



WOMEN FOR THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION NEWSLETTER

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President CJ's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin our sixth year, it is important to remember how far we have come. Thank you to everyone who joined us along the way. We've had much success in our mission "to educate, inform, and elect leaders who honor the U.S. Constitution." I cannot think of a better way to explain where we are going in the future, then to borrow a selection from President Trump's recent Inaugural Address as the 47th U.S. President.

Inaugural Address, 1/20/2025 (Excerpt):

"So, as we liberate our nation, we will lead it to new heights of victory and success. We will not be deterred. Together, we will end the chronic disease epidemic and keep our children safe, healthy, and disease-free.

The United States will once again consider itself a growing nation — one that increases our wealth, expands our territory, builds our cities, raises our expectations, and carries our flag into new and beautiful horizons.

And we will pursue our manifest destiny into the stars, launching American astronauts to plant the Stars and Stripes on the planet Mars.

Ambition is the lifeblood of a great nation, and, right now, our nation is more ambitious than any other. There's no nation like our nation.

Americans are explorers, builders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and pioneers. The spirit of the frontier is written into our hearts. The call of the next great adventure resounds from within our souls.

Our American ancestors turned a small group of colonies on the edge of a vast continent into a mighty republic of the most extraordinary citizens on Earth. No one comes close.

Americans pushed thousands of miles through a rugged land of untamed wilderness. They crossed deserts, scaled mountains, braved untold dangers, won the Wild West, ended slavery, rescued millions from tyranny, lifted billions from poverty, harnessed electricity, split the atom, launched mankind into the heavens, and put the universe of human knowledge into the palm of the human hand. If we work together, there is nothing we cannot do and no dream we cannot achieve.

*Many people thought it was impossible for me to stage such a historic political comeback. But as you see today, here I am. The American people have spoken. I stand before you now as proof that you should never believe that something is impossible to do. **In America, the impossible is what we do best.***

From New York to Los Angeles, from Philadelphia to Phoenix, from Chicago to Miami, from Houston to right here in Washington, D.C., our country was forged and built by the generations of patriots who gave everything they had for our rights and for our freedom.

They were farmers and soldiers, cowboys and factory workers, steelworkers and coal miners, police officers and pioneers who pushed onward, marched forward, and let no obstacle defeat their spirit or their pride.

Together, they laid down the railroads, raised up the skyscrapers, built great highways, won two world wars, defeated fascism and communism, and triumphed over every single challenge that they faced.

After all we have been through together, we stand on the verge of the four greatest years in American history. With your help, we will restore America promise and we will rebuild the nation that we love.

We are one people, one family, and one glorious nation under God. So, to every parent who dreams for their child and every child who dreams for their future, I am with you, I will fight for you, and I will win for you."

With the President's leadership, the time is right for the Nation to achieve lasting success. And Women for the

American Constitution is here to do our part. Please join us because **“in America, the impossible is what we do best.”**
CJ Hatcher, W.A.C. President

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In November, WAC Members Celebrated Our Glorious Election Results and Heard from U.S. Constitution Specialist Gary Porter about the Importance of the Electoral College;

In January, We Enjoyed Getting Together for Our Annual Membership Gathering

Last November, WAC members celebrated our 2024 election successes with a toast, petit filets, patriotic decorations, and door prizes at the Greencroft Club! Everyone was in a celebratory mood and filled with a renewed sense of hope for America’s future. Our speaker was Gary Porter, the Founder of the Constitution Leadership Initiative, who spoke about the importance of the Electoral College given the role it plays in ensuring that every American has a voice in our future. Without the electoral college, the most populous states would dictate what happens in the rest of the country. Thank goodness our

Founding Fathers had the foresight to protect American citizens from that disastrous outcome.

On January 30, 2025, WAC members enjoyed getting together at the home of Jim and Tanya Skeen for our Annual Membership Gathering and discussing the upcoming 2025 elections and our plans for education and activism. We encouraged our members to volunteer their time helping conservative candidates win seats this year for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, the House of Delegates, and others. In addition, Flint Engleman, Grassroots Engagement Director and State Strategic Education Capability Leader for Americans for Prosperity in Virginia, spoke to our group about AFPs 2025 agenda for Virginia’s General Assembly and planned candidate support efforts. We also introduced and thanked several WAC members who have volunteered to run for leadership positions on our Board. We very much appreciate their willingness to serve. New Board elections will be held during our February luncheon. In an effort to inform your vote, please review the short bios of each candidate on page 3 of this newsletter. We have a lot to do this critical election year and are looking forward to working to elect like-minded people to political offices in Virginia.





The Upcoming Election of New Officers to the Board of Directors of Women for the American Constitution

The WAC Board has recently sought members who are interested in volunteering to serve as officers on our Board of Directors. Many of our current officers have served since WAC was created in 2020 and wish to rotate to other Board positions. We are very excited to announce that several of our members have expressed interest in serving. Those members and the positions they seek are: Tahirah Elliott – Vice President, Wanda Carpenter – Recording Secretary, Michelle Miles – Membership Committee Chairman, and Michelle De Stephano – Public Relations Committee Chairman. Current officers who are rotating to other positions include: Vice President Tamara Thies who will become Newsletter Committee Chair, Membership Committee Chair Rena Snow who is considering her options, and Fundraising Committee Chair Christy Lloyd who will become the History Committee Chair. All other officer positions will continue to be held by the people currently filling them.

