

Eye on the World

June 30, 2018

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 June 30, 2018.

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 by Rania El Gamal and Dmitry Zhdannikov titled “Saudi-Russian Axis Rules Oil Markets As Trump Fights Iran” was posted at reuters.com on June 28, 2018. Following is the article.

Iran may be Russia’s ally in the Syrian conflict but when it comes to oil, Tehran’s arch-enemy Saudi Arabia takes precedence—if last week’s OPEC meeting in Vienna is anything to go by.

Iran had been pushing hard for oil producers to hold output steady as U.S. sanctions are expected to hit its exports, meaning Tehran had little to gain from OPEC production increases that lower oil prices and cut its revenue.

But Saudi Arabia and Russia had other ideas. According to three sources close to OPEC and Russia, the world’s two biggest oil exporters agreed in May to work hand in glove to engineer a sizeable increase in oil output—albeit for different reasons.

The events in Vienna were the latest example of how Russia and Saudi Arabia have effectively sidelined OPEC, driving policy for their own geopolitical ends and, in the case of Saudi Arabia, often at the behest of the United States.

With their end game in mind, Russia first proposed that the combined output of OPEC countries and non-OPEC allies, such as itself, should jump 1.5 mil-

lion barrels a day (bpd) from July. Their tactic was for Saudi Arabia to then suggest a more modest rise of less than 1 million barrels in the hope it would be acceptable to Iran, the three sources told Reuters.

Saudi Arabia was keen to raise output to meet calls from U.S. President Donald Trump and major consumers such as India and China to help cool oil prices and avoid shortages, according to Saudi officials including Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih.

Russia, meanwhile, was under pressure from its own energy companies to lift caps on output and fight a steep rise in domestic fuel prices that was hurting President Vladimir Putin's popularity, according to two Russian oil industry sources.

In the end, Saudi Arabia pushed through a rise of 1 million bpd at the Vienna meeting, in line with the plan it had agreed with Moscow more than a month earlier.

While Russia's motivation was mainly for domestic reasons, the outcome also played into Trump's hands to help lower domestic fuel prices ahead of U.S. midterm elections.

Arm-twisting

OPEC, the organization that triggered the oil shock of 1973 by restricting supplies to countries supporting Israel in the Yom Kippur war, once controlled 40 percent to 50 percent of the world's oil supply and commanded the full attention of markets.

Now, OPEC produces a third of the world's crude, while Saudi Arabia, combined with non-OPEC members Russia and the United States, pump more. What's more, their share of the global market is only set to rise, giving the three countries even more influence over the geopolitics of oil.

In a bid to revive oil prices after they fell as low as \$27 a barrel in 2016, OPEC and its allies struck a deal to cut oil output by 1.8 million bpd from the start of 2017. The pact rebalanced the market and lifted crude to about \$75 a barrel.

But unexpected outages in Venezuela, Libya and Angola have effectively increased the cuts to some 2.8 million bpd in recent months and U.S. sanctions are expected to cut Iran's output by a third—all threatening to push crude prices ever higher.

Saudi Arabia insisted as recently as April it was too soon to open the taps but Riyadh made a U-turn after its ally the United States called on OPEC to boost supplies.

With Russia on the same wavelength for its own reasons, Iran had to be persuaded. But it was not without a fight, and some arm-twisting from Riyadh and Moscow, OPEC sources said.

Reasonable case

A day before the official OPEC meeting on Friday, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh stormed out of a gathering of OPEC and non-OPEC allies saying there would be no agreement.

But a last minute conversation on Friday morning with Falih and Saudi minister of state for energy affairs Prince Abdulaziz helped convince Zanganeh, according to three OPEC sources.

A veteran of OPEC diplomacy for more than two decades, the prince, a son of King Salman, was instrumental in getting the initial production pact together in 2016.

The Saudi ministers thought they had a reasonable case: OPEC needed to act to tame high oil prices hurting consumers and if Zanganeh refused to sign up, Iran risked being isolated by other producers who would increase production anyway, sources said.

Zanganeh was also told if the deal was blocked by Iran, it may lead to the withdrawal of Russia from the agreement, the sources said. One of Tehran's closest allies, Moscow is helping Iran fight to keep Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in power.

One Russian energy source said Iran was also keen to keep Moscow on side because it hopes Russia will be able to help it sell crude as the U.S. sanctions bite.

The existing OPEC deal dating back from 2016 gave Iran a production quota of 4 million barrels per day. Keeping that deal intact was crucial to Zanganeh, OPEC sources said. Excluding Iran from the new deal would mean a loss of that output quota.

"We have 24 countries in the agreement, they can always be 23," one of the OPEC sources said.

Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates also participated in efforts to convince Iran, according to OPEC sources.

Saudi output spike

Events since the meeting have further underlined how OPEC members are increasingly being left out of crucial production decisions being taken by Saudi Arabia and Russia.

When Trump slapped fresh sanctions on Iran in May Saudi Arabia issued a statement the same day saying it was prepared to meet any supply shortage. Riyadh was briefed by Washington a day before the sanctions and was asked to issue the statement, Reuters reported earlier this month.

When Washington said this week it was asking customers in Asia and Europe to reduce Iranian oil purchases to zero from November, sources familiar with Saudi oil thinking briefed the market about an imminent rise in Saudi output to a record.

It was not clear whether Washington briefed Riyadh this time or whether it asked it to issue a new statement. But as the news about a jump in Saudi output filtered out, oil prices cooled.

The Saudi announcement took most OPEC members—and especially Iran—by surprise.

