

Eye on the World

Dec. 15, 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 Dec. 15, 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).



An article by Elaine Ganley and John Leicester titled “Rioting Engulfs Paris As Anger Grows Over High Taxes” was posted at chicagotribune.com on Dec. 8, 2018. Following is the article

Central Paris was filled with the rumble of armored police trucks and the hiss of tear gas on Saturday, as French riot police fought to contain thousands of yellow-vested protesters venting their anger against the government in a movement that has grown more violent by the week.

A ring of steel surrounded the president’s Elysee Palace—a key destination for the protesters—as police stationed trucks and reinforced metal barriers throughout the neighborhood.

Stores along the elegant Champs-Elysees Avenue and the posh Avenue Montaigne boarded up their windows as if bracing for a hurricane but the storm struck anyway Saturday, this time at the height of the holiday shopping season. Protesters ripped off the plywood protecting the windows and threw flares and other projectiles. French riot police repeatedly repelled them with tear gas and water cannon.

Saturday’s [Dec. 8] yellow vest crowd was overwhelmingly male, a mix of those bringing their financial grievances to Paris—the center of France’s government, economy and culture—along with groups of experienced vandals

who tore steadily through some of the city's wealthiest neighborhoods, smashing and burning.

Police and protesters also clashed in other French cities, notably Marseille, Toulouse and Bordeaux, and in neighboring Belgium. Some protesters took aim at the French border with Italy, creating a huge traffic backup near the town of Ventimiglia.

The French government's plan was to prevent a repeat of the Dec. 2 rioting that damaged the Arc de Triomphe, devastated central Paris and tarnished the country's global image. It did not succeed, even though it was better prepared.

Although Saturday's protest in the French capital started out quietly, tear gas choked the Champs-Élysées Avenue by early evening.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said that 135 people had been injured and 974 taken into custody amid protests around the nation. Paris police headquarters counted 71 injuries in the capital, seven of them police officers.

An estimated 125,000 people demonstrated around France while 10,000 took their anger to the streets of Paris, double the number in the capital last week, the interior minister said. Toughening security tactics, French authorities deployed 8,000 security officers in the capital alone, among the 89,000 who fanned out around the country.

A Starbucks near the Champs-Élysées was smashed wide open and people were seen stepping over broken glass and serving themselves to beverages. The window of a nearby bank was smashed in with a wrought-iron decoration used to encircle city tree trunks.

All of the city's top tourist attractions—including the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre museum—shut down for the day, fearing the kind of damage that hit the Arc de Triomphe a week ago. Christmas markets and soccer matches were cancelled. Subway stations in the city center closed and the U.S. embassy warned citizens to avoid all protest areas.

Yet in a sign of the financial disconnect that infuriates many of the protesters, a few blocks from the famed boulevard, people were sitting in Paris cafes, drinking cocktails and chatting.

Amid the melee, President Emmanuel Macron remained invisible and silent, as he has for the four weeks of a movement that started as a protest against a gas tax hike and metamorphosed into a rebellion against high taxes and eroding living standards.

The mayor of the city of Saint-Etienne, a town in southeast France hit by violence Saturday, castigated Macron for failing to speak out, saying it "feeds the resentment."

"This silence becomes contempt for the nation," the mayor, Gael Perdriau, of the opposition conservative party, said on BFMTV. "He has a direct responsibility in what is happening. He can't remain closed up in the Elysee."

France's yellow vest protesters have political stances ranging from the far right to the far left but the leaderless group is united in its sense that Macron and his government are out of touch.

"We are here to tell (Macron) our discontent. Me, I'm not here to break things because I have four children," said protester Myriam Diaz. "But I still want to be here to say 'Stop, that's enough.'"

Some protesters sang the French national anthem—"The Marseillaise"—as they confronted phalanxes of police in heavy riot gear. One protester in Paris showed an Associated Press reporter a fresh wound on his jaw, saying a rubber bullet fired by charging police had glanced his face.

"I was running with my hands up. They charged," said Ludovic, a 38-year-old cabinetmaker from the eastern city of Colmar. He only gave his first name, saying he feared being tracked by security authorities. He said he was fleeing the Champs-Elysees, choked with tear gas, when police moved in.

Even as blue armored trucks rumbled over cobblestone streets in Paris, a larger environmental march took place peacefully Saturday toward the city's Republique Plaza.

A scattering of yellow vests, as well as women, children and retirees, were among the 17,000 people marching to demand action against climate change. One sign read "No climate justice without fiscal and social justice."

