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President CJ's Letter:

Dear Colleagues,

Last week I was invited to see the “special events” showing of the education documentary, “Whose Children Are They?” It was a very informative film, one that, in my opinion should be seen by every parent, grandparent, tax payer, school board official, child health care professional, and those Americans who care deeply for the well-being of our children. It spoke to what has been happening in our schools for decades through a slow evolution. But also addressed the more recent stealth indoctrination of our children into a darker world of inappropriate sex education and gender confusion in the early elementary grades, no less – and all without parental permission or knowledge.

The movie made me very sad and it made me very angry. It was a powerfully persuasive documentary featuring brave teachers, empowered parents, and front-line experts who were courageous enough to pull back the curtain about what is happening in our public schools. The movie revealed the corrupting influence of teachers’ unions, and the vital importance of removing them from our schools. It was an eye-opener.

I was most moved by the planned indoctrination – a slow evolution that has brought us to this point today. In January of 1963, Florida Congressman Herlong read a list of 45 Communist goals (an excerpt from “*The Naked Communist*” by Cleon Skousen) into the Congressional Record. This was to alert the public to the dangers of communism in America. The documentary explicitly pointed to the following goals that related to children, education, and promiscuity.

#17. Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers’ associations. Put the party line in textbooks.

#28. Eliminate prayer or any phase of religious expression in the schools on the ground that it violates the principle of “separation of church and state.”

#31. Belittle all forms of American culture and discourage the teaching of American history.

#32. Support any socialist movement to give centralized control over any part of the culture, including education.

#40. Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity and easy divorce.

#41. Emphasize the need to raise children away from the negative influence of parents.

#24. Eliminate all laws governing obscenity by calling them “censorship” and a violation of free speech and free press.

#25. Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and TV.

#26. Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as “normal, natural, healthy.”

Not mentioned in the documentary, but on the list of Communist goals and having everything to do with the political landscape today and the opposite of the goals of our organization are the following:

#20. Infiltrate the press. Get control of editorial writing and policymaking decisions.

#21. Gain control of key positions in radio, TV, and motion pictures.

#29. Discredit the American Constitution by calling it inadequate, old-fashioned, out of step with modern needs, a hindrance to cooperation between nations on a worldwide basis.

#30. Discredit the American Founding Fathers. Present them as selfish aristocrats who had no concern for the “common man.”

These last four are subjects for another time. Today, I recommend “Whose Children Are They?” to those of you who have not seen the film. It is sure to inform and equip parents, teachers, grandparents and concerned citizens, to

partner together for the innocence and well-being of our children. If there is a positive note for reflection at this point, it is the fact that Governor Youngkin was elected by a newly enlightened wave of concerned parents who are ready to fight for their children. The Commonwealth of Virginia just might become an example for the rest of the nation.

C. J. Hatcher, W.A.C. President

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WAC Members Enjoyed Hearing from Former Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert Tracci at our February Luncheon

On February 24, 2022, WAC members enjoyed listening to Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Louisa County and former Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert Tracci speak about the current state of criminal justice in Virginia and our nation. He spoke at length in particular about current liberal efforts to weaken our criminal justice system. It was a real eye-opener for all.

We were also pleased to hear from Kellie Moy, who spoke about her husband Dan Moy, who is running for Congress to represent Virginia's 5th Congressional District.







America Caught Between Russia and China Externally and the Left Internally

By Dennis Prager, Townhall

America is caught between an external and an internal threat. The external is an economically aggressive and America-hating China and a nuclear-equipped, America-hating Russia; the internal is a non-nuclear, America-hating Left. (As I always note, “Left” is not the same as “liberal”; in fact, leftism poses a mortal threat to liberalism. The greatest contemporary tragedy in American life is that most liberals are unwilling to acknowledge this and continue to vote for the Left.)

To use one of the Left’s favorite terms, the Left poses an existential threat to America. Russia, unless it starts a nuclear war, does not. I should add that I do not discount the latter possibility. I was a high school freshman during the Cuban missile crisis, but I do not remember anyone my age or among my parents’ peers who believed the Cuban crisis would lead to nuclear war. I am less certain today. Russian President Vladimir Putin does not seem to be as rational as Nikita Khrushchev was, and Khrushchev had nowhere near the passion about Cuba that Putin has regarding Ukraine.