Even though the OPEC decision a week earlier was kept deliberately vague last week for both Iran and Saudi to compromise, Falih had promised to only gradually increase its supply by a few “hundreds of thousands of barrels.”

On Tuesday, sources said Saudi output would rise to a new record of 11 million bpd as early as July, a whole 1 million bpd above May, immediately triggering a protest from Iran.

“The State Department says it is short and Saudi Arabia says they will produce 11 million bpd in July. I regret to say they are both ridiculing our organization,” Iran’s OPEC governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili told Reuters on Thursday.

Saudi sources said the kingdom’s oil output had already started rising substantially above its quota in June, before the OPEC meeting. The only other oil producing country to boost production above its quota in June was Russia.



A Reuters article by Stephen Kalin titled “Saudi Air Defenses Intercept Missiles Above Capital, Coalition Says” was posted at reuters.com on June 24, 2018. Following is the article.

Saudi Arabia said on Sunday it had intercepted two missiles launched by Yemen’s Houthi militia over the capital Riyadh, as a Saudi-led coalition moved to wrest control of Yemen’s main port city from the Iran-aligned group.

At least six loud blasts were heard and bright flashes were seen in the sky over the Saudi capital, a Reuters witness said. Shrapnel was spotted on a street in the diplomatic quarter where most embassies are located and many foreigners live, but there was no serious damage.

“Saudi Royal Air Defence Forces intercepted and destroyed the missiles. Some of the debris of the intercepted missiles landed on residential areas, thankfully without causing any casualties,” coalition spokesman Colonel Turki al-Malki said in a statement.

Houthi-run al-Masirah television said Burkan missiles were fired at the Saudi defence ministry and other targets.

The attack was the first to target Riyadh since the Saudi-led coalition launched an offensive on June 12 to capture Yemen’s Hodeidah port city, in the biggest battle of the war aimed at weakening the Houthis by cutting their main supply line.

The Houthis, who control the capital Sanaa, have fired dozens of missiles into the kingdom in recent months, part of a three-year-old conflict widely seen as a proxy battle between regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran.

There were fire trucks and a heightened security presence in southwestern Riyadh's diplomatic quarter following Sunday's missile attack, which was at least the sixth on the capital since December.

The rockets' interception by Patriot missiles sent debris measuring up to several metres hurtling towards residential areas. Pieces fell near the U.S. mission and at a school in the diplomatic quarter and damaged a nearby car, Malki told Reuters during a rare tour of affected neighbourhoods.

Debris sparked a fire at a construction site 10 km (6 miles) further south and fell on the roof of a private residence.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul-Salam was quoted by Al Mayadeen TV saying, "The longer the aggression and war continue, the greater our ballistic missile capabilities."

Malki said coalition advances on Hodeidah and other fronts were pushing the Houthis to try to project strength through such attacks.

"We know that this is not going to affect the civilian life in Riyadh or other parts of the kingdom. We know that the Houthis are acting unpredictably," he said.

The Western-backed coalition intervened in Yemen's war in 2015 to unseat the Houthis and restore the internationally-recognised government in exile.

Riyadh has accused the Houthis of using the port to smuggle Iranian-made weapons, including missiles—accusations denied by the group and Tehran.



An article by Lucy Adler titled " '1,000 Migrants in Boats off Libya' As Italy Tells Rescue Ships to Stop" was posted at yahoo.com on June 24, 2108. Following is the article.

Italy's far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini on Sunday told foreign charities to stop rescuing migrants off Libya even as one group said 1,000 people were on boats in distress in the Mediterranean.

With Italy—long the frontline in Europe's migration crisis—vowing a new hardline stance, Salvini told the aid groups to back off and let the Libyan coastguard take care of rescue operations.

"Let the Libyan authorities do their work of rescue, recovery and return (of migrants) to their country, as they have been doing for some time, without the ships of the voracious NGOs disturbing them or causing trouble," he said.

"Italian ports are and will be closed to those who aid human traffickers," he said.

Spanish group Proactiva Open Arms said it had received "seven or eight" messages alerting them to boats in distress in the Mediterranean on Sunday.

"Combining all the notifications, it would add up to 1,000 people" near the coast of Libya, spokeswoman Laura Lanuza said.

But she said the Italian coastguard had told the group they "weren't needed" and "the operation was being handled by the Libyan coastguard."

"If the Libyan coastguard coordinates this effort, all these people will be sent back to Libya," she said.

Late Sunday, Salvini tweeted that the Libyan coastguard had rescued "820 migrants" and once again took aim at NGO ships.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks, as a minister and as a father, to the authorities and the Libyan coastguard," he said.

"Today they saved and brought 820 immigrants back to Libya, making the "work" of the traffickers in vain and avoiding wrongful interventions by NGO ships."

It was not clear if the migrants referred to by Salvini were the same ones highlighted by Proactiva Open Arms

Safe harbour

Earlier Sunday Barcelona mayor Ada Colau had called on the Spanish government to save the migrants in distress.

"Right now more than 1,000 people adrift in seven boats and Italy intends to leave them in the hands of Libya, where people are tortured, raped and enslaved," she said on Twitter.

She urged her own country to "help save lives" and said the migrants could be welcomed in her city.

"Barcelona is offered as a safe harbour."

In recent weeks, Italy's new populist government has cracked down on foreign rescue ships operating in the Mediterranean.

Salvini has repeatedly accused the charities of being complicit with human smugglers.

The Italian coastguard also sent a message to rescue boats operating in the Mediterranean Friday informing them it would no longer be coordinating rescue operations in the Libya search and rescue area.

The groups, which have been chartering boats to rescue migrants, point to the very difficult conditions for migrants in Libya as they attempt to reach Europe on the perilous Mediterranean crossing.

