

Eye on the World

Aug. 5, 2017

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of August 5, 2017.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



A Reuters article titled "Saudi Arabia Says That Calls for Internationalization of Holy Sites 'A Declaration of War' " was posted at reuters.com on July 30, 2017. Following is the article.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister called what he said was Qatar's demand for an internationalization of the Muslim hajj pilgrimage a declaration of war against the kingdom, Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television said on Sunday, but Qatar said it never made such a call.

"Qatar's demands to internationalize the holy sites is aggressive and a declaration of war against the kingdom," Adel al-Jubeir was quoted saying on Al Arabiya's website.

"We reserve the right to respond to anyone who is working on the internationalization of the holy sites," he said.

Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said no official from his country had made such a call.

"We are tired of responding to false information and stories invented from nothing," Sheikh Mohammed told Al Jazeera TV.

Qatar did accuse the Saudis of politicizing hajj and addressed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion on Saturday, expressing concern about obstacles facing Qataris who want to attend hajj this year.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain previously issued a list of 13 demands for Qatar, which included curtailing its support for the Muslim Brotherhood, shutting down the Doha-based Al Jazeera channel, closing a Turkish military base and downgrading its relations with Gulf enemy Iran.

On Sunday, foreign ministers of the four countries said they were ready for dialogue with Qatar if it showed willingness to tackle their demands.



An article titled "Mass Rally in Istanbul Over Israel's Jerusalem Measures" was posted at yahoo.com on July 30, 2017. Following is the article.

Thousands of supporters of a conservative Turkish party rallied in Istanbul on Sunday to protest measures taken by Israel in Jerusalem and show solidarity with the Palestinians.

Israel had angered Turkey by installing metal detectors and security cameras at the Haram al-Sharif holy site in Jerusalem, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, following a July 14 attack in which gunmen killed two policemen.

The move sparked Muslim protests and deadly unrest, and last week the Israeli government removed the detectors and cameras.

But feelings remain high in Turkey, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan saying the removal of the detectors was "not enough".

Sunday's protest was called by the Saadet (Felicity) Party, which sprung from the same Islamic-rooted political movement as the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) of Erdogan but is seen as more religiously conservative.

Under the slogan of "Israel understands a show of strength", the rally was held at the vast Yenikapi Square by the Sea of Marmara which has been the scene of many of Erdogan's biggest meetings.

However there was no sign of any senior government official at the meeting.

A mass of people, waving Palestinian and Turkish flags, chanted slogans such as "Istanbul and Jerusalem are arm-in-arm".

"I hope that when they see how many people are here, then Israel will get the message," said protester Sadik Sen. "We want to show to our Muslim brothers there that we are behind them."

Improbably, Saadet's chairman Temel Karamollaoglu had also sent a letter of invitation to football star Cristiano Ronaldo. But there was also no sign of the Real Madrid and Portugal player.

Last year Turkey and Israel ended a rift triggered by Israel's deadly storming in 2010 of a Gaza-bound ship that left 10 Turkish activists dead. The two sides have since embarked on a close energy cooperation to pipe Israeli gas to Turkey.

But Erdogan, who regards himself a champion of the Palestinian cause, is still often critical of Israeli policy and his comments on the crisis have been among his toughest on Israel since the reconciliation deal.



An article by Daria Litvinova titled "Russia Shows Off It's Largest Warships at Navy Day Parade As Tensions With West Heighten" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on July 30, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Forty warships and submarines, including two of Russia's largest nuclear-powered vessels, were on show at the Navy Day parade in St. Petersburg on Sunday, the biggest naval show Russia has put up in recent years.

Attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the parade was described by the state-run media as "the first principle naval parade in the newest Russia history."

The event comes amid heightened tensions with the West, on the heels of the US Senate approving new sanctions against Russia, and is aimed at reminding the rest of the world that Russia is a maritime force to be reckoned with.

Russia's history is marked by numerous victories of the country's "fearless navy," Mr Putin said at the parade. "The country's status as a mighty maritime power was earned by the courage of seamen and navy officers," he said.

"Today the navy not only tackles tasks traditional for it—it also rises to new challenges and contributes to the fight against terrorism and piracy," Mr Putin said at the parade.

The event featured the flagship of Russia's Northern Fleet, the nuclear-powered battlecruiser Petr Veliky, and the last of Russia's Soviet-built Typhoon-class nuclear missile submarines, the Dmitry Donskoi.

Both were designed in the Soviet Union for long-range, deep-water operations and both are the largest of their kind in the world.

Petr Veliky is an active duty combat vessel. It weighs in at up to a reported 28,000 tons displacement.

Dmitry Donskoi, currently not an active duty combat vessel, belongs to the largest class of nuclear missile submarines ever built, the Typhoon class. Those submarines were decommissioned in the 1990s and 2000s. The Donskoi currently serves for testing new submarine-launched nuclear missiles, as well as training new crews.

The two legendary vessels paraded alongside newly built ones, such as frigates Admiral Gorshkov and Admiral Marakov. There were many other new ships on display, says Andrei Frolov, editor in chief of the Russian magazine Export Vooruzheny ("Arms Export").



A Reuters article by Corina Pons and Alexandra Ulmer titled "Venezuela Jails Opposition Leaders in New Crackdown on Opponents" was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 1, 2017. Following is the article.

Venezuela jailed two leading critics of President Nicolas Maduro on Tuesday in a fresh blow to the opposition after the election of a new political body with sweeping powers to strengthen the hand of the leftist government.

The United States imposed sanctions on Maduro on Monday, calling him a "dictator" for Sunday's election of a constituent assembly that the opposition boycotted and denounced as an affront to democracy.

In a statement announcing the jailing of opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez and veteran politician Antonio Ledezma, the pro-government Supreme Court said they were planning to flee the country and had violated terms of their house arrest by making political statements and speaking to media.

