mujahedeen to fight

against the Russians in Afghanistan. Those Muslim "holy warriors" radicalized and armed by the U.S. government went on to become the Taliban and al-Qaeda — with al-Qaeda representing the genesis of what would later become ISIS. Former British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, writing in the U.K. *Guardian*, is one of countless sources who have acknowledged the U.S. role in creating al-Qaeda. Noting that "throughout the 80s [Osama bin Laden] was armed by the CIA and funded by the Saudis to wage jihad against the Russian occupation of Afghanistan," Cook called bin Laden "a product of a monumental miscalculation by western security agencies."

While not everybody agrees that it was a "miscalculation," the fact that bin Laden and his fighters worked with and on behalf of the U.S. government and other Western powers is beyond dispute. Without having created that global jihadist powerhouse decades ago, what is known today as ISIS almost certainly would not exist.

Then came the next crucial element. Under the George W. Bush administration, U.S. forces overthrew former U.S. ally Saddam Hussein, the brutal Iraqi dictator who, seeking to stamp out competition to his bloody rule, had no tolerance for al-Qaeda and other Islamist groups. In fact, there was virtually no al-Qaeda in Iraq prior to the U.S. invasion and occupation. That particular interventionist U.S. foreign policy "blunder" also proved to be crucial to the emergence of ISIS, as the terror group began as an offshoot of the previously non-existent al-Qaeda in Iraq.

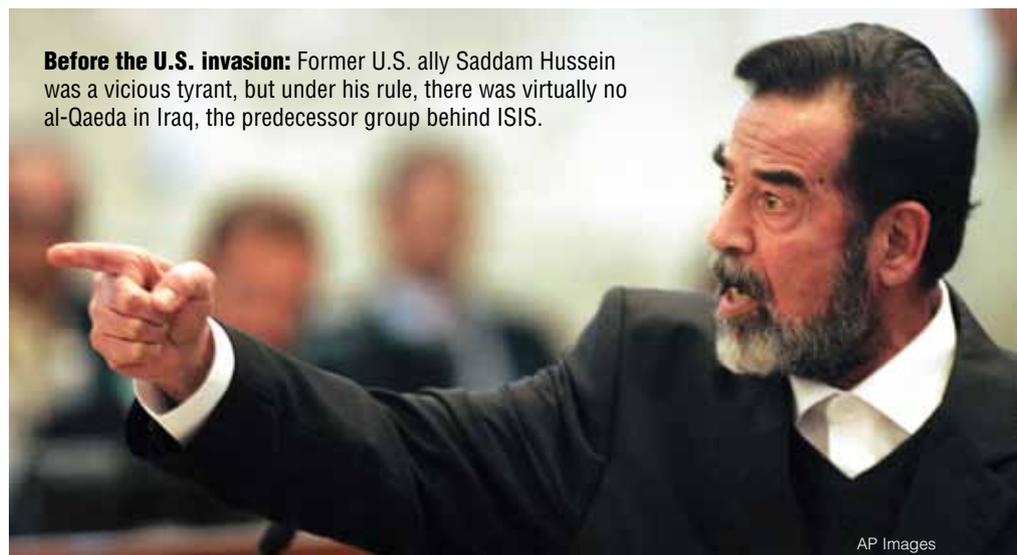
More recently, Obama's UN-approved machinations in Libya involved literally backing the same terrorists previously fighting U.S. troops in Iraq and now fighting under the ISIS banner — laying the groundwork for the self-proclaimed "Caliphate" to emerge. "ISIL is certainly not a state," Obama argued when he announced his unconstitutional "strategy" to supposedly "fight" ISIS. "It was formerly al Qaeda's affiliate in Iraq, and has taken advantage of sectarian strife and Syria's civil war to gain territory on both sides of the Iraq-Syrian border."

But none of that would have been possible without Obama's illegal war in Libya. Indeed, Obama's war in Libya provided the single biggest boost of the last generation to al-Qaeda and associated jihadists.†

In early December 2014, U.S. General David Rodriguez, chief of the U.S. Africa command, even noted that hundreds of ISIS were now training at ISIS terror camps across Libya — and nothing would be done about it, except watch.

In a 2013 interview with *THE NEW AMERICAN*, John Rosenthal, a Europe-based journalist and author of *The Jihadist Plot: The Untold Story of Al-Qaeda and the Libyan Rebellion*, explained that the Obama administration had literally "switched sides" in the terror war. The administration's Syria

†For more on how Obama and NATO teamed up with top al-Qaeda leaders who openly boasted to the press of having killed U.S. troops just years earlier, see *THE NEW AMERICAN*'S November 10, 2011 cover story, "Libya: Now What?"



Before the U.S. invasion: Former U.S. ally Saddam Hussein was a vicious tyrant, but under his rule, there was virtually no al-Qaeda in Iraq, the predecessor group behind ISIS.

AP Images

Even the supposedly “moderate” rebels backed openly by Western powers — operating under the banner of the “Free Syrian Army” — were exposed as Islamists perpetrating war crimes and cannibalism.

policy, he added, “is a continuation of its Libya policy”: siding with Islamists against secular regimes that even recently had helped the U.S. government in the “terror war.” Those same Islamists had for years been planning to overthrow the “apostate” regimes, and Obama stepped in to help at precisely the right moment.

Libya is now embroiled in a brutal civil war, with large swaths of the nation run by al-Qaeda-linked jihadists aided by the White House. From Libya, many of those Islamists gathered weapons — some from Gadhafi’s huge stockpile; others provided by the Obama administration and its allies for “revolution” — and headed for Syria to overthrow its “apostate” dictator with Obama’s assistance. Thanks to the Western-backed rebellion there — which had been in the works since at least the George W. Bush administration, according to documents released by Wikileaks — Syria was sufficiently destabilized to make possible the rapid rise of ISIS.

Some astute U.S. lawmakers who previously warned that Obama’s strategy of arming al-Qaeda and other jihadists in Syria would backfire did speak out about the insanity. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.), for example, outlined those concerns on Fox News after the president’s speech

about supposedly degrading and destroying ISIS. “The one thing we need to remember about all of this,” he said, “we need to remember how we got here. The reason we got here is we took it upon ourselves to topple secular dictators who were the enemy of radical Islam.”

But what about all those air strikes Obama is supposedly conducting against ISIS? Well, according to the Assad regime, which is locked in mortal combat with ISIS and other Western-backed Islamists, Obama’s unconstitutional military adventures, perhaps not surprisingly, have done *nothing* to weaken it. “All the indications say that (Islamic State) today, after two months of coalition air strikes, is not weaker,” explained Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem in a recent TV interview cited by Reuters.

The most powerful military in the world could not even “weaken” a rag-tag group of terrorists after two months of air strikes and countless millions worth of military support to “moderates”? If that is the case — which sounds rather implausible — perhaps Americans deserve a refund for the hundreds of billions of dollars spent each year on the military. More likely, though, is that, as top Obama officials have explained openly, the real purpose of the “anti-ISIS”

war is to remove Assad — at least initially — on the road toward “world order.”