Under our bylaws, only Executive Committee members are required to be elected by WAC membership. Those positions include: a President, a Vice President, one or more Secretaries, and a Treasurer. Therefore, we will hold an election for Tahirah Elliott to become the Vice President and Wanda Carpenter to become Recording Secretary during our February luncheon. The other positions are appointed by the WAC President and do not need a vote.

In an effort to familiarize our membership with the new volunteers, a short bio of each is below:

Tahirah Elliott – Vice President

Tahirah Elliott is a native Virginian who feels blessed to live where the highest number of United States presidents and many founding fathers resided. She enjoys visiting their homes and other historical sites. She believes the US Constitution is the greatest document in modern history. She hopes to help promote and educate her community on the Constitution and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities we have living under it. Tahirah earned her Master degree in City Planning and Bachelor degree in Architecture from Georgia Tech.

Wanda Carpenter – Recording Secretary

I am married, two children and four grandchildren. Very proud of my family. Born and raised in Albemarle County. I grew up on a farm in Earlysville. Love this area. My

husband and I also had an auto repair business for 30 years. Will try to do my best as recording secretary.

Michelle Miles – Membership Chair

Michelle Miles grew up in Virginia before marrying Larry and moving to Germany, where she fell in love with history. Once back in the U.S. she began teaching elementary school until having children of her own. She has three children, who she has homeschooled for the past 14 years. Michelle has been active at the polls and is looking forward to serving the community through her role as the WAC membership chair.

Michelle De Stephano – Public Relations Chair

I am the founder and COO of Juncture Consulting, which is a provider of non-clinical medical expertise to government organizations. I'm also a professionally trained artist, who before this, had a full career selling my paintings here in the US and in Germany. Originally, I created Juncture as a pathway to get an art-based solution for PTSD symptoms to Servicemembers, but it took off in a different direction. I'm currently the Rivanna District Chair for the Albemarle County Republican Committee and am also their webmaster, having joined up with them when I ran for School Board in 2023. My husband, a retired physician Army Colonel, and I moved to Keswick in 2016. We have three adult daughters.



Note from Our Election Integrity Committee Chair Karen Juul-Nielsen:

Greetings, Patriots, from your Election Integrity Committee (EIC)

Now is the time to move forward and use the tremendous advantage that President Trump's win in November has afforded us! Our EIC issues remain strong and aggressive for 2025 as we aim to increase our numbers in all these critical areas:

- 1) **Republican Election Officers**
- 2) **Poll Watchers** - also known as Authorized Party Representatives
- 3) **Greeters** at tents during early voting and at the precincts on Election Day
- 4) **Door knockers** to get out the vote (GOTV) and to campaign for candidates

We have a goal of recruiting, training and assigning **50 new Republican Election Officers** (EO's) for 2025. These are the people who actually run the election by 1) welcoming

voters to the polls; 2) checking voters in; 3) handing out ballots; and 4) making sure ballots are properly deposited in the ballot counting machine. There will be two elections this year - most likely a Primary on June 17; and this year Election Day falls on November 4. These are the two most important days for EO's to work, so you can see being an EO is not a huge time commitment. Also, there are 45 days of Early Voting before each election; however, the Registrar manages these EO's as they work for her. In order to reach parity on Election Day, which is equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats in each precinct, we need to add to our current roster. At this point in time, there are twice as many Democrats as there are Republicans, and parity is not possible. We also need additional officers so we can increase the ranks of Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs which are selected from the current pool of EO's, as well as have "bench strength" for last minute back-ups (which inevitably occur due to illness and emergencies).

Secondly, we are seeking many new **poll watchers** – officially called Authorized Party Representatives. These are people in the polling place during an election who are familiar with Election Law (we will teach you what you need to know) and serve as the “eyes and ears of the party”. The responsibility includes observing and verifying that the law is being followed. Any question is referred to the Chief, and if not satisfactorily addressed, the Registrar is consulted, and if the Registrar does not give a satisfactory response, there is a Voter Hotline to call for reporting possible violations. Poll watchers are extremely important to the election integrity process; however, we are woefully inadequate in our numbers. For example, for the November election we only had 29 poll watchers to cover 30 precincts for the entire day – many precincts had no poll watchers at any point during Election Day. We must do better!

Greeters are proving to be critical personnel for both Early voting (at 5th Street) and on Election Day in the individual precincts. These folks not only serve as a welcoming presence (to help balance the strong presence of the Democrats), but also they hand out information, answer questions about the ballots and recruit for volunteers. Think about who stops at the tent – and it becomes clear that these folks are “low hanging fruit” for volunteering. Therefore, it is important to have smiling faces manning these tents. We did better this fall than last year, but still did not have 100% coverage at all the precincts.