But government opponents called the abrupt removal of the men from their homes by security forces in nighttime raids a sign of Maduro's determination to silence rivals. It was a view shared by U.S. President Donald Trump, who issued a statement condemning "the actions of the Maduro dictatorship."

"Mr. Lopez and Mr. Ledezma are political prisoners being held illegally by the regime," it said, calling "for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners."

About 120 people have been killed in more than four months of anti-government street protests, including at least 10 during Sunday's vote.

Maduro says the constituent assembly was designed to restore peace to Venezuela. Lopez and Ledezma had called for protests against Sunday's vote. In addition to rewriting the constitution, the legislative superbody will have the power to dissolve the opposition-led congress, eliminating any institutional check on Maduro's powers.

Lopez had been held more than three years in a military jail until last month, when he was unexpectedly released in what was seen as a potential breakthrough in the country's political standoff.

Attempts to get the opposition and the government to reach a negotiated deal subsequently floundered, however, and allies said Lopez, 46, may have been jailed again because he rejected government proposals.

"They have kidnapped Leopoldo Lopez because he simply would not break under the pressures and false promises of the regime," said Freddy Guevara, a legislator in the Popular Will party led by Lopez.

A U.S.-educated economist and former mayor in Caracas, Lopez is beloved by some in the opposition for his hard line anti-government stance and has become an international cause celebre.

The government sees him as an elitist coup-monger, and even some opposition sympathizers have criticized him for being hot-headed and authoritarian.

In a sign of heightening tensions, Chilean Foreign Minister Hernando Muñoz said Beatriz Ruiz and Jose Fernando Nunez, both recently appointed judges of an alternative Supreme Court by the opposition parliament, took refuge in Chile's embassy in Caracas on Tuesday and may be granted political asylum.

The U.S. Congress, meanwhile, mulled possible additional measures aimed at influencing Maduro. Senator Ben Cardin, the senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, said Monday's sanctions against the Venezuelan leader were not enough, and that punitive economic measures targeting the country's vital oil sector may be in order.

The United States is Venezuela's No. 1 crude importer. Actions targeting Venezuelan oil would likely heap more damage onto an economy already suffering from a deep recession, food shortages and the world's highest inflation rate.

"Our objective needs to be to help the people of Venezuela through this extremely dangerous humanitarian crisis . . . and ultimately to get Venezuela back on a democratic path," Cardin said.

Lopez himself suspected he would be detained again, and had recorded a video alongside his wife Lilian Tintori in which he urged Venezuelans to keep fighting if he was put back behind bars.

"If you're seeing this video it's precisely because that's what happened, they jailed me again, illegally and unjustly," said Lopez, in the video shown on social media on Tuesday.

Blamed by many for rising poverty in Venezuela, Maduro has faced almost daily protests demanding freedom for jailed politicians, early elections to replace him and permitted entry of humanitarian aid such as food and medicines.

Lopez and Ledezma were both taken from their homes to Ramo Verde, a military jail in a slum area about an hour's drive from the capital, according to lawyers and family.

Lopez was originally arrested for his role in leading street demonstrations against Maduro. Ledezma, a 62-year-old veteran politician, had been arrested on charges of plotting a coup.

Condemnation of Tuesday's arrests also came from the United Nations human rights chief, the president of the European Parliament and other governments.

"We express our solidarity with Leopoldo Lopez, Antonio Ledezma and other political prisoners in Venezuela," Mexico's Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray said on Twitter.



A video and an article by Joseph Hartropp titled "Hundreds of Muslims Converting to Christianity in Finland, Churches Say" were posted at christianity-today.com on July 28, 2017. Following is the article.

Evangelical Lutheran parishes have begun establishing confirmation classes for Muslim immigrants who want to become Christians.

Exact figures on the number of recent Muslim converts aren't available since such records aren't kept—but conservative estimates on the number suggest several hundred in recent years within the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church, according to the Finnish news source Yle Uutiset.

Converts hail from Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. As many as 20 Afghani men are enrolled in 'pre-confirmation' teaching on the Christian faith at the Tainionkoski parish centre in Imatra, Eastern Finland. Students are assisted by a New Testament in the Dari language, the variety of Persian spoken in Afghanistan. A Dari interpreter is also on hand via Skype to support the teaching given in English.

'I haven't been baptised yet, but I'm looking forward to it and I'm sure I will be a good Christian,' said one convert, Aliraza Hussaini.

Conversion from Islam is a divisive move however, one not readily accepted by many traditional Muslim families; some say that after conversion they are seen as 'infidels' in 'exile' by family in their home countries.

'I haven't been in contact with my family in Afghanistan for a very long time. If they find out I've converted, it would mean trouble for me,' said another convert, Golamir Hossaini.

Many of the Imatra confirmation students reportedly cited a disillusionment with the Islamic faith, and say they will probably never return to Afghanistan.



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Christians Outnumber Muslims in U.S. Refugee Admissions Under Trump" was posted at cnsnews.com on July 31, 2017. Following is the article.

The first six months-plus of the Trump administration have brought a discernible shift in the religious affiliation breakdown of refugees admitted into the United States, with a larger proportion of Christians to Muslims among those resettled.

Most of those who have arrived since President Trump's inauguration would have begun the application process long before—it can take 18-24 months—but the change is nonetheless striking: More than half of those admitted under Trump (51.2 percent) are Christians, compared to 43.3 percent of those who arrived during the same period one year earlier under President Obama.

At the same time, the proportion of Muslims among the refugees admitted during those two time periods dropped, from 46.7 percent under Obama to 37.6 percent under Trump.

The trend is evident over the successive months of the Trump administration: In February, Trump's first full month in office, the Christian-Muslim ratio was 41 percent to 50 percent. By April the balance had changed, with 54 percent Christians to 35 percent Muslims. In July, the margin of difference was even larger—62 percent Christians compared to 34 percent Muslims.