“I recognize the contradiction in a contradictory land and a contradictory circumstance,” Obama claimed in September 2014, downplaying the insanity and deception as if it were all some confusing misunderstanding. The week before those comments, though, his own ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, admitted in a separate TV interview that deposing Assad was among the real goals of the administration’s “contradictory” Syria policy. “The training also will service these troops [Obama’s so-called ‘moderate rebels’] in the same struggle that they’ve been in since the beginning of this conflict against the Assad regime,” Power said, contradicting the key selling point for arming “moderate” jihadists — to fight ISIS.

ISIS as a Force for Globalism

ISIS is now being hyped by globalists worldwide as justification for wide-ranging assaults on liberty, national sovereignty, and more. For instance, empowering the UN, Interpol, and the self-styled “International Criminal Court” to lead the “terror war” is at the top of the globalist agenda. Great progress has already been made for the globalist cause under that transparently phony pretext. A global war on “non-violent extremism” is in the works, too, meaning a war on any groups such as U.S. constitutionalists, who don’t toe the globalist line. Meanwhile, the CFR and globalist forces are also touting a “Middle East Union” — another building bloc of what they call the “New World Order” — as a “solution” to the chaos and horrors those same globalists unleashed on humanity.

From arming and radicalizing Islamists who went on to become al-Qaeda to overthrowing the Iraqi dictator and supplying weapons to brutal jihadists to unseat brutal tyrants, U.S. foreign policy appears to have been practically designed to create the “Islamic State” rather than destroy it. In other words, ISIS is the “new and improved” best terror group U.S. tax money can buy. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians have already paid the ultimate price for the machinations. It is time for Congress to rein in the administration before further “blowback” comes back to haunt the very American people forced to pay for it all. ■

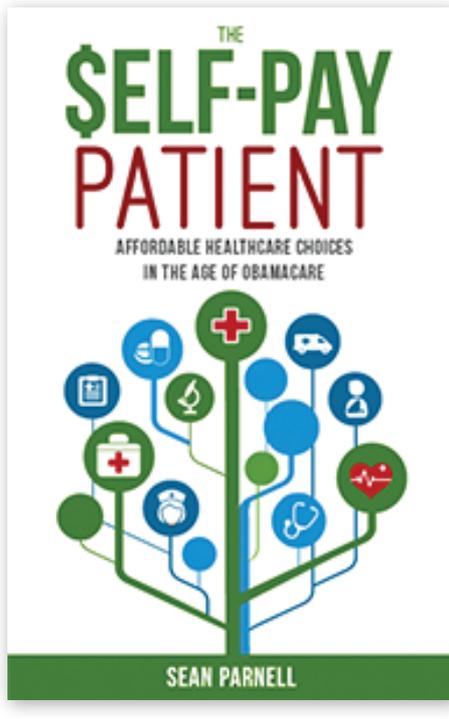
Known history: U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) is among the lawmakers who have pointed out that U.S. foreign policy schemes were largely responsible for the rise of ISIS.



AP Images

The Self-Pay Patient: Free Market Alternatives to ObamaCare

Many Americans can't afford health insurance or their co-pays or can't find a doctor who takes their coverage. The book *The Self-Pay Patient* provides cures to these problems.



by Kelly Holt

The Self-Pay Patient: Affordable Healthcare Choices in the Age of ObamaCare, Sean Parnell, Alexandria, Virginia: The Self-Pay Patient, LLC, 2014, 123 pages, paperback.

In his new book, *The Self-Pay Patient: Affordable Healthcare Choices in the Age of ObamaCare*, Sean Parnell provides a practical approach to taking control of your healthcare. This quick read is packed with information explaining how to “find affordable care outside of conventional insurance, how to escape bureaucratic medicine, and how to opt out of ObamaCare.”

Americans in need of healthcare alternatives, those ineligible for ObamaCare, and liberty lovers who know the real dangers of the single-payer system, are sure to benefit from the research Parnell outlines. His book could serve as a primer in the emerging debate about free market alternatives in the industry.

Parnell (not the outgoing Alaska governor of the same name) is president of Im-

pact Policy Management, a public policy consulting firm with a focus on healthcare and election-related issues. He is also managing editor of *Health Care News*.

He told THE NEW AMERICAN that he penned the book simply because he thought there was a need for a guidebook for those who want to opt out of ObamaCare or who simply desire to be “self-pay patients.” He explained:

I was surprised at how many people are actively interested in not being part of the conventional system. Some even have no interest in what is wrong with ObamaCare politically; they’re just seeking a better way.

Self-paying patients *are* the free market at work in healthcare.

Though *The Self-Pay Patient* is not an end-all be-all in the debate, it is a very good starting place to understand that it’s possible to fund healthcare costs without conventional insurance. Parnell points out options that are available to many people, such as insuring one’s self only for catastrophic care (and how to find an insurer to help with that), then using cash-only doctors, primary care facilities, or pharmacies for other routine needs.

He makes the critical point that providers catering to self-pay patients operate in the true market — therefore new or improved strategies are always coming and going as the market dictates. In the free market, the patient will always benefit. As the pitfalls of ObamaCare become more and more apparent, it’s likely that an increasing number of people will be looking for something else — thereby bringing more innovation and solutions to the current healthcare system. This little book explains how to negotiate lower costs in a true free market manner.

Chapters are devoted to options for employers; how to obtain low-cost, quality vision, oral, and mental healthcare; and how to understand the current self-pay process: that is, that hospitals grossly overcharge self-payers, although some are beginning to

recognize the need to give reasonable prices for self-pay patients. Two examples are the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City and the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, both of which offer real up-front pricing and free market benefits to beleaguered patients.

Attention is also given to the practices of medical tourism and getting bids from providers for healthcare. And not to be forgotten are wildly successful healthcare-sharing ministries, such as Christian Care Ministries — open only to believing Christians who choose to follow the biblical mandate of sharing each other’s burdens (including healthcare) in a manner that doesn’t violate their faith (such as being forced to pay for contraception or abortion). This reporter is a participant in such a ministry.

Parnell emphasizes that self-pay patients are likely to have better — possibly same-day — access to their doctors, and most importantly, that those doctors will work for them. “ObamaCare,” notes Parnell, “encourages healthcare practices where the doctor’s incentive is to *reduce care in order to save money*.” Self-pay patients have only their doctor to deal with, and can take control of their healthcare in a way that’s unavailable in the conventional system.

The author advises, “Even if you have insurance, some of the strategies outlined in the book can help you stretch your healthcare dollars.”

Parnell has a website/blog at TheSelfPayPatient.com with updates in the market and in healthcare policy that are well worth reading. He understands that in the free market, things are continually changing (which he is quick to note is a good thing), and so he has his finger on the pulse of public policy in healthcare.

The John Birch Society, parent organization of this magazine, has been ahead of the curve in exposing the dangers of the Affordable Care Act, and in encouraging free market alternatives such as the Surgery Center of Oklahoma.

The important takeaway from *The Self-Pay Patient* is that Americans *have choices in their healthcare*. ■

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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

In Honor of Taylor

The parents of Taylor Haugen, the Niceville (Florida) High School wide receiver who was killed six years ago during a football game, have decided to turn their tragedy into something positive.

