

What's Up With Wasserman Schultz? • Our UN-American Military • Be Like Me

August 22, 2016 • \$3.95

The New American

www.TheNewAmerican.com

THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH

SCANDINAVIA



Successful SOCIALISM?

Family Owned and Operated Since 1972



&
Natural Foods Market



California Retail Locations

CHINO

909.993.9200

12835 Mountain Ave.
Chino, CA 91710

LOMA LINDA

909.478.7714

11235 Mountain View Ave.
Loma Linda, CA 92354

RIVERSIDE

951.686.4757

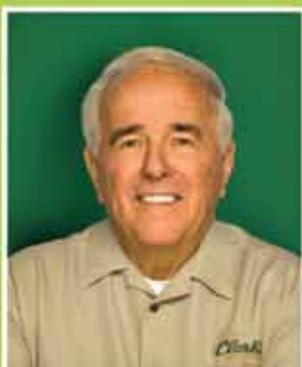
4225 Market St.
Riverside, CA 92501

RANCHO MIRAGE

760.324.4626

34175 Monterey Ave.
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

**Supplements - Organic Produce
Gluten-Free Products - Sugar-Free Products
Minerals - Herbs - Sports Nutrition
Full Grocery and much more**

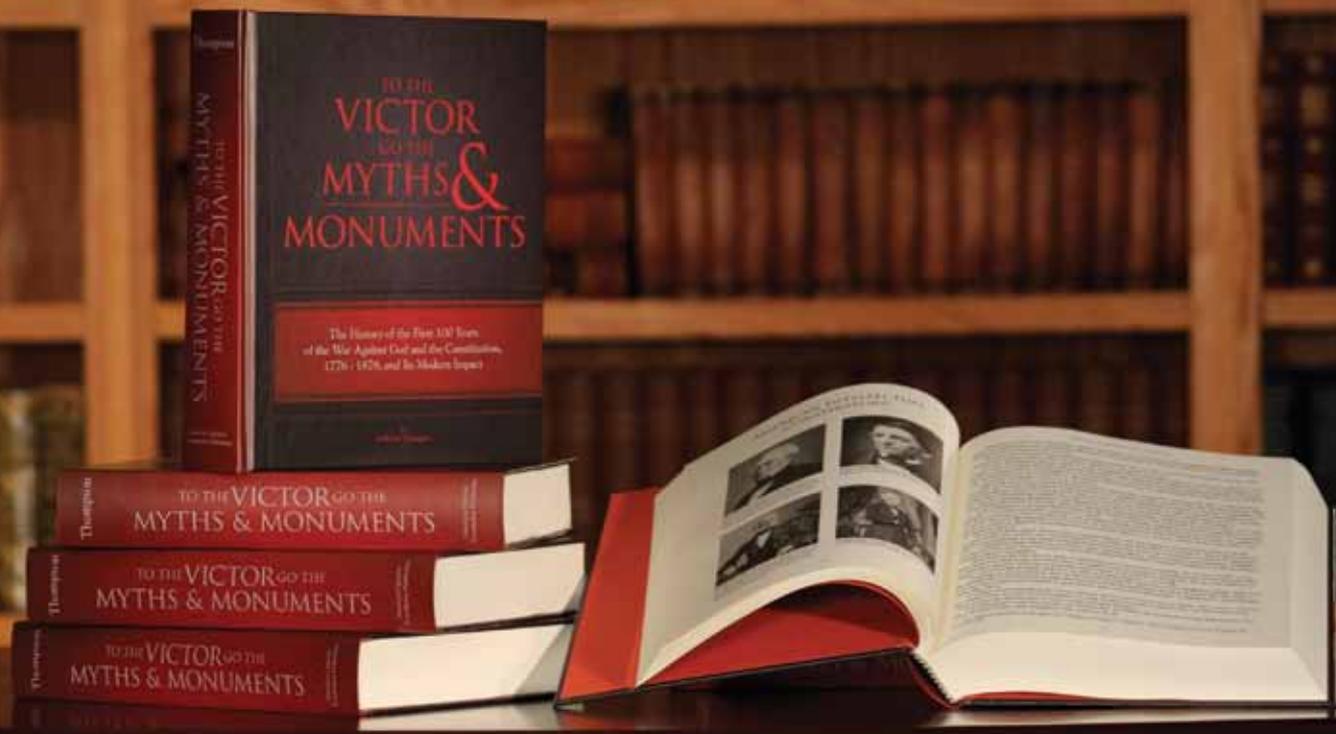


**“Our family is here to help
your family live better!”**

Ray Clark, CEO

Ray is also a member of the executive
committee of The John Birch Society
(Publisher of *The New American*)

www.clarksnutrition.com



To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments:
The History of the First 100 Years of the War Against God and the Constitution, 1776-1876, and Its Modern Impact
 By Arthur R. Thompson, CEO, The John Birch Society
 (2016ed, 492pp, hb, 1/\$24.95ea; 2-11/\$23.95ea; 12+/\$20.00ea) BKTVMHMB

Transforming the Way We Look at American History

Knowing American history is essential to understanding the American system of government and the role citizens are to play. When that education is undermined and replaced with the opposite of our Founders' intent, the ramifications for protecting God-given liberty for current and future generations are great.

To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments details a deliberate, organized opposition working to subvert the American Republic. It's American history that all Americans need to learn so they can understand the proper role of government and their role in the American system.

Based on 45-plus years of research, this groundbreaking book reveals history as you've never seen it before. Purchase copies for yourself and influential friends and opinion molders in your community.

QUANTITY	TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL PRICE



The Official Store of The John Birch Society
Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org
Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:
 ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
 APPLETON, WI 54912
1-800-342-6491



Order Online

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- Check VISA Discover
 Money Order MasterCard American Express



Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

160822

SUBTOTAL

WI RESIDENTS ADD
5% SALES TAX

SHIPPING/HANDLING
(SEE CHART BELOW)

TOTAL

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Order Subtotal	Standard Shipping	Rush Shipping
\$0-10.99	\$4.95	\$9.95
\$11.00-19.99	\$7.75	\$12.75
\$20.00-49.99	\$9.95	\$14.95
\$50.00-99.99	\$13.75	\$18.75
\$100.00-149.99	\$15.95	\$20.95
\$150.00+	call	call

Standard: 4-14 business days.
Rush: 3-7 business days, no P.O. Boxes, HI/AK add \$10.00



ZIGNEGO READY MIX, INC.

W226 N2940 DUPLAINVILLE ROAD
WAUKESHA, WI 53186

262-542-0333 • www.Zignego.com

COVER STORY

WORLD

10 Scandinavia: Successful Socialism?

by John T. Larabell — Norway, Sweden, and Denmark have supposedly created an earthly paradise by instituting big social-welfare governments with high taxes. How well does this really work?

17 The Happiest People on Earth?

by John T. Larabell — Scandinavians are often said to be some of the world's happiest people because of their socialism. But culture, not government, is the strength of Scandinavian society.

FEATURES

POLITICS

23 What's Up With Wasserman Schultz?

by Steve Byas — Is this politician for me? As part of a series of articles, we give the backgrounds and voting records of some noteworthy U.S. politicians — both good and bad — in the 2016 election.

BOOK REVIEW

29 Be Like Me

by Charles Scaliger — We've been told for years that the Scandinavians have successful socialism, but they are suffocating their economies and people with taxes, regulations, and social conventions.

HISTORY — PAST AND PERSPECTIVE

33 Our UN-American Military

by John F. McManus — Since the advent of the United Nations, the U.S. military has served as an arm of the UN, and U.S. soldiers have fought and died for that entity, even as it betrayed them.

THE LAST WORD

44 Who's in Putin's Pocket — Clinton or Trump?

by William F. Jasper

DEPARTMENTS

5 Letters to the Editor

6 Inside Track

9 QuickQuotes

28 American Principles

32 The Goodness of America

40 Exercising the Right

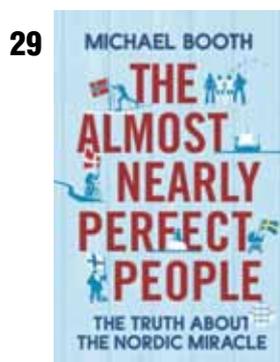
41 Correction, Please!



Cover Design: Joseph W. Kelly



AP Images



AP Images

TRAIL WINDS P L A Z A



SPACE AVAILABLE

5,640 square ft.

Call 239-677-7441 or Email dennyfog@aol.com

Cleveland Ave. (Rt. 41) • Ft. Myers, Florida • Stamra Inc.

Publisher & Editor
Gary Benoit

Senior Editor
William F. Jasper

Managing Editor
Kurt Williamsen

Copy Editor
John T. Larabell

Foreign Correspondent
Alex Newman

Contributors
Bob Adelmann

Steve Byas • Raven Clabough
Selwyn Duke • Brian Farmer
Christian Gomez • Larry Greenley
Gregory A. Hession, J.D.
Ed Hiserodt • William P. Hoar
Patrick Krey, J.D. • Warren Mass
John F. McManus • Dr. Duke Pesta
Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.
C. Mitchell Shaw • Michael Tennant
Rebecca Terrell • Fr. James Thornton
Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Art Director
Joseph W. Kelly

Graphic Designer
Katie Carder

Research
Bonnie M. Gillis

Vice President of Communications
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 ©2016 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.

JBS.org

THE NEW AMERICAN is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

Congress' Corruption

Regarding your article "Is Gridlock Really a Bad Thing" (July 18 issue), it's important to realize that real gridlock — also known as checks and balances — is rare because of congressional rules, combined with unconstitutional spending. In his book *Extortion*, Peter Schweizer describes how both the Democratic and Republican Parties have set dues quotas for each member of Congress in order for them to be selected for a powerful committee assignment such as the House Ways and Means Committee or Financial Services Committee. Schweizer also states that the National Republican Congressional Committee posts the price tag for each Republican on a wall with a red marking to indicate those persons failing to make their quota. This perverse incentive program is likely to result in the more corrupt members of Congress ending up in the leadership positions.

Members of Congress have an incentive to sell their services to the K Street lobbyists in return for campaign donations so as to make their dues quota.

Per USDebtClock.org every taxpayer is in hock by \$858,839 to the federal government's Ponzi scheme for the federal debt, including the unfunded liabilities, as of July 2016. The Federal Reserve, with the help of the Treasury Department, funds the Ponzi scheme by essentially issuing a credit card with a floating credit limit, a limit Congress always hikes.

Despite the fact that Americans do not have enough assets to pay this debt, Congress continues to magnify the Ponzi scheme by extravagant spending, far in excess of the government's income. All Ponzi schemes eventually implode, and I believe our current crop of representatives will wait until the financial house of cards collapses and then point the finger of blame at the party sitting in the president's chair at the time of the meltdown.

Middle-class Americans are being sledge-hammered by the recession, tax hikes, and the shrink-

ing purchasing power of their earnings due to Congress' lack of spending restraint. The growth of inefficiencies is like the plaque that builds up in the arteries: It triggers a heart attack as inefficiencies build up. Owing to the ballooning of federal spending, the economy eventually will have a heart attack. Americans must revolt and replace corrupt members of the state Central Committees of the Republican Party with virtuous persons, since the Central Committee vets the candidates, or support a third party focused on ending the corruption in Washington and re-establishing the 10th Amendment.

GARY WOODBURN
Sent via e-mail

Life at Home

Let's talk about life as if your spouse followed examples set by our federal government.

In such a situation, your front door would remain unlocked so that strangers could wander in and stay because they were unhappy in their previous homes. Your refrigerator would be stocked, open, and available to your uninvited guests. Additional beds and cots would be purchased for the guests.

More monies would be borrowed from your bank, increasing your present (already large) debt. Then the funds would be given to the guests, and termed "welfare."

Everyone would have an equal say in making family decisions.

Any complaints or criticism of the unwanted guests would be rebuked and deemed "bias," leaving you ostracized and badmouthed to the neighbors. The same would happen for calling the unwanted invaders "unwanted invaders."

Sleep might be difficult to obtain because you worry about your guests trying to kill you or your loved ones or worry about the effect they are having on the living situation of your house.

WILLIAM E. MATHEWS
Valparaiso, Indiana



EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

◆ Additional copies of this issue of THE NEW AMERICAN are available at quantity-discount prices. To place your order, visit www.shopjbs.org or see the card between pages 34-35.

UN Warns Climate Change Will Soon Make It “Too Hot to Work”

Better get your overtime in while you can, because the UN says it will soon be “too hot to work.” Research funded by the United Nations and released in a July 12 paper by the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health* contains warnings that by 2030 climate change will cause temperatures to soar so high that “global economies” will be impacted financially to the tune of \$2 trillion.

“Heat stress,” as the UN research calls it, will force workers — especially those in developing countries — to cut back on their work hours.

This climate-induced unemployment will cause drastic reductions in gross domestic product (GDP) around the world, including a nearly .5 percent dip in the United States. The Pacific island nation of Tuvalu will be hit the worst by the warming workplace, losing approximately 25 percent of its GDP, according to the UN’s data. The UN-sponsored paper reported that while “extreme heat in Southeast Asia already curbs annual working hours by 15 to 20 percent ... that figure could double by 2050 as climate change progresses.”

But Southeast Asia isn’t the only area where workers are supposedly going to choose to starve rather than work in extreme temperatures: In some countries in Europe, it will apparently be too cold to work. Tord Kjellstrom, a director at the Health and Environment International Trust, told *Bloomberg* July 18, “Russia, Norway and Sweden may see productivity dip as a result of colder weather in winter.” Basically, then, everybody’s going to stop working because it’s either too hot or too cold.

What happens when everybody stops working? Government will have to shoulder the burden of supporting those people who



have been forced to flee their jobs because rich countries failed to limit greenhouse emissions. In that scenario, then, government becomes the sole source of sustenance for the laborers of the world, who become dependent upon government for everything from birth to education to work to death. Perhaps this is the ultimate aim in all the climate-change chatter coming out of the United Nations.

New ATF Head Wants Computerized Database of All Gun Purchases

Deputy Director Thomas Brandon of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), in an interview shown July 31 on CBS’s *Sunday Morning*, complained that his agency is “a small agency with a big job” and that he really needs more agents and more money to do that job.

What he would really like, however, is a computerized database of all gun purchases made by every buyer and seller in the country: “There’s a lot of things that don’t make sense.... Would [having such a database at the ATF] be efficient and effective? Absolutely. Would the taxpayers benefit with [improved] public safety? Absolutely. Are we allowed to do it? No.”

Brandon took over the agency in April 2015 after Todd Jones bailed out following the agency’s failed attempt to ban ammunition for the popular AR-15 rifle. Jones had taken over the agency after Kenneth Melson bailed out in 2011 following the implosion of the ATF’s scandalous *Fast and Furious* gun-walking operation.

Brandon is propagating falsehoods, as have the former heads of ATF — this time about a gun registration program, saying it would be efficient and, apparently, cost effective. But Canada tried such a registration scheme starting in 1998. The scheme’s cost rose from its projected \$2 million to over \$1 billion, and it didn’t stop crime since criminals mostly used illegally acquired

(thus unregistered) guns. Canada abandoned its plan in 2011.

Brandon doesn’t need a gun registration computer program to do his job. And, in fact, so much of his agency’s “mission” is outside the constitutional powers granted to the executive branch that Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) was correct when he said, “I think we ought to get rid of the ATF,” and giving it additional funds to pay for a searchable database of every gun, and gun owner, in the country amounts to “de facto gun registration.” Brandon’s agency of 5,000 employees spending a billion dollars a year to oppress the citizenry needs to be defunded immediately and completely.



National Debt Increases \$100 Million Every Hour

What took other presidents more than 200 years to do, Barack Obama has done in one year, and he continues doing it year in, year out. During the Obama administration, \$1.1 trillion dollars has been added every year to the national debt.

This is not exactly the legacy one would expect from a man who, as a senator in 2006, said that “increasing America’s debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren.” Ironically, as president, Barack Obama has laid upon the backs of those very children and grandchildren a debt that increases by about \$100 million every hour, every day.

It is likely difficult for most Americans to comprehend the steep crescendo of the national debt, given that most of us have lived with the annual perpetuation of the obligation — the kicking of the proverbial can — hoping that someday someone will find a solution. Or not.

Consider that the entire national debt did not reach the \$1 trillion mark until the administration of Ronald Reagan. Today, however, every year we add more than the entire accumulated debt of the United States as of the time Ronald Reagan became president! Perhaps we should be proud. We’ve managed to do in one year what it took our ancestors more than 200 years to do!

The federal government cannot be relied on to fix the problem that it perpetuates and from which it benefits. The people and

the states must reclaim their sovereign authority and assert it in defense of fiscal freedom, refusing to participate in, pay for, or carry out any federal program or policy that is not absolutely allowed by the Constitution that grants every power possessed by the federal government.



EU Immigration Could Affect Austrian Revote



On October 2, Norbert Hofer, Austria’s presidential candidate for the Freedom Party (FPO), will be going head-to-head once more against the socialist Green Party standard bearer, Alexander Van der Bellen.

There were massive “election irregularities” in Austria’s May 22 presidential election that gave Van der Bellen a razor-thin margin of victory. On July 1, Austria’s Constitutional Court ordered a rerun of the country’s presidential election. “The runoff presidential election must be completely repeated in all of Austria,” stat-

ed Gerhart Holzinger, the president of the Constitutional Court. While it cited no instances of outright fraud, the court ruled that 77,926 of the 4.5 million votes cast were affected by improprieties in the counting process. This amounted to more than double the margin of victory and was sufficient to annul the vote.

Hofer, 45, an aeronautical engineer, is dapper, well-dressed, articulate, and charming, while Van der Bellen, 72, an economics professor, is scruffy, haughty, and elitist. By effectively delivering the FPO message of opposition to EU-mandated migration/refugee policies, Hofer has won over millions of Austrians who can plainly see the disastrous consequences of the EU’s open borders. In contrast to Van der Bellen, who is an ardent euro-federalist who supports total absorption of the nation-state by the Brussels-run EU bureaucracy, Hofer has campaigned on a slogan of “putting Austria first.”

Neither Hofer nor the FPO has called for an Austrian exit from the EU, but they do insist on an Austrian referendum on the issue of Turkey being admitted to the European Union. And if Turkey were to be admitted over their objection, or if the EU attempts to enforce its mandatory refugee quotas, it is likely the FPO would quickly launch its own British-style exit. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and European Parliament President Martin Schulz have already riled many Austrian voters with their interference in the May elections and their warnings to Austrians against voting the Hofer/FPO ticket.

EXTENDED INSIDE TRACK

Billionaire Buys Democrats to Boost “Green” Investments

With a group of radical Democrat prosecutors and lawmakers waging war on the free-speech rights of climate skeptics, a new report identifies billionaire “green” crony capitalist Tom Steyer as the chief financier — and financial beneficiary — of the controversial agenda. According to the report, produced by the non-profit watchdog Energy & Environment Legal Institute (E&E Legal) and released July 21, the major Democrat donor has massive investments in the “green” energy industry — a sector that is largely dependent on the government subsidies and regulations justified by increasingly discredited climate alarmism. And so, in an apparent effort to protect his investments and extract even more wealth from the public, the crony billionaire has become the largest campaign donor for either political party, dropping around \$100 million just in the last two years alone. The implications of what appears to be massive corruption are huge, with a wide array of Democrats across America implicated in the schemes.