Cyril, a 25-year-old garbage truck driver, came from Normandy with three others. He said he earns only 1,430 euros (\$1,625) a month despite working 45 hours a week and has decided not to have children because doesn't feel he can earn enough to raise them. This was his third weekend of protesting in Paris.

"I've come to defend myself," he said, adding that he thought Macron's mistake was trying to reform the French economy too quickly. "He's done more in 18 months than the others in 30 years."

Macron on Wednesday agreed to abandon the fuel tax hike, which aimed to wean France off fossil fuels and uphold the Paris climate agreement. Many economists and scientists say higher fuel taxes are essential to save the planet from worsening climate change, but that stance hasn't defused the anger among France's working class.

Late Saturday, after announcing that the violence in Paris had been "contained," Castaner, the interior minister, took a victory stroll down the Champs-Elysees.

Tear gas had dissipated and a standoff was over. It had pitted a line of security forces, backed by two armored vehicles, against protesters, some lobbing objects and cherry bombs to taunt police.

Protesters also blocked roads, traffic roundabouts and highway tollbooths elsewhere in France and offshoot movements emerged in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Belgian police fired tear gas and water cannon Saturday at yellow-vested protesters calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Charles Michel. The protesters in Brussels threw paving stones, road signs, fireworks, flares and other objects at police and about 100 were detained.

Across the ocean, U.S. President Donald Trump seized the moment to once again criticize the 2015 Paris climate accord that he is abandoning.

"People do not want to pay large sums of money ... in order to maybe protect the environment," he tweeted.



An article titled "As It Happened: More Than a Thousand Arrested in Paris 'Yellow Vest' Protests" was posted at france24.com on Dec. 9, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

Businesses, museums and other attractions in the French capital had shuttered on Saturday in anticipation of the violent new clashes during the critical Christmas shopping season.

French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said 125,000 demonstrators had taken to the streets across the country, including 10,000 in Paris.

Paris and other French cities including Bordeaux, Lyon and Toulouse saw significant clashes between protesters and police.

About 120 protesters and 20 law enforcement officials were injured nationwide, the interior minister said. Nearly 1,400 people were arrested.

French PM Edouard Philippe called for dialogue and said President Emmanuel Macron would soon be proposing measures to "nourish" that dialogue and rebuild national unity.



An article titled French Govt. Urges End to Protests After Strasbourg Attack" was posted at france24.com on Dec. 13, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

The French government on Thursday urged "yellow vest" protesters not to hold another round of demonstrations this weekend as police hunted for a second day for the fugitive gunman who attacked a Christmas market in the eastern city of Strasbourg.

Government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux called on the anti-government protesters to be "reasonable", citing the strain on security forces after the attack in Strasbourg on Tuesday evening.

Police across several European countries have launched a manhunt for the main suspect, a 29-year-old Strasbourg native, who killed two and injured 13 after opening fire on shoppers.

The suspected killer, identified as Cherif Chekatt, is thought to have been injured after exchanging fire with soldiers, but managed to escape and has not been seen since.

"Our security forces have been deployed extensively these past few weeks," Griveaux told CNews television.

"It would be better if everyone could go about their business calmly on Saturday, before the year-end celebrations with their families, instead of demonstrating and putting our security forces to work once again," he added.

So-called "yellow vest" protesters, known for their fluorescent high-visibility jackets, had called for a fifth round of protests this Saturday against President Emmanuel Macron.

The protests began on November 17 over fuel tax increases, but snowballed into a revolt over living standards as well as Macron's perceived indifference to the problems of ordinary citizens.

The appeal came as authorities announced that a sixth person had died since the start of the protests, after a 23-year-old was hit by a truck in southern France near Avignon.

Even before Tuesday's attack in Strasbourg, the government had scrapped a fuel tax increase slated for January, a core demand of the protesters, who mainly live in rural areas and smaller towns and rely heavily on their cars.

Macron also announced a hike in the minimum wage, tax relief on overtime work and a rollback on taxes for many pensioners in a televised address to the nation on Monday night.

Last Saturday [Dec. 8] nearly 90,000 police were mobilised across the country for the protests, with 8,000 officers and a dozen armoured vehicles deployed in the capital, where scores of stores, museums and monuments were closed.

While some of the movement's representatives have said they are open to halting the protests to negotiate with the government, others have said Macron's concessions are not enough.