The *Columbia Missourian* recalled in October 2014 the tragic moment that took Taylor's life in 2008: "In a junior varsity game with his mother watching in the stands, his quarterback's pass was slightly high, so Taylor, 15, thrust both hands over his head to catch it. One defender slammed into his now exposed abdomen, the other simultaneously hit him in the back. Taylor staggered to the sidelines and collapsed. He was dead hours later."

Taylor died from a crushed liver, an injury that his parents are hoping to prevent for future athletes through the creation of the Taylor Haugen Foundation's Youth Equipment for Sports Safety (YESS) program, which, if schools send in grant applications, will provide high-school teams nationwide with the necessary protective padding that could have prevented their son's death. The padding is worn by many NFL players and is molded to fit each player's body shape.

"On impact, it relieves a lot of the stress and impact from a hit or a blow that you might receive during a play," said Choc-tawhatchee High School coach Greg Thomas.

Thus far, over 2,000 football players in both junior high schools and high schools across the country have received the pads, which cost \$90 per set.

According to Kathy Haugen, internal injuries are more common than many realize. "I get emails, phone calls all the time about these types of injuries.... It happens all the time," she said.

The Youth Equipment for Sports Safety program is just the latest addition to a variety of community services provided by the Taylor Haugen Foundation.

The Taylor Haugen Foundation also provides a Taylor Haugen Trophy to students who possess a combination of worthy attributes, including faith, leadership, academic achievement, and community service. Likewise, through its Taylor Reid Haugen Scholarship Fund, the foundation

recognizes well-rounded individuals who exhibit qualities of faithfulness to God and work toward continuous improvement by providing them with \$1,500 scholarships.

Kindness Club

Two teenagers in Colonie, New York, have started a Kindness Club to spread love as a means to counteract bullies, mean girls, and troublemakers.

The Kindness Club hosted its first meeting on October 2 and six teens showed up, a good start for the aspiring do-gooders.

The *Albany Times Union* wrote, "Their goal is nothing more complicated than carrying out random acts of kindness and encouraging others to pay it forward."

The plan for the club was conceived during a conversation between two Colonie Central High School students, Oneida Shushe and Allegra Padula. "After another stressful day at school, we were talking about life and the grand scheme of things and how much we wished we took time to show more appreciation to people who made a difference in our lives," said Shushe.

The girls decided to write notes of appreciation to their teachers and all those they admired, but they knew they wanted to do more. As regular volunteers for various service organizations, they knew they had a lot to offer.

Both girls serve on the Key Club and Science Club and are members of the National Honor Society. They volunteer at the town library and the Pay It Forward program. Additionally, the girls helped assemble 200 craft kits with fun activities for pediatric patients at the Albany Medical Center Hospital.

They decided that they would start a club in response to the bullying and cyberbullying that has been dominating many school campuses. "We never really know everyone's story and what they're going through, so why not make life a little easier for them," Padula said. "We thought we could try to make kindness more the norm than the exception."

The Kindness Club meets regularly to create inspiring and comforting items to

be placed around the school. At their first meeting, volunteers decorated bookmarks with motivational quotes and placed them in books in the library's team room in the hopes that whoever finds them will be inspired.

Elissa Valente, advisor to the girls' club, is beyond impressed. "They make volunteering to help their community a priority in their lives," she said.

Teens Helping Teens

Seattle's Teen Link is a hotline for teens in crisis, answered by teens. All the teens who answer the phones are volunteers eager to help their peers through their tough times.

KUOW.org reported in September that Teen Link was started by Breona Mendoza, mother of Audra Letnes, who was murdered by her abusive boyfriend in 1996. Audra's mother observed that at the time, there were few resources for teens to turn to when they were troubled, and hopes that Teen Link will serve as one of those resources.

Mendoza trains the volunteers to create an atmosphere where kids don't feel like they are being judged.

Mendoza criticizes our culture's insistence on doling out advice. "Most of the time when someone has a problem, they've thought about solutions already," she said. "They don't need to hear one more thing that they've already tried. What they need is for someone to listen."

Instead, teen volunteers are trained to "talk it out" with callers, to provide support for the callers rather than tell them what to do.

One such teen, Colin (student volunteers are not permitted to share their last names), started volunteering in September because his friends always came to him with their problems and he thought he could be that go-to person for others.

"I've had several friends throughout my life deal with suicide and self-harm," Colin said.

Erica, also a volunteer at Teen Link, finds the experience to be highly rewarding. "I'm never going to know what someone else's life is like, but at least now I really think about it," she explained. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

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Mexico Libel



The claim that the United States went to war to take Texas from Mexico, though widely believed, is untrue.

by Steve Byas

I settled into the chair for my haircut, and the young Hispanic woman struck up a conversation, as hair cutters usually do. She asked what I did for a living, and I told her that I was a college history professor. After a moment of other such questions, she asked when was it that the United States took Texas from Mexico.

I considered my response for a moment. “Well, actually, the United States did not *take* Texas from Mexico. Texas won its independence from Mexico in the Texas Revolution, and it was almost a decade later that Texas was admitted to the United States as a state.”

She was clearly perplexed, and I added, “Perhaps you are thinking of California, which Mexico lost in the war.”

The young woman had learned her history in Mexico before her family moved to

Steve Byas is a professor of history at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma. This article is adapted from his upcoming book, History’s Greatest Libels.

the United States. One has to wonder what is taught in the schools of Mexico about the circumstances in which Texas was lost, and later became part of the United States. Actually, I doubt if it is a whole lot different than is what taught in schools *north* of the Rio Grande. The belief that the United States went to war to take Texas away from Mexico is widely believed on both sides of the border, and it is yet another example of an historical libel, with President James Knox Polk cast as the arch-villain of the whole affair.

But it is not true.

The genesis for the Mexican War can be traced to the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, when President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million in gold. When the American negotiators asked for more specific boundaries for Louisiana, the wily French foreign minister, Charles Maurice de Talleyrand, craftily replied, “I am sure that you Americans will make the most of it.”

This boundary question resulted in some friction with Spain, whose colonial empire

Free from Mexico’s dictator: Sam Houston’s spectacular victory over the Mexican Army near the modern-day city of Houston made Texas an independent republic.

included both Florida and Texas. While the United States did not question Spain’s rightful ownership of Florida, Texas was another matter. For several years, due to the uncertainty of the boundary of Louisiana, Texas remained a point of contention between the United States and Spain. The United States, however, had more immediate concern about Spanish Florida than Texas. Florida was a base for Indian raids into Georgia, and a convenient hiding place for outlaws and runaway slaves. Of most importance was that the United States feared the presence of a European power to its immediate south.

President James Monroe directed his secretary of state, John Quincy Adams, to work out, if possible, an American purchase of Florida. Spain proved open to selling Florida, but wanted something more than just money for it. Spain wanted the Americans to cede any claim to Texas. American desire for Florida was so great that the agreement was struck, and this appeared to settle the question of Texas, in 1819.

In a letter to the U.S. minister to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, Santa Anna justified his actions, saying the Mexican people were not “fit for liberty,” and that a “despotism is the proper form of government for them.”