Over the decade prior to FY 2016, the U.S. each year resettled more Christian than Muslim refugees from around the world, but that changed last year when Obama admitted a slightly larger number of Muslims. Of the 84,994 refugees admitted in FY 2016, 37,875 (44.5 percent) were Christians and 38,900 (45.7 percent) were Muslims.

This year, a total of 20,357 refugees have been admitted between January 21—Trump's first full day in office—and the end of July. Of those, 10,426 (51.2 percent) identified themselves as Christians, 7,662 (37.6 percent) as Muslims, 774 (3.8 percent) as Buddhists and 562 (2.7 percent) as Hindus.

Another 933 (4.6 percent) of admitted refugees were from smaller faith groups (including Yezidi, Baha'i, Jewish and Zoroastrian) as well as those who indicated religious affiliation as "none."

By comparison, the Obama administration admitted more than twice as many refugees over the identical period one year earlier (Jan. 21, 2016—Jul. 31, 2016)—a total of 42,880 according to State Department Refugee Processing Center data.

Of those, 20,034 (46.7 percent) identified themselves as Muslims, 18,571 (43.3 percent) as Christians, 1,647 (3.8 percent) as Buddhists and 1,031 (2.4 percent) as Hindus. Another 1,597 (3.7 percent) were from smaller religious groups, or professed no religion.

Denominational breakdown of Christians included "Christian," Baptist, Catholic, Chaldean, Evangelical, Greek Orthodox, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, Pentecostalist, Protestant, Sabeian-Mandean, Seventh Day Adventist, Ukraine Orthodox, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox, Ukrainian Orthodox Kyivan Patriarchate, and Uniate.

Sectarian breakdown of Muslims according to the data included "Moslem," Sunni, Shi'ite, Ahmadi (133, all from Pakistan, whose constitution does not recognize Ahmadis as Muslims and whose penal code criminalizes Ahmadi worship), and "Ismaici" (4, from Afghanistan—apparently refers to Ismailis, a branch of Shi'a Islam.)

The countries accounting for the largest Christian groups among refugees admitted under the Trump administration include Burma (1,353 Christians), the DRC (among them 726 Christians, 751 Pentecostals, 524 Seventh Day Adventists and 509 Catholics), Ukraine (including 1,072 Pentecostals and 520 Baptists), Eritrea (610 Orthodox) and Iran (442 Christians).

Large Muslim groups included 1,963 Somalis who identified themselves simply as Muslim, 1,725 Sunnis from Syria, 792 Sunnis and 513 Shi'ites from Iraq, and 702 Muslims from Burma.

Of the 20,357 refugee arrivals during the Trump administration, 18,808 (92.4 percent) originated from just 12 countries.

The largest contingents came from the Democratic Republic of Congo (3,485), Burma (2,554), Somalia (2,093) and Iraq (2,017), while other sizeable groups came from Ukraine (1,860), Syria (1,843), Bhutan (1,394) and Eritrea (1,168).

Ceiling exceeded

Trump's travel ban executive orders restricted refugee admission numbers to a 50,000 ceiling in FY 2017, compared to the 84,994 admitted by the Obama administration in FY 2016.

With two months of the fiscal year to go, as of July 31 the Trump administration has admitted 50,479 refugees since Oct. 1, 2016.

The ceiling has been exceeded because the Supreme Court, in allowing the travel ban to take partial effect, ruled that the administration will not be able to exclude a refugee applicant purely on the basis of the executive order's ceiling having been reached, if that applicant has a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States."

July brought the lowest number of monthly admissions in several years—1,224, compared to 2,852 in June, 3,989 in May and 3,316 in April

The largest contingents among the July arrivals were Ukraine (257), DRC (250), Somalia (214), Burma (84), Syria (64), Sudan (61) and Iraq (59).

The religious breakdown of the refugees who arrived in July is: 764 Christians (62.4 percent), 412 Muslims (33.6 percent), and 48 others/unaffiliated (3.9 percent).



An article by Zenny Phuong titled "ICE Director: 'Sanctuary Cities Are a Criminal's Best Friend' " was posted at cnsnews.co on July 28, 2017. Following is the article.

In a White House press briefing Thursday [July 27], a top immigration enforcement official said sanctuary cities make it almost impossible to fulfill a priority of the Trump administration—pushing back against the MS-13 gang.

“Sanctuary cities are a criminal’s biggest friend,” said Tom Homan, acting director of the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement.

Criminal organizations like MS-13 that smuggle drugs, weapons, and people, according to Homan, use sanctuary cities as a form of advertisement.

“If you’re an alien smuggler and you’re smuggling people in this country for a living, that is one sales pitch—‘we can get you to a sanctuary city that will help shield you from immigration,’ ” he said.

“If we send the message that if you get into the country, you get by the Border Patrol, and don’t get arrested by local law enforcement for another crime, and no one is looking for you—that is a magnet; that is a pull factor,” Homan added.

Spaces such as these, Homan said, spark incidents like the one he responded to in Victoria, Texas, where he found a five-year-old among 19 dead illegal aliens tied to a tractor trailer.

“What do you think that five-year-old went through the last 30 minutes of his life? What do you think his father went through the last 30 minutes of his life looking down at his child, knowing he couldn’t help him because they were locked in the back of a tractor trailer?” Homan said.

But immigrants and local citizens are not the only ones in danger in these areas.

“Sanctuary cities not only endanger public safety, they endanger my law enforcement officers, because when we can’t get a criminal alien—violent alien—out of a county jail, it means one of our officers will knock on the door—which anybody in law enforcement knows, that’s one of the most dangerous things to do,” Homan said.

“The community is put at risk, our officers are put at risk, and the alien himself is put at risk.”

Homan repeatedly called for a strong local partnership across these sanctuary cities to aid the effort of dismantling MS-13, since it is the state and local law enforcement that have the first contact with this transnational gang.

“Cooperation is critical,” he said. “Sanctuary cities need to help us keep their community safe.”