Wide search

Hundreds of police in France are now hunting for Chekatt, whose picture was published late on Wednesday in a bid to track a career criminal who has at least 27 convictions in four European countries.

His mother and father, as well as two brothers, were detained for questioning Wednesday.

Strasbourg's location at the crossroads of France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Luxembourg, makes the search more complicated.

Chekatt, who lived in a rundown apartment block a short drive from the city centre, was flagged by French security forces in 2015 as a possible Islamic extremist while in prison.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced Wednesday that France's anti-terror Sentinelle operation, which counts around 7,000 soldiers nationwide, would be boosted by a total of 1,800 troops over the coming days.

Among the casualties in Strasbourg, two were killed outright and another has been declared brain-dead, while 12 more were injured, six critically, France's anti-terror prosecutor Remy Heitz said.

They included one Thai tourist who was among the dead.

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha sent a letter of condolence to his French counterpart saying he was "profoundly shocked and saddened to learn of the horrendous attack in Strasbourg".

The statement said the Thai citizen had been on holiday in the city.

In Rome, the foreign ministry said one of the injured was an Italian journalist covering the European parliament, but did not confirm media reports that he was in a serious condition.

According to a tweet by Poland's embassy in Paris, a Polish citizen was also among the injured.



An article by Ben Shapiro titled "The International Community Isn't a Community; It's a Rogue's Gallery" was posted at dailywire.com on Dec. 12, 2018. Following is the article.

Very often these days, we hear about the wonderful richness of the international community. Americans are chastised for the following.

- Failing to go along with the international community on climate change.
- Failing to follow the consensus of the international community on health care.
- Failing to mirror the priorities of the international community in foreign policy.

But here's the reality: There is no international community. There is merely a group of states motivated by self-interest.

Sometimes those self-interests overlap. Other times they don't. But let's not pretend that the international community somehow maintains a sort of collective moral standing merely by dint of numbers. In fact, precisely the opposite is often true.

Take, for example, the United Nations' recent decision not to condemn the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas.

This week, the U.N. General Assembly voted on a resolution condemning the group for "repeatedly firing rockets into Israel and for inciting violence, thereby putting civilians at risk," as well as for using assets to construct "tunnels to infiltrate Israel and equipment to launch rockets into civilian areas."

The U.N., which requires a two-thirds vote to pass a General Assembly resolution, voted down the resolution—87 nations in favor, 58 against, 32 abstaining. All in all, that means that more nations voted against ratifying the resolution—90—than in favor of it.

Up to this point, the U.N. has never passed a single resolution against Hamas.

Just days later, Palestinian terrorists opened fire on a group of people waiting for a bus near Ofra, a settlement in Judea and Samaria.

The drive-by shooting wounded seven people, including a pregnant woman and her unborn child, as well as her husband. Both the woman and the baby are now in critical condition; it will be a miracle if both survive. According to *The Times of Israel*, Hamas immediately praised the attack, deeming it “heroic” and an “affirmation of our people’s choice and legitimacy in resisting the Zionist occupation and its settlers.”

Hamas isn’t hiding the ball. It is evil. It celebrates evil. It pays terrorists to commit acts of evil. But the international community isn’t hiding the ball either when its members refuse to condemn terrorism as terrorism when it is directed against disfavored members of the international community.

Take, by contrast, the international community’s reaction to a terrorist attack directed against an Iranian military parade in late September. The U.N. Security Council forcibly condemned the attack, calling it a “heinous and cowardly terrorist attack” and pledging its support to “hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.”

What’s the difference? Only the perpetrators and the targets.

The international community is a joke. Perhaps the United States ought to change its climate change or health care or gun policies. But those arguments should never be made on the basis of the international standard of morality—a standard that doesn’t exist, has never existed and ought not be the subject of pretending by Western nations that ought to know better.



An article titled “More Than Half of Global Population Now Online: UN” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 7, 2018. Following is the article.

Some 3.9 billion people are now using the Internet, meaning that for the first time more than half of the global population is online, the United Nations said Friday.

The UN agency for information and communication technologies, ITU, said that by the end of 2018 a full 51.2 percent of people around the world will be using the Internet.

“By the end of 2018, we will surpass the 50/50 milestone for Internet use,” ITU chief Houlin Zhou said in a statement.

“This represents an important step towards a more inclusive global information society,” he said, adding though that “far too many people around the world are still waiting to reap the benefits of the digital economy.”

He called for more support to “technology and business innovation so that the digital revolution leaves no one offline.”