Two years later, Mexico, inspired by the success of the American secession from the British Empire, likewise won its independence from the Spanish Empire. Texas was now recognized as part of the new Mexican nation.

At the time, Texas was very lightly populated with Mexican citizens, outnumbered by various Indian tribes, most notably the warlike Comanches. Largely for the purpose of presenting a counter to the Comanches, the Mexican government decided to make a deal with Moses Austin, a Missouri banker, to use a tract of land in South Texas to attract immigrants from the United States. These land-hungry immigrants would, however, have to swear loyalty to the government of Mexico.

Moses Austin's death led his son, Stephen F. Austin, to accomplish most of the actual organizational work of the colony in 1823. In a short period of time, the Americans (often called *Texians*) outnumbered the ethnic Mexicans by about 10-1. The political situation in Mexico appeared hopeful to the American immigrants. In 1823, the leader of the new Mexican nation, Emperor Agustín de Iturbide, was deposed. Iturbide was the leader of the *Centralists*, who wanted to give very little power to the provinces within the Mexican republic, and it was the *Federalists* who had won out. The Federalists drafted a constitution in 1824, deliberately modeled after that of the United States, with a federal system of government, and robust protection of civil liberties and private property.

The next few years saw little political discontent in Texas, among either the Texas immigrants or the ethnic Mexican community. Unfortunately, the results of the 1828 election were cast aside in a Centralist coup d'état led by Anastasio Bustamante. This eventually touched off a rebellion

by Federalist forces, who ousted Bustamante in 1832, then won the election in January 1833. The Mexican Congress remained Centralist, however, so Antonio López de Santa Anna rallied Federalist forces, even gaining the support of many of the influential American immigrants in Texas, such as Jim Bowie. Santa Anna's supposed devotion to federalism and constitutional government was just a ruse to gain power, however, and the Americans

in Texas began to strongly consider their own secession effort.

Santa Anna's Suppression

Most Americans who settled in Texas were Protestant Christians, and resented the Mexican government's requirement of allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church. When Santa Anna established a military dictatorship in 1835, he further centralized power in Mexico City, abolished the Mexican Congress, rejected the Mexican Constitution, and increased the number of soldiers in Texas. Like most tyrants, he confiscated many privately owned guns, and suppressed efforts of the Texans to form militias. In a letter to the U.S. minister to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, Santa Anna justified his actions, saying the Mexican people were not “fit for liberty,” and that a “despotism is the proper form of government for them.”

Austin traveled to Mexico City, hoping to avert war. Santa Anna was in no mood to negotiate anything, and threw Austin in jail for several months. When Austin finally returned to Texas, his previous counsel of peace had transformed into a call for a declaration of independence.

Texas declared its independence in early 1836, with strong support from the ethnic Mexican community in Texas, which largely detested Santa Anna. David G. Burnet was chosen as the interim president of the new Republic of Texas, and the first vice president was Lorenzo de Zavala.

Santa Anna traveled north, determined to crush the rebellion. Styling himself the “Napoleon of the West,” he succeeded in re-taking the Alamo (which Texian forces under Jim Bowie had wrested earlier from a small Mexican garrison), and killing all of its defenders, including the famed trio of William Barrett Travis, David Crockett, and Jim Bowie. It took



Calling himself the “Napoleon of the West,” Antonio López de Santa Anna was a brutal dictator who believed the people of Mexico needed despotism. His implementation of a military dictatorship caused an independence movement in Texas among both the American immigrants and the ethnic Mexican community.

Santa Anna's army *13 days* to take the former Catholic mission, with the loss of several hundred men, which Santa Anna referred to as "a small affair." It is noteworthy that seven of the defenders of the Alamo were ethnic Mexicans, who shared the American's desire for liberty and self-government.

A few days later, a Texas force of about 400 surrendered at Goliad, hoping to avoid the post-battle slaughter of the Alamo. They were summarily shot. The Goliad Massacre, combined with the heroic defense of the Alamo, led to a surge of new recruits for the Texas army, led by General Sam Houston. On April 21, 1836, Houston surprised Santa Anna and defeated his army at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Houston forced the captured Santa Anna to recognize the independence of Texas, *with its border as the Rio Grande River*, and became the first elected president of the Republic of Texas in October of 1836. U.S. President Andrew Jackson recognized the independence of the Republic of Texas near the end of his term in early 1837. Britain and France also gave formal recognition to Texas.

Texans' Troubles

What most Texans desired was admission into the United States as a state. Jackson balked at this, however, as did his immediate successor, Martin Van Buren. The United States had only a small army, and Mexico threatened war if the United States annexed Texas. Additional resistance came from many Northern states, which feared another state that would legalize slavery.

Following Santa Anna's ouster as dictator, subsequent Mexican governments refused to accept the loss of Texas, and rejected the recognition of Texas' independence by Santa Anna. Mexico made feeble attempts to invade the Texas Republic over the next few years, loudly informing the United States that any attempt to annex Texas would mean the immediate breaking of diplomatic relations and war.

While the annexation of Texas was shelved, largely to avoid war with Mexico, other issues led to a worsening of relations over the next several years. A chronic problem were the "claims issues," in which Mexico owed damages to American citizens, totaling about \$3 million.



Tough opponent: Americans today presume the Mexican War was a "walk in the park," but the truth is the American army was outnumbered in every major battle, and won only after both sides suffered heavy casualties.

During the independence effort against Spain, property of American citizens had been damaged. President John Quincy Adams had tried to settle the claims issue with Mexico but was unable to get any movement from south of the Rio Grande. The next president, Andrew Jackson, also failed to settle this dispute.

Finally, the exasperated Jackson administration broke diplomatic relations with Mexico in 1836. In 1839, relations were restored when Mexico accepted the decision of an international tribunal that they owed the claims. Appealing to popular opinion inside the country, Mexican politicians dragged their feet, and made only three of 20 payments scheduled over five years. Finally, they refused to make any more payments.

Another issue that caused friction with the United States was the American desire to purchase California, so as to secure a western port. At the time, very few Mexican citizens resided in California, which had no schools, no newspapers, no postal system, almost no police or courts, few books, and suffered from Indian raids. According to Odie Faulk, in *The Mexican War; Changing Interpretations*, there was little communication with the government in Mexico City. Alarming for the United States, the British

and the French were both clearly interested in obtaining California, and the British could use their territory in northern Oregon to launch an invasion.

Resentment toward the wealthier United States was frequently used for political advantage for Mexican politicians, which only further fanned the flames of hostility.

Texan frustration at the failure of the United States to consider annexation, and fear that Mexico was going to launch yet another invasion, led the Texas government to open negotiations with France and Great Britain, for the purpose of entering into some sort of alliance with one of those two nations. This concern that Texas might become part of the British Empire contributed to a resurgence in Texas as a political issue in the United States.

Then, in 1844, Democrat presidential candidate James Knox Polk of Tennessee made the annexation of Texas a campaign issue. Almost a decade had passed, making it difficult to reasonably argue that the United States had acted recklessly, risking war with Mexico over Texas. Polk's Whig opponent, Henry Clay of Kentucky, ran a cautious campaign, and was much less clear as to what he would do about Texas annexation.