The Left may hate Putin, but hatred of America unites the Left and Putin. Again, this is not the case with liberals, most of whom love America. To illustrate this point, take the example of Superman. It was liberals, in 1938, who created Superman, an America-loving, American values-affirming (“Truth, Justice, and the American Way”) superhero. And it was leftists who destroyed Superman as an American hero. In 2011, they ended his American identity: Standing in front of the United Nations, Superman announced that he was renouncing his American citizenship to become a “citizen of the world.” “I’m tired of having my actions construed as instruments of U.S. policy,” he announced. Ten years later, DC comics announced that Superman’s motto would no longer be “Truth, Justice, and the American Way” but “Truth, Justice and a Better Tomorrow.”

Every left-wing movement in the world despises America — and for good reason. America has stood for everything the Left opposes. It is the most capitalist, most religious, and most nationalistic major democracy. America’s unique success has been the greatest possible rebuke to left-wing ideology. America must therefore be brought down. Specifically, it must abandon its capitalist economy, its Judeo-Christian values and its nationalism (as expressed, for example, in Americans’ celebration of the flag and national anthem; in Americans’ celebration of national holidays such as the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving; in

Americans’ opposition to anything hinting of world government; and in Americans’ belief that their country is “the greatest country in the world”).

So, then, America finds itself today attacked by three anti-American forces: Putin and China externally and the American Left internally.

If there is no nuclear war with Russia, by far the greatest of these threats emanates from the American Left. It has successfully de-Americanized and ruined every major institution it has touched: nearly all educational institutions from elementary schools through universities; virtually all major mainstream news media; the intelligence agencies (51 heads of intelligence agencies declared revelations of Biden family corruption emanating from Hunter Biden’s abandoned laptop “Russian disinformation”); the economy (the worst inflation rate in nearly half a century is the result of the cavalier spending of trillions of dollars and the Left’s energy policies which, within a few months, transformed America from energy-exporting to energy-importing); and even medicine (the American Medical Association and more and more medical schools are fully “woke”).

The only way to save America from its internal existential threat is for liberals to understand that the threat to their core values emanates from the Left, not the Right. Just to cite two examples, it is not the Right that opposes liberalism’s commitment to free speech; it is the Left that cancels people for saying anything the Left differs with — including stating obvious scientific and moral truths, such as that it is unfair to women to allow biological males to compete in women’s sports. And it is not the Right that opposes liberalism’s commitment to racial integration; it is the Left (holding the same position as the Ku Klux Klan) that calls for all-black dormitories on college campuses and all-black graduations.

America cannot defeat Russia and China without the help of other nations. And America cannot defeat the Left without the help of liberals. To put it in political terms, if America’s liberals voted their values, the Democratic Party would not win another major election — and it would either become irrelevant or decide to return to its liberal roots. Only America’s liberals, working in common cause with conservatives, can save America. Then America can deal with any threat — internal or external.





Are Enviros Letting Russia Set U.S. Energy Policy?

By Michael Reagan, Newsmax, condensed

We're not exactly sure who's running U.S. foreign policy, but we have a pretty good idea that Vladimir Putin has an outsized influence on European and U.S. energy policy.

The story has been looked into, and what's been found is disturbing.

"You're not really an independent nation if you depend on foreign countries so heavily for your energy supplies," Michael Shellenberger, the best-selling author of "Apocalypse Never," said earlier this month.

Shellenberger said that 15 years ago, "Europe produced more natural gas than Russia," but that all changed as "Russia increased its natural gas production and Europe reduced it."

"Europe decided not to frack in large part in response to climate activists," Shellenberger also said, adding: "We now think there is strong evidence suggesting [the climate activists] were supported directly through financing from Russia."

Sound familiar?

The Brandon (or Biden) administration has also attacked fracking on federal land, killed pipelines, ended offshore drilling and stopped issuing new federal drilling leases.

The result in both instances is lowered to non-existent production and a dependence on imports from other, often unfriendly, nations.

Keep in mind the United States was entirely energy independent at the end of Trump's term and Joe Biden, who is controlled by "environmental" groups, single-handedly killed that.