Ignoring the illegal population that commit egregious crimes in these sanctuary cities means “bankrolling these criminal organizations,” Homan said.

“If you’re in sanctuary cities, that’s where we’ll send additional resources to look for you at your home, at place of employment,” he said.

Although sanctuary cities still pose as a major obstacle, Homan believes progress is being made. More and more local law enforcement from many jurisdictions are coming to the table, he said.

"The 287(g) agreements—we've already doubled those agreements on this administration," Homan said. "ICE expects to triple the number of these agreements by the end of this year."



An editorial by Ann Coulter titled "Pretty White Australian Girls' Lives Matter" was posted at anncoulter.com on July 26, 2017. Following is the article.

As soon as the story broke about the Somali cop fatally shooting the pretty white Australian girl in Minneapolis, one of my Muslim fans emailed me a story:

"Re: Hunting in Kuwait as explanation why this Noor guy shot through the car.

"I remember being in Kuwait with the president of the investment bank I worked for. We were invited by one of our directors to hunt turtle doves. There were five of us in all and each had a 12-gauge shotgun.

"Instructions were: Only shoot straight and up; shotgun point in air resting on shoulders when not being used. That's it. I was on the far left, and the fellow on the other end was a Syrian.

"Well, we were out there and no straggling turtle doves were migrating. A half-hour later, not one shot was fired. Then, two birds from a tree ahead darted out, between me and the houses on my left.

"We all looked, but the Syrian turned toward us and began shooting over our heads at the birds. The rest of us hit the ground. Even though our host took his gun away, I gave them mine and went back because, if there is a way to overreact, the Syrian would think it is natural and can't even consider the consequences.

"You cannot place these people in a position of authority (for example with a gun in their hands). They will always shoot as a default reaction to anything that is instant. Neither training nor thinking can change their natures.

"And that is why he shot. He had a gun."

Since then, we've found out that this is exactly why Officer Mohamed Noor shot the gentle yoga instructor walking toward the police car. He heard a loud noise—or as Powerline blog is calling it, "The Loud Noise Heard Round the World."

Noor shot from the passenger seat, killing Justine Damond, according to his partner, sitting at the wheel, who is presumably now deaf. Damond had called 911 to report what sounded like a rape in the alley behind her house, and was approaching the responding police car when she was shot.

As usually happens when Muslims attack, the press is consumed with worry about their mental state and well-being.

Sample Headlines:

- Somalis on edge after Minneapolis cop named in fatal shooting—*The Daily Herald* (Everett, Washington), July 18, 2017
- Somalis in Minneapolis on defensive after police shooting—St. Paul Pioneer Press (Minnesota), July 21, 2017
- Minneapolis shooting brings unwelcome attention to Somalis—Associated Press, July 22, 2017

There are nearly 2 billion Muslims in the world, amounting to a quarter of the world's population, controlling 50 countries. The English-speaking world is about a fifth that size and constitutes a dwindling majority in about a half-dozen countries. But, somehow, no matter how the story is written, Muslims always get to play the victim, and Anglo-Saxons are cast as the aggressors.

That's why a Somali cop's fatal shooting of a pajama-clad Good Samaritan has gone directly into the "Be Nice to Muslims!" file, rather than the "Why Are All These Somalis Here?" file. (Answer: Because of an earlier mistake with excessive Scandinavian immigration.)

I can't help noticing that it was precisely the "Be Nice to Muslims!" dictate that put this Somali nincompoop on the police force in the first place.

Among Noor's evident errors the night he killed Justine:

- 1) Shooting from the passenger seat, the bullet whizzing inches past his partner's face, through the driver's side window;
- 2) Not turning his bodycam on when responding to a 911 call;
- 3) Shooting to kill because he heard a loud noise;
- 4) Believing that white women in America pose a threat to a policeman.

A few of the Weather Underground ladies were accomplices to cop-killings, 40 years ago, but even they weren't lone white women cop-killers.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, women of any race committed about 10 percent of all murders from 1980 to 2008, and black people committed a majority of all murders. Other than a small child, it's difficult to think of a demographic that poses less of a threat to a policeman in America than a 40-year-old white woman.

Noor's African-American neighbor, Chris Miller, said he was shocked when he heard about Damond's shooting—until he found out it was Noor. Miller told *The Daily Telegraph* (Australia) that his Somali neighbor was quick to anger and was always going off on women and children. "He is extremely nervous," Miller said, "a little jumpy . . . he doesn't really respect women, the least thing you say to him can set him off."

Sounds perfect for a police officer!

May we see Officer Noor's cadet exam? His training reports? Does anyone believe there is the slightest possibility that Noor was not rushed through the Police Academy so that the nice people of Minneapolis could feel good about themselves for having a real Somali on the police force?

Minnesota's importation of these stone-age people is a completely self-inflicted wound. It's as if the state decided to inject itself with Hepatitis C. Hey, you know what? We're too white and pure. Everyone tie a vein off and give yourself a shot of hep C. We could learn from that!

With Somalis, you get all the social pathologies of Muslims and the American underclass rolled into one package. There's the terrorism and pederasty—but also the criminality and joblessness!

At least with taxpayer-draining Mexican illegals, you can say, yes, but they provide the rich with such cheap labor! Someone, somewhere in America, gets a benefit. There is absolutely no benefit to the more than 100,000 Somalis brought in by Minnesota, except to feed the Scandinavian ethno-masochism, expressed as arrogant self-regard.

Gosh, they're good people. R.I.P. Justine.



An article by Conor Beck titled "Fareed Zakaria: Trump Is 'A Class Rebellion Against People Like Us' " was posted at freebeacon.com on July 31, 2017. Following is the article.

CNN host Fareed Zakaria explained how President Donald Trump rose to power on "New Day" Monday morning.

"The election of Donald Trump is really a kind of class rebellion against people like us, educated professionals who live in cities, who have cosmopolitan views about things," Zakaria said.