Polk won the election of 1844, and out-

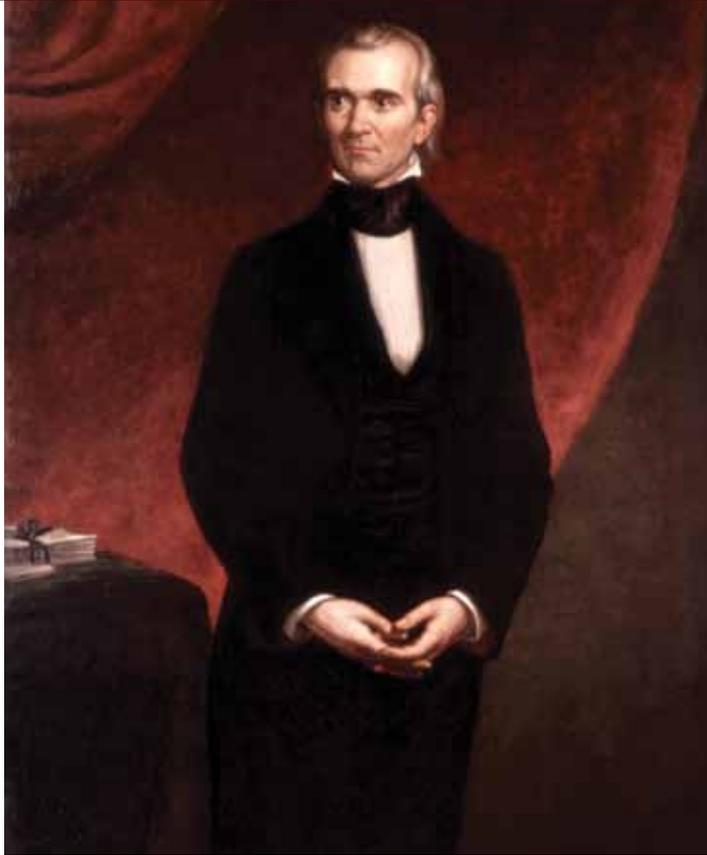
going Whig President John Tyler submitted the question to Congress shortly before Polk was to take office. On his last full day in office, Tyler signed the resolution that added Texas to the United States. Mexico fulfilled its promise to break diplomatic relations, and war seemed likely. In the 19th century, the breaking of diplomatic relations was the usual prelude to war.

Unrejoiced War

But President Polk did not want war with Mexico, rather he hoped for a peaceful settlement of the issues dividing the neighboring nations. After several rebuffs, Polk received what he took as an invitation to send a diplomatic representative to Mexico City to discuss terms. But finding a government in Mexico City with which to negotiate was a problem. The presidency of Mexico changed hands *four times* in 1846 alone. Nevertheless, still hoping to avert war, Polk dispatched John Slidell to Mexico City with an offer to buy Upper California and New Mexico for \$25 million, and establish the Rio Grande as the boundary between Mexico and the U.S. state of Texas, with America promising to take over and pay the \$3 million in claims themselves.

Polk had reason to think the Mexican government might be open to such an offer, as the government was teetering on bankruptcy. But by the time Slidell arrived in Mexico City, his very presence infuriated most Mexican politicians. President José Joaquín de Herrera was denounced as a traitor for even considering talking to

Hoping to avert war, Polk dispatched John Slidell to Mexico City with an offer to buy Upper California and New Mexico for \$25 million, and establish the Rio Grande as the boundary between Mexico and the U.S. state of Texas.



His oath to defend against invasion: While faulted by many today for supposedly “causing” the war, the fact is that Polk would have been derelict in his duty had he failed to defend the state of Texas from an invasion by military forces of a foreign power.

Slidell, and was deposed. The new government worked the populace into a war fever, and promised the Mexican flag would soon float over the White House.

At this point, Polk faced a decision. While Mexico considered the Nueces River, farther north than the Rio Grande River, as the actual boundary of Texas, and the United States insisted the boundary was the Rio Grande (as Santa Anna had agreed to in 1836), the Mexican government argued that Santa Anna had acted in duress. (Sam Houston threatened to hang him if he declined to agree to that border). Besides, the Mexican government argued, Santa Anna was no longer in power in Mexico, and was not even in Mexico, but instead was living in exile in Cuba, with his 14-year-old mistress.

Of even greater importance, Mexico did not consider the land *north* of the Nueces River as part of Texas, either, contending that

all of Texas remained part of the Republic of Mexico.

But the United States had now made Texas a state in the United States. Because of that, the United States had a constitutional obligation to Texas — the same obligation owed to all states according to the U.S. Constitution: to “guarantee ... a Republican Form of Government,” and to “protect ... against Invasion.” When Texas entered the Union in 1845, it was clear that the Rio Grande River had been its southern border for nearly a decade.

Accordingly, Polk dispatched troops to the Nueces River to protect against the coming invasion the Mexican government had been promising for months. Still hopeful for a peaceful settlement, Polk had first kept the forces under the command of General Zachary Taylor on the north side of the Nueces River. However, Polk knew that failure to control the land *south* of

the Nueces to the Rio Grande would be a de facto acceptance of the Mexican position that Texas’ border was the Nueces, not the Rio Grande. There was also no guarantee that Mexico would even accept the loss of Texas north of the Nueces.

One must ask, what else was Polk to do? Texas was now part of the United States, and the U.S. government was therefore obligated to protect the land between the Rio Grande and the Nueces from invasion, just as much as the land *north* of the Nueces.

Failure to protect the Texas position with military force would have constituted a dereliction of Polk’s duty as president of the United States.

This situation in which the territory of the United States was under the threat of invasion and occupation could not go on forever. For those who contend that Polk should have tried diplomacy, he did try diplomacy with the Slidell mission. It is difficult to negotiate with a government that will not even talk to you. Polk did *not* send Taylor’s forces south across the



The spoils of war: Santa Anna agreed to the independence of Texas after his defeat at San Jacinto. While some argued the Mexican government later repudiated Santa Anna's grant of independence to Texas, it must be noted that, as a dictator at the time, Santa Anna was the Mexican government.

Rio Grande, but only into territory that belonged to the United States. This can hardly be considered provocative.

Polk called together his Cabinet to discuss the matter, which he believed could not continue indefinitely. On April 18, 1846, Mexican President Mariano Paredes y Arrillaga wrote the commander of his Army of the North, Pedro de Ampudia: "It is indispensable that hostilities be commenced, yourself taking the initiative against the enemy." According to Faulk in *The Mexican War*, it was five days later that Paredes declared a "defensive war" had commenced against the United States. The next day, Ampudia was replaced by General Mariano Arista, who ordered his 1,600 men to cross the Rio Grande and attack American forces that were on the north side of the river. A small American patrol of less than 70 men under Captain William Thornton was attacked, resulting in the deaths of 16 American dragoons.