"The Russians actually fund some of the most rabid environmental groups in Europe because they sic them on the energy projects that aren't Russian," James Carafano, vice president of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy at the Heritage Foundation, said in a recent phone interview.

Even Hillary Clinton, of all people, believes Russian financing of U.S. green groups is a problem. "We were even up against phony environmental groups, and I'm a big environmentalist, but these were funded by the Russians to stand against any effort, 'Oh that pipeline, that fracking, that

whatever will be a problem for you,' and a lot of the money supporting that message was coming from Russia," Clinton said, according to excerpts leaked by WikiLeaks in 2016.

Sleepy Republicans in the House have finally noticed the problem and "are demanding that the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Sierra Club disclose their ties to a San Francisco-based nongovernmental organization that Russian President Vladimir Putin allegedly uses to wield power over American energy production."

The group is called Sea Change and it's based in San Francisco home to much anti-American sentiment.

In a letter sent to each of the three groups, Republicans inquired about the funding the groups have received from Sea Change since 2006 and called for disclosure of whether the groups "are aware of concerns that Sea Change may be a conduit for Russian funding."

"Provided the public reporting of Putin's dark money influence in Europe and the concerns surrounding similar efforts in the United States, we write today to explore your connections with Sea Change," the Republicans stated in the letter. "Any action by President Putin, the Russian government, or Putin's allies to undermine American energy security must be addressed."

Additionally, the Republicans asked the groups if they have received funds or took a particular action after a request "from the Russian government or anyone connected with the Russian government."

That last sentence in the quote was just stupid. Even foaming-at-the-mouth enviro fanatics know better than to meet with the gray men of the FSB and it just gives the groups an easy denial, which they took.

In a response, Bob Deans, the director of strategic engagement for the NRDC, suggested the "allegations are false" and are "rooted in a smear campaign."

"We receive no funding from the governments of Russia or China," Deans said. "We answer to our independent leadership, and we don't do the bidding of any government – foreign or otherwise – in our work to advocate for commonsense environmental protections in the public interest. These allegations are rooted in a smear campaign orchestrated nearly a decade ago by fossil fuel interests and a right-wing think tank. They only serve then, as now, as a distraction."

The question wasn't direct government funding, it was funding washed through the Sea Change foundation, which the House bumbler managed to obscure.

Let's hope after this misstep the GOP stays on this investigation.

The Biden administration purportedly taking energy policy direction from groups funded by laundered Russian money sounds a lot like real, dangerous collusion to us.



These Twenty-Five Biden Administration Policies are Raising Energy Costs

By Abigale Tardif, Americans for Prosperity, condensed

The national average for a gallon of gas for Americans has risen to \$4.065, 45 cents higher than just last week.

As Americans return to work, plan spring break and summer vacations they are faced with rising gas prices. (Not to mention higher costs for electricity, home heating, and groceries!!)

The price at the pump and for home expenses began to rise before the Russian invasion of Ukraine. At the end of 2021, President Joe Biden announced the U.S. Department of Energy will release 50 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Energy experts told PBS interviewers that tapping the SPR won't drive down gas prices. The decision was little more than "a drop in the ocean" when it comes to energy policy, one person said.

The decision also won't counteract Biden administration policies that have caused rising energy costs — and that will continue to drive prices higher in the future.

Here are 25 decisions the president has made over the last year that have affected gas prices, home heating costs, and other energy-related burdens U.S. families and businesses face.

#1 and 2: Adopting new EPA oil and gas rules

In November 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency announced new regulations governing methane emissions from oil and gas production, transmission, storage, and distribution that would cost more than \$1 billion a year.

Last spring, Biden signed a resolution that overturned Trump administration reforms to EPA oil and gas rules. This resolution will worsen energy poverty, reestablish burdensome regulations, and have a disproportionate impact on small businesses.

#3, #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8: Restricting or impeding energy projects

One of Biden's first actions after taking office was to halt new oil and gas leases on federal lands and waters, the Biden administration has delayed decisions on these leases — a move that results in higher energy costs for the most vulnerable consumers.

The administration canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and suspended oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and New Mexico (despite opposition from the Navajo Nation). It also resurrected the "Waters of the United States" rule, which would increase barriers to energy projects.

The White House is pursuing new standards for particulate matter and ozone, likely tightening them to unachievable levels for much of the country and creating new barriers for energy project permits.