"There's a part of America that is sick and tired of being told what to do by this overeducated population that Hillary Clinton perfectly represented. That's why they're sticking with him," he continued.

Zakaria also blamed racism and diversity on Trump's rise.

"He knew that the election of a black president had stirred a kind of ugly racial animus. A small subset but he knew how to get them," Zakaria said.

"A real sense of cultural alienation, older, white, noncollege education Americans have, a sense that their country is changing because of immigrants. Because maybe blacks are rising up to a central place in society, because gays being afforded equal rights. Because of, frankly, working women. Everybody is muscling in on the territory that the white working man had," Zakaria said.



An editorial by Gary Abernathy titled "In Trump Country, Russia Just Isn't Big News; Here's Why" was posted at washingtonpost.com on July 21, 2017. Following is the article.

I don't read many of the online comments following my op-eds because I'm an old-fashioned journalist who prefers signed letters to the editor, or even phone calls or emails. But friends and family told me that my last Post op-ed apparently inspired a lot of responses ridiculing me and, by extension, editors of small-town newspapers everywhere.

I won't whine about being criticized. Have at it. But maybe I can explain a little more about small-town newspapers—which I have often said are the last newspapers practicing old-school, non-sensationalized journalism—and in so doing perhaps help the head-scratchers better understand Trump country.

One particular response to my op-ed, summarizing probably hundreds of others, surmised that for newspapers like ours, the "biggest news is a new Dollar Store opening and the most column-inches are taken up by the crime report and obituaries. So sad."

I laughed, in part because the comment hit close to home. In fact, we have done stories on dollar-store openings. In some tiny communities in southern Ohio, the opening of a dollar store is real news because it means that local residents no longer have to drive 30 minutes or more to buy some important household and grocery items.

The reality of life in rural flyover country is lost on those who mock us. These are the places where Donald Trump won the presidency, where people know they are ridiculed by East and West Coast elitists who have little understanding of the meaningful issues—the real news—that affect their lives. Trump identified a common enemy when he took on the media elite, and rural America flocked to his side.

A recent Reuters article on the lack of concern across southern Ohio about the Trump-Russia controversy identified three people at a restaurant in Jackson, Ohio—an hour from Hillsboro—who, when asked about the brouhaha, "stared back blankly." One of them replied, "I have never heard anything about it."

How could this be? One reason might be that they have more important things to do than sit glued to cable news. But in addition to the scarcity of grocery choices in some areas, broadband Internet has yet to reach many parts of southern Ohio. One government initiative with wide public support in Trump country is an effort to expand broadband access to more rural residents.

To this day, rural America continues to be portrayed in major media, both news and entertainment, as backward and uneducated. The media often

reports that Trump won a majority of voters without college degrees, which is taken by Trump supporters as just a nicer way of being called stupid.

Many people in rural America ply their trades quite successfully without a framed degree in sight. Considered uneducated by the mainstream media, many make more money through farming and various trade skills than most college graduates, and the news that matters to them most is the weather forecast.

Small-town newspapers report hard news and local political controversies. They do investigative reporting and in-depth analysis. They win awards from the Associated Press and other media organizations for their efforts.

But, yes, small-town papers also do stories on dollar-store openings, because sometimes their presence as the only store in town is real news that will affect lives. They do stories on a new doctor coming to town because it often means that specialized treatment will be offered for the first time, which is real news for patients who no longer have to travel to faraway cities.

They feature stories on school bus route changes, real news to parents who might have to get up an hour earlier or make new child-care arrangements. They do features on World War II veterans to honor past generations, and they do features on the achievements of youngsters in 4-H to encourage future generations.

This is the America that Trump embraced. The media's Russia fixation may not be fake news in the way that Trump uses the phrase. But for millions of Americans, Trump's claim strikes a chord because the Russia hysteria is not real news, either, not compared with the issues that impact their daily lives.

And when someone tells them they should care more deeply about Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting with a Russian lawyer, yes, sometimes they will just shake their heads and stare back blankly.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "Conflicting Vision" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Aug. 2, 2017. Following is the article.

For the most part, people share common goals. Most of us want poor people to enjoy higher standards of living, greater traffic safety, more world peace, greater racial harmony, cleaner air and water, and less crime.

Despite the fact that people have common goals, we often see them grouped into contentious factions, fighting tooth and nail to promote polar opposite government policies in the name of achieving a commonly held goal.

The conflict is centered around the means to achieve goals rather than the goals themselves. The policies that become law often have the unintended consequence of sabotaging the achievement of the stated goal.

Let's look at a policy pushed by advocacy groups, politicians and poorly trained, perhaps dishonest, economists—mandated increases in the minimum wage.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman claimed in a 2014 interview with Business Insider that there is actually not much risk of significantly higher wages hurting workers. He argued that low-wage workers are in non-tradable industries for which production cannot be moved overseas and are in industries in which labor cannot be easily replaced by technology. Krugman's vision is one that my George Mason University colleagues and I try to correct.

Those who argue that the price of something can be raised without people having a response to it have what economists call a zero-elasticity vision of the world. For them, labor prices can rise and employers will employ just as much labor after the price increase as before.

There is no evidence anywhere that people have no response to the change in price of anything. Plus, the longer a price change remains in effect the greater the response to it.

Let's examine Krugman's assertion that low-skilled labor cannot be easily replaced by technology. Momentum Machines has built a robot that can "slice toppings like tomatoes and pickles immediately before it places the slice onto your burger, giving you the freshest burger possible." The robot is "more consistent, more sanitary, and can produce about 360 hamburgers per hour." Let's Pizza is a pizza-making vending machine from Europe that can make four different kinds of pizza in about 2 1/2 minutes.