According to ITU, the world’s richest countries have been showing slow and steady growth in Internet use, which has risen from 51.3 percent of their populations in 2005 to 80.9 percent now.

The gains have meanwhile been more dramatic in developing countries, where 45.3 percent of people are currently online, compared to just 7.7 percent 13 years ago.

Africa has experienced the strongest growth, with a more than 10-fold hike in the number of Internet users over the same period, from 2.1 percent to 24.4 percent, the ITU report showed.

The report also showed that while fixed-line telephone subscriptions continue to dwindle worldwide, to a current level of just 12.4 percent, the number of mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions is now greater than the global population.

And it found that mobile broadband subscriptions have skyrocketed from just four subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2007 to 69.3 today.

There are currently a full 5.3 billion active mobile broadband subscriptions worldwide, ITU found.

At the same time, the report said that nearly the entire world population, a full 96 percent, now lives within reach of a mobile cellular network, and 90 percent of people can access the Internet through a 3G or higher speed network.



“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 by Todd Pitman titled “In Gaza Protests, Israeli Troops Aim for the Legs” was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 9, 2018.

■ An article titled “Israel Raids Ramallah After Two Soldiers Shot Dead” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 13, 2018.

■ An article by Jacob Dunbuber titled “Greece Becomes War Zone As Thousands of Rioters Hit Streets on 10th Anniversary of Teenage ‘Police Brutality’ Killing” was posted at thesun.co.uk on Dec. 7, 2018.

■ An article by Lorne Cook and Mike Corder titled “Clashes As Yellow Vest Protests Grow in Belgium, Netherlands” was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 8, 2018.

- An article by Kevin McCandless titled "Mandatory Implantation of Microchips in Employees? UK Govt. Says It Would Likely Be Illegal" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 6, 2018.
- An article by James Carstensen titled "Germany and EU Firm on No New Brexit Renegotiation, As Embattled PM May Survives Confidence Vote" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Christopher Jacobs titled "Theresa May Faced Down a No-Confidence Vote Over Brexit, But She's Still in Big Trouble" was posted at thefederalist.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- An article titled "Prince Charles Says 'Enough Is Enough' on Knife Crime As He Teams Up With Prince Harry to Help Tackle It" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Under Trump, U.S. Finally Blacklists Pakistan for Religious Freedom Violations" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- A Reuters article titled "Saudi Foreign Minister Rules Out Extraditing Suspects in Khashoggi Case" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 9, 2018.



An article by the cnsnews.com staff titled "Nancy Pelosi: 'We Continue to Strive to Secure the Right to Life. . . .'" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 12, 2018. Following is the article.' "

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D.-Calif.) said in a statement issued to honor UN Human Rights Day that "we continue to strive to secure the right 'to life, liberty and security of person' for everyone, everywhere."

"Today, as we recall the historic signing of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, we continue to strive to secure the right 'to life, liberty, and security of person' for everyone, everywhere," Pelosi said.

"As Americans we have a duty to maintain our critical leadership in the defense of human rights both at home and around the world," she said.

Pelosi released this statement on Dec. 10. Here is the full text:

"Seventy years ago, in the aftermath of the horror and inhumanity of WWII, the nations of the world came together to resolutely declare the inherent dignity and rights of every human being. Today, as we recall the historic signing of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, we continue to strive to secure the right 'to life, liberty, and security of person' for everyone, everywhere.

"As Americans we have a duty to maintain our critical leadership in the defense of human rights both at home and around the world. Eleanor

Roosevelt, the chairwoman of the Declaration drafting committee, wisely stated, 'without concerted citizen action to uphold human rights close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.'

"Despite the progress we have made in this critical mission, our efforts remain as vital as ever. Whether standing up to the horrors inflicted upon innocent Rohingya and Uyghur communities, speaking out against the continued abuse and repression of Tibetan men, women and children, or upholding our nation's proud immigrant heritage by speaking out for those who come here seeking safety and security, we can never allow partisan politics or commercial interests to erode our moral leadership.

"On this UN Human Rights Day, Democrats join with leaders, activists and committed citizens around the world to reaffirm our solemn obligation to promote, protect and uphold the human rights of all people, as we work to honor our universal values of freedom, equality and justice."



An article by Auguste Meyrat titled "The Riots in France Perfectly Illustrate Why We Need the Electoral College" was posted at thefederalist.com on Dec. 13, 2018. Following is the article.