The president also has rescinded Endangered Species Act reforms, a move that will increase red tape and allow litigation to slow down energy projects.

#9: Rejoining the Paris agreement

In April 2021, without the consent of Congress, Biden rejoined the Paris agreement, which will result in onerous new regulations that could raise energy costs.

#10: Appointing unaccountable energy regulators

The president has created several bodies within the White House charged with creating new policies to regulate energy. The people who run these councils are unelected and do not need Senate confirmation, but they have been given broad powers to come up with new executive actions — which do not need consent from Congress — to regulate U.S. energy production.

#11: Forcing states to restrict driving

One section of the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, supported by the White House, would require every U.S. state to develop state carbon-reduction plans that must be approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation as well as be updated every four years.

These plans are aimed at reducing driving all over the country — even for people in rural areas where public transportation is limited, and driving is the only option.

#12, #13, and #14: Raising the prices of cars and trucks

The Biden administration has failed to take adequate action on annual requirements and small refinery waivers for the Renewable Fuel Standard and in providing regulatory relief from this biofuel mandate due to economic hardship. His EPA has finalized a new rule regulating greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. That single regulation could raise the average vehicle price by \$1,000.

#15: Instituting a new policy on carbon taxes in organized wholesale electricity markets

This carbon pricing policy statement, issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in April 2021, is a blanket endorsement of top-down policies that have been demonstrated to be costly, ineffective, regressive, and consistently rejected by the American people.

#16: Raising the prices of common household necessities

The EPA has issued a final rule to phase out a common, inexpensive refrigerant. This policy is a defacto tax on air conditioning and refrigeration.

#17: Stifling energy innovation

In May 2021, Biden issued a sweeping executive order that mobilized federal agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, to enforce mandates on businesses, insurers, retirement funds, and suppliers. These policies will stifle innovation critical to improving the environment and will increase costs for a wide variety of businesses.

#18: Altering regulatory cost analyses

The Biden administration has changed key inputs for economic and regulatory analysis, including raising the “social cost” of greenhouse gases. These policies will mask the true consumer cost of regulatory actions.

#19 and #20: Imposing new costs on power generation

The administration attempted to resurrect an aggressive version of the Clean Power Plan for power sector mandates called the Clean Electricity Standard.

In the Fall 2021 Unified Agenda the EPA stated their intention to propose what can be considered the Clean Power Plan 2.0. This policy would impose burdensome regulations but would have little or no environmental benefit.

The EPA also has mandated that even facilities with reduced emissions must remain on the list of “major”

sources, subjecting these facilities to permitting burdens and higher costs.

#21: Impeding Americans exports

The administration is considering potential restrictions on the export of crude oil that would increase, not decrease, energy prices.

#22 and #23: Raising taxes

More than one-quarter of the administration-backed Build Back Better agenda is pulled directly from the “Green New Deal.” The Build Back Better agenda includes new taxes on natural gas and home heating. It also includes new taxes on petroleum and manufacturing.

#24: Picking energy winners and losers

The Build Back Better agenda would spend taxpayer dollars to push utilities to adopt more costly, politically preferred forms of energy, a move that would reduce Americans’ energy choices.

#25: Fueling the fire for future regulation

Finally, through the Civilian Climate Corps, Build Back Better would fund the salaries of tens of thousands of anti-energy activists who would perpetuate high energy costs by demanding new and costly federal regulations and legislation.

Unlike releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, these 25 steps are not just a “drop in the ocean.”

They have made, and will continue to make, a significant impact on Americans’ ability to afford the energy products that fuel their lives and livelihoods.



Democrats Call Themselves Progressive -- but Practice Regressive Policies

By Adriana Cohen, New York Post, condensed

Fourteen months into the Biden administration, it’s become clear Democrats are not the so-called progressives they claim to be. More accurately, the Democratic Party ought to be called the “regressives,” given that on virtually every metric

that matters to most Americans, the left is dragging our country backward — not forward.

Under Democratic control of government, our nation has regressed with US energy independence achieved during the prior administration. When Donald Trump was in the Oval Office in 2020, America was a net exporter of petroleum, and imports were the lowest since 1991. This year, according to the Energy Information Administration, “We expect net crude oil imports to increase, making the United States a net importer of petroleum in 2022.”