Rome once played an important role coordinating rescue missions but Salvini wants to drastically reduce Italy's involvement.

Earlier this month Salvini triggered an EU-wide row when he barred the Aquarius rescue ship, chartered by French charity SOS Mediterranee, carrying around 630 migrants, from docking in Italy. Nearby Malta also turned the boat away and the ship was later accepted by Spain.

Two other ships carrying hundreds of migrants—the German NGO ship Lifeline and Danish container ship Alexander Maersk—are currently in the Mediterranean awaiting instructions on where they will be allowed to dock.

Both Italy and Malta have refused to take them in.

Salvini's refusal to welcome the rescue ships has thrust immigration to the forefront of the EU agenda. On Sunday EU leaders held a mini-summit on the issue.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

■ An article titled "Celebrations, Tears As Saudi Arabia Overturns Ban on Women Driving" was posted at yahoo.com on June 24, 2018.

■ An article by Ian Burns titled "Austria Threatens to Reinstate Border Checks If Germany Turns Away Migrants at It's Southern Frontier As EU Leaders Arrive in Brussels for Summit on How to Tackle Crisis" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on June 24, 2108.

■ A Reuters article by Ece Toksabay and Tuvan Gumrukau titled "Turkey's Erdogan Claims Election Victory, Opposition Wary" was posted at reuters.com on June 25, 2018.



An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Justice Roberts Pushes Back at Sotomayor's 'Wholly Inapt' Dissent Over Travel Ban" was posted at townhall.com on June 28, 2018. Following is the article.

We've had so much SCOTUS news lately, why not revisit one of the court's most talked about decisions from the past week?

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court ruled that President Trump's travel ban was constitutional. It was a close 5-4 vote, with all four liberal justices dissenting.

Yet, it was Sonia Sotomayor's dissent that really outraged Chief Justice John Roberts. In her rebuttal, Sotomayor tried invoking *Korematsu vs. United*

States to throw a wrench in the Court's decision. Korematsu considered the constitutionality of an executive order that ordered Japanese Americans into internment camps during World War II.

Sotomayor charged that, just as in Korematsu, their travel ban decision "invoked an ill-defined national security threat to justify an exclusionary policy of sweeping proportion."

That is a "wholly inapt" argument, Roberts charged. Roberts agreed that Korematsu was "gravely" wrong. But, he said it is irrelevant to the travel ban ruling.

Trump's order bans travel to the U.S. from the nations of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, North Korea and Venezuela.

Conservatives had plenty to cheer about the last two weeks on Capitol Hill. Not only did the Court uphold the travel ban, but it sided with pro-life pregnancy centers against the abortion lobby and with non-union members against Big Labor.



An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Resistance on Steroids: Left Plans All Out Assault on Trump's SCOTUS Nominee" was posted at townhall.com on June 28, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

In light of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announcing his retirement, the left is pledging to wage an all out war on whoever President Trump chooses as his replacement.

■ MSNBC Host Chris Matthews during his show on Wednesday evening: "I think the Democrats, as I said a few moments ago, have to fight this tooth and nail. They have to use every process, opportunity they have to stop this until next year when we have a new Senate. Don't allow a vote, don't have a hearing, don't allow anything to go forward . . . Don't play ball with this decision. They have to use every tactic at their disposal."

■ Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer: "This is the most important Supreme Court vacancy for this country in at least a generation. Nothing less than the fate of our health care system, reproductive rights for women, and countless other protections for middle-class Americans are at stake."

Democrat Senator Elizabeth Warren and potential 2020 presidential candidate: "Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement means that women's health, equal marriage, and civil rights are all at risk. This is the fight of our lives."

■ Democrat Senator Kamala Harris during an interview with MSNBC: "We all need to understand this to be one of the most serious fights we have yet to have had with this president. And we cannot relent."

Former Clinton and Holder staffer Brian Fallon: "Every name on Trump's shortlist would be another Neil Gorsuch. Democrats should draw a line in the sand now that they will oppose anyone on that list."

■ "Journalist" Dan Rather: "Justice Kennedy retiring. If you are deeply disturbed, absorb the shock. But respond with even more determination. If you see this as a fight for the future of democracy, let those in power know that the will of the majority can still hold sway."

You get the point.

President Trump plans to nominate a replacement for Kennedy "immediately" and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell plans to have the individual confirmed in the fall.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list consists of headlines of articles about the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

■ An article by Matt Vespa titled "Comedy Central Writer [Curtis Cook]: I Wish Justice Kennedy Had Been Assassinated" was posted at townhall.com on June 28, 2018.

■ An article by Max Augros titled "Mark Levin: Progressives 'Want to Use the Supreme Court to Change Our Constitution' " was posted at cnsnews.com on June 28, 2018.



An article by Craig Bannister titled "Judge: 'Even Blind Person Can See True Target of Special Counsel's Investigation is President Trump' " was posted at cnsnews.com on June 28, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

"Any blind person can see" that Special Counsel Robert Mueller's prosecution of former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort isn't about Manafort—it's about getting his "true target"—the president.

While ruling against Manafort in court on June 26, 2018, U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III made the declaration in a footnote in his decision: "15—Given the investigation's focus on President Trump's campaign, even a blind person can see that the true target of the Special Counsel's investigation is President Trump, not defendant, and that defendant's prosecution is part of that larger plan. Specifically, the charges against defendant are intended to induce defendant to cooperate with the Special Counsel by providing evidence against the President or other members of the campaign."