Polk's response was immediate, sending a war message to Congress, declaring that the Mexican government had invaded "our territory, and shed the blood of our fellow-citizens on our own soil." Since that time, Polk has been lambasted and ridiculed for

those words by critics. But the fact of the matter was, American blood *was* shed on American soil, by an unprovoked and surprise attack from a vastly superior force. It was on the land claimed by Texas, after Texas had become part of the United States.

An attack on American soldiers *on American soil* was clearly an act of war. What else could it be?

Whig Party Politics

Whig Party politicians, such as first-term Congressman Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, were quick to demagogue the issue, demanding that Polk tell Congress *exactly* where was the "spot" on which American blood had been shed. Lincoln was in full knowledge of these above facts, but chose to neglect his duty to an American state to protect it from a foreign invasion. As a member of Congress, it was Lincoln's duty under the Constitution to defend an American state from invasion.

The declaration of war by Congress was overwhelming, 170-14 in the House of Representatives, and 40-2 in the Senate. Yet, the Whig Party chose to play politics with the war, and its successor party, the Republicans, followed suit in the years *after* the Civil War, adding the claim that the war was simply a conspiracy of slaveholders to add more slave territory. President Grant, who served in the Mexican War, even had the audacity to call the war "unjust" in his autobiography. This is a reflection of the post-Civil War revisionism by northerners as to the genesis of the Mexican War.

During the Mexican War, Whig political leaders actually spoke with General Zachary Taylor *in Mexico*, urging him to run for president on their ticket in the 1848 election. Despite having never bothered to vote for president before in his life, Taylor did use the popularity he won from the Mexican War to win the White House in 1848. Another Whig, General Winfield Scott, was the party's nominee in 1852, but he lost. This could be considered hypocritical, since the Whigs had dismissed the whole war as "Mr. Polk's War."

Why has the *myth* that the Mexican War was the fault of President James K. Polk persisted until today?

One reason was the Whig Party chose to create this myth at the time, mostly for political reasons. Most of the history books of the time were written by Northerners who, writing in the aftermath of the Civil War, chose to perpetuate the myth that the war was simply a land grab to add another slave state to the Union. This position became accepted dogma, as illustrated by General Grant's "unjust" comment in his memoirs.

What is unjust is the libel perpetrated against President Polk, with the unfounded claim that Polk launched the war. This libel continues today as part of the template that the United States has been a nation that was built on the backs of slaves, American Indians, and "peace-loving" neighboring countries. Polk is not guilty of this libel, and should be exonerated. ■

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Pastor Defends His Family

KSN.com reported out of Valley Center, Kansas, on November 30 about a man who was forced to shoot a burglar to defend his wife and three children. It was early in the morning when the man heard the sounds of someone trying to break in to his house. The father, later identified as a local pastor, called 911 to report the sound of breaking glass and his security alarm going off. The pastor did not wait for the police to arrive. He grabbed his handgun and went to investigate.

The burglar had shattered the kitchen window, which set off the house alarm. The pastor confronted the burglar, who was right outside the broken window. The homeowner yelled for the intruder to stop, but the suspect began crawling into the house. The father fired his handgun, and the bullet grazed the suspect's head. The injured assailant hurriedly ran from the home.

A neighbor, Dave Duncan, told KSN.com that he would have done something similar to protect his family, as well. “Probably the same thing, hopefully they wouldn't have needed a body bag, I mean I think the fellow, the guy who was trying to break in is real lucky,” Duncan told KSN.com. The suspect was later captured and treated for his injuries at a hospital. Authorities then charged the wounded suspect with aggravated burglary.

“Done the Right Thing”

WCHSTV.com, the ABC affiliate serving the Charleston-Huntington television market, reported on November 5 about a man in his 60s who was burglarized twice in 24 hours but who was prepared the second time. The deadly encounter occurred in Campbells Creek, West Virginia, where neighbor Fred Morris recounted the details for WCHSTV.com. Morris said the first incident took place when thieves broke in to the man's home when he wasn't there, and the crooks made off with an air compressor. Then, less than 24 hours later, the man heard a noise coming from his garage and went to investigate, armed with his handgun. Kanawha County sheriff's deputies said the man confronted an intruder, and there was a brief struggle before the homeowner fatally shot the suspect.

Corporal Brian Humphreys of the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office told WCHSTV.com that they believe the burglaries were related and that there has been a recent uptick in crime in the area. “There's been a lot of information passed around (to deputies) and there's been an effort trying to stop these from occurring.... Of course this led to this tragedy but we are going to continue to see if there's any links between the other crimes and this event this morning,” Humphreys told WCHSTV.com.

Morris was adamant that his neighbor acted appropriately. “I think he done the right thing.... If you can't protect what you got what the use of working and having it if someone is going to come in and take it?” Morris told WCHSTV.com. Morris also had a warning for any other would-be thieves. “I got a pistol on my porch and if I catch somebody around my house I will shoot them.”

Gangbanger Meets Fatal End

The *Tennessean* out of Nashville, Tennessee, reported on November 5 about a masked intruder who was fatally shot during a brazen home invasion. The victims in the case were a husband and wife who were at home watching TV when a man wearing a bandanna over his face barged in through an unlocked screen door. The husband, Jonathan McCormick, told the *Tennessean* that his children were home with him that day but were outside playing. The children “were running in and out playing with the neighbors' children. As I was sitting there, I heard the door open again and I looked up to tell the kids to close the door and quit running in and out, and a guy walked in with a mask. He had [a] bandanna on. All you could see was his eyes and his pistol.”

The man demanded all of their cash and other personal belongings while brandishing a 9 mm handgun at them. The husband complied and gave him the \$30 he had on him, but the intruder demanded more money. While the suspect was distracted by the man's wife, the husband was able

to retrieve a .45-caliber pistol. The intruder turned his own gun toward the homeowner, but the husband opened fire, hitting the suspect. The masked burglar fled the scene but collapsed in the front yard. Authorities arrived and transported the injured assailant to a nearby hospital, but he was pronounced dead. The deceased suspect was later identified as a man under indictment for home burglary and theft charges who also had two prior convictions for felony theft and two prior convictions for felony evading arrest, as well as a reputation as a known gang member. Police also discovered multiple items in his car that were stolen in a string of Davidson and Robertson County burglaries. Authorities even believe that the 9 mm pistol the deceased suspect was wielding was recently stolen as well.

Not Tightly Tied

The *News Tribune* reported on November 19 that one burglar's inability to tie a good knot would prove fatal. Three intruders forced their way into a home in Lakewood, Washington, that was occupied by a husband and wife. One of the intruders was armed with a gun while another was armed with a knife. The intruders pistol-whipped the husband and tied him up. The wife sustained cuts to her hand in the terrifying ordeal, as she was likewise assaulted and tied up. The suspects then began rummaging through the home, leaving the couple unattended. In their search for valuables, the robbers exited the house. The husband was able to take advantage of being left alone and untie himself and his wife. He grabbed his handgun and closed the door to the bedroom where he and his wife were left by the burglars. Once the burglars realized their victims were free, they reacted violently. One of the assailants fired his weapon through the door. The husband returned fire back through the door.

All three intruders fled the scene after the exchange of gunfire. The suspects would later prove the old saying that there is no honor among thieves, as police found the body of a man they suspect was one of the intruders dumped near an apartment complex, presumably by his accomplices. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Correction, Please!