Translation: We’ve gone from being the largest exporter of oil under Trump to unnecessarily dependent on Iran and other despotic regimes that use millions of dollars in US blood money to fund terror proxies and other nefarious acts under President Joe Biden.

The regressives, in cahoots with the climate cabal here in the States, nixed the Keystone XL Pipeline and hamstrung the US fossil-fuel industry with excessive regulations, bans on new drilling on federal lands and other assaults on the US energy sector to purportedly “protect” the environment while buying dirty oil from murderous foreign dictators who don’t give a hoot about climate change.

World peace has regressed from relative global stability under Trump, who led the destruction of the Islamic State’s caliphate in Iraq and brokered the historic peace deal between Israel and the Middle East known as the Abraham Accords, to a foreign-policy dumpster fire under the dangerously incompetent current administration.

Russia has waged war against Ukraine in the most consequential European invasion since World War II and is committing genocide and war crimes before our eyes. Now add the massive humanitarian crisis underway as millions of Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes to places unknown while Vice President Kamala Harris giggled her way through a recent joint press conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda in Warsaw, unable to answer a simple question regarding how many Ukrainian refugees the United States is willing to accept.

But that’s just the tip of the iceberg. We’re also witnessing an alarming new power alliance emerge between China and Russia on Sleepy Joe’s watch, with Taiwan squarely in China’s sights.

Gas prices that were affordable under Trump’s sensible energy policies have skyrocketed to an average of almost \$4.50 per gallon nationwide — the highest in American history. Inflation is at a 40-year high, and supply-chain bottlenecks are ongoing, hampering the US economy. Want

a new car, fridge or microwave? Good luck. You’ll wait weeks, if not months, to get it at inflated prices.

Race relations haven’t progressed either; they’ve regressed.

America was once a predominantly colorblind society. No more. Regressives now insist we view everything through the prism of race. Forget judging others based on the content of one’s character, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught us in 1963 during his soul-stirring “I Have a Dream” speech at our nation’s capital. Thanks to the regressives, we’re now being told to check our white privilege while innocent children are being indoctrinated with critical race theory in our public-school system.

But that’s not all. America has regressed combating the war on drugs. China and Mexican cartels are manufacturing deadly fentanyl that’s flowing across our nation’s porous southern border, poisoning and killing our citizens. The fentanyl overdose of several West Point cadets this month is just the latest tragic example.

Illegal immigration has surged. Same with rising crime that’s spreading like wildfire, including smash-and-grabs at grocery stores, shopping malls and convenience stores near you.

Our right to free speech is evaporating before our eyes thanks to a toxic stew of cancel culture, Big Tech censorship and ever-growing Internet surveillance.

Let’s not forget the personal liberties lost during the COVID-19 pandemic with the Biden administration’s authoritarian vaccine mandates. Americans that chose not to get vaccinated have been fired from their jobs, discharged from serving in the US military, kicked off college campuses, barred from playing sports and denied entry to restaurants, among other harsh penalties, despite the inconvenient truth the vaccines don’t stop transmission of the virus.

And we must not overlook the damage done to America’s school kids by the Democratic Party, which instead of doing what’s in our children’s best interest during the pandemic opted to take marching orders from far-left teachers unions instead. Thanks to excessively prolonged remote learning and other extreme COVID-19 restrictions that lasted over two years, America’s children have suffered significant learning and developmental setbacks, regressing academically, emotionally and psychologically from New York to Los Angeles.

Hardly “progressive,” wouldn’t you say?





Communism Seeks to Corrupt Churches to Bring Down America

By Hannah Ng and David Zhang,
Epoch Times, *condensed*

Communism is an “evil religion” seeking to undermine U.S. society, according to anti-communist activist and researcher Trevor Loudon.

“[Communists] say they’re atheists, but really, they’re supporting Satan,” Loudon recently told EpochTV’s “China Insider.”

Loudon is also a contributor to The Epoch Times and hosts the “CounterPunch” program on EpochTV.

This is because Satan’s mission is to overturn three institutions bestowed by God to govern humankind—family, church, and civil government, according to Loudon.