But, he concludes, Mueller's tactics may be "distasteful," but they're not illegal or even unusual: "Although these kinds of high-pressure prosecutorial tactics are neither uncommon nor illegal, they are distasteful."



An article by Walter Williams titled "Diversity and Inclusion Harm—Part II" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on June 27, 2018. Following is the article.

My column a fortnight ago, titled "Diversity and Inclusion Harm," focused on the dumbing down of science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula to achieve a more pleasing mixture of participants in terms of race and sex.

Heather Mac Donald, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, wrote about this in her article titled "How Identity Politics Is Harming the Sciences."

Mac Donald quoted a UCLA scientist who said, "All across the country the big question now in STEM is: how can we promote more women and minorities by 'changing' (i.e., lowering) the requirements we had previously set for graduate level study?"

The National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health are two federal agencies that fund university research, are consumed by diversity and inclusion ideology, and have the power to yank funds from a college if it has not supported a sufficient number of "underrepresented minorities."

In recent years, the Federal Aviation Administration has also become consumed by diversity and inclusion.

Prior to becoming so, the FAA worked with about 36 colleges to create the Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative. The colleges offered two- and four-year non-engineering aviation degrees requiring basic courses in air traffic control and aviation administration. Graduates of these programs became qualified candidates for training as air traffic control specialists. The FAA gave hiring preferences to veterans, those with AT-CTI program degrees, references from administrators and high test scores.

In 2013, President Obama-appointed FAA Administrator Michael Huerta deemed that these hiring standards had not produced a pleasing mix of air traffic controllers when it came to race and sex. He announced plans to "transform the (FAA) into a more diverse and inclusive workplace that reflects, understands, and relates to the diverse customers" it serves.

The FAA discarded its longtime use of the difficult cognitive assessment test and implemented instead a new, unmonitored take-home personality test—a biographical questionnaire.

Among the questions asked are:

- “The number of high school sports I participated in was . . .”
- “How would you describe your ideal job?”
- “What has been the major cause of your failures?”
- “More classmates would remember me as humble or dominant?”

In other words, the FAA opened air traffic control training to “off-the-street hires”—any English-speaking citizen with a high school diploma—despite the fact that most high school diplomas are fraudulent documents.

All air traffic control applicants are required to complete the biographical questionnaire. Those who “pass” are deemed eligible. The questionnaire gives more points to an applicant who answers that he has not been employed in the previous three years than it does to an applicant who answers that he has been a pilot or is a veteran with an air traffic control-related military background.

Michael Pearson, an air traffic controller for 27 years who is suing the FAA, said, “A group within the FAA, including the human resources function within the FAA—the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees—determined that the workforce was too white.”

In an act of cowardice, a Republican-controlled Congress during President Obama’s second term cut a deal allowing the FAA to hire half of new controllers based on race.

Led by its president, William Perry Pendley, the Mountain States Legal Foundation has brought a discrimination suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in behalf of Andrew J. Brigida against U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao—although, when this suit began, Anthony Foxx was the secretary of transportation. (When Chao became the secretary, she was automatically substituted as the defendant.)

All Americans should hope that the Mountain States Legal Foundation suit is successful in preventing the FAA from using race and sex as criteria for hiring. Passengers’ lives, regardless of sex and race, depend upon there being proficient air traffic controllers.



An article by Ben Shapiro titled “The Rise of the Mob” was posted at jewish-worldreview.com on June 27, 2018. Following is the article.

This week, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., issued a clarion call to Democrats outraged at the policies of the Trump administration: It’s time for mob action.

In the wake of mobs targeting Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, Waters explained: "God is on our side! On the side of the children . . . Let's make sure we show up wherever we have to show up. And if you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd and you push back on them and you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Waters has always been a fan of mob action. She infamously touted the violent and brutal 1992 Los Angeles riots, which did approximately \$1 billion in property damage and ended with 63 people dead. Waters called the events a "rebellion," labeling them a "spontaneous reaction to a lot of injustice and a lot of alienation and frustration."

And yet Waters has been affectionately nicknamed "Auntie Maxine" thanks to her rabid attacks against the Trump administration.

Democratic leaders ranging from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., denounced Waters' words. They've done the same with regard to violent protests on college campuses. That is meritorious and deserves praise.

But there is little question that major political figures on both sides of the aisle have played footsie with mob action to little or no blowback. It's not just Waters.

President Obama made excuses for riots in Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland, during his presidency; Rev. Al Sharpton, who has actually been involved in precipitating mob violence, still gets to play peacemaker on national television; during President Trump's 2016 campaign, he repeatedly referenced the possibility of violence against protesters.

No civil society can humor such overtures to mob action and remain civil for long. The First Amendment protects Maxine Waters, of course, and it should. But Americans should be appalled by her words, rather than slightly titillated by them.

And yet it seems that extreme rhetoric now earns a sort of badge of "coolness" that can't be matched by those calling for cooler heads.

To call for civility now seems unwoke. No wonder Symone Sanders of CNN stated, "the folks calling for civility might need to check their privilege."

To be angry is to be justified; not being angry enough is the greatest sin.

And that is dangerous.

It's not that Americans will suddenly begin attacking one another in the streets. It's that large populations can be moved by small, extreme minorities.

Nassim Nicholas Taleb writes in his new book, "Skin in the Game," about the phenomenon of "renormalization," whereby larger, more moderate groups appease small minorities simply to avoid certain costs. That can happen when

reasonable people stop standing up to advocates for mobocracy, afraid that doing so will alienate their most vocal supporters.

Waters has always been a fringe figure. Perhaps she'll remain so. But there are no guarantees. And we shouldn't be sanguine about the prospects of quashing radical tribalism. It's not quite as easy as putting out a few tepid statements.