The debate over the Electoral College comes up constantly during American elections, including the midterms last month, with many on the left calling for a popular vote instead. The process of electoral delegates voting for one particular party even if the popular vote of their state had only a slim majority makes the presidential elections seem generally unfair.

Under the electoral system, lower-population states have outsized influence, higher-population states have somewhat limited influence, and swing states enjoy all the attention. With a popular vote, so the thinking goes, each citizen would have a voice, and the president and his administration would consequently have more legitimacy and better serve the American population.

Conservatives argue that popular elections would lead to politicians giving overriding preference to people in large population centers (i.e., cities) and ignore sparsely populated rural areas. This would result in a "tyranny of the majority" where urban majorities behind the winning party would be over-represented and rural minorities would be even more underrepresented.

To this, the left simply responds, "So what?" Why should anyone care about what happens to hillbillies withering away in ghost towns? Why should ignorant farmers and ranchers living on big, unpopulated fields have more of a voice than educated professionals living in uptown? Cities are the centers of commerce, industry, education, and culture; they clearly put more in the system than small towns.

It should also be noted that people who support popular elections will cite European countries, like France and other European Union member states, as a reason to give up the Electoral College. If sophisticated Europeans have accepted direct democracy, they reason, Americans seem positively provincial to continue on their present course.

In truth, the bias against rural communities and for European cosmopolitanism often fuels these arguments for the popular vote more than anything substantial. Still, even if the sentiment behind the argument assumes the worst of people in the countryside and the best of people in old cities of Europe, the logic behind it deserves a response. Why should this group receive these protections?

A popular vote feeds into progressivism

There are two things to consider for this question: (1) what a popular vote implicitly suggests about the role of government, and (2) how a government that exclusively represents urban voters would act.

First, to understand what the argument for a popular vote says about the role of government, one should look at the premises: politician overserve small states, and underserve large ones.

These premises envision government as a great provider and the states as needy dependents; they do not present government as the representation of so many different constituents. The motivation behind supporting a popular vote is to make sure the government gives more fairly, not that the government truly speaks for everyone impartially.

Constitutionally speaking, the government should not favor any state or any individual. As defined by John Locke, it does not give out favors, but secures freedoms of life, liberty, and property.

People are protected by the government to provide for themselves and prosper. The government keeps the peace, while the people keep their property, and the idea of redistributing property to meet the demands of a favored constituency simply does not exist.

Because liberals have come to see government as a provider, and they shift ever leftward into socialist utopianism, they see elections as opportunities for enrichment. If they really saw government as a representative body of officials intended to secure rights, national elections really wouldn't make a difference whether they were based on popular vote or something else.

A popular vote is thus based on a distorted expectation about government and rewards the wrong kind of leaders. Demagogues who promise to give away more social benefits quickly overcome the statesmen who promise to uphold their duties so people can benefit themselves.

This doesn't mean that the Electoral College eliminates the possibilities of urban demagogues, but it does discourage it. A politician who has to meet the needs of all kinds of voters, instead of just a few, will not easily be able to make so many promises, nor be able to vilify or ignore unpopular minorities.

Hillary Clinton, who won the popular vote, lost the 2016 presidential election because she promised more entitlements and vilified conservatives (“deplorables”). Trump, who won the electoral vote, won because he promised to give America back to the people. He vilified the elite (“the swamp”) and put himself with working Americans of all stripes.

The style of these two campaigns nicely illustrate difference between a popular vote and the Electoral College. It is reasonable to assume that popular voting will produce more out-of-touch progressives like Clinton, while the Electoral College will produce more inclusive conservatives like Trump.

A nation ruled by cities

The other thing to consider is how a government would act if it only cared about urban constituencies. Sure, it would hurt smaller states through neglect and even mild oppression. Who better to blame for problems or steal from than people whose vote doesn’t matter? But would it benefit those who live in the city?

To answer this requires reflecting on the nature of a city and its residents. For all the virtues that come of its size and population, the city at its core is the embodiment of dependence and collectivism. The city-dweller depends on many people: his landlord, his employer, the mass transit system, a well-trained police force, on decent infrastructure, and the many businesses that provide necessities and luxuries.

Collectives are also inherent to the city. Cities are the places of unions, corporations, factories, high-density apartments, subways, government centers, large universities, and medical complexes. People lose themselves in various groups and organizations and depend on them to advocate on their behalf.

Because of this, people of the city struggle to think and act for themselves. Their lifestyle has put them in the habit of outsourcing everything. They see big government as one more big organization to help them along, and they will continually vote for some of the worst political candidates if it means they might get something.