The investigative report, entitled “Buying the Democrat Party Lock, Stock and Barrel,” exposes the political spending of Steyer, a California billionaire who made a big part of his fortune in coal. In the 2014 election cycle, he spent some \$75 million to oppose political candidates who would not bow to his extreme “green” agenda and help enrich him. In 2016, after a dismal track record in the midterm elections, Steyer reportedly spent about \$25 million directly backing alarmist Democrats. And he is apparently plotting to spend yet another \$50 million on politicians this year to buy even more support — in addition to another \$50 million he plans to raise from fellow crony capitalists seeking to buy themselves more political power and subsidies. The litmus test for politicians who want Steyer’s money is whether or not they support global-warming alarmism and the associated policies that will enrich him.

Apparently Steyer was even able to purchase some planks in the Democrat Party platform, which now calls for the nation to be run entirely on government-approved forms of “clean energy” within the next few decades. Within 10 years, the platform says, 50 percent of U.S. energy must come from “clean” sources. Such extremism in the platform of one of America’s major political parties might be good news to crony billionaires such as Steyer, but for Americans, who will pay drastically higher bills in addition to suffering from a crippled economy and an exodus of jobs to nations where Steyer has coal investments, the price tag will be enormous. More than two-thirds of America’s energy today comes from cheap, economically viable sources such as coal and natural gas that Steyer and his agents in government want to abolish.

Steyer’s investments in fossil fuels and coal in other countries have exposed him to criticism for his hypocrisy and have raised



AP Images

questions about his supposed belief in CO₂ as “pollution” in need of regulation. “Over the past 15 years, Mr. Steyer’s fund, Farallon Capital Management, has pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into companies that operate coal mines and coal-fired power plants from Indonesia to China,” the *New York Times* reported in 2014, citing records and interviews.

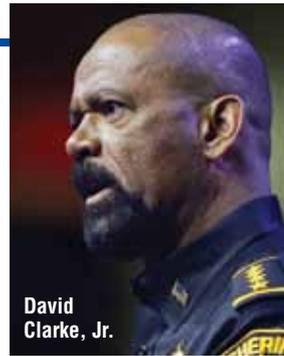
Of course, it is hardly the first time that billionaire crony capitalists have been exposed pushing the “climate” agenda and other “green” schemes to benefit themselves. A 2014 report from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee revealed the existence of a network described by lawmakers as the “Billionaires Club” that has been showering funds on the environmentalist “green movement” for years. Among other concerns, the Senate report said the secretive Billionaires Club might be violating federal laws in its controversial efforts to get its own agents elected to political office, seize control of the federal regulatory regime, and push a radical agenda on America. Now that the Billionaires Club has purchased so much power, it is using its agents in the bureaucracy to further fleece taxpayers to advance its own goals by granting its front groups even more money, the Senate investigators found. Top insiders such as David Rockefeller, George Soros, and Bill Gates are deeply involved.

Despite the best efforts of crony capitalists and establishment insiders, though, surveys show the majority of Americans do not even believe the man-made global-warming theory. While bad news for Democrats and the investment portfolios of establishment billionaires such as Steyer and mega-banks such as Goldman Sachs, that is all good news for Americans and humanity. But efforts to expose climate alarmism and the agenda behind it must continue. Crony billionaires such as Steyer and the broader establishment have a great deal invested in the agenda, and so, a great deal is at stake. Still, the truth is an extremely powerful weapon — and it stands on its own without the need to spend billions buying politicians. That means everyday Americans without billions to buy politicians can still win this fight. ■

Black Sheriff Criticizes “Black Lives Matter” Movement

“Blue lives matter. The Black Lives Matter protest movement is contributing to a collapse of the social order.”

Wisconsin’s Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, Jr. has frequently issued sensible statements about a variety of matters. His speech at the Republican National Convention included praise for the acquittal of the Baltimore police officers who were brought to trial after the death of Freddie Gray.



David Clarke, Jr.

AP Images

Terrorist Killer in France Had Help

“[He] benefitted from support and complicity in the preparation and carrying out of his criminal act. His deadly act was premeditated.”

Prosecutor Francois Molins, the leader of the investigatory team looking into terrorist crimes in France, said Lahouaiej Bouhlel, who killed 84 in Nice, received help from at least five others.

Pakistan Media Star Murdered by Brother in “Honor Killing”

“Everyone was talking about her. Men would condemn her, but I’m sure they were all secretly following her stuff on Instagram.”

Qandeel Baloch’s brother drugged and strangled her because of what he said were “shameful” pictures she had posted on Facebook. Washington-based Pakistani journalist Malik Siraj Akbar believed she had many followers, though most would still refuse to condemn the brother who killed her.



Donald Trump

AP Images

Doping Scandal Leading to Ban of Russian Athletes Blamed on United States

“Probably the U.S. is behind this. It is very similar to the economic sanctions introduced against us — a few countries united against us using some kind of excuse and unconfirmed facts.”

The head of the sports committee in the Duma (the lower house of Russia’s parliament), Dmitry Svishchev is not alone among Russians in blaming the United States for the bans issued to some of his country’s Olympic athletes.

Gulf Between Trump and Cruz Widens

“I don’t want his endorsement. If he gives it, I won’t accept it.”

After the Republican Convention when Senator Cruz refused to endorse the party nominee for president, Donald Trump responded sharply.

Becoming an Ex-president Leads to Kinder Treatment

“It’s an axiom of American politics that presidents become more popular once they are ex-presidents.”

A contributing editor for New York magazine, Jason Zengerle made this statement in a review of the book Bush about ex-President George W. Bush.

He Demands Voting to Become a Right

“We need a right-to-vote amendment to the Constitution that gives every American an explicit and individual right to vote and that gives Congress the authority to create a unified national voting system with certain common-sense minimum standards.”

In a letter published in the New York Times, Jesse Jackson called for amending the Constitution to ensure that there be more voters who are persuaded that government is the answer to every problem.

First Lady Fuels Race Consciousness

“I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves.”

In her speech at the Democratic Convention, Michelle Obama found a novel way to keep race divisions festering. She could have praised our nation for doing away with slavery, but her goal seems to have been keeping racial consciousness alive. Some commentators claimed she was wrong about the individuals who built the White House because they were paid adequately, housed appropriately, and treated honorably. ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



Michelle Obama

AP Images

SCANDINAVIA



Successful SOCIALISM?

Norway, Sweden, and Denmark have supposedly created an earthly paradise by instituting big social-welfare governments with high taxes. How well does this really work?

by John T. Larabell

In America, we've been hearing an awful lot about the wonders of socialism and how we really ought to adopt that system in order to avoid many of the problems facing our country. Particularly with the recent popularity of outspoken socialist Senator Bernie Sanders among American millennials, Scandinavian socialism is being propped up as a way to fix our country.

We're told about those countries in northern Europe that have nearly created an earthly paradise, where every societal ill is cured by a large, benevolent government. "Everything is free," we often hear: free education, free healthcare, free childcare, free retirement, large unemployment benefits, lots of vacation time, and super-long maternity (and paternity) leave times. Add to that high wages, very low gun crime, low unemployment, and low incarceration rates. And how about low government corruption, very low national debt, and overall sound fiscal policy? Not to mention extremely progressive liberal societies that are often ranked at or near the top in global "happiness" surveys. Who could object to that? It would seem like a no-brainer to transform America into a Scandinavian-style welfare state. Or would it?

How About Those Taxes?

Most Americans are aware of the legendary high taxes that Scandinavian countries levy on their loyal citizens. Just how high are the taxes, and how do they compare to tax rates in America? The answer may, or may not, surprise you.

Let's look at Sweden for starters. For 2016, the highest level for the personal income tax in that country stands at 61 percent. That includes a municipal tax (imposed on everyone) of up to 34 percent, a church and burial tax of one or two percent, a state income tax of 20 percent on income over \$52,000, and an extra five percent on income over \$75,000. Way to soak the rich, right? And in case you didn't catch it earlier, that municipal tax of between 29 and 34 percent — depending on the municipality — is imposed on *everyone*.

Denmark isn't any better: For 2016, the top tax level stands at 55.8 percent (including an eight-percent "gross tax" deducted before other taxation), a combination, as

While the rich do get soaked in Scandinavian countries, the middle class gets soaked even more. Even working-class people with relatively low-wage jobs get hit with tax rates that would be considered high in America.

with Sweden, of municipal and state-level taxes. This amount of taxation, again, is imposed at a fairly middle-class income level.

Norway stands out as the tax haven of the three countries: Its top income tax level of 38.7 percent is actually lower than the United States' top bracket of 39.6 percent, which, incidentally, doesn't include state income tax. However, this level is imposed on upper-middle-class income earners (just over \$100,000), not incomes in the \$400,000-plus range as in the United States. In fact, the base income tax on *all* Norwegians is 25 percent, with higher brackets added after income levels of approximately \$19,000.

While the rich do get soaked in Scandinavian countries, the middle class gets soaked even more. Even working-class people with relatively low-wage jobs get hit with tax rates that would be considered high in America. Plus, wealthy individuals, as in America, will often earn income from

other sources than wages or simply incorporate to pay lower tax rates. (We'll look at corporate taxes in a moment.) But income taxes are not what most Americans would consider the most troublesome part of taxation in Europe's far north. That honor belongs to the Value-added Tax, or VAT.

A VAT is, as far as the end consumer is concerned, basically a sales tax, or a tax on consumption. The difference between a VAT and our sales taxes here in the United States is that with a VAT, a good or service is taxed up the entire chain of production rather than just at the retail end. In other words, each time a business in the production chain purchases a product, a tax is added, which can be deducted from the VAT liability by the next business up the line. As with a sales tax, businesses up the production chain will get the portion of the VAT they pay refunded, with only the end consumer paying the full VAT. All OECD (Organization of Economic Co-operation



Fork over the kronor: Scandinavians are literally the "highest taxed people on Earth." These taxes largely fall on middle-class and working-class people; that's the only way to sustain the welfare state.



Wait for it: Healthcare in Scandinavia is generally very good, but citizens often experience ridiculously long wait times, causing many people to supplement with private insurance. Shown is the Nordland Hospital in Bodø, Norway.

and Development) countries, with the exception of the United States, impose VATs, and most are in the 15-20 percent range. But the VATs in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway are especially burdensome: All three countries boast a VAT of 25 percent for most consumer purchases. As if that weren't bad enough, here's the real kicker: Even food has a VAT imposed upon it. That's right, citizens in these countries have to pay a sales tax of between 12 percent (Sweden) and the full 25 percent (Denmark) on their groceries!

Along with the income tax, the VAT in Scandinavian countries is a main source of government revenue. Now in America, of course, we don't have a VAT, but rather sales taxes imposed at the state level, even the highest of which is far lower than 25 percent. A VAT could truly be considered a regressive tax, meaning it affects the poor and middle class more than it does the rich, as basic necessities consume a much greater portion of a poor person's income than they do for those of greater

means. Many people of modest means in this country would likely recoil at the thought of paying any tax at all on food, let alone 25 percent.

So what's the total tax burden for a person earning what, in America, would be a typical middle-class income? When taking into account income taxes, VAT, social security, and other taxes — such as the tax of up to 180 percent on gasoline-powered automobiles in Denmark (!) — many Scandinavians effectively give between 70 and 80 percent of their income to the government. So the moniker of “highest taxed people on Earth” is not an exaggeration.

But all those wonderful social-welfare programs in Scandinavian countries make the higher taxes on personal income worth paying, don't they? Besides, though our taxes are lower in the states, most Americans have to pay for services out-of-pocket that Scandinavians get from the government, so it all evens out, right? Let's take a look at two of the social services in Scandi-

navia that are hot-button issues in America right now — healthcare and college education — so readers can judge for themselves the merits of the Scandinavian system.

Free Healthcare!

For starters, we'll take a look at an important aspect of the Scandinavian welfare state, one that resonates most with many Americans: healthcare. And instead of looking merely at statistics and quoting American sources, let's see what Scandinavians have to say. We'll start with Sweden. According to a January 27, 2015 article in the Swedish edition of *The Local*, an English-language European news site,

Sweden was once a health care model for the world. But that is hardly the case anymore.

This is not primarily due to the fact Sweden has become worse — rather it is the case that other countries have improved faster.

That Sweden no longer keeps up with those countries is largely due to its inability to reduce its patient waiting times, which are some of the worst in Europe, as the latest edition of the Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) revealed [on January 26, 2015].

The 2014 EHCI also confirms other big problems within Swedish healthcare.

Sweden's overall ranking dropped from eleventh to twelfth place — a steady decline since 2007, when Sweden was in sixth place. Sweden saw itself surpassed by all other Nordic countries, and its gap from the top is growing.

The author of the piece, Johan Hjertqvist, is president of Health Consumer Powerhouse, an organization that compares global healthcare systems and publishes the EHCI, and is himself a Swede. He went on to write:

It has long been tempting to excuse the Swedish move down the list on other countries improving much faster. But as the negative trend continues in Sweden, so is the growing sense of dread that serious deterioration is on the way. The seemingly chronic inability to do anything about our long

As is a common phenomenon any place there is a centralized bureaucracy running healthcare in a country, the people experience lack of accessibility, lack of consumer choice, rationing of services, and notoriously long wait times.

waiting times affects Swedish quality of care in many other respects....

The county councils and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions' (SKL) excuses are well known: shortage of doctors, large migration to urban areas, nurses fleeing the profession, and so on. But in reality, Sweden has no fewer doctors and other health professionals than most other countries in the study.

There is no relationship between money supply and availability. Albania, one of Europe's poorest countries, has no waiting time at all. And population movements and demographic changes are taking place all across Europe, not just in Sweden.

Ironically, many Swedes are purchasing private-market supplements to their "free" government-run health insurance. As noted by *The Local* in 2014,

More than half a million Swedes [over five percent of the population] now have private health insurance, showed a new review from industry organization Swedish Insurance (Svensk Försäkring). In eight out of ten cases, the person's employer had offered them the private insurance deal. "It's quicker to get a colleague back to work if you have an operation in two weeks' time rather than having to wait for a year," privately insured Anna Norlander told *Sveriges Radio*.... "It's terrible that I, as a young person, don't feel I can trust the health care system to take care of me."

Or how about this example? In a July 2013 article for the Ludwig von Mises Institute, native Swede Klaus Bernpainter recalled:

For non-emergency cases in Sweden, you must go to the public "Healthcare Central." This is always the starting point for anything from the common flu to brain tumors. You must go to your assigned Central, according to your healthcare district. Admission is by appointment only. Usually they have a 30-minute window every morning, when you call to claim one of the budgeted slots. Make sure to call early or they run out. Rarely will you

get an appointment for the same day. You will be assigned a general practitioner, probably one you have never met before; likely one who does not speak fluent Swedish; and very likely one who hates his job. If you have a serious condition, you will be started on a path of referrals to experts. This process can take months....

This healthcare "bread line" is where people die. It happens regularly that by the time a patient gets to see an expert, his condition has progressed beyond remedy. It also happens frequently that referrals get lost....

The emergency room is a different experience altogether. Unless you are suffocating or are hemorrhaging profusely, you should expect to wait 5-7 hours to see a doctor. You can only hope for this "high" level of service if you arrive on a workday and during office hours. After hours, or on weekends, it is worse. Doctors are mostly busy filling out forms for the central health care authorities, scribbling codes in little boxes to report services rendered, instead of seeing patients. There have been cases reported where patients have seen a doctor immediately, but such cases are rare.

It is important to plan any major health problems you intend to have

outside of June, July, and August, because [in] the summer months, hospitals are virtually shut down for vacation.

So that's what Swedes have to say about their own healthcare system. Health Consumer Powerhouse's 2015 EHCI survey revealed similar problems about Norway's healthcare. While it is generally considered very good, owing to massive amounts of money being pumped into the system (more on that later), waiting times are still an issue. Denmark, while ranking lower than Norway but higher than Sweden in the EHCI survey, faces similar issues with healthcare accessibility. The survey remarked on the "tightening of access to healthcare, with only two telephone numbers being available to Danish patients; the number of their [general practitioner], or the emergency number 112!" And as with Sweden, a surprising number of Danes (nearly a quarter of the population) supplement their healthcare with private insurance.

So having government-run, "free" healthcare does not necessarily mean "good" healthcare. As far as the infrastructure, facilities, and technology are concerned, Scandinavian countries have just as good a healthcare system as other developed countries. But as is a common phenomenon any place there is a central-



Free is expensive: Many progressives long for "free" college education here in America. But as Scandinavia shows, "free" doesn't guarantee higher enrollment, and it's very difficult to sustain the massive costs associated with such a system.

ized bureaucracy running healthcare in a country, the people experience lack of accessibility, lack of consumer choice, rationing of services, and notoriously long wait times. The Swedish government, for its part, poured nearly \$1.5 billion into the country's healthcare system in recent years in an attempt to lower waiting times. It helped, but only very slightly. The problem with the Scandinavian healthcare system appears to be too much government involvement, not too little.

"But everyone gets covered" is the refrain we usually hear from progressives in this country when addressing criticism of Scandinavia's healthcare system. Yes, that's true, but as we've seen above, the coverage is not all that great. What's more, a growing number of citizens are supplementing their "free" tax-funded insurance with private insurance. Further, it's not as if poor people in America are dying in heaps in the streets because they don't have health insurance and no one will take care of them; people get taken care of. Emergency rooms don't turn people away, and between Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Affairs clinics, and various state welfare services, it's extremely rare for people in this country to go completely without care (though admittedly this care is not always the best). This is, of course, to say nothing of the unconstitutionality or lack of efficacy of any government involvement in healthcare to begin with, and the fact that healthcare should be completely left up to the private sector and the free market, as we've written about numerous times in this magazine. A truly privatized, free market in healthcare would lead to lower prices as a result of competition and the necessity to maintain affordability for the patient in the absence of government subsidies. Getting rid of the government as a "middle man" would also drastically lower costs for doctors, as the need for extra staff to handle all of the coding and billing would largely disappear. Doctors would be free to negotiate prices and payment plans for those suffering financial difficulty, and "free clinics" and charitable organizations would ensure that even the poorest person could get care when needed. Though such practices exist today in America, they were once commonplace, and would see a renaissance if the government would follow the Consti-

tution and get out of healthcare, period. A government-run system, while it sounds attractive for several reasons, often leads to *worse* care, not better, and is generally unsustainable in the long run.

Free College Education!

Scandinavian countries are also known for the much-celebrated "free" college education for all, and this was one of Senator Bernie Sanders' main policy talking points during his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. We have to pay for college out of our own pockets (or take out loans and be saddled with student-loan debt for years) here in America, which, as the argument goes, prevents many people from enjoying the benefits of higher education.