Lastly, the number one most effective way to reach voters is through personal conversation – which points to **door knocking** as a critical component to reaching voters. This is especially true for the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) issue. If we expect to put conservative minded people in the General Assembly - and of course in the Governor's Mansion - in November, we must get those same voters who came out for Trump to come out again and vote this

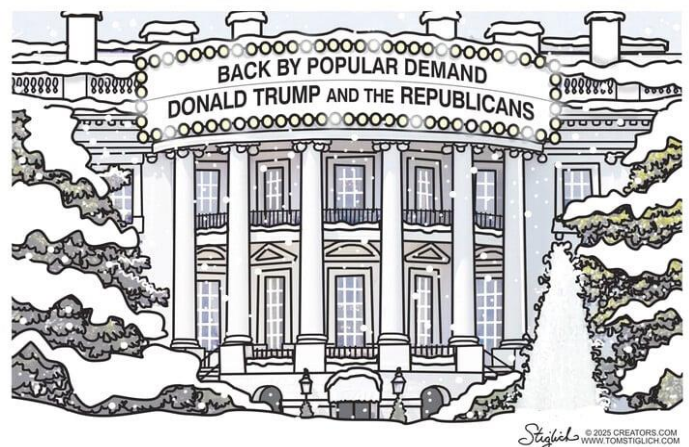
November. Typically, many more voters show up for presidential elections. We need to GOTV for November to make a difference. We need you and will help you team up with others to door knock and be effective with your message.

We can all feel the momentum and are so encouraged by the triumph of President Trump, but we cannot take our eyes off the goal of winning the Governor's Mansion and putting more conservative minded legislators in the House of Delegates. As you can readily see, the time is now to step forward and take action – we cannot let down our guard. Please seriously consider these roles – and let me answer your questions and concerns. I would be delighted to talk with you – or any of your family and/or friends about how you can be of great help. And of course, all of this cost money, so contributions are always welcome!

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Karen Juul-Nielsen

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Birthright Citizenship: Game On

**The 14th Amendment Does Not
Confer Automatic Citizenship**

**By John C. Eastman, Founding
Director of the Claremont
Institute's Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence,
American Mind, condensed**

Claremont Institute scholars have been contending for years—decades, really—that the 14th Amendment's Citizenship Clause does not provide automatic citizenship for everyone born on U.S. soil, no matter the circumstances. Other prominent scholars from universities across the country have come to the same conclusion based on their own extensive scholarly research.

Claremont scholars have made the argument in books, law review articles, congressional testimony, and legal briefs. President Ronald Reagan's Attorney General, Edwin Meese, even joined one of those briefs, in which we argued against treating enemy combatant Yaser Esam Hamdi as a citizen merely because he had been born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, while his father was working in the U.S. on a temporary work visa. Perhaps as a result of our brief in that case, the late Justice Antonin Scalia referred to Hamdi as a "presumed citizen" in his dissenting opinion.

Our argument is straightforward. The text of the 14th Amendment contains two requirements for acquiring automatic citizenship by birth: one must be born in the United States *and* be subject to its jurisdiction. The proper understanding of the Citizenship Clause therefore turns on what the drafters of the amendment, and those who ratified it, meant by "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." Was it merely a partial, temporary jurisdiction, such as applies to anyone (except for diplomats) who are subject to our laws while they are within our borders? Or does it instead apply only to those who are subject to a more complete jurisdiction, one which manifests itself as owing allegiance to the United States and not to any foreign power?

Think of it this way. Someone from Great Britain visiting the United States is subject to our laws while here, which is to say subject to our partial or territorial jurisdiction. He must drive on the right-hand side of the road rather than the left, for example. But he does not thereby owe allegiance to the United States; he is not subject to being drafted into our army; and he cannot be prosecuted for treason (as opposed to ordinary violations of law) if he takes up arms against the United States, for he has breached no oath of allegiance.

So which understanding of "subject to the jurisdiction" did the drafters of the 14th Amendment have in mind?

Happily, we don't need to speculate, as they were asked that very question. They unambiguously stated that it meant "complete" jurisdiction, such as existed under the law at the time, the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which excluded from citizenship those born on U.S. soil who were "subject to a foreign power."

The Supreme Court confirmed that understanding (albeit in *dicta*) in the first case addressing the 14th Amendment, noting in *The Slaughterhouse Cases* in 1872 that "[t]he phrase, 'subject to its jurisdiction' was intended to exclude from its operation children of ministers, consuls, and citizens or subjects of foreign States born within the United States." It then confirmed that understanding in the 1884 case of *Elk v. Wilkins*,

holding that the "subject to the jurisdiction" phrase required that one be "not merely subject in some respect or degree to the jurisdiction of the United States, but completely subject to their political jurisdiction, and owing them direct and immediate allegiance." John Elk, the Native American claimant in the case, did not meet that requirement because, as a member of an Indian tribe at his birth, he "owed immediate allegiance to" his tribe and not to the United States.