“It is the revolution of overthrowing all those godly institutions and replacing them with satanic communist institutions,” he said.

Speaking about his new film “Enemies Within the Churches,” the communism expert said that socialists figured out how to bring down the United States from within after conducting a 10-year study. Through this research, they realized that it wasn’t the military nor the political system that bolstered the United States, but religion.

“They think it’s the religion, it’s Christianity, that is the strength, the moral strength of America, and it is the Christian ethic that has made America as great and strong as it is,” Loudon said at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando on Feb. 25.

That finding led to their decision to focus on infiltrating churches across the country, to get inside and weaken them. Through this, they could achieve the ultimate goal of subverting religion, according to Loudon.

Communism seeks to destroy people’s faith in God and suppress people who believe in God, he said.

“They have to do that in order to replace that with their form of God—which is government.”

And consequently, people would seek guidance in the civil government, rather than in God or in religion.

Strategy

According to Loudon, communists work to spread their propaganda from inside churches.

“This propaganda is being deliberately pumped into the churches, especially into the Bible colleges, that are training the new level of pastors, and the young pastors are pumping this into the young kids to turn the churches socialist,” he said.

Loudon singled out Black Lives Matter as an example.

“Black Lives Matter is a communist Chinese operation. But you have pastors all over the country supporting it because they think it’s somehow Christian,” he said. “[Pastors have] been sold Marxism as Christian: ‘Jesus was a socialist, Jesus believed in charity. So, therefore, we should support socialist government programs.’”

Critical race theory, which Loudon described as a doctrine that “basically talks about Marxism in terms of race, rather than class,” is also finding its way into U.S. churches, he said.

The spread of the Marxist-underpinned “woke movement” into all segments of U.S. society, including in religion to create “woke churches,” echoes what happened in communist China decades ago during the Cultural Revolution, he said.

“They would get all people in mass, and they would put somebody up and put a sign around their neck [that read] ‘capitalist,’ because their father owned a business or a farm, and everybody would revile that person,” he said. “This was to raise the people’s consciousness of class issues.”

The woke movement of today seeks to “raise people’s consciousness of class and race and gender differences and political repression and American racism,” according to Loudon.

“It is communist-style brainwashing, Maoist brainwashing, applied to race and class in the churches. It’s the same as what the Chinese Communist did,” he said.

Loudon noted that in order to tempt Americans into their trap, communists appeal to them with idealistic goals.

“They don’t say, ‘We’re going to set up a system where you’re going to go to the gulags if you don’t agree with us.’ They don’t tell you they’re going to take away your land, they’re going to indoctrinate your children,” he said. “[Instead, their message is,] ‘We’re here going to give you bread. We’re going to give you peace. We’re going to give you land.’”

And for minorities, they offer to “equalize America, to take away racism for them,” according to Loudon.

He said his new film, “Enemies Within the Churches,” seeks to help people differentiate between real Christianity and counterfeit communist Christianity. And with this awareness, the tide may begin to turn.

“We need to bring the backbone of this country back to save this country,” he said. “Because if we lose the church, we lose the country. If we lose America, we lose freedom all over the world.”



The Second Amendment and the Sovereignty of a Nation

By Dania Vizzi, Epoch Times

As the world watches the Ukrainian people bravely fight for their sovereignty against Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion of their country, I’m reminded of the importance of the Second Amendment enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. The right to bear arms has been viciously attacked in the past few decades as an archaic vestige of a bygone era.

However, as many Ukrainians take up arms for the first time in their lives, it serves as a stark reminder of why our Second Amendment rights at home are critical for the survival of our nation.

Many Americans are familiar with the Second Amendment and how its foundation—as described by our nation’s Founding Fathers—was to grant citizens the right to defend themselves against a tyrannical government. Usually, this understanding is only applied in the case of a tyrannical U.S. government; however, Ukraine has proven that the right to bear arms can be fundamental in protecting the sovereignty of a nation against a hostile foreign government.

While the value of the Second Amendment is disputed within American society, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has—in a dramatic reversal of his initial stance against the legalization of weapons—reversed his policy in the face of Russian aggression. Zelensky recently not only called on ordinary Ukrainians to take up arms in the defense of their nation, but concurrently stated that the government would issue weapons to any citizen who requested one.