An article by Ann Coulter titled "Country Overboard! Women and Children Last!" was posted at anncoulter.com on June 27, 2018. Following is the article.

I'm still ticked off at him for not building the wall, but THANK YOU, PRESIDENT TRUMP, FOR POINTING OUT THAT MAXINE WATERS HAS A LOW I.Q.!

And there's more great news! Contrary to every single New York Times editorial and opinion piece on the president's "Muslim ban," this week, the Supreme Court upheld the ban.

Or, as a Times op-ed put it back on Jan. 27, 2017: "(T)he order is illegal. More than 50 years ago, Congress outlawed such discrimination against immigrants based on national origin . . ."—"Trump's Immigration Ban Is Illegal," by David J. Bier, immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute.

For your immigration news, New York Times, maybe stop thinking you're getting "both sides" by going to open borders activists at the International Refugee Assistance Project and, for the opposing view, open borders activists at the Cato Institute.

Last week, in a column that does not misstate the facts and the law about immigration, I covered some typical asylum and refugee admissions to our country, including Beatrice Munyenyezi. She was the Rwandan who got into our country by claiming to be a victim of the genocide that killed nearly a million people, even though she had helped orchestrate it.

Munyenyezi wasn't the only participant in the Rwandan genocide who's gotten in as a victim and then been unmasked as a perpetrator. So far, nearly 400 Rwandans granted special refugee status have been convicted of lying on visa applications about their role in the genocide. Great job, U.S. refugee admissions officials!

Courts are dealing with so many genocidal Rwandans who came to America as "refugees" that just last Friday, a federal appeals court upheld the conviction of another one, Gervais "Ken" Ngombwa, who not only lied about his participation in the genocide, but also about his family relationships. (You can't get anything past our State Department!)

Aside from our immigration authorities missing little things like the Rwandan genocide, what is the argument for taking in millions of people from backward cultures, hotbeds of real racism, pederasty, misogyny—as opposed to the “microaggressions” that are the bane of our culture?

It’s one thing to use quotas as a response to slavery and Jim Crow in our own country, but why do we have to have an immigration quota for “people who don’t live here, have never seen an indoor toilet, and rape little girls for sport”?

Liberals act as if they are striking a blow for feminism by importing desperate women from misogynistic cultures to America. But, even to the extent they’re telling the truth, the women aren’t always victims only. They’re often co-conspirators.

Remember the Baby Hope case? In 1991, a little girl’s unidentified body was found in an Igloo cooler alongside the Henry Hudson Parkway. Twenty-two years later, the New York City police finally solved the case: The perpetrator turned out to be Baby Hope’s illegal alien cousin from Mexico, who had raped and killed her when she was 4 years old.

And how had he escaped justice for 22 years? The girl’s mother and aunt, also illegals, helped orchestrate the cover-up. The aunt helped dispose of the body and the girl’s mother never said a peep, despite admitting that she suspected all along that the corpse in the cooler was her unreported, missing daughter.

Hmong girls in Minnesota are regularly gang raped by Hmong men, but the Hmong community—even the girls’ mothers—blame the rape victims, and the attacks go unreported. These aren’t cultures of strong women and criminal men. It’s more like criminal men and complicit women.

(One of the major articles reporting on the Hmong rape culture, helping diversify America, was Pam Louwagie and Dan Browning’s “Shamed Into Silence,” published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune in 2005. It used to be here: startribune.com/local/11594631.html. The detailed story won first place for In Depth Reporting from the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists, but it seems to have disappeared from the Tribune’s website. Welcome to the Soviet Union!)

In San Francisco, we had the young Indian sex slaves of pederast Lakireddy Bali Reddy testifying on his behalf. Once he was finally busted—not by our fantastic “democracy dies in darkness” mainstream media, but by a local high school newspaper—we found out his child rape victims thought they deserved it. They could not be coaxed to testify against him. Some took the stand on his behalf. They were all given asylum. We didn’t change them; they just moved here, without altering their belief in human slavery or the caste system one iota.

Americans are told we have to understand that it’s part of their native cultures.

Exactly! It’s their culture. We’re not rescuing anybody; we’re bringing in diseased cultures. The alleged refugees don’t float above and apart from their societies. Feminists may see the world as the Boy team versus the Girl team, but in

reality, it's the Civilized team versus the Primitive team. Virtually every woman outside of the First World lives in an abusive society. We can't take them all in.

How did violent, backward, misogynistic cultures become our problem? Did we take a vote and agree to be the world's charity ward?

Democrats who claim to be defenders of the weak, the marginal and vulnerable are happy to toss our safe, functioning country aside—as long as they can wreck America (and get their housework done at the same time!). The left's central political philosophy is based on resentment toward historical America.

They're just like the feminists willing to forgive Bill Clinton for rape. Well, you know, taking in the totality of his contributions . . . Today, it's: Who cares what kind of society we become—provided America is no more.

Primitive people will not stop trying to come here until America is no different from Calcutta. Then, liberals' work will be done. And there will be no charity ward left for anyone to flee to.

That's how much liberals care about women and children.



An article by Michelle Malkin titled " 'Abolish ICE' Zealots Occupy Fantasy Island" was posted at michellemalkin.com on June 27, 2018. Following is the article.

"No ban. No wall. No borders at all."

That is the radical rallying cry of the Democratic Socialists of America. Waving desecrated U.S. flags, grubby fists and ratty anarchy banners, DSA's professional protesters are targeting Trump administration officials, threatening immigration enforcement agents, and blockading detention facilities and processing centers nationwide.