Thomas Cooley, the leading treatise writer of the era, also confirmed that "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States "meant full and complete jurisdiction to which citizens are generally subject, and not any qualified and partial jurisdiction, such as may consist with allegiance to some other government." More fundamentally, this understanding of the Citizenship Clause is the only one compatible with the consent of the governed principle articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

All of this matters a great deal because on the first day of his second term in office, President Trump issued an executive order, "Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship," which adopted the view of the Citizenship Clause I and other Claremont scholars have espoused. It directs every department and agency of the U.S. government to accept our view henceforth as the correct interpretation of the Constitution's Citizenship Clause.

This may be the most legally controversial executive order issued by the president on day one. And because of that, it is already being challenged in court, as 22 states have filed a lawsuit trying to block its implementation a little more than 24 hours after it was signed.

In the coming days and weeks, just as with that lawsuit, there will be lots of pundits opining that the president had no authority to issue such an order because the Constitution mandates automatic citizenship for everyone born on U.S. soil, a mandate that cannot be changed with the stroke of a president's pen. They will contend that the Supreme Court already settled the issue more than a century ago in the 1898 case of *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*.

But even if *Wong Kim Ark* was correctly decided (a Claremont scholar points out, it was not), honest scholars must acknowledge that *Wong Kim Ark* involved a child born to parents who were *permanently domiciled* in the United States, not those who were only here temporarily or illegally. Indeed, honest scholars will be forced to acknowledge that the Supreme Court has *never held* that the children

of illegal immigrants, or even temporary lawful visitors, are constitutionally entitled to automatic citizenship merely by virtue of their birth in the United States. And they will be forced to acknowledge as true the claim in Trump's executive order that "the Fourteenth Amendment has never been interpreted [in any formal, binding way] to extend citizenship universally to everyone born in the United States."

Alas, when it comes to anything related to Trump, there are very few honest scholars. Instead of acknowledging the Supreme Court's limited, actual holding in *Wong Kim Ark*, they will point to *dicta* in which the Court's majority falsely claimed that the Citizenship Clause codified the old English common law rule known as *jus soli*—that anyone born on the king's soil owed perpetual allegiance to the king. They will overlook that our Declaration of Independence was an explicit and eloquent repudiation of *jus soli*, stating in its closing paragraph that "these United Colonies...are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown." They will overlook that Congress did not view *Wong Kim Ark* as mandating automatic citizenship for everyone born on U.S. soil when, a quarter century later, it extended citizenship to Native Americans pursuant to its power under the Naturalization Clause, an act that would have been superfluous if *Wong Kim Ark* had already settled the matter that everyone born in the U.S., including Native Americans, were automatically citizens. And they will overlook that when a 1920s guest worker program ended in the wake of the Great Depression and more than a million Mexican workers were repatriated to Mexico, the repatriation included their U.S.-born children. No one at the time claimed that the children were U.S. citizens.

Nevertheless, despite the original meaning of the Constitution's text, its initial interpretation by the Supreme Court, and its compatibility with the social compact "consent of the governed" political theory of the Declaration, our government agencies have for more than a half-century, without any formal amendment, court decision, or official authoritative pronouncement, been acting as though birth alone is sufficient to confer citizenship. And many children of illegal immigrants or temporary visitors have organized their lives in reliance on those informal views. (President Trump's executive order does not disturb those interests. It makes the order applicable only to children born on U.S. soil more than 30 days after the order's effective date, to parents who were unlawfully present, or lawfully but only temporarily present, in the United States at the time of their birth.)

As a result of this order and the inevitable legal challenges to it, the Supreme Court will now, for the first time, have the opportunity to acknowledge that the Claremont Institute's long-standing view of the Citizenship Clause is the correct one. With the Court currently composed of more originalist justices than has been the case in more than a century, we anticipate with great optimism a careful and considered assessment of the clause and a restoration of the fundamental notion that ours is a country rooted in consent, not in the old feudal notion of *jus soli* that was so thoroughly rejected in our Declaration of Independence.



This Is President Trump's Boldest Move So Far – Even President Regan Chickened Out on It

By Steven F. Hayward, New York Post

By now, no one should be surprised at President Trump's sweeping reversals of the conventional wisdom on everything from A (asylum) to W (wilderness access) — sorry, no executive orders affecting anything beginning with Z yet.

But in revoking President Lyndon Johnson's 1965 Executive Order 11246 that launched our decades-long imposition of de facto racial quotas under the euphemism "affirmative action," Trump has gone beyond the boldest imagination of any previous administration.

A brief history: When the Civil Rights Act of 1964's Title VII — the clause banning racial discrimination in hiring — was debated in the Senate, opponents charged it would lead to racial quotas.

The Civil Rights Act's floor manager, future Vice President Hubert Humphrey, denied the claim, saying, "If the senator can find in Title VII any language which provides that an employer will have to hire on the basis of percentage or quota related to color, race, religion or national origin, I will start eating the pages one after another because it is not in there."