Education in Scandinavian countries is generally seen as a civil right; therefore, it's seen as something that should be paid for collectively rather than by any one individual. Part of the reasoning is that an educated populace benefits all of society, so people should not be left out of the opportunity to have an education because they can't afford it. Consequently, higher education is almost entirely publicly funded, ranging from 90 percent in Sweden, to 95 percent in Denmark, to 96 percent in Norway, compared to just under 35 percent in the United States. Norway takes things a step further, even allowing foreign students to study tuition-free. This is regarded as a so-

cial good that benefits the rest of the world, and there's the fear that charging foreign students would lower the global competitiveness of the universities in Norway and cause a drop in enrollment. Case in point: Denmark and Sweden implemented tuition fees for international students coming from outside the EU in 2006 and 2011, respectively, and they did see a large decline in international students.

Colleges and universities in Scandinavia are generally considered to offer a world-class education, scoring very high in global rankings for research and innovation. So could government-funded higher education be one area where the Scandinavians have us beat? It certainly sounds like they offer their citizens (and in the case of Norway, non-citizens) a great deal. And it *is* a great deal — for now. Such a system is immensely expensive to sustain, as evidenced by Denmark and Sweden nixing free tuition for foreign students. Many students, understandably so, are worried that the next step might be to shift a bit of the tuition burden onto native students, as well. Norway is able to continue offering free tuition for foreign students for the time being, thanks to one very important factor that we'll explore later. At any rate, someone has to pay for this, as nothing is truly "free." And that someone, to the disappointment of many Bernie Sanders supporters, is not the ob-



The good old days: Nearly all of the largest companies in Sweden were formed before the implementation of the welfare state with its stifling taxes and regulations. Shown is the first IKEA store in Älmhult, Sweden (now a museum).

scure rich guy living on his estate on the other side of the country; it's middle-class and working-class people, the very ones hoping to get a "free ride."

Here's some more food for thought: If everyone gets a college education, such an education essentially becomes worthless, no better than a high-school diploma is now. Plus, under a tax-funded system, those who choose not to go to college, for any number of reasons, would still be paying for it, much the same way parents who put their kids in private schools in America still pay for the public schools via property taxes. And this raises another important point: Even with "free" college education, a surprisingly low number of Scandinavians actually end up going to college. According to an analysis by Elisabeth Hovdhaugen, a Norwegian education researcher, "only 14 percent of children from the least-educated families in Norway go to college, compared to 58 percent of children from the most-educated families." This is about the same as in the United States. So the problem isn't just money, it's about familial and cultural values. Also, since many blue-collar jobs pay quite well in Scandinavian countries, and the welfare state is almost paternal in its scope, there's not as much incentive to actually go to college and pursue a degree.

How the Bumblebee Flies

We in America often hear about the brilliance of government planners in Scandinavian countries, and how they are able to somehow, miraculously, maintain a high-tax welfare state with lots of benefits while maintaining robust economies with low unemployment. It's often known as "third way" socialism, a sort of "middle ground" that, according to its proponents, avoids the harsh excesses of free-market capitalism and Soviet Union-style communism.

Those countries have been likened to the bumblebee, since, according to the laws of physics, the fuzzy, nectar-and-pollen-loving insect should not be able to fly, but it somehow manages quite well. Likewise, Scandinavian countries have somehow managed to "figure it out," prompting suggestions by liberals in America that we could learn a great deal from them.

So how does the bumblebee fly? In order to understand the "economic miracle" of the Scandinavian welfare states, a



A well-oiled machine: Norway is able to fund its massive welfare state with lower taxes than Denmark and Sweden because of its massive offshore oil reserves. In the event the oil runs out, Norway will be forced to make reforms or go broke.

brief look back into history is in order.

In the late 19th century, Denmark already had a fairly successful economy, with strong property rights and a liberal market that enabled small and large businesses, primarily agricultural, to prosper. Sweden and Norway were still relatively poor, backward nations during much of this time, which led to large waves of immigration to the United States. After 1870 or so, Sweden experienced an economic boom as a capitalist system evolved out of the former agrarian economy; strong property rights, free markets, rule of law, and an educated, entrepreneurial citizenry made this possible. With the onset of industrialization in Scandinavia at the dawn of the 20th century, Sweden in particular saw phenomenal growth: Many of the well-known Swedish companies such as IKEA, Volvo, Tetra Pak, and Ericsson were founded from the end of the 19th century through the first half of the 20th century.

In Denmark in the 1920s and in Sweden in the 1930s, basic tax-funded social welfare programs, similar to those in many other developed countries, began to be implemented. This did little to slow down their fantastic economic growth, and Sweden in particular was, per capita, one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Things began to change in the '60s and '70s. While America was dealing with the Vietnam War and various counterculture movements,

Scandinavian countries were implementing their trademark socialist systems with high taxes, massive public spending, and cradle-to-grave welfare programs. Tax revenues went from a not-too-uncommon 25 to 30 percent of GDP in the mid '50s to well over 40 percent of GDP by the end of the 20th century. In Denmark's case, the early 2000s saw tax revenue levels at a sky-high 50 percent of GDP.

So what did this do to the economies of the Scandinavian countries? Though apologists for the "Nordic miracle" would have us believe that it had no negative effect, they're wrong. After 1970, economic growth for Scandinavian countries, especially Denmark and Sweden (more about Norway later), began to slow down dramatically, appearing to almost stagnate compared to what it had been previously. By the 1980s, problems were already apparent. The high taxes were stifling business creation. As foreign-born Swedish researcher Nima Sanandaji noted in *Scandinavian Unexceptionalism: Culture, Markets and the Failure of Third-way Socialism*,

In 2004, 38 of the 100 businesses with the highest revenue in Sweden were entrepreneurial: in other words started as privately owned businesses within the country. Of these firms, 21 were founded before 1913. Additionally, 15 were founded between 1914



AP Images

“Green” but not clean? Scandinavians pride themselves on their environmentalism and “green” energy, but Denmark gets most of its energy from coal and oil, and Norway is a large oil exporter. Some have pointed out the hypocrisy of this apparent “greenwashing.” Shown are offshore wind turbines near Esbjerg, Denmark.

and 1970. Only two had been formed after 1970. If the 100 largest firms are instead ranked according to how many people they employed, none of the largest entrepreneurial firms were founded after 1970.

Indeed, Denmark in 1970 was ranked seventh among the top 20 OECD countries as measured in GDP per capita. By 1980, it had already dropped to 10th place. Worse yet, Sweden went from fourth place (right under the United States) in 1970 down to 11th place in 2000.

But the bumblebee still managed to fly, because it realized it was sinking and began to change course. During recent decades, the Scandinavian countries have implemented a number of market reforms and liberalizations, not the least of which was drastically lowering corporate taxes. During the 1980s, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden had corporate tax rates as high as 50 percent, 50.8 percent, and 60.1 percent, respectively. They currently stand at 23.5 percent, 27 percent, and 22 percent, respectively. All three of these are lower than the top corporate tax rate in the United States of 35 percent (not including state taxes). Lower corporate taxes, combined with other reforms such as increasing privatization of some services — such as transportation, emergency services, and some utilities — and increased labor flexibility (particularly in Denmark), arrested the economic

decline in Denmark and Sweden, even leading to slight improvement so far in the 2000s. Also, strong private property rights and low property taxes are a feature of Scandinavian countries, something anathema to Marxists of the hard-core Left.

Norway has been a different creature altogether. The fairly insular, protectionist nation had remained mostly rural and did not see the economic boom that Denmark and Sweden experienced in the early 20th century. In 1970, Norway was ranked 18th among the top 20 nations in GDP per capita. By 1980 it had risen to 13th place, and by 2000 it was in second place, where it stands today. What happened? One word: oil. Lots of oil. Norway discovered oil and gas in its territorial waters of the North Sea in the late 1960s, and it’s been “drill baby, drill” ever since. In *The Almost Nearly Perfect People: the Truth About the Nordic Miracle* (see review on page 29), award-winning British author Michael Booth humorously (but not too inaccurately) likened the Norwegians to the Beverly Hillbillies of 1960s TV fame. This country of just over five million people is the top oil producer in Europe (by a large margin), and currently the 15th largest oil producer in the world. The petroleum industry in Norway is largely government-owned, and private companies in the oil sector face a corporate tax of 66 percent. Norway is essentially using its oil and gas exports to fund a gigantic piggy bank in order to pay for one of

the world’s costliest welfare states. Despite having low corporate taxes and the lowest income tax of the Scandinavian countries, Norway, unlike Denmark and Sweden, did not implement many of the market reforms of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The Norwegian government is a majority stakeholder in many of the country’s publicly traded companies, and the labor market is still very protectionist. But for now, Norway can afford it.

From an economic standpoint, Scandinavia’s experiment with socialism is a relatively new phenomenon, really more of an aberration that lasted for a couple decades, and it is already seeing changes back to a more free-market system. Denmark and Sweden are more business-friendly than the United States, for example, and are deregulating other parts of their economies. So that’s how the bumblebee flies. Sorry American progressives and starry-eyed millennials in love with all things Scandinavian: Those countries actually tax the little guy more than they tax Big Business. And Norway’s utopia is funded by Big Oil.

Not So Successful

So how do Scandinavian countries make it work? In short, by being business-friendly and heavily taxing the middle class. Or using oil money. And to be totally accurate, the Scandinavian model hasn’t even “worked” all that well to begin with, since tax cuts and reforms to the welfare state are already being implemented, with more in the future being a real possibility. Imagine the economic success and prosperity of the three nations had the welfare state never been implemented. If the early 20th century serves as any indication, they likely could have been the wealthiest nations on Earth per capita; one can only speculate.

So Scandinavia is not really the smashing success story for socialism that many American progressives make it out to be. Furthermore, there’s one huge element of Scandinavian society that goes hand-in-hand with the socialist welfare state and has enabled it to work to the moderate extent that it has: culture. Without some very specific cultural traits that lend themselves to a social-welfare state, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden would have had much less success than they have had so far. We explore this in greater detail in our article on page 17. ■

THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE on Earth?

Scandinavians are often said to be some of the world's happiest people because of their socialism. But culture, not government, is the strength of Scandinavian society.



Happy or content? While these three Danish women in Copenhagen are members of the “happiest people on Earth,” a better term might be “content.” A strong cultural emphasis on social conformity and a resistance to upsetting the status quo lead Scandinavians to accept a large, one-size-fits-all government with sky-high taxes, even though the social services are not always of the best quality. Culture is the key.

by John T. Larabell

According to the *World Happiness Report* published by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Danes are the happiest people in the world. Norwegians are the fourth happiest (out of 157 countries), and

Swedes are the 10th happiest. Americans, by the way, come in at 13th happiest. So what's their secret? According to many liberal progressives, it's their Big Government social-welfare states providing for the well-being of the populace that ensures such domestic bliss.

Here's an alternate explanation: It's cul-

ture, not Big Government, that is the core of Scandinavian society, and that makes its welfare state work to the degree that it does. So let's take a look at some of the unique highlights of Scandinavian culture that set this region apart from other countries.

The Land of *Janteloven*

Janteloven, or the Law of Jante, is a term used to describe a powerful emphasis in Scandinavian culture on social conformity, on not trying to stand out and succeed, on not thinking you are anything special. The term comes from a novel entitled *A Fugitive Crosses His Tracks*, written by Dano-Norwegian author Aksel Sandemose and published in 1933. In the book, Sandemose (born Aksel Nielsen) writes about a fictional Danish town called Jante in a thinly veiled parody of his rural Danish hometown of Nykøbing Mors. In Jante, the residents, through strong social pressure and passive-aggressive behavior, enforced an unwritten code of conduct upon each other called the Law of Jante, which consisted of 10 rules:

You're not to think you are anything special.

You're not to think you are as good as we are.

You're not to think you are smarter than we are.

You're not to convince yourself that you are better than we are.

You're not to think you know more than we do.

You're not to think you are more important than we are.

You're not to think you are good at anything.

You're not to laugh at us.

You're not to think anyone cares about you.

You're not to think you can teach us anything.

This story was, of course, fictional, but Scandinavians recognized it as an underlying feature common to their cultures. And while *Janteloven* was more pronounced in the older peasant culture of Scandinavia, it's still present in modern-day society, albeit less obvious. In his *The Almost Nearly Perfect People: The Truth About the Nordic Miracle* (see review on page 29), British author Michael Booth,

While Scandinavian countries do offer many social welfare benefits such as education, childcare, retirement, unemployment, maternity leave, healthcare, etc., too much of a good thing is starting to have an unintended consequence: People are getting lazy.

who is married to a Danish woman and has lived in Denmark on and off for more than a decade, has written about the law of Jante. According to Booth, “Sandemose really nailed the Danes. And not just the Danes: Jante Law sent ripples of recognition beyond Denmark — the Norwegians are all too familiar with them, and ... they act as an even more powerful normalising force in Sweden.... My experience has been that Jante Law operates everywhere in Denmark on some level or another, but it is true that it is harder to spot amid the cosmopolitan whirl of the capital.... Jante law still underscores attitudes and behaviour to a greater extent on the Danish peninsula, and along the yet more insular, traditional west coast in particular.”

Booth further elaborated on the Scandinavian emphasis toward conformity and equality in an interview with *Reason* magazine:

We sent our kids to a mainstream state school, which is based on the principles of raising the lower ability children up to the median. It’s all-inclusive, so you can’t exclude children if they’re badly behaved or have special needs or that kind of thing. That didn’t work from our point of view. Our children didn’t take well to having chairs thrown at them and teachers not turning up.

I was in Copenhagen a while ago and I saw two or three kids have an impromptu running race on the pavement

and one of the kids won and did an American-football-style celebration. His mother grabbed him by the arm and scolded him for that.

My son’s class did a production of *Treasure Island*. The teachers rotated the class so that in every scene someone different played Long John Silver or Jack Hawkins or whatever. It

made absolute nonsense of any sense of drama or narrative. But again, it was this idea: Everyone should have their turn. Everyone should be treated equally, rather than celebrate one student who was a great singer or actor.

As could be expected, upsetting the status quo is also a no-no, and that includes complaining too much (e.g., about taxes or government). This “don’t rock the boat” mentality, according to Booth, is probably a big reason why Scandinavian countries have such “happy” people. In fact, Booth noted that when asked about being the world’s happiest people, many Danes were incredulous and shrugged off the study as something not to be taken very seriously.

Along with this collectivist, don’t-stand-out-too-much, groupthink attitude prevalent to varying degrees, Scandinavian culture has also traditionally placed a great deal of emphasis on trust, honesty, a strong work ethic, and a high level of social cohesion. Norway, Sweden, and Denmark routinely rank as some of the best countries in studies on perceived levels of government corruption, and, according to Booth, one can often see parents leave their babies outside in strollers unattended while they enter a shop or a café. Such is the level of safety and trust traditionally found in Scandinavian culture. This also translates into low crime rates, and very low murder rates in particular. And this has little to do with government: Norway, for instance, has a fairly high level of gun ownership.

It is precisely these cultural traits that have allowed Scandinavia to see a degree of success with the socialist system we see there today. As foreign-born Swedish researcher Nima Sanandaji observes in *Scandinavian Unexceptionalism: Culture, Markets and the Failure of Third-way Socialism*,

For a long time, the religious, cultural and economic



Maybe not so happy: Scandinavian citizens consume some of the world’s highest numbers of antidepressants, and have fairly high suicide rates (though lower than the United States’). Explanations vary, but for some, this does not fit with the concept of “world’s happiest people.”

systems in Scandinavian societies fostered individual responsibility and a strong work ethic. These norms were important for the success of the nations as they moved towards free-market systems in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. In addition, social democratic politicians viewed this unique culture, coupled with uniquely homogenous societies, as the optimal starting point for expanding welfare states. Since the norms relating to work and responsibility were so strong, Nordic citizens usually did not try to avoid taxes or misuse generous public support systems in the early years. Also, “one size fits all” welfare states are typically less disruptive in a strongly homogenous social environment, since most of the population has similar ethics, preferences and income levels.

Sanandaji also notes, interestingly, that Scandinavian cultural traits translate into greater success *outside* Scandinavia. For instance, Americans of Scandinavian descent are often more prosperous than other Americans, and more prosperous than their Scandinavian kin across the pond in the home country.

Scandinavian culture, like it or not, is the backbone of the “Nordic miracle.” An emphasis on conformity, social cohesion, honesty, and a strong work ethic, coupled with a very homogenous society, has allowed socialism to be implemented without a great deal of damage (yet) to the three countries.

But as we noted in our article on page 10, much of the economic power of the Scandinavian countries was built up in the first half of the 20th century, before the introduction of the welfare-state model in the '60s and '70s. This built-up economic strength allowed the countries to coast through a few decades of socialist policies with relatively few negative effects, which became more marked in the later 20th century. So the socialist societies of Scandinavian nations could be seen as more of an aberration that lasted for a few decades — one that is starting to show signs of weakness. Market reforms have already been implemented, particularly in the business sector, and



AP Images

“Equality” is job one: Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg is considered a testament to the strong emphasis on gender equality in Scandinavia. This is seen more in government jobs than anywhere else: In the private sector, Scandinavian countries have some of the lowest numbers of female directors and executives when compared to other European countries.

there are talks of making cuts to the cherished welfare state and heading toward more privatization of services (some has already been achieved).

While Scandinavian countries do offer many social welfare benefits such as education, childcare, retirement, unemployment, maternity leave, healthcare, etc., too much of a good thing is starting to have an unintended consequence: People are getting lazy. According to various studies noted by Sanandaji, Scandinavians are starting to work less and call in “sick” more frequently than in the past, and the problem is worse among the younger generations (sound familiar, Americans?). Whereas older generations retained many of the cultural strengths that discouraged them from taking advantage of the system, having it too good for too long has seemingly eroded some of the work ethic among the younger folks.

Would It Work Here?

The government system in Scandinavia sprang up out of the culture; it did not create the culture. In light of this, it seems as if American liberal progressives get things out of order when they look longingly at what they perceive as the strengths of Scandinavian society. They want to impose the Scandinavian socialist model here in America,

hoping that this will create the homogenous, peaceful, docile society where everyone gets along, everyone is taken care of, and people generally trust their government.

As Booth said in his interview with *Reason*: “If you want an incredibly equal, socially cohesive society, you definitely lose something by way of individuality, eccentricity, diversity. Often I’m asked, ‘Could the Nordic template be applied to Britain or America?’ And the answer is no. You can’t just hope that people will suddenly become conformist and driven by equality. It doesn’t work that way.”