Though a judicious decision by Zelensky, many Ukrainians—in preparation before the conflict—had limited experience with firearms. For example, in viral images weeks before the invasion, Ukrainians were seen wielding wooden rifles in an attempt to gain as much training as possible with firearms. While honorable, this

deficit in knowledge across the agrarian nation has no doubt harmed their readiness against Russian forces.

While the Russo–Ukrainian conflict provides a fresh example of why Americans’ right to bear arms is so critical, there are other examples here in the United States of Americans taking up arms in order to defend their rights. For example, look no further than the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Founded in 1964, the group of black World War II veterans armed themselves to defend against the Ku Klux Klan as black Americans marched for civil rights against the Jim Crow South.

These American patriots looked tyranny in the face and took up arms in the name of liberty and justice. From the Deacons for Defense and Justice to the Battle of Athens, Tennessee, Americans have used the Second Amendment to protect against those who sought to oppress a population.

This is why the Second Amendment is so important for the security of the American people and the prosperity of the United States. From Ukraine to within our own shores, a legally armed citizenry can serve as a deterrent to a wide array of potential threats. Many Americans recognize this and have taken the time to get proper firearms training as, according to one study, over 60 percent of U.S. gun owners have formal training.

So, while some Americans continue to debate the value of the Second Amendment, let’s not forget the people around the world who have no such rights and cannot defend themselves against an oppressive government. Let’s not take for granted the gift of our Founding Fathers that has allowed millions of Americans the right to self-defense and a formal education on how to properly use arms.

The United States stands as one of only three nations in the world that has enshrined the right of its citizenry to bear arms, and the significance of this rare clause in the U.S. Constitution has enabled us to become the beacon of the free world. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine should serve as a reminder of the blessings we in the United States take for granted, and buttress American support for our Second Amendment rights for the sake of the sovereignty of our great nation.

“Within the next generation, I believe that the world’s rulers will discover that infant conditioning and narco-hypnosis are more efficient, as instruments of government, than clubs and prisons, and that the lust for power can be just as completely satisfied by suggesting people into their servitude as by flogging and kicking them into obedience.”

- Aldous Huxley to George Orwell, 1949



America's Ruling Class Wants to Reduce Us to Incompetence

By Richard Reinsch, *Daily Signal*, condensed

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul blamed the recent shooting death of Jason Rivera, a New York City police officer, on “a shot from an illegal gun.”

In this strange passive voice, the Democratic governor didn't mention the officer by name, but concluded that the true threat facing New York City was “the scourge of illegal guns on our streets.”

By refusing to state that an actual person acted viciously and illegally in killing a police officer, Hochul asked us to believe in a lie.

Obviously, that lie's utility rests in its redefinition of violent crime as a problem stemming from lack of government regulation—in this case, insufficient gun control measures. She wants New Yorkers to ignore the violent crime rate spike in their city, aided and abetted by progressive crime policies.

This framework has undermined the nearly three-decadelong achievement in securing peaceful streets in New York City, a period that began under Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Republican. Of course, Giuliani chose a law-and-order strategy in which authorities arrested and incarcerated those who chose lawlessness and violence.

Hochul's logic, though, has deep roots, in our ruling class' rationalist-scientistic-administrativist approach to the common problems we face as people. These experts disabuse us of the belief that we are free human beings, capable of answering the ethical questions of how we will live together.

Between this question and the confidence we have in ourselves to answer it, the ruling class intervenes, instilling doubt in our basic intuitions of free will and responsibility, and our capacity to live our own lives. They proceed to manage our cares and fears. They diagnose and prescribe cures for our neuroses and instill in us a resigned belief that we really aren't free to govern our lives without their constant attention.

British cultural critic and psychiatrist Theodore Dalrymple illuminated this approach well in two books of essays titled “Life at the Bottom” and “Our Culture, What's Left of It.” In a classic essay, “The Knife Went In,” Dalrymple describes how the ideas of an academic elite seeped into government institutions and created the conditions for the emergence of an underclass in Britain.

The chief trait of this underclass is a belief in their inability to govern their own lives, Dalrymple notes. They have imbibed what the therapeutic class tells them and become “marionettes of happenstance.” Curiously, this makes them more likely to commit crime and become permanent wards of the state.