On a similar note, Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., proudly marched in a parade last week with a T-shirt emblazoned with "Yo No Creo En Fronteras"—Spanish for "I don't believe in borders."

These are abjectly unserious people, operating in bad faith, who pose a serious threat to our nation's well-being.

In New York, DSA rabble-rousers took over a loading dock used to transport immigrants at an ICE processing center on Varick Street. Genius move. Now, detainees whose bond hearings were canceled because of the protest disruptions face another six or more extra weeks in detention.

In Portland, Oregon, DSA operatives shut down a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office after preventing workers from exiting the building.

In Detroit, organizers disrupted ordinary processing and appointments at a downtown ICE field office and plan to camp out there 24 hours a day until the end of the month. "Our short-term goal is to shut down operations at this particular center," ringleader Robert Jay explained.

"Our long-term goal is to abolish ICE entirely."

This reckless, simpleton sentiment doesn't belong to the fringe of the American left. It is the center. Across the country, supposedly mainstream Democrats, activist groups and entertainers are pushing to "Abolish ICE."

To be clear, if the hashtag didn't clue you in: They don't just want to reform or reduce the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, which was created by merging existing immigration entities after the 9/11 attacks to better coordinate enforcement against alien lawbreakers inside the country.

They want it gone. Zapped. Poof.

An informational flyer lists the agenda of the ICE breakers:

- "A moratorium on deportations."
- "End all forms of immigration detention."
- "Reimagine Border Patrol as a humanitarian force that rescues migrants, rather than destroying their water supplies to hasten their deaths."

It seems these hysterical extremists were too busy stalking Republicans at restaurants and blocking roadways to notice the Border Patrol agents in Arizona who rescued 57 illegal immigrants, men, women and children (as young as 1), abandoned by smugglers in 108 degree heat in the Tucson sector this weekend. Or the Border Patrol agents in Texas who rescued a pregnant immigrant woman who nearly drowned while attempting to cross the Rio Grande River illegally.

If the Kumbaya leaders of the Abolish ICE campaign were limited to ragtag millennials demanding the whole world operate like an Oberlin College co-op or Fantasy Island, it would be easy to dismiss. But their ranks are spreading:

Organizers of the Women's March, endorsed by celebrities, journalists and Democrats, announced this week that the "call to #AbolishICE is a call to eliminate the agency that has been terrorizing immigrant communities for 15 years. Women from all backgrounds must take up @conmijente's call to #FreeOurFuture."

Mijente, a Latino activist group leading the Abolish ICE movement, proudly displays on its Twitter home page a huge "Chinga La Migra" banner. (Translation: "F— the Border Patrol.")

Endorsing the movement, The Nation magazine dubbed ICE a "mass-deportation strike force is incompatible with democracy and human rights."

Reps. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., Jim McGovern, D- Mass., Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., and nearly 20 Democratic congressional candidates have all called for eliminating ICE. Boston-area Democratic congressional candidate Ayanna Pressley wants to defund ICE because it's an "existential threat" to "immigrant communities."

And New York actress-turned-Democratic gubernatorial candidate Cynthia Nixon declared that "ICE is a terrorist organization."

Silly Cindy is campaigning to destroy ICE's entire 20,000-person workforce, which handles not only enforcement and removal operations, but also homeland security investigations combating criminal organizations illegally exploiting our travel, trade, financial and immigration systems. That includes international smugglers of women and children, drugs, weapons and cash.

So, how exactly do these ICE-melters propose to deal with criminal alien fugitives, such as the estimated 300,000 deportation absconders who've been ordered by immigration judges to leave the country?

How about the 40 percent of illegal aliens, from the pool of between 11 million and 30 million immigration law-breakers, who overstayed their visas and are on the loose doing heaven knows what?

And when will these noble 21st-century abolitionists be stepping up to open their homes to the members of the ICE Most Wanted list, which includes illegal aliens wanted for murder, aggravated homicide, narcotics and human trafficking, and membership in terrorist organizations?

I don't just question their patriotism. I question their sanity.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

Finances

■ An article by Chris Isidore titled "Trump Tariff Would Make the Toyota Camry \$1,800 More Expensive to Build" was posted at cnn.com on June 28, 2018.

Illegal immigration

■ An article by Lukas Mikelionis titled "Cynthia Nixon Calls ICE 'Terrorist Organization,' Says It Should Be Abolished" was posted at foxnews.com on June 22, 2018.

■ An article by Kyle Perisic titled "Federal Authorities Warn Antifa [in Oregon] to End ICE Occupation Or Be Arrested" was posted at dailycaller.com on June 25, 2018.

■ An article by Steven Nelson titled "ICE Barricades DC Headquarters to Block Protestor 'Occupation' " was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on June 27, 2018.

■ An article by Mark Browne titled "Mexico Deported More Central American Migrants Than US in FY 2012-2017: Think Tank" was posted at cnsnews.com on June 27, 2018.

■ An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Trump's 'Travel Ban' Countries Account for Only 8% of World's Muslims" was posted at cnsnews.com on June 27, 2018.

■ An article by Stephen Dinan titled "Feds to Begin Distributing Grant Money to Non-Sanctuary Cities" was posted at washingtontimes.com on June 27, 2018.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Kevin Rector and Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs titled "Five Dead in 'Targeted Attack' at Capital Gazette Newspaper in Annapolis, Police Say" was posted at capitalgazette.com on June 28, 2018.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Matt Vespa titled "Hollywood Director [David Lynch]: Trump Could Be One of Our Greatest Presidents—And I Voted for Bernie Sanders" was posted at townhall.com on June 26, 2018.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Kyle Olson titled "Maxine Waters Orders More Public Harassment of Trump Aides: 'God is on Our Side' " was posted at theamericanmirror.com on June 24, 2018.