Collaborating With China in Climate Con Game

ITEM: A “Fact Sheet” from the White House announced on November 11, 2014: President Obama announced a new target to cut net greenhouse gas emissions 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. At the same time, President Xi Jinping of China announced targets to peak CO₂ emissions around 2030, with the intention to try to peak early, and to increase the non-fossil fuel share of all energy to around 20 percent by 2030.”

These actions “are part of the longer range effort to achieve the deep decarbonization of the global economy over time.”

ITEM: The Obama administration, reported the Washington Post for December 2, “is hoping for fresh momentum toward a climate treaty during international talks” in the Peruvian capital of Lima.

ITEM: During a November 13 interview with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, MSNBC host Andrea Mitchell touted the “major breakthrough with China.” Mitchell asked if the deal was “lopsided in China’s favor.”

To the China question, the EPA administrator said, “I don’t think so.” China, she insisted, “clearly is making a strong commitment. And we’re actually going to take action that’s meaningful in both countries.” McCarthy concluded: “But most importantly, our domestic action under this president is sparking the kind of international effort that we wanted it to spark.”

CORRECTION: That’s one way to put it — if you are trying to sell a “green” pig in a poke. A more accurate way to describe these dealings would be to acknowledge that China won’t do anything that isn’t in its interests; “undeveloped” nations will put their hands out for kickbacks from “developed” nations before making largely empty promises; and the Obama administration will do everything it thinks it can get away with in order to claim an environmental victory, no matter how much it hurts the U.S. economy.

Oh, yes, and the horribly expensive deals in the works, both internationally and domestically, are meant to accrue



AP Images

Need for negotiation skills: Under an agreement between President Obama and China to cut CO₂ emissions, China will continue building a new coal-fired power plant every 10 days, while the United States will cut CO₂ emissions by 26 to 28 percent of the 2005 rate. It’s practically U.S. economic suicide.

more power to central governments, but will do little or nothing to affect “global warming” or “climate change.”

The Obama administration’s EPA is already rolling out more edicts to burden businesses in the name of regulating carbon. One, sporting 656 pages and a 575-page index, covers regulations on ozone. The powers-that-be waited for four years and then slipped it into the public record with a plethora of other decrees on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. That’s over and above EPA’s proposed rules mandating carbon dioxide cuts for existing power plants that heat homes and help run businesses; those rules, if implemented, could cost a million jobs.

The power-plant diktats — among the domestic rules that we will deal with in more detail in our next column — have been called costly, illegitimate, and unlawful by free-market organizations and unconstitutional by Lawrence Tribe, a very “liberal” Harvard law professor. As noted by the professor, the EPA power plant rules demonstrate “the risk of allowing an unaccountable administrative agency to ‘make’ law and attempt to impose the burden of global climate change on an unlucky and unfortunate few.”

Professor Tribe, in a filing dated De-

ember 1, charged that the EPA plan also “violates principles of federalism and seeks to commandeer state governments in violation of the Tenth Amendment.” He further explained the agency’s action “hides political choices and frustrates accountability. It forces states to adopt policies that will raise energy costs and prove deeply unpopular, while cloaking those policies in the garb of state ‘choice’ — even though in fact the policies are compelled by EPA. The Supreme Court has strongly condemned such arrangements, because ‘where the Federal Government directs the States to regulate, it may be state officials who will bear the brunt of public disapproval, while the federal officials who devised the regulatory program may remain insulated from the electoral ramifications of their decision.’”

The Communist Chinese no doubt appreciate how Washington, chockablock with unelected authoritarian bureaucrats, views its subjects. For example, in discussing the strategy involved in the climate compact made with China, a “senior administration official, who requested anonymity,” explained to the *Los Angeles Times*: “It would be nice if we had some help and support from the Congress. But we think we have the ability under laws

that have already been passed by Congress — principally the Clean Air Act, but others as well — to get these reductions ... with authorities we already have.” This is how eels speak — when they think they are whales and beyond accountability.

The incoming chairman of the Senate committee that deals with environmental policy, Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla.), isn't buying the establishment line, having observed:

In the President's climate change deal, the United States will be required to more steeply reduce our carbon emissions while China won't have to reduce anything. It's hollow and not believable for China to claim it will shift 20 percent of its energy to non-fossil fuels by 2030, and a promise to peak its carbon emissions only allows the world's largest economy to buy time. China builds a coal-fired power plant every 10 days, is the largest importer of coal in the world, and has no known reserves of natural gas. This deal is a non-binding charade.

No doubt there will be support ginned up for an international agreement of some

sort. From the Obama administration's point of view, it would be better if the Senate has no say in the matter. No doubt we will be told the United States should pay the freight charges of this out-of-control global-warming train. Below is a clue how support may be obtained. As noted by Rupert Darwell, author of *The Age of Global Warming: A History*, the so-called developing nations have their own gambit:

For the developing world ... the climate negotiations have always been about how much money they get. From the outset, the talks were predicated on massive aid transfers from north to south. Climate became the most potent bargaining chip in a decades-old demand for aid to allegedly avoid permanent Third World impoverishment....

If the West wants a fig-leaf climate agreement, however, it will have to at least promise to pay for one. At Copenhagen, developed nations pledged \$100 billion a year of climate aid by 2020. The U.N. is having as little success raising money as it had in cutting emissions. So far it has recovered only \$9.3 billion of one-time pledges.

Beijing probably can't believe its good fortune in its negotiations with this administration. As Reuters reported on November 12: “For China, the targets add little to its existing commitments to wean itself off carbon, environmental experts said. ‘The statement is an upbeat signal to motivate other countries, but the timeline China has committed to is not a binding target,’ said Li Junfeng, an influential Chinese climate policy adviser linked to China's state planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission.”

Here is the conclusion of a decidedly “non-climate-denier,” who has long pushed “for a global agreement to curb carbon,” as he has acknowledged. Yet, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer pulls no punches in calling this deal with China a “fraud of major proportions.” As he writes:

Its main plank commits China to *begin* cutting carbon emissions *16 years from now*. On the other hand, the United States, having already cut more carbon emissions than any nation on earth since 2005, must now double its current rate of carbon cutting to meet a new, more restrictive goal by 2025. In return for which, China will keep *increasing* its carbon emissions year after year throughout that period — and for five years beyond.

... It becomes even more absurd when you realize that, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, China was on track to plateau its carbon emissions around 2030 *anyway*.

And what about the momentous effects on the climate? Well, on the home front, the Obama gang is pushing rules that, just for one example, have been estimated to cost an additional \$173 billion a year for energy customers by 2020. And what does that buy? Using a climate model (that was developed with EPA support), scientists have gauged that the EPA's power plan would result in averting less than 0.02 °C of global warming by 2100. Maybe. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR



Federalized Police **and a Police Czar?**

“We need federal intervention without delay,” declared the “Reverend” Al Sharpton, in his December 8 column for the online Huffington Post. Capitalizing on the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and other black men to centralize police powers, Sharpton announced that his National Action Network had organized a series of demonstrations, to culminate in a national march on the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, December 13.