This surrender of human freedom, Dalrymple writes, comes about in part because of the therapeutic class—“the legions of helpers and carers, social workers and therapists, whose incomes and careers depend crucially on the supposed incapacity of large numbers of people to fend for themselves.”

And the “psychotherapeutic concepts” of this class of workers have been thoroughly disseminated throughout the populace. This philosophical decomposition of freedom and virtue meets with the self-interest of therapeutic experts, who find their clients in the ghettos of democracy. They mean to make the underclass permanent clients.

Dalrymple, a former British government psychiatrist, frequently found himself treating prisoners. The words they used to describe their crimes evoked passivity and victimhood. They frequently blamed the victims for the crimes they had committed.

But the prisoners always attributed total responsibility to police for any wrongs the coppers had done them. Police officials, unlike criminals, had perfect control of their actions.

Three of Dalrymple's patients used the phrase “the knife went in.” They saw themselves almost as third parties to their crimes, to which they had been led by poorly understood internal drives or past circumstances.

The will of the attacker was as nothing, Dalrymple wrote, compared to the power of “the inanimate knives themselves, which determined the unfortunate outcome.”

Hochul, New York's governor, would understand such a self-serving justification.

One prisoner was behind bars for stealing from churches, a crime he nearly had perfected. Churches, he told Dalrymple, have much silver and poor security. And he blamed his

crimes on the churches; their lack of security drew him to confiscate their goods.

Another criminal demanded that Dalrymple help him understand why he frequently broke into homes and stole electronic goods. It was his past, he thought.

No, Dalrymple informed him, he did it because he decided to put vice over virtue. But there's much of that going around lately.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a Democrat, similarly employed this blaming of victims regarding rampant mob theft at retail stores. Why, she inquisitively wondered, do these stores not employ security forces? They almost invite the mobs, otherwise known as thieves, incentivized in their lawlessness by the mayor's progressive crime policies. Perhaps a youth jobs program, subsidized by taxpayers, would do the trick?

And this situation grows worse with the official explanation of "systemic racism" as the reason why inequality exists between certain minorities and an inherently racist white majority. Asian Americans' academic and economic achievements go unexplained here.

Crime itself, in this view, is a liberation of the goods from the oppressors to the oppressed, as not a few Black Lives Matters figures have enunciated.

Politicians on the left also have attempted to induce a helpless mentality in the populace at large with COVID-19 restrictions. Rather than accept risk and liberty, large sectors of the government at all levels tried to lead us into impotence, dependent on "science" and the imprimatur of public health types regarding vaccines, vaccine cards, booster shots, and masks before we could leave our homes, go to work, or attend a sporting event.

The good news is that liberals' COVID-19 regimes, their attempt to reduce us to subjects rather than citizens, seem to be failing. Something in the middle class in America resisted the narrative that they should become victim serfs, holding their breath for the government to relieve them from the stress of living.

Much work remains, though, if we are not to be reduced to incompetence. A key theme in the vast network of progressive policies is to remove us from voluntary life in civil society and ensconce us in their state-directed network of living.

Energy will be a government-created good, delivered to us at bureaucrats' price. Education will become even more

centralized with a curriculum devoted to regime goals of identity politics and sexual liberation.

Our speech and other activities in civil society will be under the thumb of a tech and administrative state consortium whose directives we will learn to obey or watch our access to this social media network be removed. A vast welfare state that subsidizes those who don't work will ensure that economic freedom diminishes and the soft despotism of dependency grows deep roots in our mores.

It doesn't require a great work of imagination to see such a future take hold and define America.

The other route is to recover the ground of citizenship, which begins with our freedom and our virtue and their rootedness in an eternal order of right, or what John Adams referred to as the "revolution principles."

Adams thought these principles were self-evident: "the principles of Aristotle and Plato, of Livy and Cicero, and Sidney, Harrington, and Locke; the principles of nature and eternal reason; the principles on which the whole government over us now stands."

Some, apparently, need a refresher course. It's our job to see that they get it.

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Upcoming Events/Announcements

- **April Luncheon** – Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 21, 2022, anticipated date for our next luncheon, Greencroft Club
- **WAC Action Committees Sign-Up** – We need members to be involved! Contact: Rena Snow (renasnow@hotmail.com)