Kay S. Hymowitz's recent article "The Mother of All Disruptions," in a special issue of City Journal, gives numerous examples of jobs loss through technology. According to The New York Times, 89,000 workers in general merchandise lost their jobs between the beginning of November 2016 and the end of March. And it's not just the U.S. where robots are replacing labor. Foxconn's iPhone-making facility in China has replaced 60,000 workers with robots.

The economic phenomenon that people who call for higher minimum wages ignore is that when the price of anything rises, people seek substitutes. We see it with anything. When the price of oil rose, people sought ways to use less of it through purchasing more insulation for their homes and fuel-efficient cars. When the price of beef rose, people sought cheaper substitutes such as pork and chicken.

The substitution effect of price changes is omnipresent, but do-gooders and politicians seem to suggest that labor markets are an exception.

It's bad enough when do-gooders and politicians have that vision, but it is utterly disgusting and inexcusable for a trained economist to buy into that zero-elasticity vision.

It's not just Krugman. On the eve of the 2007 minimum wage increase, 650 of my fellow economists, including a couple of Nobel laureates, signed a petition that read, "We believe that a modest increase in the minimum wage

would improve the well-being of low-wage workers and would not have the adverse effects that critics have claimed.”

At the time, I wrote that I felt professional embarrassment for them; however, I felt proud that not a single member of our distinguished George Mason University economic faculty signed the petition.

Convincing people of how the world really works in hopes of promoting more humane policies requires examination and falsification of false visions and premises. That’s a tough job with little prospect for completion.



An editorial by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “GOP Budget: Deficit Spending ‘A Sin’; We’ll Do It 9 More Years” was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 2, 2017. Following is the article.

The House Budget Committee has approved a budget that declares deficit spending “a sin,” makes a powerful case for why this is so, and then presents a plan for continuing in this sin for nine more years.

In that ninth year, if Republicans are still in power, they intend to spend \$5.173 trillion while running an \$88 billion deficit.

In the tenth year, they intend to spend \$5.345 trillion and run a \$9 billion surplus.

Thus, will the Republicans in Congress today heroically balance the budget in fiscal 2027—after increasing the debt every year from 2017 through 2026.

“For too long, the federal government’s excessive spending has put future generations at risk,” says a statement on the committee’s website. “Failure to take swift and decisive action is not only inexcusable, it is immoral.”

In its report on the budget resolution it sent the full House last month, the committee spoke in even starker terms. It repeatedly and approvingly quoted from an essay the late Nobel Prize-winning economist James M. Buchanan published more than 20 years ago—in which he argued for a balanced budget amendment.

■ As Nobel Laureate James M. Buchanan wrote: “Politicians prior to World War II would have considered it to be immoral (to be a sin) to spend more than they were willing to generate in tax revenues, except during periods of extreme and temporary emergency,” said the report.

■ “To spend borrowed sums on ordinary items for public consumption was, quite simply, beyond the pale of acceptable political behavior. There were basic moral constraints in place; there was no need for an explicit fiscal rule in the written constitution.”

As Buchanan noted then, American politicians no longer felt those constraints. Members of Congress could happily borrow and spend money to please voters today that future voters would be taxed to repay.

If they were lucky, they could retire from Congress before reckoning day.

The problem for politicians now is that reckoning day is close enough for any rational mind to foresee.

The committee is candid about this, too.

"The growing probability of a sovereign debt crisis is an urgent challenge facing the United States today," says its report.

"If current policies remain unchanged, deficits are about to begin surging, nearly tripling over the next decade," it says.

"Make no mistake, this pattern is due to excessive spending, not insufficient tax revenue," it says.

"Only by controlling spending can Congress alter this catastrophic course," it says.

"The increases in spending, deficits and debt cannot continue—and will not," says the report. "Perhaps major programs will collapse under their own weight. Perhaps investors in Treasury bonds will begin demanding higher returns, further increasing the cost of debt service. Alternatively, investors may begin losing confidence in Washington's ability to correct its fiscal course and take their money elsewhere, leaving the federal government unable to finance its programs—an effect that could cascade unexpectedly. Or perhaps the debt will so burden the economy that growth stagnates altogether."

"In short," says the report, "if policymakers do not start making changes, and soon, the changes will be imposed on the entire country—and they will be unforgiving."

"As noted previously, the government's mounting debt reflects a moral failing," it says. "In the past, policymaker would have considered it nothing less than 'a sin' to routinely spend borrowed money on ordinary present-day uses—forcing future generations to finance today's consumption. A government that promotes such practices through its profligacy corrodes the nation's underlying values—an even more pervasive threat to America's future."

Given its own dire—and correct—analysis, does the committee call for spending cuts? No.

Does it call for a spending freeze? No.

It calls for gradually decreasing the increase in federal spending.

As described by the committee itself, Congress is driving America over a cliff. But instead of bringing the bus to a stop, it advocates tapping the breaks.

"The reductions from projected spending are hardly draconian," the committee says of its budget—as if this is reassuring

“Over the years, Congress has put two-thirds of the budget on auto-pilot, and spending in those areas grows each year. Yet any effort to restrain this growth in spending is cast, in Orwellian fashion, as a ‘cut,’ ” it says.

“This budget does not make sudden ‘cuts,’ ” it says. “Instead it holds spending growth to a manageable rate.”

That will be managed in 2027 by whomever holds the House, Senate and White House that year.

Yet the committee does call for the House to approve a balanced budget amendment to send to the states for ratification—and thus constitutionally prohibit Congress from deficit spending.

That would work—so long as Congress obeyed the Constitution.



An editorial by John Stossel titled “The Trump Budget” was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 2, 2017. Following is the article.

Remember President Trump’s “terrible” budget cuts?

“Promises Little but Pain,” warned *The New York Times*.

“Harsh and shortsighted,” cried The Washington Post.

Then Congress passed a budget. President Trump signed it. Do you notice the “pain”?

I follow the news closely, but until I researched this column, I didn’t know that Congress actually raised spending on the very agencies Trump wanted to cut.