“Congress must immedi-

ately start hearings to deal with laws that will change the jurisdiction threshold for federal cases and policing,” Sharpton insists. “The executive branch has addressed this most pressing issue, and now it’s time the legislative branch do the same.”

“When local prosecutors fail to conduct a fair grand-jury investigation at the state level, as happened in Ferguson and Staten Island recently,” says Sharpton “the threshold is so high for the federal government to be able to take over the case. That must change.... And in order for federal authorities to step in, we must reform current laws.”

What about the U.S. Constitution, the supreme law of the land, which restricts federal involvement in criminal and policing matters to a very narrow area of jurisdiction? Rev. Al cannot be troubled with such trivialities. “The state has already proven that it cannot do the job,” he insists.

On December 13, thousands of protesters joined Sharpton’s March on Washington, and tens of thousands more engaged in similar protests in New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and dozens of other cities.

This past August the Congressional Black Caucus wrote a letter to President Obama insisting, “The administration must quickly establish a national commission to review existing police policies and practices.” Even more ominously, the radical Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) demanded the appointment of a national police “Czar.” The CBC letter, which was signed by dozens of celebrities, activists, and academics, demanded:

The Administration must appoint a federal Czar, housed in the U.S. Department of Justice, who is specifically tasked with promoting the professionalization of local law enforcement, monitoring egregious law enforcement activities, and adjudicating suspicious actions of local law enforcement agencies that receive federal funding.

In an ironic twist, the CBC letter validly notes that “the militarization of police departments across the country is creating conditions that will further erode the trust that should exist between residents and the police who serve them. The proliferation of machine guns, silencers, armored vehicles and aircraft, and camouflage in local law enforcement units does not bode well for police-community relations, the future of our cities, or our country.” This has been the cry, as well, of many other liberal-left activists decrying the alleged “systemic racism” in

American society, and especially in our local police departments.

But, as Thomas R. Eddlem pointed out in an online article for THE NEW AMERICAN in August, “The source of this militarization is not endemic racism, however; it has been federal intervention and aid through the Department of Defense’s Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) under the auspices of fighting the ‘drug war’ and ‘terrorism.’” LESO notes on its website, “Since its inception [in 1991], the 1033 program has transferred more than \$5.1 billion worth of property.” According to LESO, more than 8,000 police agencies are currently availing themselves of military equipment from the Department of Defense 1033 program.

The federal goodies handed out under this program are transforming local police and sheriff’s departments into minions of a nationalized, federalized, centralized, militarized police force, something that has always been anathema to Americans who treasure freedom. There are, of course, many other federal programs under the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security that are also aiding this federalization process, from the FBI’s SWAT schools to various DOJ “consent decrees” and mandates.

Incredibly, though, the “progressives” who are railing the loudest against federal programs that are militarizing our police are also the same voices that are most loudly calling for further federalization of our police to cure the alleged problem of “systemic racism.”

The problem of police abuse will not be solved by nationalizing police authority under a federal “czar,” or by concentrating local law-enforcement agencies under a DOJ-approved Gestapo. Those are prescriptions for even more horrific police abuse. Our Founding Fathers had it right in determining that the most effective means of protecting the individual from oppression by government is to disperse the police power among multiple local agencies, while encouraging an armed citizenry that would serve as the ultimate check on abusive power. ■

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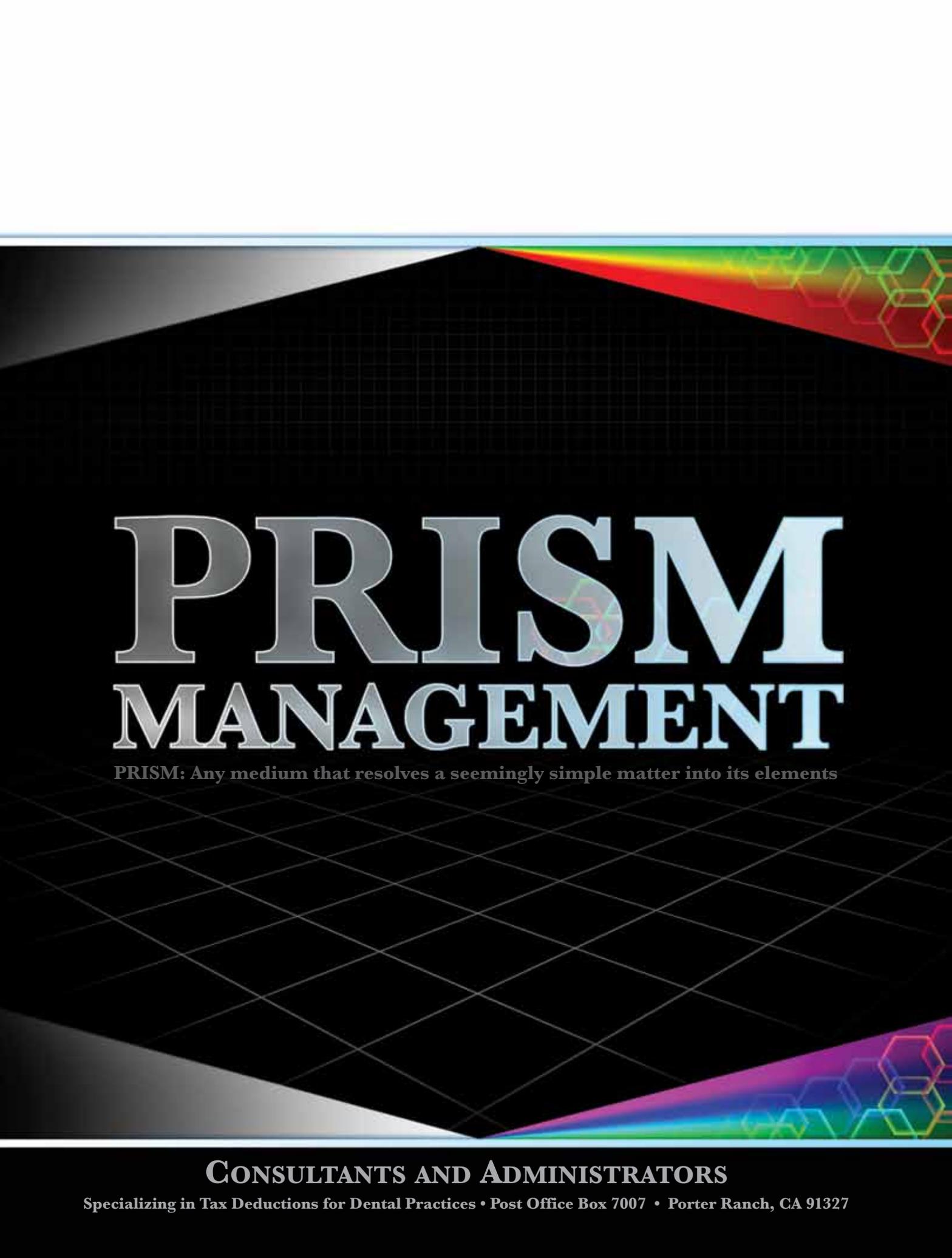


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