Very few Americans would want the homogenous, conformist nature of Scandinavian society. American culture, even among the Left, places such an emphasis on individualism and “diversity” that Scandinavian culture would feel like a straitjacket if it were imposed here. And giving as much power to government as the Scandinavian countries have is like walking a fine line. It always tends toward totalitarianism. For instance, an American who has lived in Sweden and still spends a lot of time there told *THE NEW AMERICAN*:

Sweden is a very different type of society where people hold views that are radically different from

As Booth said in his interview with *Reason*: “If you want an incredibly equal, socially cohesive society, you definitely lose something by way of individuality, eccentricity, diversity. Often I’m asked, ‘Could the Nordic template be applied to Britain or America?’ And the answer is no.”

those held by mainstream Americans. It is a society that is statist to the core — the state has become a (poor) substitute for God, family, and more. It is quite bizarre. And one of the remarkable elements of this is how most Swedes have been successfully conditioned in government-controlled schools and by government-controlled media to view this all as normal. A friend of mine called Sweden *The Madhouse* in a book title, and it is quite appropriate. I mean, the government investigated the Bible for “hate speech.” How nutty can you get? While superficially it appears to

be a Western society, it is different from other Western nations in many important ways. There is an expectation that mommy-daddy government will care for you from cradle to grave, and people see nothing humiliating or degrading about the idea. They rarely protest the actions of their government, which is generally seen as wiser and better than ordinary people. It is very much a Brave New World type of society. And unfortunately, it is positioning itself as a model for other nations to follow.... Norway and Denmark are similar to Sweden in many ways, but Sweden is even more extreme

than its Scandinavian cousins. It really is oppressive and even left-wing Americans would likely find that.

Is this really what we want in America? Would it even work here? Short answer: No. Our country is far too culturally diverse, far too populous, and our government is far too corrupt for there to be any hope of implementing full-blown socialism after the Scandinavian fashion. Raising the necessary tax revenue alone would be well-nigh impossible. Imagine if taxes in this country were raised to over 50 percent for middle-class and working-class households, or if our federal government suddenly imposed a Value-added Tax (see article on page 10) of 25 percent on everything, even groceries? There would likely be rioting in the streets the likes of which we’ve never seen. Plus, to keep our economy anywhere near functional in this environment, we’d have to lower our corporate tax rates and create a more business-friendly environment than we have currently. The socialist-style welfare programs we already have in this country are largely failed, bankrupt, and have led to massive amounts of fraud and people “gaming the system.” We’d only see this on a much greater scale if America were to go full-on Scandinavia.

Americans, even young millennials (especially young millennials!) don’t want conformity. They don’t want homogenous. They don’t want “don’t rock the boat.” This would, to echo Booth’s impression of Scandinavian society in general, be incredibly *boring* to most Americans. Americans are loud, in-your-face, and individualistic. Some Americans want to tax the living daylights out of the rich and Big Business. But Scandinavian countries don’t do that: They tax the middle class and treat businesses better than we do.

And as for that 2016 *World Happiness Report*, what often goes unmentioned is the fact that Switzerland ranks number two, only 0.017 points behind Denmark. Yes, Switzerland, the “tax haven” with no minimum wage law (gasp!) and no single-payer healthcare; the home of multinational corporations and Big Banks; the playground of billionaires.

So next time you’re tempted to think that maybe America should be transformed into Scandinavia, think again. ■



They don’t fit in: The strong emphasis on social conformity and “sameness” in Scandinavia has led to difficulties with assimilating immigrants. Sweden has taken in by far the largest number of immigrants (mostly Muslim) among the three countries, and they tend to be “ghettoized,” living in high-crime areas with low employment. Shown is a subsidized-housing complex in the notorious Rosengård district of Malmö, Sweden, home to mostly Muslim immigrants.



of the UNITED NATIONS



U.N. Me

In a film that exposes the incompetence and corruption at the heart of the United Nations, filmmaker Ami Horowitz takes us on a harrowing, yet often hilarious, trip through the farcical world of the United Nations. (2012, 33min, cased DVD, 1/\$14.95; 5-9/\$12.95ea; 10+/\$11.95ea) DVDUNM

The United Nations and You

Join with JBS to *Get US Out!* of the UN by creating sufficient understanding among voters, business owners, and other community leaders to persuade Congress to approve the American Sovereignty Restoration Act that would "end membership of the United States in the United Nations." (2013, four-color trifold pamphlet, 1/\$0.20; 100-499/\$0.15ea; 500-999/\$0.13ea; 1,000+/\$0.10ea) PUNAY

World Federalism 101

World Federalism 101, by Rick Biondi and Alex Newman, explores the history of the World Federalist and Atlantic Union movements in the U.S. Congress and beyond, as well as exposing proponents of world government using their own words and deeds. (2014, pb, 212pp, \$16.95; 5-9/\$14.95ea; 10+/\$13.95ea) BKWF101

America and the United Nations

This analysis of the United Nations traces its history from its forerunner, the League of Nations, up to the present, and compares the basic foundational documents of the UN with those of the United States with regard to the protection of human rights. (2013, 45pp, pb, 1/\$2.95ea; 10-24/\$2.00ea; 25-49/\$1.50ea; 50-99/\$1.00ea; 100+/\$.95ea) BKLTAUUN

United Nations: On the Brink of Becoming a World Government

The United Nations has entities claiming jurisdiction over much of the world's activities. Only two things stop it from becoming a world government: insufficient funding and sovereignty-protecting politicians. Those two things are being dealt with. (2012, 12pp, \$.02ea) RPUNBWG

Inside the United Nations

The United Nations has been in existence for over 70 years, but its origins and objectives remain misunderstood by many Americans. This book is a brief, readable introduction to the United Nations and to the people who created and support it. (2013ed, 135pp, pb, 1/\$9.95ea; 5-19/\$8.95ea; 20-59/\$7.95ea; 60+/\$6.95ea) BKIUUN

Get Us Out — Window Cling 4"x4"

(1/\$1.00ea; 10-99/\$0.85ea; 100+/\$0.75ea) WCGUO

Get Us Out — Bumper Sticker

(1/\$1.00; 10-25/\$0.85ea; 26-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.50ea; 1,000+/\$0.45ea) BSGUO

Get Us Out — Envelope Stickers

Influence others with these attractive envelope stickers. (Includes 10 sheets per set. 120 stickers total, 1 set/\$4.25; 5-9/\$4.00ea; 10-19/\$3.50ea; 20+/\$3.25ea) ESGUO

QUANTITY	TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL PRICE

SUBTOTAL	WI RESIDENTS ADD 5% SALES TAX	SHIPPING/HANDLING (SEE CHART BELOW)	TOTAL

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Order Subtotal	Standard Shipping	Rush Shipping
\$0-10.99	\$4.95	\$9.95
\$11.00-19.99	\$7.75	\$12.75
\$20.00-49.99	\$9.95	\$14.95
\$50.00-99.99	\$13.75	\$18.75
\$100.00-149.99	\$15.95	\$20.95
\$150.00+	call	call

Standard: 4-14 business days.
Rush: 3-7 business days, no P.O. Boxes, HI/AK add \$10.00



Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org
 Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:
 ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
 APPLETON, WI 54912
1-800-342-6491



Order Online

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- Check
 VISA
 Discover
 Money Order
 MasterCard
 American Express



Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

160822

NOW ONLINE!



Look Online

Freedom Index

Voting Records 1999-2016

The index you've used to track whether your congressman is voting according to the Constitution now features cumulative scores online, as well as scores for former congressmen, at TheNewAmerican.com/freedomindex. **A perfect resource for the online activist!**



DEAN SELLERS

 *The Real Deal*



2600 W. Maple Road • Troy, Michigan • deansellersford.com • 248-643-7500

What's Up With Wasserman Schultz?

Is this politician for me? As part of a series of articles, we give the backgrounds and voting records of some noteworthy U.S. politicians – both good and bad – in the 2016 election.



AP Images

by Steve Byas

Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) resigned her post as national chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), just ahead of the Democratic National Convention in late July. Her resignation became necessary in the aftermath of the release of nearly 20,000 e-mails by WikiLeaks, e-mails that revealed the blatant favoritism for Hillary Clinton over Senator Bernie Sanders by the Democratic National Committee under her leadership.

Schultz supported Hillary Clinton over Senator Barack Obama in the 2008 battle for the Democratic Party nomination, but Obama named her national chairman of the DNC in 2011. Her actions in the position have been clearly designed to favor Clinton over Sanders. One glaring example was her scheduling only six debates between the candidates, and putting the debates at times that would be expected to draw smaller audiences, in order to compensate for Hillary's perceived weakness in unscripted debates where she would face "live" scrutiny.

Another criticism of Schultz was in the way she handled the data breach of the Democratic voter database, in which access for Sanders' presidential campaign was shut down. Just before the first caucuses in Iowa, in which Clinton won by the narrowest of margins, the DNC shut down access to its own voter file data for the Sanders campaign. The DNC and the Clinton campaign claimed that the Sanders campaign had stolen Clinton voter file data. An independent investigation confirmed that Sanders' campaign was innocent of the charges, but the ugly accusations may very well have cost Sanders a win in Iowa. As far back as May, MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski even demanded that Schultz resign over her bias in favor of Clinton. The proof of her bias finally came with the release of several e-mails that demonstrated the depths of the anti-Sanders position of the DNC under Schultz. The e-mail scandal finally led President Obama to tell Schultz it would be best if she stepped down.

In one e-mail, staffer Brad Marshall suggested recruiting a reporter in socially

conservative Kentucky or West Virginia to ask Sanders about his religious beliefs. Marshall wrote that it would help Hillary Clinton's campaign with Southern Baptists if Sanders could be outed as an atheist, instead of a practicing Jew. "My Southern Baptist peeps would draw a big difference between a Jew and an atheist," Marshall predicted, adding it was a "Jesus thing."

Amy Dacey, CEO of the DNC, replied, "Amen."

AS THE NEW AMERICAN noted on July 26, "Those in leadership positions within the DNC — all the way to the top of the food chain — are not above using religion ... to their own ends, while working in cahoots with reporters who would be willing to do the DNC's bidding and ask Sanders a question designed to embarrass him for Clinton's benefit."

In this, the top staffers at the DNC were certainly following the lead of their boss, Representative Schultz, who is facing reelection this year in Florida's 23rd Congressional District. Schultz is certainly willing to use religion in a political way. For example, she once questioned the sincerity of Republicans who support the nation of Israel, arguing that "the Jewish community should be much more confident" in the Democrats' support of Israel than the Republicans'.

Why? According to Schultz, "The very far right group of Republicans' interest in Israel is not because they are supportive of there being a Jewish state and making sure that Jews have a place that we can call home. It has references to Armageddon and biblical references that are more their interest. So I would encourage members of the Jewish community to put their faith in Democrats, because our support for Israel is generally for the right reasons."

Since entering Congress, Schultz has teamed up with Senator Arlen Specter to pass a resolution declaring every May as Jewish American Heritage Month, to recognize "the accomplishments of American

Jews” in the “development of American culture.” Yet her father admitted that she was not very active in the Jewish community until she entered politics; since getting involved she helped form the National Jewish Democratic Council.

When fellow Florida Congressman Tom Rooney, a former JAG officer in the Army, suggested making attacks against military veterans a hate crime, Schultz expressed anger: “I’m from a state, as Mr. Rooney is, that includes and represents the districts that include *real victims*. [Emphasis added.] I represent a very large — one of the largest — gay populations in the United States of America. One of the largest Jewish populations in the United States of America. My region — our region — has a very large African-American population. It really is belittling of the respect that we should have for these groups to suggest that members of the armed services have somehow systematically been the victims of hate crimes.”

This exchange is illustrative of the aggressive and personal attack style for which Schultz has become known, both in her role as a member of the House of Representatives and in chairing the DNC. On *Face the Nation*, Schultz charged, “The Republicans have a plan to end Medicare as we know

it. What they would do is they would take the people who are younger than 55 years old today and tell them, ‘You know what? You’re on your own. Go and find private health insurance in the health-care insurance market.’” Of course no Republican officeholder has ever said anything like, “You know what? You’re on your own.”

Such less-than-truthful accusations are common with Schultz. In 2014, with polls indicating that the Republicans would do better than the Democrats in the upcoming congressional elections, Schultz, in her role chairing the DNC, was looking to fire up her base. At a meeting of the National Urban League, she issued a dire warning to the group that the Republicans “have told us” that they were going to impeach President Barack Obama. Obviously, the Republicans had not told Schultz or anyone else any such thing. If anything, the Republicans were then, and still are, far too deferential to the president.

And in typical Democrat fashion, Schultz played the “race card” on *Washington Watch*, telling Roland Martin, “You have the Republicans, who want to literally drag us all the way back to Jim Crow laws and literally — and very transparently — block access to the polls to voters who are more likely to vote for Democratic candi-

dates than Republican candidates.” She is obviously referring to making voters show IDs when they vote, which she claims is keeping adults from voting, even though voters need IDs for the types of activities Democrats encourage, such as applying for Social Security and welfare.

This in-your-face style no doubt made her a sought-out guest on the cable news networks that favor bombast over information, and before her fall as a result of the e-mail scandal at the DNC, she had enjoyed a rapid rise as a political officeholder.

Born in Queens, New York, Schultz went to the University of Florida in Gainesville, where she received a bachelor’s and a master’s in political science.

While in college, she became an aide to Peter Deutsch, a state legislator. When he ran for Congress in 1992, he encouraged her to run for his legislative post, which she did. Upon election at the age of only 26, she was the youngest female legislator in Florida history. After term limits forced her out of office, she became an adjunct instructor in political science at Broward Community College, and was elected to the Florida Senate in 2000. While in the state Senate, she received an award from the Save the Manatee Club for her work in manatee protection.

When her mentor Peter Deutsch ran for the U.S. Senate in 2004, she won his congressional post. In Congress, Schultz has been a reliable vote for progressive causes. Strongly pro-abortion, she is an active supporter of Planned Parenthood; she supports more gun control legislation; and she is a strong advocate for the LGBT community.

Schultz is not just a “social liberal,” but a consistent supporter of more government spending, as well. In 2008, she voted for the bailout of the Big Banks, with the TARP legislation.

In fact, Schultz’s cumulative “Freedom Index” score is a dismal 15 percent. The Freedom Index is a congressional scorecard based on the fidelity of members of Congress to the U.S. Constitution, and rates congressmen based on their adherence to such constitutional principles as limited government, fiscal responsibility, national sovereignty, and a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements. As can be determined by her low



The fixer: After nearly 20,000 e-mails were stolen from the Democratic National Committee, presumably by hackers, and posted to the WikiLeaks website, Schultz was forced to resign. The e-mails revealed that her public pronouncements that the DNC was “neutral” in the Democratic primaries were not true, and that Schultz used the official party apparatus to favor Hillary Clinton over her primary opponent, Senator Bernie Sanders.

AP Images



Rid of due process: Schultz is a fierce opponent of the right of Americans to own guns. She called for House Speaker Paul Ryan to allow a vote on liberal gun legislation, which would have included prohibiting those on the so-called No Fly List from buying firearms. Apparently, Schultz is unconcerned about due process of law, as thousands of Americans (including the late Senator Edward Kennedy) have been mistakenly placed on the list.

score on the Freedom Index, Debbie Wasserman Schultz is certainly no friend of freedom.

One issue that raises serious questions involving American national sovereignty is that of multilateral trade agreements. Usually called “free trade” agreements, they are actually better termed “managed trade” agreements, and are intended to transfer the power to regulate trade (and eventually other powers, as well) to supranational arrangements. The British public realized this, and opted to leave the European Union (EU) because they found, among other things, the EU was destroying Britain’s national sovereignty.

Unfortunately, Schultz usually sides with surrender of American national sovereignty through these so-called free trade deals. Perhaps the most significant vote cast by Representative Schultz in this area was in 2005, when she voted against the effort of Congressman Ron Paul of Texas and Congressman Bernie Sanders of Vermont to have the United States withdraw from the World Trade Organization (WTO). While portrayed by its supporters as a “free trade” agreement, the WTO is in reality an international bureaucracy that manages trade and imposes its rulings on member nations including the United States — even when those rulings contradict U.S. laws. In fact, U.S. membership in the WTO is

unconstitutional, since under our Constitution Congress, not an international body, is given the power to “regulate foreign commerce.”

For example, the Country of Origin Labeling Amendment (COOL) repealed a 1946 law that required labeling of the country of origin for beef, chicken, and pork sold in the United States. This repeal complied with a ruling of the WTO. As Congressman Thomas Massie of Kentucky asked during the debate, “What is the World Trade Organization, and who are they to tell Congress what laws we have to pass?”

In this instance, Schultz correctly voted in opposition to repealing the country of origin labeling law.

Interestingly, Schultz voted during the Bush years to deny him “fast track authority,” while voting to give such power to the president of her own party, President Obama. This “fast track authority” requires Congress to expedite consideration of presidentially negotiated trade pacts without offering amendments. This is yet another example of Congress’ willingness to surrender a portion of its constitutional powers to the executive branch.

Another very serious issue facing America is that of immigration. On this issue, Schultz is consistent in her support for immigration, legal and illegal. Incredibly, just last year, the DNC under Schultz’s lead-

ership faced criticism and the filing of a complaint with the Federal Election Commission by Judicial Watch over its “knowingly” having “hired a foreign national” who is an illegal alien, Cindy Nava, “to help craft the party’s message to Hispanics, women, and children.”

Judicial Watch’s specific complaint was that this is a violation of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states: “A foreign national shall not direct, dictate, control, or directly or indirectly participate in the decision-making process of any person, such as a ... political committee ... with regard to such person’s Federal or non-Federal election-related activities, such as decisions concerning the making of contributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements in connection with elections for any Federal, State, or local office or decision concerning the administration of a political committee.”

In addition, it is against federal law to knowingly hire an illegal alien for any job, but Schultz said they were “extremely proud to have Cindy on our team at the DNC. Her story is an inspiration for all of us about what immigrant youth can achieve despite their undocumented status.”

This utter disrespect for federal law in this area is reflected in Schultz’s voting record over many years. When the U.S. House adopted a resolution in March of this year to authorize the speaker of the house to present an *amicus curiae* (aka “friend of the court”) in the case of the *United States et al. v. Texas*, “and to file a brief in support of the position that the [Obama administration has] acted in a manner that is not consistent with his duties under the Constitution of the United States,” she voted no.

This effort, to which Schultz voted no, was in regard to the case brought by 26 states against the Obama administration for its November 2014 executive actions that would defer deportation and provide work permits for illegal immigrants. As Representative Ted Poe (R-Texas) explained, “This unprecedented, unilateral action by the executive branch was a nullification of immigration law of the United States. And it was not done by Congress. It was done by administrative edict that came from the White House.”

In her first year in the House, Schultz voted against a bill that provided for the

authorization of 700 miles of security fence to be built along parts of the U.S.-Mexican border, made unlawful entry into the United States a criminal rather than a civil offense, and increased penalties for immigration-related crimes.

Representative Schultz has voted repeatedly to increase the national debt of the U.S. government, and she voted against extending the Bush tax cuts in 2012. Schultz voted in opposition to repealing the “death” tax, or estate tax. This cruel tax discourages upward mobility in America’s middle class by making it prohibitively expensive to pass on a family business or farm to one’s descendants.

Another area in which Schultz has been consistent is in her votes against the operations of the free market. In 2011, she voted to phase out incandescent light bulbs that range from 40 to 100 watts. Of course, the Congress has no constitutional authority to establish efficiency standards that would prevent the production, distribution, and consumer purchase of a previously perfectly acceptable and universally used product, such as the incandescent light bulb.