Humphrey lied, essentially. The civil rights lobby was already planning for Johnson's executive order that called for federal contractors to adopt "affirmative action" — that is, quotas by another name.

Of course, since so many American companies do business with the federal government, this edict affected virtually the entire private sector.

Although the original EO 11246 didn't yet mention "goals and timetables," it did require all companies to file "compliance reports" to the federal government, which were in many ways self-incriminating documents by design.

And the only way to assure compliance and avoid the risk of federal or private civil rights lawsuits was to adopt preferential hiring practices.

By the late 1970s, half the Fortune 500 companies faced civil rights lawsuits alleging racial discrimination.

It was the most dishonest legal regime ever imposed, especially since Title VII included, at critics' insistence, language explicitly prohibiting preferential hiring by race.

That's one reason for the decades of legal evasions and linguistic euphemisms, which not only turned the clear language of the Civil Rights Act on its head but repudiated Martin Luther King Jr.'s clarion call for a colorblind society.

It's why Justice Antonin Scalia observed the Civil Rights Act had been written with "a clarity which, had it not proven so unavailing, one might well recommend as a model of statutory draftsmanship" but because the subterfuges had been transformed into "a powerful engine of racism and sexism."

Yet Hubert Humphrey never did have to live up to his promise to adopt a high-fiber diet.

Despite the deep unpopularity of affirmative-action quotas with the American public (and repeated popular votes to end the practice on the state level, including twice in California), no previous Republican administration had the courage to attack it head-on.

The Reagan administration considered revoking EO 11246 in 1985, at the initiative of Attorney General Ed Meese.

Ronald Reagan's cabinet was sharply divided on the issue, with RINOs like Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole and Labor Secretary Bill Brock arguing against it and getting several major corporate CEOs to lobby Reagan personally to keep it in place.

Corporate CEOs were so intimidated by the civil rights onslaught that a survey of Fortune 500 companies in the mid-1980s found 88% would keep their affirmative-action hiring regime even if no longer legally compelled to do so.

Faced with the phalanx of opposition from his own cabinet, party and business interests, Reagan quietly withdrew the proposed repeal of 11246.

And thus, Trump has now gone where even the Reagan Revolution feared to tread.

This is no minor legal change: It represents the restoration of the principle of equal rights correctly understood.



Defunding USAID Isn't About Reducing the Deficit, It's About Shutting Down Left- Wing Propaganda

USAID isn't just a ridiculous scam on U.S. taxpayers, it funds leftist causes that erode western civilization and destroy traditional values.

By John Daniel Davidson, *The Federalist*, condensed

The most common argument you'll hear from those defending the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is that the grant dollars in question are just a fraction of the federal budget — less than one percent! Even if the Trump administration eliminated USAID altogether it wouldn't put much of a dent in the deficit or help control the national debt, is the argument.

Everyone from the talking heads at CNN and MSNBC to Jim Geraughty of the National Review are repeating this line.

But trimming the federal budget and reducing the deficit aren't really the point of this exercise. The point is to expose USAID for the left-wing propaganda and regime change operation that it has become, and to shut it down. In the six decades since it was established, USAID has gone from fighting poverty, spreading American ideals, and undercutting Soviet propaganda, to becoming a woke propaganda operation of its own that actively undermines the pillars of western civilization. It's gone from exporting democracy to exporting deviancy, and now we all see it.

President Trump this week tasked Elon Musk and Secretary of State Marco Rubio with a review of the agency's grants and expenditures, which has already shone a much-needed light on where tens of billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars are going. My colleague Tristan Justice detailed a handful of some of the most insane projects USAID funds, including "\$70,000 for a 'DEI musical' in Ireland, \$47,000 for a 'transgender opera' in Colombia, \$32,000 for a 'transgender comic book' in Peru, and \$1.5 million for an LGBT jobs program in Serbia." Other projects were to fund electric vehicles in Vietnam, infrastructure in Egypt, meals for Al-Qaeda terrorists in Syria, and internet censorship in the United Kingdom.

One anonymous X user, @DataRepublican, created a searchable database of federal grants that's helped uncover even more outrageous projects funded by USAID. Some of these are genuinely funny and easy to ridicule. For example, a \$30 million grant for an organization that funds women making ponchos in the Guatemalan highland and bankrolls "community organizing" in Burkina Faso. Or a \$20 million grant for a Sesame Street-style show in Iraq, a \$2 million grant to promote pottery in Morocco, and \$15 million for condoms and contraceptives in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

The common theme in many of these grants is that they push LGBTQ, green, and woke ideologies under the pretext of fighting poverty and promoting democracy abroad. What began in 1961 as a way to promote stability and lure countries out of the Soviet orbit during the Cold War has over the past six decades transformed into an instrument of propaganda aimed at the foundations of western civilization. Everywhere you look in the USAID database, you see projects promoting LGBTQ ideology, mass immigration, multiculturalism, DEI, climate change-ism, and the like. You see programs that undermine the traditional family, that enable anti-free speech censorship, that strive to make the rest of the world just like urban liberal enclaves in the U.S.