■ An article by Jim Geraghty titled "Representative Maxine Waters Calls for Political Violence" was posted at nationalreview.com on June 25, 2018.

■ An article by Sarah D. Wire titled "Resist Too Far? Pelosi Tries to Tamp Down Progressives' Public Shaming of Trump Officials" was posted at latimes.com on June 25, 2018.

■ An article by Gregory Krieg titled "A 28-Year-Old Democratic Socialist Just Ousted a Powerful, 10-Year Congressman [Joe Crowley] in New York" was posted at cnn.com on June 27, 2018.

■ An article by Nick Reilly titled "Tony Blair Warns That Future Comparisons to Nazi Germany May Not Be Far Fetched" was posted at yahoo.com on June 27, 2018.

■ An article by Abigail Shalawyo titled "West Coast Red Hen Loses Business After Virginia Namesake Kicks Out Sarah Sanders" was posted at yahoo.com on June 27, 2018.

■ An article by Derek Hunter titled "The Liberal Mob Won't Stop Until Someone Gets Killed, And Then Only Maybe" was posted at townhall.com on June 28, 2018.

News about the media

- Looking back to May, an article by Amber Athey titled “Media Rhetoric on Trump Administration Becomes Increasingly Violent” was posted at daily-caller.com on May 12, 2018.
- An article by Jon Levine titled “CNN Legal Analyst [Jeffrey Toobin] Predicts ‘Abortion Will Be Illegal in 20 States in 18 Months’ With Kennedy’s Retirement” was posted at yahoo.com on June 27, 2018.
- An article by Tom Elliott titled “Before Facts Come In, MSNBC Blames Trump for Newsroom Shooting” was posted at townhall.com on June 28, 2018.

General interest

- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “Americans Read an Average of 16.8 Minutes Per Day; Spend 166.2 Minutes Watching TV” was posted at cnsnews.com on June 28, 2018.



An article by Esther Trattner titled “Sick Stores: These Are the Chains That are Dying Off Fastest” was posted at moneywise.com on June 20, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

You thought last year was bad for chain stores? Around 9,000 went out of business in 2017—but 2018 is shaping up to be even worse!

The huge shopping shift away from the mall and onto the smartphone is bringing even more going-out-of-business sales, store layoffs and empty big boxes.

We count down the 25 large retailers closing the most stores in 2018.

26. J.C. Penney—8 stores

After closing nearly 140 stores last year, J.C. Penney is at it again in 2018. The department store chain says eight locations, from California to New Jersey, will be out of business before summer.

Penney’s, which has been losing money for years, also plans to close a distribution center in Wisconsin this summer.

25. Lord & Taylor—10 stores

Your grandmother may have shopped at Lord & Taylor—and your grandmother’s grandmother and her grandmother, too. The department store chain has been around for more than 190 years.

But Lord & Taylor is struggling to draw today’s younger shoppers. Its parent company has decided to shut down up to 10 stores in 2018—one-fifth of the total—including the chain’s iconic flagship store on New York City’s Fifth Avenue.

24. Macy's—11 stores

Macy's closed around 70 of its department stores in 2017 and started off 2018 by announcing it would shut down nearly a dozen more.

The company says it wants to focus on its stores that are top moneymakers, and on its website. Macy's has a strong presence online and is hungry to win over more shoppers there.

23. Crocs—47 stores

Crocs—the company that makes those colorful, rubbery clogs with the holes—has been shrinking its “footprint.” In other words, scaling back the number of brick-and-mortar stores it operates.

When it had 558 stores in March of 2017, the funky footwear firm said it wanted to reduce that tally to 400 by the end of 2018. At the beginning of this year, Crocs was still about 50 closings from its target.

22. J. Crew—50 stores

Many malls are kinda dead these days, at least compared to how busy they used to be. And that's really bad news for preppy clothing chain J. Crew, because most of its stores are at the mall.

The troubled company said it would close 50 stores early in 2018—more than double the number it had announced earlier. If you got a J. Crew gift card for the holidays, you may want to use it fast.

21. Abercrombie & Fitch—60 stores

The teen retailer known for its buff models and torn jeans will be turning out the lights at 60 of its Abercrombie & Fitch and Hollister stores this year.

The Abercrombie company has been shedding its locations in malls because—you guessed it—more of its customers want to buy their threads online.

20. Sam's Club—63 stores

Walmart says it's closing 63 of its Sam's Club warehouse club stores, though 12 of them will be converted to warehouses to store online merchandise.

The chain's CEO has suggested some of the stores were too close to others. Almost 600 Sam's Clubs will remain.

19. Kmart—81 stores

The company that owns struggling Sears also owns the gasping Kmart discount chain. It's shutting down another 81 (the number keeps growing!) Kmart stores this year because they're not making money.

Parent company Sears Holdings says it's working to expand its online retail business to better serve customers.

18. Claire's—92 stores

Claire's, the retailer that keeps teenage girls well-accessorized in bangles and bling, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in March and said it would close 92 of its stores this spring.

The company says it has been hurt by dying malls, competition from big-box chains (like Target) and "the increased popularity of online shopping."

17. Winn-Dixie and Bi-Lo—94 stores

Supermarkets are not immune from the forces shaking up retailing. Smaller grocery chains are being squeezed out as Americans do more of their food shopping at dollar stores, Walmart and Amazon's Whole Foods.