Trump called for a \$4.7 billion dollar cut to the Agriculture Department. Congress increased the department’s appropriation by \$12.8 billion.

He called for a \$15 billion cut to Health and Human Services. Congress instead gave them \$2.8 billion more.

Trump wanted a \$6.2 billion cut to Housing and Urban Development. Congress gave HUD a half-billion-dollar increase.

Trump wanted the Commerce Department’s budget cut by \$1.4 billion. Congress made no cut.

And so on.

Why wasn’t that news? Because in Washington, and in the media’s eyes, spending increases are expected. And cuts are always “terrible.”

America continues on its road to bankruptcy.

What will those departments do with their new money?

The Agriculture Department says its mission is to “promote agricultural production that better nourishes Americans.” Politicians claim we need the Department to guarantee an adequate food supply.

Nonsense.

Because of the free market, agricultural entrepreneurs provide plenty of food. Fruit and vegetable farmers rarely get subsidies, but there are ample supplies of fruits and vegetables.

We don’t need an Agriculture Department any more than we need a Hollywood movie department or iPhone department.

Most of what the Department does is corporate welfare. America’s richest corn and grain farmers collect most of the money.

Politicians eagerly give money to people who visit their offices and pour out tales of need.

Corn and grain farmers visit and whine because they have millions of dollars at stake.

You don’t visit because each subsidy costs you just a few bucks.

So the corporate welfare continues.

Members of Congress might stop the wasteful spending if they spent their own money. But they don’t. They spend ours.

Congress ignored Trump’s request to cut the Commerce Department, too.

Commerce’s biggest program is NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA pushes climate change alarmism, producing PSAs that warn Arctic ice is “thinning at an alarming rate!”

If that’s a serious problem, NOAA’s spending won’t stop it. NOAA’s bureaucrats got caught buying a \$300,000 yacht—and using it to go fishing.

The Department says what they do is “critical.” They fund “centers in every state that consult with companies facing technological problems.”

Government is good at fixing tech problems? News to me.

The Department claims “every dollar of federal investment . . . generates around \$30” because each “\$2,400 investment” creates a job.

I’m sure they help some politically savvy companies, but their claim ignores the good things your money would have done had it stayed in the private sector. That’s the unseen cost of funding every Department. We’ll never know what our dollars might have done had they not been taken from us by government.

Maybe a new Steve Jobs would have invented a . . .

I don’t know. We’ll never know, because government grabbed the money.

President Trump seems to understand that government wastes money, but after proposing cuts to some departments, he was eager to increase military spending. So Congress did. The military got the biggest increase.

Defense, at least, is a proper role of government. Government should keep us safe. But our current military is wasteful and involved in needless foreign entanglements.

We spend as much as the next seven countries combined—eight times more than Russia spends. Many of the missions our politicians give the military—interventions in places like Iraq, Libya and Syria—made us less safe by destabilizing the Middle East and creating new terrorists.

Congress should cut spending to the military and to the departments Trump wanted to cut.

But politicians almost never cut. Despite all those headlines about “harsh,” “painful,” “terrible” cuts, government increased spending again.

We are going broke. Later this year, the national debt will reach \$20 trillion. Yet Congress appropriated more—a Republican-majority Congress.

Politicians sure are generous with other people’s money.

One small positive note: I’m told the city government in Toronto is bringing down the price of that \$65,000 staircase I wrote about last week to \$10,000. Keep cutting.



An editorial by Ann Coulter titled “Contract With Republicans” was posted at anncoulter.com on Aug. 2, 2017. Following is the article.

In 1994, after 40 years in the wilderness, Republicans swept both houses of Congress, running on Newt Gingrich’s “Contract With America,” in which the GOP promised to hold votes on 10 popular policies in the first 100 days. They won, fulfilled the contract, and went on to control the House for more than a decade.

More recently, the country gave the GOP the House in 2010, the Senate in 2014 and the presidency in 2016. But we’re not seeing any difference. The GOP has become a ratchet, never reversing Democratic victories, but only confirming them with teeny-tiny alterations.

It’s time for the voters to issue a “Contract With Republicans.” Unless our elected representatives can complete these basic, simple tasks, we’re out. There will be no reason to care about the GOP, anymore.

Whether these objectives are accomplished by President Trump or a rhesus monkey, the Democrats, the Bull Moose Party or the U.S. Pirate Party—it will make no difference to us. We just need somebody to fulfill this contract in order to get our vote.

Here are our first three contract terms.

(1) Build the wall

People said the chant, "Build the wall!" was mere shorthand for a whole slew of immigration policies, unified by the single idea of putting Americans' interests if not "first," then at least "above the interests of complete strangers to whom we owe absolutely nothing." It was called a term of art, meaning we want to stop sacrificing the welfare of our nation on the altar of liberal idiocy.

"Build the wall" was said to entail: a Muslim ban, deporting illegals, ending unconstitutional sanctuary cities, ending Obama's unconstitutional "executive amnesty," a dead-stop to the refugee scam and a massive reduction in legal immigration.

Yes, it means all that. But it also means: Build the wall.

If this is done only for reasons of conservative ideology, in recognition of the fact that the United States is a sovereign nation, entitled to protect its homeland, that's fine with me.

But I note in passing that, if I were a progressive constantly virtue-signaling on transgenders and refugees, and occasionally pretending to care about African-Americans, the very last thing I'd want to see is the continuing dump of low-wage workers on the country, undermining black fathers' ability to earn a living, to stay married and to pass down savings and a work ethic to their children.

The great civil rights hero Barbara Jordan understood that. The fact that our current low-rent liberals are unable to rise to her level is all the proof we need of their uselessness.

Moreover, in the future, we will once again have presidents with a taste for fascist executive orders, purporting to grant "amnesty" to illegal aliens. We will continue to have bought-and-paid-for legislators, pushing cheap labor in return for campaign donations. In the blink of an eye, they can undo every part of Trump's America First agenda on immigration, just as Obama undid our victory in Iraq.