In 2009, Schultz voted for the “Cash for Clunkers” program, which spent \$4 billion so that rebates of up to \$4,500 could be given to consumers who traded in their old cars for more fuel-efficient

ones. The vehicles traded in were destroyed, which of course led to a shortage of lower-priced used cars for poorer individuals. In 2008, Schultz voted for a bill to permit states to sue retailers who have supposedly been “price gouging” for fuels sold in areas where there was an energy emergency. The bill would have permitted civil and criminal penalties for price gouging. Of course, this violates basic free market economics in which supply and demand take care of these types of situations. The federal government should not dictate prices in the private sector, under any circumstances.

The reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank in 2012 won Schultz’s support. The bank issues loans and loan guarantees to foreign governments or companies for the purchase of U.S. products. Again, the federal government has no constitutional authority to use taxpayer money to provide loans and terms that the private sector has deemed too risky to provide. It is clearly a case of corporate welfare, not free enterprise.

Not surprisingly, Schultz has consistently supported so-called hate crimes legislation. For example, in 2009, she supported an expansion of federal hate crimes laws to include crimes that are based on sexual orientation, gender, or physical

or mental disability. (Current law covers crimes based on race, color, religion, or national origin.) This bill would allow for harsher sentencing for individuals who commit violent crimes because of politically incorrect hateful motives. But aren’t all violent crimes committed with a hateful motive?

In the area of foreign policy, Schultz tends to favor foreign involvements, if conducted by a president of her party. In 2011, an effort was made to direct President Obama “pursuant to ... the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Libya.” The War Powers Resolution bars the president from militarily engaging the armed forces for more than 60 days without congressional approval. Obama had not sought congressional approval for undertaking the military action in Libya. As Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) noted, “In the weeks leading up to the war, the administration had time to consult with the Arab League, the United Nations, the African Union, but apparently had not time to come to Congress for approval.” Schultz voted against Kucinich’s modest effort to rein in presidential war power.

Not every vote of Debbie Wasserman Schultz has been bad, of course. After all, she did vote correctly 15 percent of the time. One good vote was an effort to bar funding, after 2014, for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Enacted in 2001, after September 11, the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) has been invoked numerous times by the executive branch for U.S. military intervention not only in Afghanistan but elsewhere. And also in 2014, Schultz voted to prohibit the indefinite military detention of any person detained under the AUMF inside the borders of the United States, its territories, or possessions by providing for the immediate transfer to a trial and proceedings by a court.

But for the most part, Representative Schultz can be expected to vote against limitations on government power, against the free market, and for more government spending. She is a reliable internationalist, environmentalist, and a dedicated radical on social issues, where she can be expected to favor abortion on demand, same-sex “marriage,” and attacks upon religious liberty. ■



<http://news.umn.edu>

An illegal illegal: Illegal alien Cindy Nava, in front of a painting depicting the four female Supreme Court members, was hired by the Democratic National Committee under the chairmanship of Debbie Wasserman Schultz. This hire violated federal law in two major ways.

*Containerized Storage From
The People Who Invented The Concept*

MARTIN

CONTAINER, INC.

Serving You Since 1976

***Straight From the Harbor to Your Site
Refrigerated Units Always Available***

**LENGTHS UP TO 45'
24-HOUR DELIVERY
BUY OR RENT**



**REFRIGERATOR/FREEZERS
ALSO AVAILABLE**

www.container.com

1-800-221-3727



RAFFIN
CONSTRUCTION CO.



RAFFIN
PROPERTIES

*... Serving the Chicagoland
area for over 90 years*



Why Enumerate Powers?

The Constitution of the United States provides a blueprint for the federal government, including its internal structure, powers, and relationship to the governments of the separate states that brought it into being. It is a mere 4,400 words long and spells out how our government is to work. All of which prompts the question: Given the brevity and simplicity of the U.S. Constitution, how have we ended up with such a gargantuan, expensive, and inefficient federal government, the largest, most expensive, and most powerful government ever created. The answer is that we have neglected the cardinal legal principle upon which the entire Constitution is based: the doctrine of enumerated powers.

Under the Constitution only those powers that are enumerated — that is, granted explicitly — are legitimate. Otherwise put, the federal government has no authority unless it is enumerated in the Constitution; all other aspects of human conduct that may be subject to government control are understood to be reserved to state and local governments — or to be outside the realm of government authority altogether, reserved unto individuals to act upon as they see fit.

The principle of enumerated powers was made explicit by James Madison in *The Federalist*, No. 45:

The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.

The Founders understood very well this principle. Hamilton and others were leery of adding a Bill of Rights to the Constitution, lest it eventually undermine the limitations of enumerated powers. A premise of enumerated powers implies that whatever is not permitted is prohibited (which is, of course, the opposite of how civil laws are understood to operate). But a set of amendments that contain explicit prohibitions on what government can do — explicitly protecting, for example, the right

to bear arms or the free exercise of religion — might encourage the notion that anything is permissible for government that is not explicitly prohibited. Wrote Hamilton in *The Federalist*, No. 84:

[A Bill of Rights] would contain various exceptions to powers not granted; and, on this very account, would afford a colorable pretext to claim more than were granted. For why declare that things shall not be done which there is no power to do?

In the end, of course, a Bill of Rights was drawn up and amended to the Constitution shortly after its ratification. But in a nod to the concerns voiced by Hamilton, the 10th and final amendment to the Bill of Rights made explicit the doctrine of enumerated powers, in language that cannot be misunderstood: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

The 10th Amendment is impossible to misunderstand — which is why it is almost never mentioned in discussions of political policy. In general, proposed legislation is generally evaluated in terms of whether it violates any individual rights mentioned in the Bill of Rights — whether, for example, it constitutes an infringement on the right to keep and bear arms, on the right to free speech, and so forth. Implicit in such arguments is the idea that anything not falling under such explicit prohibitions is permitted. No one would think to criticize federal environmental laws, for example, in terms of violations of free speech, or any other protected right. Yet under the doctrine of enumerated powers, federal environmental laws are entirely unconstitutional, inasmuch as the Constitution makes no grant of power to the federal government to regulate water quality, protect endangered species, etc. The same is true of most of the rest of what the federal government is currently engaged in. There is no constitutional authority to regulate education, healthcare, the financial markets, or the manufacturing sector, or to provide sub-

sidies, welfare payments, Social Security, and numerous other “entitlements” that we now take for granted. In fact, the total number of powers granted to Congress by the Constitution is about 30 (mostly in Article 1, Section 8), and includes authority:

- “To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States”;
- “To borrow Money on the credit of the United States”;
- “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”;
- “To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures”;
- “To establish Post Offices and post Roads”;
- “To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water”;
- “To provide and maintain a Navy”; and a few other things.

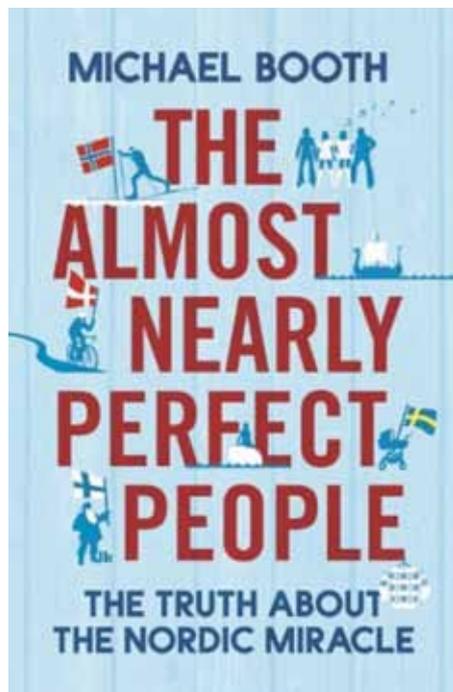
The enlargement of the federal government far beyond constitutionally admissible bounds is routinely justified in the name of “implied powers,” meaning powers that can be inferred from enumerated powers. For instance, the power to establish post offices implies the power to hire postal workers. But certain clauses in the Constitution, such as the mention of “general Welfare” and the regulation of commerce “among the several states,” have been reinterpreted to grant essentially unlimited power. Anything that can be claimed to be for the “general Welfare,” for example, becomes permissible. Such a distortion of the Founders’ clear intent has all but destroyed the operation of enumerated powers as a check on the federal government.

Our federal government is now held captive by ideologues who believe that all human ills can be solved by the creative application of government power. Only by re-enshrining the doctrine of enumerated powers will limited government be restored. ■

— CHARLES SCALIGER

BE LIKE ME

We've been told for years that the Scandinavians have successful socialism, but they are suffocating their economies and people with taxes, regulations, and social conventions.



by Charles Scaliger

The Almost Nearly Perfect People: The Truth About the Nordic Miracle, by Michael Booth, London: Jonathan Cape (a division of Random House Group, Ltd.), 2014, 406 pages, paperback.

In the age of Bernie Sanders, the myth of Scandinavian Utopia has yet again tickled America's collective fancy. If we could all just be more like the Norwegians, Swedes, and Danes, goes the refrain, our problems would be, if not solved outright, at least considerably alleviated. After all, Scandinavia is the Place That Makes Socialism Work, eloquent testimony to the desirability of Big Government, if only it's run by the right people. Scandinavian countries have for decades enjoyed among the world's highest standards of living, education, and overall quality of life, sustaining peaceful, prosperous, or-

derly societies in which violent crime is almost nonexistent and people work to live, and not the other way around, spending their copious leisure time traveling the world and drinking one another's health. Such, at least, are the fashionable clichés.

However, British author Michael Booth's new tour de force, *The Almost Nearly Perfect People: The Truth About the Nordic Miracle*, gives a sobering look at the sociopolitical realities in Scandinavia (including Iceland and Finland, which are more properly included with Sweden, Denmark, and Norway under the label "Nordic countries"), an honest appraisal that will have Americans suffering from Stockholm Syndrome or Danish Delusion giving a second thought to relocating to Bergen, Malmö, or Helsinki.

Booth is married to a Dane and has spent more than a decade living in Denmark. He speaks Danish and a smattering of other Nordic tongues, and has traveled all over Western Europe's Great White North. While his book is travel literature (sort of), his knowledge of Nordic history, culture, and quirks is unparalleled. Moreover, despite its ominous subtitle, the book is intended as a sort of apologia for Scandinavia, a confirmation that, indeed, the Nordic countries, while not as Edenic as their most breathless apologists abroad may claim, are nonetheless the closest thing to perfect societies ever devised by fallen man.

Scandinavians, in their supposed enlightenment, regard their mode of government (democratic socialism) simply as more modern and advanced than the old-fashioned, fatally flawed systems found elsewhere in the West. In his rapturous epilogue, Booth makes no secret of his preference for the Scandinavian way:

Right now, the West is looking for an alternative to the rampant capitalism that has ravaged our economies, a system that might avoid the extremes of Soviet socialism or American deregu-

lated neoliberalism.... There is only one place to look for the economic and societal role model of the future, and it is not Brazil, Russia, or China. The Nordic countries have the answer.... Up here, even when they get it wrong, they soon figure out how to get it right without any blood being spilled.

In other words, if there is any hope for human salvation, we all need to become Scandinavians. Case closed.

Well, not quite. His panegyrical conclusion notwithstanding, Booth's book is in fact a searing indictment of the Scandinavian model, for, as they say, the devil is in the details.

Sweden, the largest and most populous of the Nordic countries, has in the 20th century erected a system Booth terms "benign totalitarianism." Sweden, it is seldom pointed out, was second only to the Nazis in its early and mid-century program of racial purification, forcibly sterilizing tens of thousands of women.

Beginning in the 1920s, the Swedish Institute for Racial Biology sought to cleanse society of genetic and racial undesirables since, as a Swedish politician of the day, Arthur Engberg, wrote, "We have the good fortune to belong to a race that is so far relatively unspoiled, a race that is the bearer of very high and very good qualities." In 1934, Sweden legalized the forcible sterilization of "genetically inferior" women and juvenile delinquents, a practice that continued until 1976, resulting in the forced sterilization of roughly 60,000 Swedish women. Curiously, Sweden's institutionalized racism never gets any mention by the same American leftists who routinely excoriate the United States for racial discrimination.

Also noteworthy during the same period were the vast numbers of children taken by the Swedish government from their parents on a wide array of ideological grounds (i.e., parents were not prop-

Sweden's government took more children from their parents during the '60s and '70s than any other government on Earth, in a state characterized by Swedish expat (and heiress) Sigrid Rausing as "a repressive machinery where individual rights were sacrificed to powerful social norms."

erly indoctrinating them to conform to government norms of behavior and belief). In fact, Sweden's government took more children from their parents during the '60s and '70s than any other government on Earth, in a state characterized by Swedish expat (and heiress) Sigrid Rausing as "a repressive machinery where individual rights were sacrificed to powerful social norms." And Booth weighs in revealingly:

Everything I read about the Swedish Social Democratic government of the last century suggested an organization that was driven by one single, overarching goal: to sever the traditional, some would say natural, ties between its citizens, be they those that bound children to their parents, workers to their employers, wives to their husbands, or the elderly to their families. Instead, individuals were encouraged — mostly by financial incentive or disincentive, but also through legislation, propaganda, and social pressure — to "take their place in the collective," as one commentator rather ominously put it, and become dependent on the government.

Elsewhere, Booth was more specific:

There were few aspects of the Swedes' lives that their government did not strive to control, including their pay, how they raised their children, how much they drank, what they watched on TV, how much holiday they took, and their views on the Vietnam War. And the Swedes, it seems, were the most willing of puppets, "world record-holders in docility," as [German author Hans Magnus] Enzensberger puts it.

This same Enzensberger, it should be noted, observed back in the 1980s, in his book *Europe, Europe: Forays Into a Continent*, that the Swedish state controlled "the affairs of individuals to a degree unparalleled in other free countries."

Other authors have similarly characterized Sweden and the Swedish. Wrote Roland Huntford in his 1971 book *The New Totalitarians*: "Modern Sweden has fulfilled Huxley's specifications for the new totalitarianism. A centralized administration rules people who love their servitude."

For the last several years, Sweden has managed to loosen the yoke of the Social Democrats' "benign totalitarianism" — a little. A reformist government has temporarily replaced the Social Democrats' 80-year stranglehold on political power. But for Sweden, taxes are still the world's sec-

ond-highest (after Denmark's), and most of the soft totalitarianism for a people who "love their servitude" remains in place.

Not only that, Sweden's government has long been at the forefront of "cultural Marxism," foisting on its citizens sex education, legalized pornography and perversion, abortion on demand, and radical feminism far in advance of most other Western nations. As a consequence, Booth points out, Swedish men have a reputation worldwide for effeminacy, and the Swedes as a whole for unbridled hedonism, exceptional even by post-Christian European standards.

Much the same can be said of the Swedes' southern neighbors, the Danes, and — *mutatis mutandis* — of the Norwegians and Finns as well. To be sure, Finland is freer than its neighbors, and holds especial contempt for the sissified Swedes (the Finns, after all, have the world's third-highest rate of firearms ownership, and take great pride in *sisu* [masculinity], as exemplified by their heroic resistance to the Soviet Russian invaders during the Winter War).

But despite these and many other considerations, socialist Scandinavia continues to enjoy a burnished image as an "almost nearly perfect" society of peaceful, prosperous, beautiful people — because of their exceptional economic performance over the past 50 years or so.

Sweden in WWII remained free from invading armies and the burdens of a wartime economy. It emerged at the end of the ruinous war as the strongest economy in Europe, which was converted into postwar economic momentum, while Norway, Finland, and the rest of Europe labored under crushing postwar debts and the need for massive spending to rebuild their shattered infrastructures. Sweden, therefore, began the postwar era with a huge advantage over most of the rest of Europe, an advantage that has allowed it more leeway for tax-and-spend socialism than the rest of the West.

The salvation of Norway has been its enormous reserves of offshore oil. As the "Dubai of the north," Norway has been able to use its enormous oil revenues to subsidize government programs on a scale that would have long since bankrupted most other countries.





Nyhavn district in
Copenhagen, Denmark

But even leaving such factors aside, the myth of socialist prosperity in Scandinavia is not supported by the facts. Booth's descriptions of Scandinavia (other than Norway) are of mostly cheerless people living in nearly deserted, lifeless cities surrounded by crumbling, monochromatic slums full of impoverished immigrants. Finland, the land of northern romance embodied by the music of Sibelius and Tove Jansson's "Moomintroll" fairy tales, is not only sparsely inhabited but rather backward, especially in rural areas. Sweden is a land of introverted xenophobes, while Denmark is one large, impersonal city surrounded mostly by Rust Belt-like swaths of crumbling industrial towns. Denmark and its Scandinavian siblings are frequently at or near the top of lists purporting to measure the world's happiest people, highest standards of living, etc., yet Booth's description of a typical day in Copenhagen belies such images:

I thought back to the previous day's soul-sapping adventures in my new home. In the morning there had been the usual dispiriting encounter with the sullen checkout girl at the local supermarket who, as was her habit, had rung up the cost of my prohibitively expensive, low-grade produce without acknowledging my existence. Outside, other pedestrians had tutted audibly when I'd crossed the street on a red light; there was no traffic, but in Denmark preempting the green

man is a provocative breach of social etiquette. I had cycled home through the drizzle to find a tax bill relieving me of an alarming proportion of that month's income.... The evening's entertainment had consisted of ... a twenty-year-old episode of *Murder, She Wrote*, and then *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* — its titular, life-altering rhetoric somewhat undermined by the fact that a million kroner are worth only around \$180,000, which in Denmark is just enough to buy you a meal out with change for the cinema.

Exaggerated for effect, but telling, especially given that the author professes to love Scandinavia and has made Denmark his home. And there's more, much more: horror stories of waiting for hours in medical clinics only to be denied service by Denmark's government-run healthcare system, visiting an exuberantly pornographic "art exhibit" in one of Sweden's national museums, soulless government housing and crumbling infrastructures, and a general belief among Scandinavians (especially Swedes and Danes) that their countries are no place for those who wish to excel. Booth's portrait is of a set of countries whose peoples have largely accepted the yoke of stifling sameness and malaise inflicted by generations of socialism.

Yet despite all of the downside, the fact remains that Scandinavia is not the Soviet Union, Pol Pot's Cambodia, or even Mugabe's Zimbabwe. While backward in

many respects, Scandinavia has given the world Nokia, Saab, Volvo, and many other modern corporations, making everything from some of the world's most reliable household appliances and automobiles, to chainsaws.

According to Booth, many of the cultural traits that have allowed the Nordic countries to embrace socialism without paying the sort of price (yet) that the Russians, Chinese, North Koreans, and others have paid (and are still paying) were in evidence long before the modern era: their aversion to risk, their extreme emphasis on conformity, and their adoration of state authority (Norway, Denmark, and Sweden all retain and adore their monarchies). In other words, they had become culturally predisposed to bear socialism's yoke cheerfully long before it was laid on their collective shoulders.

In recent years, even Scandinavia has begun to buckle under the weight of heavy taxation and near-total government control over most aspects of business. Iceland, the first of the European dominoes to fall during the Great Recession, went spectacularly bankrupt after years of speculative fervor, and is unlikely to ever fully recover its former financial vitality, such as it was. Sweden's economy has been in the doldrums for years, with the new coalition government in Stockholm trying to chart a new way — meaning less of the same old socialism, with hopes for better results. And Sweden and Denmark both are reeling under the waves of new immigrants pouring into Europe from the Middle East.