Amid that backdrop, Southeastern Grocers has filed for bankruptcy and has announced it's shutting down nearly 100 of its Winn-Dixie, Bi-Lo and other supermarkets in seven southern states.

16. Aaron Brothers—94 stores

It's not a good picture for the Aaron Brothers chain of framing stores in the central and western U.S. Nearly all of them are being put out of business by Michaels, the arts and crafts retailer that bought Aaron Brothers in 1995.

Michaels says it has decided the standalone framing stores just aren't working. It has decided to open mini-Aaron Brothers framing shops within Michaels locations.

15. Sears—98 stores

Sears' business has been in a steady decline for more than a decade, and the company's stock price has dropped from about \$40 a share in June 2015 to less than \$3 in 2018.

The shrinking retailer started 2018 by announcing it would close another 39 Sears stores. In April it started shuttering 11 more, and in late May the retailer put another 48 of its department stores on the chopping block.

14. Foot Locker—110 stores

More than 100 Foot Locker stores are in their final inning and are expected to close in 2018. CEO Richard Johnson told analysts in early March that the company is leaving malls that are "starting to deteriorate."

The sneaker and athletic clothing chain is opening 40 new stores this year, including a new Champs Sports flagship store in New York's Times Square.

13. Guess?—Up to 120 stores

Guess? is doing better overseas than in the U.S., so the fashion retailer is guessing that cutting way back on its American stores will be good for business.

The company plans to permanently lock the doors at 100 to 120 U.S. stores in 2018, after closing around 60 last year. Meanwhile, the chain plans to expand in Europe and Asia.

12. Vitamin World—124 stores

The Vitamin World chain is looking like a 98-pound weakling these days. The company filed for bankruptcy protection in September 2017 and put 124 stores in going-out-of-business mode. They were expected to close by February 2018.

The company has been looking for a buyer for its remaining 220 or so stores.

11. Michael Kors—Up to 125 stores

High-end fashion accessories giant Michael Kors will shut down 100 to 125 stores in the next two years after major drops in sales in 2017. Kors sales in both its branded stores and department stores fell by double digits.

If you're a fan of Michael Kors (the brand, not necessarily the designer and snarky judge from "Project Runway"), then you'll be glad to hear the firm is restructuring, not tanking. The company's stock price has been going up and up!

10. The Children's Place—Up to 144 stores

Kids may grow, but longtime kids' clothing retailer The Children's Place has been getting smaller and smaller. And, it plans to shut down another 144 stores by 2020.

TCP wants to refocus on expanding its sales on Amazon and growing its international business, says Forbes.

8. (tie) GNC—200 stores

GNC is another vitamin retailer that has been looking sickly. Executives hope closing 200 stores in the U.S. and Canada will be just the spoonful of tonic the company needs to improve its financial health.

The chain's strength has been sapped by the decline of shopping malls (where most of its stores are) and tough competition from Amazon and other online vitamin sellers.

8. (tie) Gap/Banana Republic—200 stores

Two of your local mall's staples—Gap and Banana Republic—may soon disappear. Parent company Gap Inc. says 200 of those stores will go dark in the next three years because they're "underperforming."

Even if your nearest stores close, you'll still be able to get your Gap and Banana fix online. And it's not all bad news for the company: It plans to open 270 new stores for its growing brands, Old Navy and Athleta.

7. Best Buy Mobile—250 stores

Electronics big-box chain Best Buy has decided to shut down all 250 of its not-so-big Best Buy Mobile stores found in malls.

In a letter to employees, Best Buy CEO Hubert Joly says the stand-alone mobile phone stores aren't very profitable. And, he says shoppers will typically find a regular Best Buy store nearby where they can buy a phone.

6. Bon-Ton—260 stores

It's all over for the Bon-Ton family of department stores, which includes the Bergner's, Bon-Ton, Boston Store, Carson's, Elder-Beerman, Herberger's and Younkers chains.

The 160-year-old retailer filed for bankruptcy in February and initially said it would close around 50 stores in 2018. Two months later, the company decided it would have to shut down entirely.

5. Teavana—379 stores

The end is brewing for Starbucks' tea brand: The company plans to shutter all 379 of its mall-based Teavana locations. Most were to be out of business by the spring.

Although Starbucks made efforts to use merchandising and store redesigns to net more customers, the strategies just didn't percolate.

4. Subway—500 stores

The Subway chain of sandwich shops is slimming down. After closing more than 900 stores last year, the company says it wants to shut down around 500 more of its U.S. locations in 2018.

Subway is still massive, with more than 44,000 stores around the world, including nearly 26,000 in the U.S. But its business is in a pickle from competitors, including supermarket sandwich counters.

3. Ann Taylor and her sisters—Up to 547 stores

The company behind Ann Taylor, Loft, Dressbarn and other clothing chains for women plans to close as many as 547 more stores by 2019. That's on top of at least 120 that Ascena Retail Group shut down in 2017.

Falling sales and astronomical commercial rents have been big problems for the retailer.

2. Rite Aid—600 stores

Headaches are on the way for many Rite Aid drugstore customers: They'll have to transfer their prescriptions because 600 Rite Aids will close, starting this spring.

The Walgreens pharmacy chain is buying nearly 2,000 stores from its rival Rite Aid and says any of those locations that are too close to a Walgreens will be put out of business.

1. Toys R Us—735 stores

It's game over for Toys R Us in 2018. The chain that helped raise generations of kids says it's closing all 735 of its remaining U.S. stores and will try to sell its roughly 80 stores in Canada.

The company filed for bankruptcy last September, then had a dismal holiday season. Analysts say what killed Toys R Us was online competition and kids choosing electronic gadgets over traditional toys.



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."