A wall is the only part of Trump's immigration reforms that will not be instantly reversed by the next Barack Obama or George Bush. Allowing border patrol agents to do their jobs is a policy that lasts only as long as Trump is president. A wall is forever.

(2) Supreme Court

Republicans need to stop having their victories written in wet sand. During the campaign, Trump vowed to impose a Muslim ban if elected; both political parties hysterically denounced him; he won the election; issued a highly modified, temporary travel restriction from a handful of majority Muslim countries; and . . . a handful of carefully selected federal court judges announced that, during the Trump administration, they would be implementing immigration policy.

That's why President Trump must appoint, and the Senate confirm, brilliant conservative judges, preferably in their 30s and with good EKGs, so that they can keep issuing opinions well into their 90s.

As long as they are sufficiently vetted to ensure we're getting no David Souters or Harriet Mierses—vettings even MORE exhaustive than the alleged rectal probes given to the San Bernardino terrorists before admitting them to commit mass murder—Supreme Court justices can have nearly the same permanence as the wall.

(3) Stop wasting money and precious lives on pointless wars

The left is way ahead of us on this one, already hard at work turning the greatest military in the world into taxpayer-funded adventures in lesbianism and transgenderism. (Sorry, taxpayers! We gave your Social Security to mental-case penis-choppers.)

Every recent war has been counterproductive at best. At worst, they have been meat-grinders for our bravest young men. Imagine that some small portion of the trillions of dollars poured into the endless—and ongoing!—war in Afghanistan had been used to build a 100,000-seat soccer stadium in Baghdad. And then imagine that we built 100 more just like it, right next to one another.

If we had taken a satellite photo of all those stadiums filled to capacity, the caption would be: "Not one American life is worth all the lives pictured here."

That's not anti-Arab. I'm sure they would feel exactly the same. I would respond, "Yes, of course, you're right to feel that way."

If we're ever attacked, we should be prepared to unload our full arsenal. But it's not our job to create functioning democracies in primitive rape-based societies around the globe.

Apart from an attack on U.S. soil by a foreign country, we are going to live our lives, go to work, celebrate the Fourth of July, and never bother learning the difference in Sunni and Shia Arabs. Once a decade, when we fleetingly remember Yemen or Saudi Arabia, we will hope they're doing well, then get back to our lives—surrounded by a wall and living in a constitutional democracy, where our greatest young men aren't continually sacrificed in pointless wars.



An editorial by Michelle Malkin titled "Procter and Gamble's Identity-Politics Pandering" was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 2, 2017. Following is the article.

Once upon a time, brothers-in-law William Procter and James Gamble sold candles and soap. Their 19th-century family business grew into the largest consumer goods conglomerate in the world—launching the most recognizable brands on our grocery shelves, including Tide, Pampers, Crest, Nyquil and Old Spice.

Now, Procter & Gamble want to conquer a new market: identity-politics pandering.

Industry marketers aren't satisfied with selling useful products people want and need. They're hell-bent on transforming successful businesses into social justice busybodies.

P&G's "My Black is Beautiful" campaign released a new video last week called, "The Talk." It "depicts the inevitable conversations many Black parents have with their children about racial bias to prepare, protect and encourage them" across the decades. The ad plays as a kinder, gentler version of Black Lives Matter propaganda, but the underlying themes are the same:

- Little progress has been made since the days of Jim Crow.
- Racial discrimination against black Americans is inevitable.
- Police officers are the enemy.

One especially offensive scene depicts a suburban black mom preparing her bubbly teenage daughter, a new driver, for "when you get pulled over." Not "if," you see, but "when."

As the daughter laughs her off, the mom gravely warns: "This is not about you getting a ticket. This is about you not coming home."

Because racist predator cops lurk on every corner, plotting to kidnap and kill black girls just trying to get to Forever 21? Really, Procter & Gamble?

Way to alienate the millions of law enforcement families—of all colors—who purchase your goods.

Naturally, media virtue signalers lavished praise on the corporate virtue signalers. It's a veritable virtue signaling bacchanalia.

Adweek raved that the video was "powerful." *The Dallas Morning News* cooed:

"The ad is a bold move, and the fact that a Fortune 100 company includes this cultural experience in an ad campaign not only acknowledges that the experience is real, but that it's important to a mass audience."

Yes, racial discrimination still exists. Yes, parents of all races and ethnicities must expose their children to hard truths about people who will judge them by their skin color, eye shape, socioeconomic status, physical stature and IQ instead of by their character.

But if inclusion, diversity and candid talk are such cherished values at P&G, when will they be airing bold videos about the brutal treatment Asian-American high school students have suffered at the hands of bigoted black students in Philadelphia over the past decade?

Or about the targeting of young female Asian Americans and elderly Asian-American crime victims by black gang members in New York and San Francisco?

Or on the long-simmering tensions between blacks and Latinos and blacks and Koreans in Los Angeles?

Or how about decrying the prejudice against multiracial children who are mocked for looking "too white"? Talk to black basketball star, Mike Conley, who was forced to fend off haters this week who attacked his white wife and their biracial 1-year-old baby.

Or how about monstrous, race-based hate crimes such as the kidnapping and assault of a mentally disabled white teenage boy by black thugs in Chicago who tortured him and forced him to declare on video “I love black people” and “F— white people”?

Or how about the increasingly vile campaigns on college campuses celebrating a “Day Without White People,” stereotyping diverse individuals under the dread banner of “white privilege,” condemning those who believe in color-blindness as “unethical,” and separating minorities into racially segregated dorms, classes and graduation ceremonies in the name of social justice?

P&G should stand for quality consumer goods, not empty Protest & Grumble that divides more than it unites.

If P&G isn’t willing to tackle the full complexity of race relations in 21st-century America, perhaps the company should stick to selling diapers instead of filling them.



Isaiah 55:6-11—“Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”