Despite their stunning natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, the Scandinavian countries are mournful examples of once-proud nations that have become husks of their former selves, completely hollowed out by generations of both cultural and economic socialism. For America to become like Sweden or Denmark, she would have to renounce her cultural love of diversity, risk, and high achievement to slough off all remaining constitutional restraints on limited government; to abandon her Christian heritage; and to adopt an attitude of egalitarian apathy coupled with activist sympathy for Big Brother — an unlikely outcome. Yet if we fail to turn aside from our current Gadarene rush into socialism, our future might look less like Russia or China and more like Sweden. ■



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Pools for Kids

When San Antonio resident Todd Arredondo noticed children being teased after a Facebook photo showed them enjoying a makeshift swimming pool in the bed of a pickup truck, he decided he would do something. He started a campaign called “Pools for Kids,” wherein people can donate funds to struggling families to help them install a pool for their children.

MySA reported on June 29 that the Facebook photo, which has since been deleted, featured several children playing in a “pool” that they created in the bed of a pickup truck to try and keep cool on a hot summer day. It reportedly provoked other users to mock not only the children, but the neighborhood in which they live.

“[Commenters] were poking and making fun of the family,” Arredondo told MySA. “Everyone was laughing and putting down the West Side.”

The family in the photo was simply “making good with what they had,” he said.

Arredondo used Facebook to locate the family and surprised them by purchasing an inflatable swimming pool, which he hand-delivered to the home.

Arredondo stated that the experience of delivering the pool and seeing the family so happy inspired him to go beyond his already good deed and start a campaign wherein he could do the same for other families. He started a GoFundMe campaign, which raised over \$2,000 in its first two weeks, and intends to use the money to purchase inflatable pools for other families. MySA.com reported that he will be using his own money to provide families with the equipment needed for pool upkeep.

Arredondo’s charitable endeavor has become a large one. According to MySA, he even decided to take off several weeks of work to manage and execute the campaign. “I had to take a step away and humble myself,” he added. “I’ve met some amazing families and heard heart-breaking stories. But at the end of the day, if you can put a smile on a kid’s face — it’s priceless.”

Arredondo has used Facebook to locate 50 San Antonio families who would benefit from the pools.

Celebrating 100 Years

When Jeanette Carty, a widow in Norfolk, Virginia, turned 100, the local fire department ensured that she celebrated in style. Carty boasts a long line of family members who served in the Norfolk Fire-Rescue Department, and the firefighters wanted to use her 100th birthday to honor that.

Today.com reported that Carty’s husband, Joe, with whom she shared 72 years of marriage, served with the fire department for 30 years. Her nephew and her brother also served with the department.

To pay homage to Carty and her family, a large group of firefighters surprised her at her house on June 22, when she turned 100. They lined up in front of her house, dressed in red shirts and black pants, and presented her with flowers to kick off her birthday party.

“I was never more surprised in my life,” Carty told Today.com. “To see the firemen all lined up with their red shirts and black pants, oh my goodness it was amazing.”

According to Today.com, one of the firefighters in the city’s training department had learned Carty was about to reach her milestone birthday and encouraged the department to surprise her. For the firefighters, the surprise served as a simple way to let Carty know she is still part of their family. Norfolk Battalion Chief Julian Williamson told Today.com, “It’s that way with fire departments. Once you’re in and you serve, you’re part of a close-knit family.”

Jail for a Day

When Judge Lou Olivera of Cumberland County, North Carolina, sentenced a veteran to jail for one day, after the man admitted he tampered with his urine screen and had been driving under the influence, Olivera did something quite unusual. He decided to stay the night with the veteran in jail and talk him through some of his issues.

The *Washington Post* reported that the offender, Sergeant Joseph Serna, was a former Special Forces soldier in the U.S. Army who had served for nearly 20 years. Since retiring from the military, he has been struggling with PTSD and has turned to alcohol to help him cope.

When Serna appeared before Olivera and admitted to tampering with his urine screen, Judge Olivera sentenced him to one day in jail, offering to drive him there personally, which was unusual enough.

But it was during that drive to jail on April 13 that Olivera decided to go one step further. Olivera told the *Fayettesville Observer*, “When Joe first came to turn himself in, he was trembling. I decided that I’d spend the night serving with him.”

According to the *Washington Post*, Judge Olivera, a veteran himself, spent the night in the cell with Serna talking to him and exchanging war stories.

Serna recalls the moment when Judge Olivera entered the cell. “I knew this was a very compassionate man,” Serna says. “I know how involved he is with veterans, and he’s a veteran himself. I got chills when he walked in.”

The details of the conversation are private, but Serna told WRAL that it was “more of a father-son conversation.”

Since the cell had just one bed, Judge Olivera gave it to Serna and slept on two mats on the floor, said Serna. Olivera’s kindness did not end there. Serna’s wife, Rocio Serna — also a veteran — said that when Judge Olivera brought Serna home after their night in the cell, he brought donuts for the family.

Judge Olivera is reportedly uncomfortable with the attention he has received from the story, asserting that any fellow veteran would have done the same. “I thought about a story that I once read,” Olivera told the *Fayetteville Observer*. “It talked about a soldier with PTSD in a hole,” he says. “A family member, a therapist and a friend all throw down a rope to help the veteran suffering. Finally, a fellow veteran climbs into the hole with him. The soldier suffering with PTSD asks, ‘Why are you down here?’ The fellow veteran replied, ‘I am here to climb out with you.’”

“After serving in the Gulf War and seeing many suffer from injuries in service,” the judge said, “I thought about that story when Joe walked in shaking. I do know that many veterans would have done the same. They would have gotten in the hole to help. And so did I.” ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

Our UN-American Military

Since the advent of the United Nations, the U.S. military has served as an arm of the UN, and U.S. soldiers have fought and died for that entity, even as it betrayed them.



AP Images

Kennedy's speech, believe it or not: On September 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy addressed the United Nations. In that speech, he boasted that the so-called disarmament program he was presenting to the assembly that day would abolish “all armies and all weapons except those needed for internal order and a new United Nations Peace Force.” The UN force, the U.S. program made clear, would be empowered to the extent that no nation including the United States would be able to challenge it.

by John F. McManus

“Progressive controlled disarmament and continuously developing principles and procedures of international law would proceed to a point where no state would have the military power to challenge the progressively strengthened U.N. Peace Force,” recommended a disarmament proposal introduced at the United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 1961.

The proposal called for a three-stage “disarmament” program that would not disarm everyone but give the UN military superiority. “States would retain only those forces, non-nuclear armaments, and establishments required for the purpose of maintaining internal order,” the proposal stated, while “the peace-keeping

capabilities of the United Nations would be sufficiently strong and the obligations of all states under such arrangements sufficiently far-reaching as to assure peace and the just settlement of differences in a disarmed world.”

And how would the UN exercise its monopoly of power in this “disarmed world”? It supposedly would enforce world peace. But what would prevent this same monopoly of power from being used instead to impose global tyranny?

Would the United States ever submit to such a plan making our country militarily inferior to an empowered United Nations? Undoubtedly many good Americans would say “Never!” But they would be wrong. The proposal quoted above, entitled *Freedom From War: The United States Program for General and Com-*

plete Disarmament in a Peaceful World (State Department Publication 7277), was presented to the United Nations by President John F. Kennedy. Not only that, but the “disarmament” program outlined in *Freedom From War*, and a year later described in more detail in a 1962 document entitled *Blueprint for the Peace Race*, not only was official U.S. government policy at the time, but has never been formally withdrawn.

Of course the *actual* UN “peacekeeping forces” have never acquired anything near the military superiority described in *Freedom From War*. What has happened instead is the transformation of the role of the U.S. military from defending the United States to policing the world on behalf of the UN. This transformation, which was already well under way prior to the unveiling of *Freedom From War* in 1961, continues to the present day. And many Americans who would be outraged if all U.S. military forces were to don UN blue overlook the UN connection when those same forces, wearing U.S. uniforms, are used to enforce UN resolutions. Let’s take a look.

From Victory to Defeat

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, there was no United Nations, and the U.S. Congress still decided when to send the nation into war. One day after this horrific event, Congress declared war on Japan. Italy and Germany, Japan’s partners in an alliance, declared war on the United States. On December 11, Congress responded by formally declaring war on Japan’s two European partners.

These three declarations of war referred to Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the Constitution, wherein Congress alone was granted power to “declare war.” Practically overnight, therefore, the United States became embroiled in what were actually two separate wars — one in the Pacific and one in Europe. After maximum effort, enormous expense, great loss of life, and a huge number of wounded over more

Article 43 requires UN member nations to “make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance, and facilities” needed to carry out the wishes of the UN.

than three years, our forces won both wars in 1945. Deeming the huge effort worthwhile, Americans celebrated those remarkable victories.

Victory in those conflicts was not assured because the U.S. government retained control of its own military, but it did mean that the United States, unfettered by UN control, was able to decide whether to go to war and how to conduct the war effort. In fact, at this point in history, the United States had never lost a war. But since WWII, there have been no more war declarations by Congress, and war has meant stalemate or defeat. Subservience to the United Nations is the reason for our decades-long “less than victory” record.

Our nation didn't win in Korea or Vietnam. Nor did we win in Afghanistan, where American boots are still on the ground fighting “the war on terrorism,” or even in Iraq, where the original objective to enforce UN resolutions to rid the regime of its reputed weapons of mass destruction was expanded to include regime change and (in President George W. Bush's words) “a free Iraq.” Victory wasn't the goal in several other smaller engagements.

No congressional declarations of war were issued because our nation's leaders had turned over war-making power to the United Nations, which provided the authorization for conflict and established the rules of engagement. There is an easily understood principle involved here that should never be ignored. It is that one seeks, or is granted, au-

thorization from a superior, not an inferior. Because our leaders ignore the U.S. Constitution while supporting a United Nations with teeth under the UN Charter, the latter has become the U.S. military's superior.

UN Charter

The Charter of the United Nations was written largely by two men: the Soviet Union's open and avowed communist Andrei Vishinski and America's Alger Hiss. The latter, who was later shown to be a secret communist, was the first secretary-



Hiss of death: Alger Hiss (left), shown shaking hands with U.S. President Harry Truman at the founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco, was a U.S. bureaucrat later shown to be a communist, and the UN reflects his duplicity.

general of the United Nations at its founding San Francisco Conference from late April to late June of 1945, when delegates from 50 nations hammered out the final details contained in the Charter. Upon completion of their work, the Charter was sped to the U.S. Senate for ratification.

The American people, certainly including the members of the Senate, were steamrolled by an avalanche of pro-UN sentiment from political leaders, the media, clergymen, and others. Those messages claimed that, after two costly world wars during the past 25 years, something new had to be tried to avoid similar future conflicts. The something new, of course, was the United Nations. During a mere six days, nowhere near the nine months of deliberations that kept our country out of the League of Nations after World War I, senators overwhelmingly approved the Charter by a vote of 89 to 2. That approval enrolled the United States in the new United Nations as one of its founding members.

The two lonely Senate naysayers were William Langer of North Dakota and Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota. In his warning to Senate colleagues on July 27, 1945, Senator Shipstead urged a “no” vote because “control of the war power, as provided in the Constitution, must remain in the Congress if the United States is going to remain a republic.” He saw what would happen if the Charter were approved and the United States became a UN member. One day later, as consideration by the senators continued, Langer objected to the proposed UN having authority “to send our boys all over the earth.” His study of the Charter convinced him that it was “fraught with danger to the American people and to American institutions.”

These two senators had obviously studied the Charter and rejected it. Shipstead

and Langer objected to the Charter's Article 25 that states in its entirety, "The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter." No one who swore a solemn oath to the U.S. Constitution and believed in independence for our nation could honestly agree to that. The two stalwart senators likely objected to Article 43 as well. It requires UN member nations to "make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance, and facilities" needed to carry out the wishes of the UN. Anyone who studied the Charter couldn't dispute the concerns voiced by Shipstead and Langer. But what those two senators stated failed to stop the pro-UN steamroller.

Later, in December 1945, with our nation already a UN member, a few members of the House of Representatives voiced their concerns when asked to approve a measure known as the United Nations Participation Act. UNPA stated that "the President shall not be deemed to require authorization of Congress" to send troops to carry out missions authorized by the UN Security Council. Passage of this legislation gave unconstitutional power to all presidents to send U.S. forces into whatever mission the UN deemed necessary.

During discussions about UNPA, Representative Jessie Sumner (R-Ill.) told her colleagues on December 18, 1945 that the measure before them "gives congressional authority for surrendering the American people to an all-powerful world super-government." Representative Frederick Smith (R-Ohio) saw the measure as a blow to "the very heart of the Constitution." Additionally, he claimed "the power to declare war shall be taken from Congress and given to the President. Here is the essence of dictatorship." But because most members of Congress were already captivated by the need to create something new to prevent another world war, the measure won passage with a lopsided vote of 355 to 15. And when the Senate concurred, UNPA became law.

By the end of 1945, therefore, our nation had joined the United Nations, and it awarded the president power to send members of our nation's military to enforce UN



What's its purpose? The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was purportedly created to stop communist aggression toward democratic countries in Europe — collective security — but in 2008 Ivo Daalder, U.S. ambassador to NATO, said there was no reason Russia couldn't join NATO.

resolutions anywhere on Earth. The U.S. Constitution's requirement that American forces could be sent to war only after a congressional declaration of war had been overruled. The warnings of the very few were ignored.

NATO

More skirting of the Constitution appears in Articles 52-54 of the UN Charter. These articles permit nations to form "regional arrangements" for the purpose of maintaining "international peace and security." The 1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was the first such "arrangement." Its chief architect was John Foster Dulles, a key disciple of Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) founder Edward Mandell House. Members of Congress and many Americans were led to believe that NATO was needed to prevent further Soviet conquests in Europe. Numerous nations in Eastern Europe had already been overrun by the Soviet military. Secretary of State Dean Acheson, a key promoter of NATO who was also a member of the CFR, claimed in a speech delivered on March 19, 1949 that the pact "was designed to fit precisely into the framework of the United Nations," that it "is subject to the overriding provisions of the United Nations Charter," and that it "is an essential measure for strengthening the United Nations."

Several senators, led by Robert Taft

(R-Ohio), had become justifiably wary of the UN's growing power. They pointed to NATO's requirement that all members go to war if any of its members are attacked. Taft complained that the Truman administration had adopted a belief that America "was some kind of demi-god and Santa Claus to solve the problems of the world." But with only 13 dissenters, the Senate approved immersion into NATO on July 12, 1949.

U.S. entry into NATO also further immersed the U.S. military into the United Nations, NATO's overseer. The UN Charter clearly states that no action undertaken by its "regional arrangements" shall be "without the authorization of the Security Council." Article 54 of the Charter requires that a regional pact such as NATO must report its "activities" to the Security Council, and even report any activities "*in contemplation*." (Emphasis added.) Yet many Americans who would oppose putting the U.S. military under UN command do not see that this has been done in the case of U.S. troops placed under NATO.

U.S. soldiers served under the United Nations in the Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950, when communist North Korean forces invaded non-communist South Korea. Two days later, the UN Security Council issued Resolution #83, calling on UN member nations to rush to the aid of South Korea. Relying on power

Several senators, led by Robert Taft (R-Ohio), had become justifiably wary of the UN's growing power. They pointed to NATO's requirement that all members go to war if any of its members are attacked.

unconstitutionally granted to a president by the United Nations Participation Act, Harry S. Truman announced his intention to send U.S. forces into the Korean conflict. Senator Taft complained that Truman was acting “without congressional approval” and that what he planned “would have finally terminated for all time the right of Congress to declare war which is granted to Congress alone by the Constitution.”

Asked at a June 29, 1950 press conference whether our nation was at war, President Truman responded, “We are not at war; this is a police action.” He told reporters that if he could send troops to NATO (which he had already done), he could send them to Korea. Truman relied on membership in NATO as his authorization to send troops into the undeclared Korean conflict, an obvious war that he even refused to call a war.

America's forces fought in Korea for

three years, but always under the UN despite the actual military commanders being American. The Korean War has never been settled, even though an armistice stopped most of the fighting in 1953. America's casualties included 33,746 dead, 103,284 wounded, and 8,177 missing. And even now, more than 60 years after the armistice, the continued presence of tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers in South Korea would certainly result in U.S. involvement in another Korean War should North Korea invade the South again.

During the three-year struggle in Korea, numerous U.S. military officers complained bitterly about restrictions on their actions. During the early months of the conflict, when U.S. forces had virtually won the war even while under UN oversight, President Truman relieved General Douglas MacArthur of command. MacArthur reported in his 1964 book *Reminiscences* that the communist enemy, both

the North Koreans and their Chinese allies, knew the U.S. plans in advance. The UN Charter's Article 54 requires the sending of reports not only of actions already taken but also those “in contemplation.” MacArthur cited the revealing comment made years later by Chinese General Lin Piao, who led massive numbers of his troops into Korea to aid the North Koreans. Piao bluntly claimed years after the fighting had ceased: “I would never have made the attack and risked my men and military reputation if I had not been assured that Washington would restrain General MacArthur.”

Who provided such assurance to the Chinese general? The answer can be found in the UN Charter's Article 54. The restraining of MacArthur-led troops, and the assurance that they would be restrained, came from the United Nations. Our nation's forces employed in the Korean War were betrayed in several ways, the most compelling being the requirement that their actions had to be made known to the UN beforehand.

The Vietnam War

During the Vietnam War, UN control of the U.S. military was exercised through the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), a NATO clone. John Foster Dulles, who with Dean Acheson played a role in creating NATO, supervised the creation of SEATO in 1954. It, too, derived its very existence from the same articles appearing in the UN Charter. Like NATO, the new pact subjected our nation's military leaders to all of the reporting requirements listed in Charter Articles 52-54. The Vietnam War didn't end in a Korea-like stalemate; it ended in complete defeat. And there can be no doubt about SEATO directing the debacle:

- State Department Bulletin 8062 dated March 28, 1966 proclaimed: “The Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty authorizes the President's actions. The Government of the United States has informed the Security Council promptly and fully of all our major activities in Vietnam.”

- On November 26, 1966, Secretary of State Dean Rusk announced: “It is this fundamental SEATO obligation that has from the outset guided our action in Vietnam.”

- On January 10, 1967, President Lyn-



AP Images

One vote, few friends: The UN Security Council has five permanent members — China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States — and 10 non-permanent ones. The council can order “peacekeeping operations,” sanction members, and issue binding resolutions.

don Johnson confirmed what Rusk had stated: "We are in Vietnam because the United States and our allies are committed by the SEATO treaty to act to meet the common danger of aggression in Southeast Asia."