Even more alarming, a significant portion of USAID funds appear to be nothing more than sinecures for connected establishment politicians in the U.S. The person who built the database, @DataRepublican, revealed that huge amounts of taxpayer dollars, through both the State Department and USAID (the former operating as a passthrough to the latter), go to NGOs stacked with establishment politicians from both parties — basically, the Washington uniparty.

As I write this, crowds of pro-USAID protesters, egged on by Democrat politicians, are gathering in Washington, D.C., to demand the arrest of Elon Musk and the shutdown of the Senate. Thousands of organizations in and around our nation's capital are wholly or almost wholly funded through USAID grants in what amounts to a massive ongoing gift. For them, losing those funds means their NGOs will fold.

And fold they should. What began as a State Department agency to promote freedom and stability abroad during the Cold War has devolved, as perhaps it was inevitably going to, into a scam that steals from American taxpayers and uses their money to promote the dissolution of the American nation and the destruction of its founding ideals.

So it doesn't matter how much or how little we might save by shutting down USAID — although every penny saved is worth it — what really matters is twofold: that we starve left-wing NGOs of the funds they use to promote toxic anti-American ideologies all over the world, and that the Trump administration demonstrates that it can indeed shut down executive branch programs and agencies that don't align with White House priorities.

The fact that Democrats are howling about this is an admission, on their part, that they don't think a Republican administration should be allowed to control the administrative bureaucracy. They think that belongs to them and their pet NGOs and activists, who have been using it to wage psychological warfare on the entire world for decades. That ends now, and if it means the women making ponchos in the Guatemalan highlands will have to find another source of funding, or the transgender comic books don't ever get made, then so be it.





Are Trump's Tariffs Really Tariffs?

By Victor Davis Hanson,
American Greatness

Hysteria has erupted here and abroad over President Donald Trump's threats to level trade tariffs against particular countries. Both American and foreign critics blasted them variously as either counterproductive and suicidal or unfair, imperialistic, and xenophobic.

Certainly, tariffs are widely hated by doctrinaire economists. They complain that tariffs burden consumers with higher prices to protect weak domestic industries that, shielded from competition, will have no incentive to improve efficiency. Their ideal is "free" trade. Supposedly a free global market alone should adjudicate which particular industry in any country can produce the greatest good for the world's consumers, whether defined by lower prices or better quality, or both.

Even when "free trade" becomes "unfair trade" — such as China's massive mercantile surpluses — many neoliberal economists still insist that even subsidized foreign imports are beneficial. Cheap imports, Americans were told, supposedly still lowered prices for consumers, still forced domestic producers to economize to remain competitive and still brought "creative destruction," as inefficient domestic industries properly gave way to more efficient, market-driven ones.

But many exporters to the United States are propped up by their own governments. They may seem more competitive only because their governments want to dump products at a loss to capture market share, subsidize their businesses' overhead to protect domestic employment or seek to create a monopoly over a strategic industry.

Yet when Trump threatened to level tariffs against Mexico, Canada, Colombia, Venezuela, China or the European Union, they were not primarily aimed at propping up particular inefficient U.S. industries at all.

Instead, an exasperated Trump threatened Mexico with tariffs for three reasons.

It refused to address its cartels' illegal multibillion-dollar export of lethal fentanyl into the United States. The cartels buy Chinese-supplied raw fentanyl with impunity, disguise it to resemble toxic drugs and smuggle the product across a porous border. The result over the past decade is more dead Americans from fentanyl than the total number of all U.S. soldiers lost in the wars of the 20th century.

Mexico had stonewalled all American efforts to stop its export of millions of illegal aliens into the United States — 10 million to 12 million in the past four years alone. Mexico adds insult to injury by raking in profits from some \$63 billion in remittances sent from its former resident citizens now residing in the United States and often subsidized by American taxpayers.

Mexico grows its American trade surpluses each year. The imbalance is now a mind-boggling nearly \$170 billion.

Trump threatened Canada because it has so far refused to police its side of an open and increasingly dangerous border. And it has racked up a \$50 billion surplus by leveling asymmetrical tariffs on lots of U.S. products.

Canada also has refused to keep its NATO promises to spend 2 percent of its GDP on defense. Canada's pathetic 1.37 percent expenditure is predicated on American magnanimity. The United States alone protects Canada under the American North American nuclear shield and subsidizes NATO deadbeats such as Canada by funding some 16 percent of the budget of the 32-nation alliance, as well as policing the international seas.

As for Venezuela and Colombia, both communist nations have deliberately emptied their prisons to send hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens into the United States — many of them violent felons. They do so either out of crass self-interest, hatred or a strategic desire to weaken America.

China is a special case.

Its entire 20th-century ascendance was based on stealing U.S. technology, dumping its products on the U.S. market below the cost of production to capture market share and forcing American corporations to relocate, offshore and outsource — leaving our industrial hinterland a "rust belt."