The Vietnam War cost America 58,000 dead, 153,000 wounded, several thousands left behind, and an enormous expenditure of funds. According to analysts and military leaders, it could have been won in a matter of weeks had not there been political interference. In 1985, long after the United States had pulled out of Vietnam, Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) pried some of the Vietnam "Rules of Engagement" out of the State Department and had them published in three entries in the *Congressional Record* (March 6, 14, and 18, 1985).

According to these rules, American pi-

lots were not permitted to attack a North Vietnamese Soviet-made MIG fighter sitting on a runway. The enemy plane could be attacked only after it was in flight, was identified, and showed hostile intentions. The same hostile-intention rule governed attacks on truck convoys. Enemy trucks could evade attacks by simply driving off the road. Goldwater pointed to the off-limits designation of large enemy sanctuaries and the hands-off rule regarding the North Vietnamese port of Haiphong through which the communist-led forces were supplied. He stated that these rules allowed the enemy to protect its forces and weaponry, and even permitted the North Vietnamese to erect SAM missile sites that were off-limits during construction and would later target U.S. aircraft.

Goldwater summarized what he had gleaned from the formerly classified di-

rectives. He wrote, "These rules unquestionably denied a military victory to allied forces in South Vietnam. And I hope that historians will come to recognize the importance of these self-defeating restrictions in preventing the successful culmination of military activities, an artificial handicap that must never again cripple our Armed Forces."

American forces began their withdrawal from Southeast Asia in 1973. Two years later, Saigon fell to the communists. The rules of engagement, authored and approved by U.S. officials, did not mention the United Nations. Yet, the United States intervened under UN authority (via the now-defunct SEATO) to carry out UN objectives, resulting in the first war America had ever lost.

Two Wars in Iraq

Despite our stalemate in Korea and defeat in Vietnam, U.S. policymakers continued to use the U.S. military to carry out UN missions, and the U.S. Congress continued to acquiesce. When Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait in 1990, President George H. W. Bush immediately sought authorization from the UN to oust Saddam Hussein's invasion force. Bush formed a coalition,

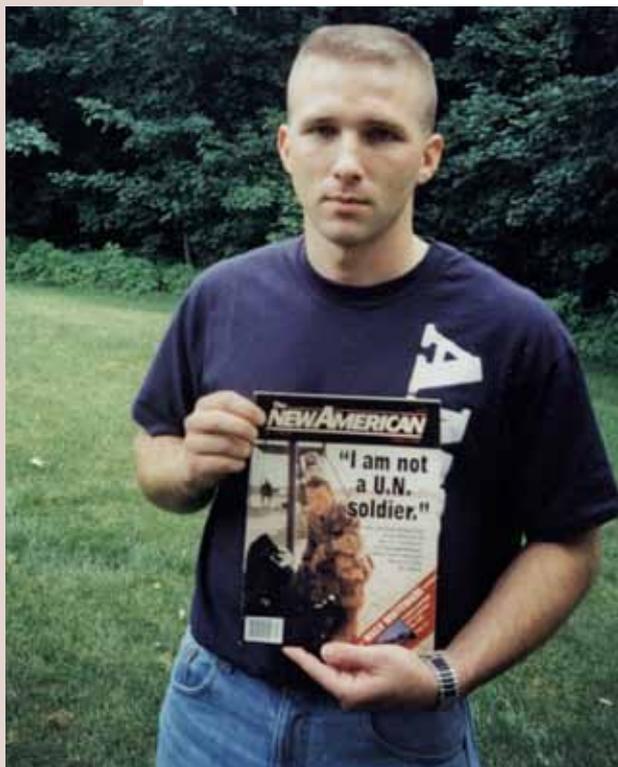
One Very Principled Soldier

In early 1995, Army Specialist Michael New carried out all of the assignments he was given without question. Stationed in Germany, the decorated and highly respected medic was always counted among the best. But when he and his mates in their 550-man battalion were ordered to sew UN insignia on their uniforms and replace their Army hats with the UN's blue berets prior to being sent to Macedonia, he resisted. He stated simply that he had sworn an oath to defend the U.S. Constitution and he had not pledged any allegiance to the United Nations.

Having already served in one UN "peacekeeping" operation without being told he had to don UN insignia, New had no objection about possibly being sent to Macedonia. But he did object to being made into a de facto UN soldier. Told he would face court-martial and removal from the Army if he refused to follow the order given him and his mates, he didn't bend and was promptly removed from the battalion. While taking his stand, he learned that his overall commander would be one of Finland's military officers, Brigadier General Juha Engstrom, when his unit got to Macedonia.

His battalion's sergeant major and one of the unit's lieutenants badgered him to obey an order that he considered wrong. He told them: "I am an American soldier and will serve as a medic where I am sent and will seek to help my fellow soldiers. But I am not going to wear that uniform. I believe they [the UN] are a foreign power no different from a foreign government. For the same reason I won't wear [UN insignia] I would not wear a Russian uniform or salute a Russian flag."

Eventually court-martialed and given a bad conduct discharge, Michael New has always maintained that he did nothing wrong. He claimed that his early training included his right to disobey an illegal order. ■



What did the second Iraq War achieve? A portion of the nation is now in the hands of the bloody-handed Islamic state (ISIS), and Shiite-Sunni warfare has resumed. The Christian population of Iraq, formerly 1.5 million in number, has shrunk by two-thirds.

sought and obtained UN authorization to invade Iraq (see Security Council Resolutions 678 and 687), and repeatedly stated that his goal was a “new world order” that would bring about a “reinvigorated United Nations.”

The Bush goals were not why members of the U.S. Armed Forces donned their uniforms and endured rigorous training. Upon enlistment, each swore an oath to defend the U.S. Constitution, not the UN Charter. But increasing the power of the UN and watering down allegiance to America most assuredly were the president’s goals.

There was no congressional declaration of war against Iraq. Instead, Congress voted for a resolution authorizing Bush “to use U.S. Armed Forces pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 678.”

Bush deployed U.S. forces for this purpose, and they were stopped well short of Baghdad because the UN authorized only removing Iraq’s forces from Kuwait. However, the United States should not have intervened in the first place, since the U.S. military should be used to protect our own country, not to police the world.

When Bush campaigned for reelection in 1992, he had the effrontery to boast, “I didn’t have to get permission from some old goat in Congress to kick Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.” The leading figures in his administration (Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, et al.) then formed the Project for the New American Century calling for another invasion of Iraq.

When George W. Bush became presi-

dent in 2001, he followed in his father’s footsteps by awarding key posts in his administration to many of the same individuals from his father’s old team. These men sought and obtained authorization from the UN for a second invasion of Iraq in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, despite that fact that Saddam Hussein had not attacked us on 9/11.

In March 2003, U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Negroponte cited the previous UN Security Council resolutions obtained in 1990-1991 for authority to invade Iraq a second time. That invasion, begun in 2003 and carried out over that decade, cost America 4,491 fatalities and tens of thousands wounded. Over half a million Iraqi civilians perished as a result of the war, and the country was left in a shambles.

What did the second Iraq War achieve? A portion of the nation is now in the hands of the bloody-handed Islamic state (ISIS), and Shiite-Sunni warfare has resumed. The Christian population of Iraq, formerly 1.5 million in number, has shrunk by two-thirds. In short, the 2003 invasion of Iraq by the American forces operating under UN authorization proved to be an utter disaster.

Afghanistan

Although most of the hijackers in the 9/11 attacks were Saudis, Afghanistan was targeted for reprisal immediately after the attacks. Why Afghanistan? The Taliban government then in power refused to hand over Osama bin Laden or expel al-Qaeda. But after intervening in Afghanistan in 2002, the U.S. military has never left that country (though bin Laden made his way to Pakistan), making Afghanistan our longest war.

The UN-created International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), already on the ground in Afghanistan, constituted another international coalition. By 2003, NATO supplanted the ISAF and has been in charge of the military effort in that war-torn nation ever since, despite the fact that Afghanistan is outside the NATO (North Atlantic) region. As of late 2015, NATO forces have suffered 3,407 deaths, of which 2,291 were Americans. Despite the sacrifice, the regime propped up by NATO’s presence is corrupt, and on numerous occasions Afghan soldiers



AP Images

Under the UN flag: During the Korean War, which the United States fought under the auspices of the UN, all major operations by our troops had to be reported to the UN before they commenced. So all major operations were telegraphed to our foes before we began them.

being trained by Americans have used their weapons to kill the Americans training them.

When Will It End?

U.S. forces have carried out smaller missions during recent decades. In December 1992, President George H. W. Bush cited authorization from a UN Security Council resolution to send 30,000 U.S. troops into Somalia. In April 1994, with Bill Clinton in the White House, a British UN troop commander, paired with a UN diplomat from Japan, gave the order for U.S. fighter planes from NATO to attack targets in Bosnia. In September 1994, President Clinton sent tens of thousands of American troops to Haiti to enforce another UN resolution. In March 2011, President Obama deployed U.S. forces in the NATO air war against Libya that was authorized by a UN Security Council resolution.

When will this train of U.S. military interventions under UN authority end? Rather than end, it will in all likelihood get worse, with the UN's military control becoming more overt and direct, perhaps along the lines of the aforementioned *Freedom From War* proposal — unless sufficient numbers of informed Americans get involved to force a change in policy.

If a politician, or anyone for that matter, argues that the United States should cease policing the world under the UN, shouldn't every American agree? It is hardly excessive to conclude that the U.S. military should no longer serve as the UN's main military arm, but should instead be restored to its traditional role of protecting the United States under the U.S. Constitution.

The only logical response to all of this is for the United States to withdraw from the United Nations. Quitting the UN would likely accomplish exiting NATO as well, but there might be a need for additional steps to exit NATO. Congressman Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) has introduced the American Sovereignty Restoration Act (H.R. 1205), which would terminate U.S. membership in the world body. Every House member should be urged to cosponsor this important measure, and senators should be urged to introduce companion legislation. ■



“From Trouble Call ... to Overhaul”

Gas Compression, Maintenance, and Machining Services



2689 W. US 290
Giddings, Texas 78942
979-542-9271

www.HR-Machine.com

THE HONEST COMPANY

Fast Service: Usually Within 60 Minutes!

FREE ESTIMATES

PLUMBING REPAIRS

- Water Heaters
- Re-pipes
- Faucets
- Gas Lines
- Toilets
- Replace Water Lines
- Garbage Disposals

SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING

- Kitchen Sink Drains
- Sink Drains
- Laundry Drains
- Roof Vents
- Tub/Shower Drains
- Roof Drains
- Main Sewer Drains

 **Allstate Plumbing Inc.**

Serving the greater San Francisco Bay Area since 1993.
Call Today! ☎ (800) 280-6594



Logistics Solved

////////////////////////////////////

FMI does the work, you maintain the control of the whole process.

“The key was that we were able to build a partnership with them where they did a lot of the work, but we still maintained control over the program.”

Scott Monroe, National Warehouse Manager,
Fisher & Paykel Appliances, Inc.

- Freight Audit and Payment
- Consulting / Freight Studies
- Logistics Management
- Inbound Vendor Management
- TMS

////////////////////////////////////

Contact Us Today:
Freight Management, Inc.
No-cost evaluation of your program or needs.
(866) FRT-MGMT Ask for ext. 101
378-6468
rjwalters@freightmgmt.com
www.freightmgmt.com



Freight Management, Inc.

Retired Special Forces

Kens5.com reported on July 22 about a 78-year-old San Antonio homeowner who was forced to take an intruder's life. Seventy-eight-year-old Bill MacWithey is a retired Special Forces lieutenant colonel and author of over a dozen military-themed novels. MacWithey was home with his wife when they heard someone pounding on the door. The veteran explained to News4 in San Antonio that he had only seconds to react. MacWithey's wife grabbed the phone to call 911 to report a possible break-in. The pounding got louder, and the door handle broke from the force of the intruder beating on it. MacWithey's wife handed him a loaded gun and his military training kicked in. With the intruder in the doorway, MacWithey fired at the man, whom he described as a "huge guy." MacWithey told News4 that there "was no way to stop him but to shoot him." The bullet hit its mark, and the intruder collapsed at the scene only to later succumb to his injuries. Police soon arrived and discovered the body of the suspect. MacWithey regretted the suspect's death but felt that he was left with no other choice. "You have a right to protect yourself," MacWithey told News4.

Retired San Antonio Police Officer Gilbert De La Portilla explained that using deadly force in a self-defense scenario such as this requires rapid response skills. "It's just very quick, you need to make that decision," De La Portilla told News4. "When fear kicks in we just don't know how we are going to react," he added. De La Portilla suggested that homeowners should make sure their homes are secured with good locks and proper lighting, as well as practice using their guns at least three to four times per year.

Have Faith

FOX59 in Indiana reported on July 6 about a 17-year-old girl whose quick thinking might have saved her life. Faith Shilkett was home alone in the middle of the day when the sound of her dog's barking alerted her to a stranger standing in front of her house. Faith described the man as "big." "He was muscular. He looked like he could do damage if he got

a hold of you. I was scared if he got in, he could've hurt me," Faith told FOX59. She quickly ran through the house and made sure all of the entrances were locked. The young girl also went into her mother's bedroom and grabbed a gun. By that point, the man had gone around to the back of the house and tried opening the deck door. After the suspect couldn't get it to open, he went to the garage door and began moving the handle. Faith yelled at the man from inside the house while he entered the garage. "I stayed back here and I started yelling 'I'm here. I have a gun. I'm going to shoot,'" she told FOX59. Faith immediately called 911 and waited for police to arrive. She heard the sounds of the man moving around in the garage, and then saw him flee to a nearby vehicle and drive off.

Faith also called her mother, Amy Shilkett, to tell her about what was going on. The terrified mother left her work as quickly as possible. "Your child is your life. I couldn't even think straight.... All I was thinking is 'how quickly can I get here?'" Amy told FOX59. When the mother arrived home, the police were already on the scene, and she was grateful to find her daughter unharmed. Police did say that the suspect made off with some tools and a generator from the garage. Faith's mother was not upset about the stolen items though: "Items can be replaced, but obviously your daughter can't be. That was my biggest worry." Amy also said everyone should be prepared to make sure their loved ones are secure and able to defend themselves.

Deadly Domestic Dispute

WHAS11, the ABC affiliate in Louisville, Kentucky, reported on July 19 about how a once-romantic relationship turned deadly. Police say growing threat culminated last October when Patrick Decker allegedly defied a restraining order and broke in to his ex-girlfriend's house. The woman, who wished to remain anonymous, grabbed her .22-caliber pistol and fired at Decker, hitting him in the chest. Decker would later die from his injury. The Grayson County sheriff said the shooting was a justifiable homicide owing to previously issued protective orders

and evidence that showed Decker busted down the woman's door. The woman, who says she suffered physical abuse at the hands of Decker when they were in a relationship, told WHAS11, "Nobody deserves all the terrorizations [sic] that I went through, nobody knows everything and I honestly did love him, I just want[ed] him to go away." Despite having a court order to stay away from the woman, Decker allegedly tried breaking in to her home while she was there with her son. The woman's 10-year-old boy called 911 while she grabbed her gun. "All I can tell you is I have one brave little boy, when this whole situation happened back in October, he's the one who called 911," she told WHAS11. The woman cautioned other women in abusive relationships. "He hit me one time, [he] said I'm sorry, it's okay because he loves me and I love him. It ain't okay, not the first time is it ever okay," she told WHAS11.

Toy Gun

The *Miami Herald* reported on July 27 about an attempted break-in that occurred in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which resulted in the death of the suspect. Fifty-one-year-old Gary Peterson was known in the area as a drifter who battled with drug addiction. That long battle came to an end when he allegedly tried breaking in to Curtis Traylor's house.

The Broward County sheriff's office told the *Miami Herald* that Peterson was wearing a mask and forced his way into the house while armed with what appeared to be a gun, but was, in fact, a toy. Peterson began struggling with Traylor and their fight spilled into the house. At some point, Traylor broke free and was able to retrieve his own gun. Traylor fired one time, fatally injuring Peterson, whose lifeless body was discovered by officers who arrived on the scene. A nearby neighbor said that Peterson's actions were not unusual for him. "I've known him since high school.... He was always doing crazy stuff like that," the neighbor told the *Miami Herald*. Peterson's criminal record was littered with the types of charges you would see from a drug addict. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Beware the High Cost of Free College

ITEM: *Hillary Clinton, in her official website for her presidential campaign, promotes “a comprehensive plan to put higher education within reach for all Americans, and take on the crisis of student debt.” The site quotes her remarks on June 22, 2016, in which the Democrat candidate calls for making “debt-free college available to everyone.”*

Under Hillary Clinton’s plan are the following:

Every student should have the option to graduate from a public college or university in their state without taking on any student debt. By 2021, families with income up to \$125,000 will pay no tuition at in-state four-year public colleges and universities. And from the beginning, every student from a family making \$85,000 a year or less will be able to go to an in-state four-year public college or university without paying tuition.

All community colleges will offer free tuition.

Everyone will do their part. States will have to step up and invest in higher education, and colleges and universities will be held accountable for the success of their students and for controlling tuition costs.

ITEM: *The online Huffington Post for July 6, 2016, reported: Clinton’s plan “incorporates a major plank of Sen. Bernie Sanders’ (I-Vt.) platform and is a direct result of the private meeting Clinton had with the Vermont senator in June, the campaign said. Clinton’s new proposals move her beyond previous statements that she would try to make college ‘as debt-free as possible’ and toward making ‘debt-free college available to all.’”*

CORRECTION: If you wanted to downplay this drastic reversal by Clinton, you might say she was just “changing” her plan, as if she found a more comfortable pair of shoes. However, it would be a more straightforward account if you put it this



AP Images

Clinton’s free tuition: In an attempt to pander to younger voters, Hillary Clinton is now essentially promising free college to most kids. Of course, when Bernie Sanders said the same thing, Hillary berated him, saying, “When someone tells you something is free, ask for the fine print.”

way: In an attempt to pander to millennials who have been loath to back her, the Democratic presidential candidate is now embracing notions that she repeatedly ridiculed when they were pushed by her avowed socialist opponent.

Even an NBC News story favorable to Hillary Clinton found it necessary to admit, begrudgingly and a bit down into the article, that during the primaries, “Clinton often mocked Sanders’ free college plan as too expensive, saying she didn’t want taxpayers to pay for Donald Trump’s kids’ education.”

For what it’s worth, Trump’s children (less the youngest 10-year-old boy) graduated from private universities and wouldn’t have been eligible under Sanders’ plan.

And since this is an education piece, here’s a little lesson that is often overlooked among reformers of public education: The use of other people’s money does not make it “free.” It might be immediately cheaper to the particular student getting the subsidy, but it would be paid for by all of us, including the 70 percent or so of the American population without a college degree.

When “someone else” is paying, neither the supplier nor the immediate recipient of the subsidized good or service is likely to pay much attention to costs. Without price

discipline, costs tend to skyrocket. This is what has occurred over the years with U.S. healthcare. Doctors and patients (or students and college administrators) are apt to let the other guy (be it the government or some faceless insurance company) worry about the tab.

Yet, the expenses are real. The estimated cost of the early iteration of the Clinton college con job was pegged at about \$350 billion over its first decade; the Sanders addition supposedly would add around \$100 billion to that total. Keep in mind that is the lowballing guess before it inevitably climbs in practice.

The estimates over the latest Clinton proposal (were it to be instituted, which is hardly preordained) have been varied. Megan McArdle, a columnist for *Bloomberg View*, writes about the expensive new entitlement and finds that, “as far as I can gather,” it would be “about \$450 billion over 10 years. Or maybe \$520 billion.”

It is, as McArdle says, supposed to be “paid for by ‘closing high income tax loopholes,’ including limiting deductions for folks whose income puts them in the 33 percent tax bracket: about \$190,000 for singles and \$215,000 for married couples. Well, I shouldn’t quite say ‘paid for’; this math comes up a bit short. But what’s \$50



Correction, Please!

billion or \$100 billion among friends?”

Which of these deductions would be hit? McArdle answers: “practically all of them,” citing facts from Tax Policy Center, specifying:

All itemized deductions (except for charitable contributions), tax-exempt state and local bond interest, employer-sponsored health insurance paid for by employers or with before-tax employee dollars, health insurance costs of self-employed individuals, employee contributions to defined contribution retirement plans and IRAs, the deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities, certain trade or business deductions of employees, moving expenses, contributions to health savings accounts and Archer MSAs, and interest on education loans.

You will not be surprised to discover that these details are not on the Clinton website, not even in the fine print. Free is expensive these days. The webmaster probably couldn't afford more fine print.

There was one quite prominent person who did recognize and admit that such a plan was “unworkable and unaffordable.” We read about this astute observer not that

long ago in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, among other papers. The name might ring a bell: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

More recently, another *Times* piece observed that this college proposal still faces a number of political hurdles. Clinton, as the paper said on July 6,

previously raised questions about that aspect of Mr. Sanders's plan, saying it gave states the ability to opt out, just as some had done with Medicaid expansion. As recently as this spring, Mrs. Clinton scoffed at the idea that Republican governors like Scott Walker of Wisconsin — who has slashed state spending on the University of Wisconsin — would ever go along with Mr. Sanders and support state matching funds to qualify for his proposed federal tuition grants. She was almost surely right — and on Wednesday, a spokesman for Mr. Walker said the governor would not go along with her plan, either, seeing it as costly and ineffective.

As it is, federal aid has long been driving up the price of colleges and universities in this country, a trend that has become widely known in education circles as the Bennett Hypothesis — after William Ben-

nett, the former secretary of education, who first wrote about it in 1987.

Neal McCluskey, director of the Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom, also discussed this general phenomenon in March in the *Austin American-Statesman*. Washington has been throwing tax money for decades into a variety of education assistance programs. Accordingly, as McCluskey remarked, this has allowed “colleges to raise their prices at rates far in excess of household income and even health care, and [encouraged] students to demand ever-greater luxuries. Use other peoples' money and your incentives to demand efficiency wither.”

Recent studies document this cause and effect, and include two completed last year by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). The former, “Accounting for the Rise in College Tuition,” authored by Grey Gordon and Aaron Hedlund, modeled the boost in tuition since 1987, taking into account general changes in costs, earnings, and federal student loans. The authors found: “From 1987 to 2010, sticker-price tuition and fees ballooned from \$6,600 to \$14,500 in 2010 dollars. After subtracting institutional aid, net tuition and fees still grew by 78%, from \$5,790 to \$10,290. To provide perspective: had net tuition risen at the rate of much-maligned healthcare costs, tuition would have only reached about \$8,700 in 2010.”

The NBER study was mentioned by Benjamin Appelbaum in the *New York Times* in July. As he summarized, that analysis

found that colleges pocketed up to 60 cents from every \$1 increase in subsidies, either by increasing tuition or by cutting their own aid packages. The government pumps in money, and the colleges soak it up.

“The basic economics are pretty straightforward,” said Taylor Nadauld, a finance professor at Brigham Young University and a co-author of the study. “Colleges have the opportunity to extract money from the federal government, and they do it.”



AP Images

Buddy, buddy? Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders launched verbal volleys at each other in the primaries, but now that Hillary has her party's nomination, she is taking as her own Sanders' most popular positions, including free college. And he has offered her his support.



AP Images

Blessed by beneficent government? These college students may think they are on the verge of free college, but Hillary Clinton's spending plans are not offset by new taxes on the wealthy; hence, not only will the students end up paying for college through taxes, but college costs will undoubtedly skyrocket.

All the extra funding and higher expenditures do not necessarily go to “education,” however broadly defined. Consider the revelations about rising tuitions, as made last year in an article by Paul Campos, a University of Colorado law professor. He disputed the contention made by legions of college administrators about how public funding has supposedly been slashed:

In fact, public investment in higher education in America is vastly larger today, in inflation-adjusted dollars, than it was during the supposed golden age of public funding in the 1960s. Such spending has increased at a much faster rate than government spending in general. For example, the military's budget is about 1.8 times higher today than it was in 1960, while legislative appropriations to higher education are more than 10 times higher.

... The astonishing rise in college tuition correlates closely with a huge increase in public subsidies for higher education. If over the past three decades car prices had gone up as fast as tuition, the average new car would cost more than \$80,000.

Sadly, the higher spending has also been accompanied by other deleterious results

— including producing college graduates considerably less literate than their predecessors, even though it costs at least twice as much for a four-year degree (in cost-adjusted dollars) than it did in 1975. An expert who has documented this development is Richard Vedder of Ohio University's Center of College Affordability and Productivity.

The New York Federal Reserve and his research center, as Vedder noted last year in a piece in *Forbes*, both independently estimated that “nearly half of recent college graduates are under-employed, taking jobs previously held by high-school diploma holders.” And as he put it, some of the increase in enrollments “involves students lacking the ability to master high-level rigorous work that is the hallmark of ‘higher’ education. This has led to grade inflation and a lowering of academic standards.”

As you might expect, when it comes to subsidies, there are winners and losers. The original Bernie Sanders program would have made those states that already had invested a lot in higher education into net losers, even as it would have rewarded those that have been “underfunding.” He is a socialist, after all. However, congressmen from “losing” states are not likely to be enthusiastic about this aspect of the approach.

College administrators, on the other hand, have been on the winning side. Some,

especially those in the leadership, are essentially lobbyists, hanging around state houses and Washington, D.C., for hand-outs. Professor Campos is probably not on their Christmas lists. If he is, he is no doubt going to receive white elephant gifts, especially since he also publicly exposed the extent that administrative staff have burgeoned on campuses. At colleges, as he explained, a “major factor” that has been

driving increasing costs is the constant expansion of university administration. According to the Department of Education data, administrative positions at colleges and universities grew by 60 percent between 1993 and 2009, which Bloomberg reported was 10 times the rate of growth of tenured faculty positions.

Even more strikingly, an analysis by a professor at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, found that, while the total number of full-time faculty members in the C.S.U. system grew from 11,614 to 12,019 between 1975 and 2008, the total number of administrators grew from 3,800 to 12,183 — a 221 percent increase.

Meanwhile, the Clinton plan would make community colleges as “free” as high schools are today. This is part of what has become the movement to turn the government K-12 system into a K-14 system.

If you think community colleges have problems now, imagine how wondrous things will be when they have to comply with the endless edicts and policies all wrapped in red tape of the federal bureaucracy.

Of course, even if such plans were implemented, community colleges really would not be free. Rather than being locally operated and financed, the U.S. taxpayers would get the bill. With a national debt driving toward \$20 trillion, the country can't afford a new program totaling \$450 billion, or likely much more, that will make matters worse. Here's a caveat for any emptors who might exchange their ballots for this phony promise: You young beneficiaries would pay the price for the rest of your lives. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

Who's in Putin's Pocket — Clinton or Trump?

While serving as secretary of state to President Obama, Hillary Clinton delivered one-fifth of America's uranium deposits to Russia. So charge investigators who have been delving into the murky — and very alarming — dealings of Secretary Clinton and the Clinton Foundation with a company known as Uranium One and various “private” Russian companies and official Russian agencies. Moreover, her critics accuse Hillary and Bill Clinton of raking in a huge fortune (over \$130 million) from the



AP Images

American, Canadian, and Russian investors who helped arrange for these Russian companies — under the control, ultimately, of Vladimir Putin — to take control of 20 percent of our strategic uranium assets. Indeed, according to some calculations, the Uranium One deal, involving top Clinton donors Frank Guistra and Ian Telfer, has transferred as much as 50 percent of projected American uranium production to Kremlin control.

This incredible story, with enormously important implications for our nation's security, has been percolating for over a year, since Peter Schweizer's bestselling exposé *Clinton Cash — The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich* brought it to light.

Why does the explosive Clinton-Uranium One story — which has been buried (naturally) by the pro-Hillary establishment media for the past year — now take on new meaning and urgency? Well, for one thing, for the past several days Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton has been trying to make hay with the charge that recent comments by her Republican rival, Donald Trump, show “a very troubling willingness” to support Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In an interview with Fox News Sunday on July 31, Clinton reiterated the narrative that her campaign and her media allies had been flogging since the Democratic National Convention the previous week: that Trump's off-the-cuff comments about her e-mail scandal amounted to Trump calling on a foreign adversary (Putin) to meddle in a U.S. election and engage in cyberespionage against this country. Russia's alleged hacking of her e-mail accounts, she said, “raises national security issues” and “serious issues about Russian influence in our election.”

In the interview with Fox's Chris Wallace, Clinton charged that Trump's remarks on this issue show he is not “temperamentally fit” to be president. “If you take the encouragement that Russians hack into email accounts, if you take his quite exces-

sive praise for Putin, his absolute allegiance to a lot of Russian wish-list foreign policy issues,” she said, it suggests that “he is not temperamentally fit to be president and commander-in-chief.”

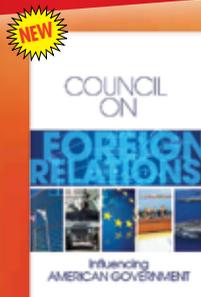
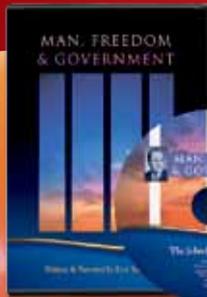
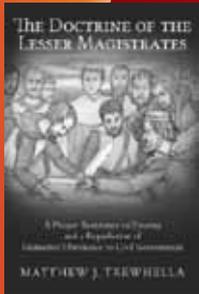
Is that not rich? Hillary and Bill take massive bribes from Putin cronies to transfer ownership and control over the fuel for our nation's nuclear power plants (which provide one-fifth of our national electrical energy) and our nuclear weapons to Putin & Company — and then accuse her opponent of being in bed with Putin!

But wait, the Uranium One deal, as important and stunningly corrupt as it may be, is only the proverbial tip of the iceberg. As we have been reporting here for years, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been one of Putin's biggest enablers, facilitating enormous transfers of advanced technology to the Russian regime that she now claims to see as a threat. It was Secretary Clinton, please recall, who, in May 2009, presented Putin's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov with a red “reset” button, and then mugged with Lavrov in a giggly photo-fest celebrating the U.S.-Russian “convergence” agenda. Clinton and Lavrov then served as joint coordinators of the U.S.-Russian Bilateral Presidential Commission established in July of that year by President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The annual reports of the Bilateral Presidential Commission are replete with chummy photos of Clinton-Lavrov, Obama-Medvedev, Biden-Putin, etc., as well as details of the many deals worked out to give technology, know-how, capital, and other resources to Moscow.

Among the many important projects of this type promoted by the Clinton-Lavrov team is the huge Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, which we warned about repeatedly in *THE NEW AMERICAN* as far back as 2010. Putin's new Skolkovo research and innovation center on the outskirts of Moscow, heralded as “Russia's Silicon Valley,” is benefiting from billions of dollars of investment and prime technology from Cisco Systems, Boeing, Microsoft, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, General Electric, and other U.S. tech giants, thanks to support and promotion by Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

Yes, Trump has made statements that may give security-conscious Americans cause for concern. But deeds speak louder than words. And Hillary Clinton's deeds speak in 5,000 decibel thunderclaps, declaring to all (except her willfully deaf devotees) that she belongs not sitting behind the president's desk in the White House, but sitting behind bars in the Big House. ■

FEATURED PRODUCTS



The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates

The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates is a historic tool that provides proven guidelines for proper and legitimate resistance to tyranny, often without causing any major upheaval in society. The doctrine teaches us how to rein in lawless acts by government and restore justice in our nation. (2013, pb, 115pp, \$13.95) BKDLM

Man, Freedom & Government

An enhanced remake of Ezra Taft Benson's 1968 filmstrip classic, this DVD provides a roadmap for restoring our freedoms and rights.

Sleeved DVD (2005, 24min, 1/\$1.00; 11-20/\$0.90ea; 21-49/\$0.80ea; 50-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.70ea; 1,000+/\$0.64ea) **DVDMFGS** — **Cased DVD** (2005, 24min, \$5.95) **DVDMFG**

Freedom From War 7277 — Reprint

Official policy of the United States, this alarming document reveals the plans of the American government to transfer its military forces to the United Nations. (State Department Document 1961, 1/\$1.00ea; 100+/\$.50ea) RPFVW

Council on Foreign Relations — Booklet

Despite promises of "change," as uttered by Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and now Barack Obama, successive presidential administrations have in common the fact that important posts are staffed by individuals, from the same small organization, who direct our nation's policies. (2016ed, 15pp, pb, 1/\$1.95ea; 10-24/\$1.25ea; 25-49/\$1.00ea; 50-99/\$.70ea; 100+/\$.50ea) BKLTGFR

Republics & Democracies — Booklet

This essay was first delivered by JBS founder Robert Welch as a speech at the Constitution Day luncheon in Chicago on September 17, 1961. The principles he espoused in that speech are timeless. The American Republic will endure only so long as those principles are sufficiently understood by each succeeding generation of Americans. (2016ed, 34pp, pb, 1/\$2.95; 10-24/\$2.00ea; 25-49/\$1.50ea; 50-99/\$1.00ea; 100+/\$0.75ea) BKLTRAD

Agenda: Grinding Down America

This story weaves a shocking and mesmerizing true tale of how the destruction of America was planned and strategized decades ago by none other than those who were so successful in implementing their malicious world view in Russia and Eastern Europe: Lenin, Stalin, and their latter-day disciples. (2010, DVD, 93min \$13.95) DVDAGDA

QUANTITY	TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL PRICE

SUBTOTAL	WI RESIDENTS ADD 5% SALES TAX	SHIPPING/HANDLING (SEE CHART BELOW)	TOTAL

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Order Subtotal	Standard Shipping	Rush Shipping
\$0-10.99	\$4.95	\$9.95
\$11.00-19.99	\$7.75	\$12.75
\$20.00-49.99	\$9.95	\$14.95
\$50.00-99.99	\$13.75	\$18.75
\$100.00-149.99	\$15.95	\$20.95
\$150.00+	call	call

Standard: 4-14 business days.
Rush: 3-7 business days, no P.O. Boxes, HI/AK add \$10.00



The Official Store of The John Birch Society
Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org
Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:
 ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
 APPLETON, WI 54912
1-800-342-6491



Order Online

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- Check VISA Discover
 Money Order MasterCard American Express

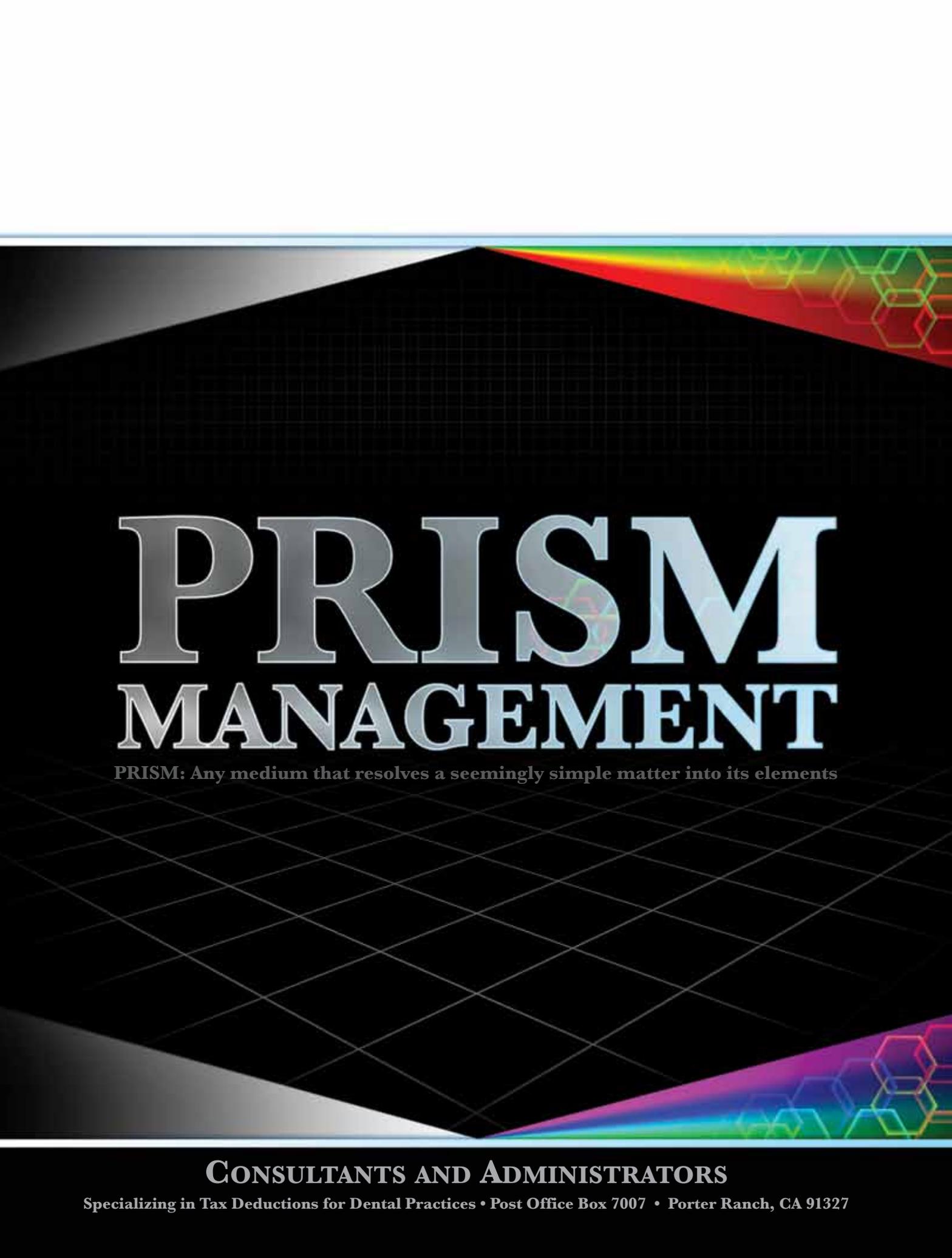


Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

160822



PRISM MANAGEMENT

PRISM: Any medium that resolves a seemingly simple matter into its elements

CONSULTANTS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Specializing in Tax Deductions for Dental Practices • Post Office Box 7007 • Porter Ranch, CA 91327