The European Union runs a gargantuan half-trillion-dollar surplus with the United States. How? Because for nearly the past 80 years, the United States has subsidized its defense during the Cold War and afterward. Europe acts as if it is recovering from World War II, so it can hit up a supposedly limitlessly rich American patron with asymmetrical tariffs.

Consider the various Trump "tariffs" leveled by an exasperated, and now \$36 trillion-indebted, America.

Almost none of them meets the traditional definitions of an industry-protecting tariff. Instead, they are the last-gasp tools of American leverage used only when decades of bipartisan diplomacy, summits, entreaties and empty threats have all failed.

So Trump is not a mercantilist. Instead, he is trying to stop the multimillion-person influx of foreign criminals, the crashing of the border by millions of illegal aliens, the cartels' export of American-killing drugs, the violation of

past trade agreements, and allies from using America to subsidize their own defense.

The Trump tariffs are the last, desperate effort to re-establish global reciprocity and keep America safe. And our “shocked” friends, allies and enemies privately have known that all too well.



Ten Morally Defining Moments in American History

By Seamus Brennan, Association of Mature American Citizens

Far too frequently in our national political life, America is smeared as hopelessly backwards, bigoted, and evil. In recent years in particular, many Americans have been engulfed by the false narrative that their country, history, and traditions are forces for corruption and vice and must be repressed and defeated. An honest study of American history, however, reveals that our national story is not one of deep-seated racism or oppression. Rather, the American story is one of defying the odds, overcoming adversity, and faithfully striving to live up to our founding promise that all men are created equal.

Here are ten morally defining moments in American history that made our nation the greatest country in the history of the world.

Signing of the Declaration of Independence

Unlike nations that preceded the United States, America’s founding was not grounded in ethnicity, religion, or ancestry. Instead, America is rooted in a set of universal principles animated by, in the words of the Declaration, “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.” Signed on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence made the radical pronouncement that “all men are created equal” and “that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights” – a set of “self-evident” truths that form the basis

for democratic self-government. Or, as Abraham Lincoln later put it, the principles that give life to the American constitutional order are “applicable to all men and all times.” Despite what many on the left might claim, there is no greater obstacle to racism, oppression, or tyranny than the powerful words set forth in the Declaration.

Ratification of the Constitution

Ratified in 1788, the US Constitution translates the timeless principles laid out in the Declaration into a concrete and enumerated structure. Described by Lincoln as the “picture of silver” to the Declaration’s “apple of gold,” the Constitution established our system of government, embraced the principles of federalism, and later articulated Americans’ most fundamental God-given legal entitlements in the Bill of Rights, which was adopted in 1791. Just as significantly, however, is the Constitution’s elevation of the rule of law as a cornerstone of political life. Within the American constitutional framework, all people and all rulers are answerable to the same law and the same guiding principles—a radical break from the political structures that dominated Europe in the centuries prior to the American founding.

Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion

Could anything truly be more American than the concept of Manifest Destiny – the idea that our nation was destined by God to advance the cause of liberty and expand the principles enshrined in our founding documents from coast to coast? This frontier spirit sits at the heart of the American idea: venturing into the unknown, taming the wilderness, and spreading the sacred causes of freedom and self-government across the entire North American continent. Although leftists will be quick to point out that our nation’s treatment of Native Americans was at times less than perfect, it is impossible to imagine America without our expansion westward. “It’s always been my belief,” Ronald Reagan said more than a century later in a 1983 speech, “that by divine plan this nation was placed between the two oceans to be sought out and found by those with a special brand of courage and love of freedom.”

Defeating Slavery

Many on the left are also eager to cite the practice of slavery as a means to invalidate America’s principles and assert that our founding was entrenched in evil. Of course, slavery was and remains wholly antithetical to the American creed and a challenge to our most fundamental principles. What leftists generally fail to recognize, however, is that tens of thousands of patriotic Americans gave their lives to end slavery on our shores -- and that troves of Americans, including many of the Founders, recognized that slavery was an affront to, rather than a fulfillment of, our founding principles. Additionally, contrary to narratives promulgated by left-wing contrivances like the “1619 Project,” slavery

was by no means a uniquely American phenomenon. Rather, it had been practiced globally for centuries and was engrained in the economic, cultural, and political life of many nations. But, even so, Americans took up – and succeeded in – the tremendous challenge of expelling it from our land.

In his 1863 Gettysburg address, Abraham Lincoln beautifully articulated that the stakes of the Civil War extend far beyond just saving the union. In reality, the Civil War was about saving the cause of liberty itself. “[W]e here highly resolve,” Lincoln said, “that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Victory Over Fascism in World War II

Decades after crushing slavery, the United States once again defended the cause of liberty when hundreds of thousands of Americans gave their lives to ensure Europe did not fall to a fascist empire. Like slavery, the global spread of Nazism and fascism posed an existential threat to American self-government. But, with the full might of the American military and the American People, the United States once again showed that freedom was worth fighting for – and that totalitarianism was no match for the strength of the American spirit.

Civil Rights Movement

Despite America’s eradication of slavery with the passage of the 13th Amendment, the forces of racism sadly persisted in the decades that followed. But, guided by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who famously said that he hoped Americans one day would “not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character,” the American civil rights movement purged segregation and other forms of race-based discrimination from federal law – another fulfillment of America’s founding promise that all men are created equal in the image and likeness of God.

Moon Landing

In many ways, the United States’ status as the only nation to send a man to the moon proves that Manifest Destiny did not end when Americans reached the west coast – rather, it remains an ongoing American project. From the earliest days of our country’s history, America has stood as a shining city on a hill not only in its promises of freedom and equality but also in its ambitions to be the best, to achieve what was once thought to be unachievable, and to reach the peak of humanity’s potential. The technological achievements that made the moon landing possible were the result of a distinctly American culture that prioritized growth, ingenuity, and innovation as a means of bettering the world and glorifying God. As Neil Armstrong famously said, his landing on the moon stood as “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Litany of Scientific Achievements

Of course, America’s contributions to the material, scientific, and medical worlds did not end with the moon landing. Over the years, America has been responsible for the creation of the telephone, the Internet, and countless other breakthrough discoveries that have bettered mankind and allowed us to more meaningfully live up to our founding promises. As President Calvin Coolidge once said, “We live in an age of science and of abounding accumulation of material things. These did not create our declaration. Our Declaration created them.”

Reagan Revolution

The election of President Ronald Reagan in 1980 marked a major revitalization of conservative thought in American politics – and completely transformed the Republican party. With Reagan as president, the economy soared, communism was crushed, prosperity reigned, peace flourished, and faith in the American idea was at long last restored. Following the culturally and politically tumultuous 1960s and 1970s, many Americans doubted that the nation could return to its former glory. But, during the Reagan years, the American people once again learned how to love their country, its history, and the promise of its founding.

Trump Revolution

In the decades following Reagan’s presidency, America was slowly but aggressively dominated by the tides of globalism, political correctness, and faulty ideas about America’s role in the world. By the time Barack Obama was reelected in 2012, the outlook for America’s future looked historically bleak – and recovery seemed next to impossible. But, with Donald Trump’s victory in 2016, the American people were reminded that America is indeed its own nation with its own people, borders, culture, heritage, and values – and that they are, above all, well worth defending.

Some figures in right-of-center politics have made the incorrect assumption that opposition to the Make America Great Again movement exists solely because of opposition to Donald Trump. But, sadly, large swaths of American citizens are fundamentally opposed to the very concept of American greatness and reject the nation that America ever was – or ever could be – great.

Unfortunately, this reality has continued to present grave challenges to America’s founding principles and way of life – particularly with the popularization of wokeism and identity politics in America’s schools, media, and workplaces. But, just as the American people have risen to the challenge to rid their country of previous poisons, they must now meet the moment, defy the odds, and once again allow good to triumph over evil.



Points of Interest

- President Trump's Inauguration speech was a thing of beauty. If you would like to read it in its entirety, you may do so via this link on the White House website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/01/the-inaugural-address/>
- The White House website lists President Trump's actions taken since his inauguration on January 20, 2025, policy priorities, speeches given, and other information of interest. If you would like to review the website, please click on the following link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/>



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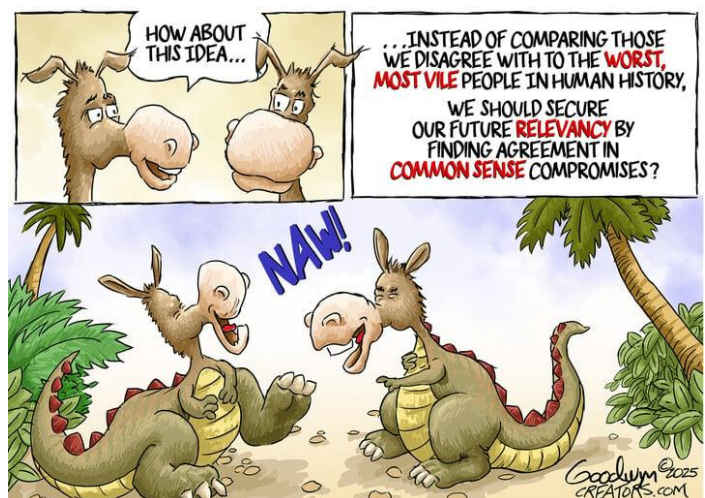
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Upcoming Events

February Luncheon – Thursday, February 27, Greencroft Club, registration at 11:30am, lunch served promptly at 12:00 noon. Speaker: Breccan Thies, Correspondent with The Federalist, Topic: The Press and the U.S. Constitution

March Luncheon – Thursday, March 27, Greencroft Club registration at 11:30am, lunch served promptly at 12:00 noon. Speaker: Gary Porter, Founder of the Constitution Leadership Initiative, Topic: Ranked Choice Voting

April Luncheon – Thursday, April 24, Greencroft Club, possible dinner event, invited speaker: Winsome Sears



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