Fortunately, there are exceptions to this. Living in a city doesn’t guarantee that one vote for Democrat and adopt liberal positions; Republicans could never win nationwide elections on rural voters alone. Nor does living outside the city mean that one will do the opposite; as the midterms last month had shown, many voters in the suburbs felt more comfortable voting more Democrats into the House.

Still, these exceptions mainly prove the rule and reveal a suggestive pattern: conservatives in cities will often find ways to mitigate the dense collective life of the city, and liberals in the suburbs and beyond will find ways mimic the dense collective life of the city.

This urban tendency to give up freedom and depend on others creates an elite class of people who promise to solve everyone’s problems. They are the business leaders, intellectual leaders, political leaders, and social leaders who assume authority and exploit the needy masses. After so many generations,

this elite strengthens its hold and enjoys little accountability to constituents who have learned to become helpless.

With this in mind, one can finally imagine what a national government devoted to serving the needs of the urban population looks like. It would almost certainly do away with the Constitution and replace it with something that allows government to do more.

Because the nation's leaders are popularly elected, they will be wasteful and incompetent; because they rule by majority and not by principle, they will be authoritarian and arbitrary in their enforcement of laws. Meanwhile, the small towns outside the cities will shrink and disappear as their inhabitants move to cities where there is a future.

A real example of such a place is present-day France. It is a popularly elected welfare state that has picked winners and losers. The winners are part of the elite and their constituents in the cities; the losers are the inhabitants of "La France profonde" and the working class who are punished with little actual freedom and high taxes.

This dynamic has stifled growth—except in immigrants looking for entitlements—and led to widespread desperation all over the country. Democracy is failing, and something will have to give: either the government will let the country burn, or the crowds will settle for modern serfdom.

The Romantics were onto something in their belief that the city corrupts. Perhaps the Founding Fathers thought of this and created an election process that could contain the corruption of cities.

While Americans might not be achieving the ideal of educated farmers and small towns that Thomas Jefferson envisioned, it still has not quite fallen to the tyranny of the urban majority like France. For this, Americans should be grateful and learn from the mistakes of their brother and sisters in the Old World.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Acceptable Racism" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Dec. 12, 2018. Following is the article.

How appropriate would it be for a major publicly held American company to hire a person with a history of having publicly made the following statements and many others like them?

(In the interest of brevity, I shall list only four.)

- The world could get by just fine with zero black people."
- "It's kind of sick how much joy I get out of being cruel to old black men."
- "Dumbass f—ing black people marking up the internet with their opinions like dogs pissing on fire hydrants."

■ “Are black people genetically predisposed to burn faster in the sun, thus logically only being fit to live underground like groveling bilious goblins?”

I think most Americans would find such blatant racism despicable and would condemn any company that knowingly hired such a person. Leftists of every stripe would be in an uproar, demanding the dismissal of such an employee. College students and their professors would picket any company that hired such a person. I could be wrong about this, so I’d truly like any employer who’d hire such a person to come forward.

Most Americans would see such statements as racist, but consider this: Suppose we slightly changed the wording of each statement, replacing the word “black” with “white.”

■ “The world could get by just fine with zero white people.”

Would you consider that statement to be just as racist? I would hope you’d answer in the affirmative. They’re all racist statements!

The full scoop on those statements can be found in an excellent essay by William Voegeli, “Racism, Revised,” in the fall edition of the Claremont Review of Books.

The racist statements about white people were made by Sarah Jeong, one of the newest members of *The New York Times*’ editorial board. Jeong attended the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard Law School. She decided to become a journalist specializing in technology and the internet. She has an active Twitter account with over 97,000 followers.

One person excused Jeong’s tweets by saying they “were not racist” but merely “jokes about white people.”

Leftists have been taught utter nonsense by their college professors. The most insidious lesson taught is who can and who cannot be a racist.

Jeong was born in South Korea in 1988 and became a U.S. citizen in 2017, so she is a minority.

According to the thinking of academia’s intellectual elite, a minority person cannot be a racist. The reason is that minorities don’t have the political, economic and institutional power to adversely affect the lives of whites.

Such reasoning is beyond stupid. Here’s a test. Is the following statement racist? “Jews are money-hungry hustlers.” Before you answer, must you first find out the race of the person making the statement? Would you suggest that it’s not a racist statement if the speaker is black but it is if he’s white?

Voegeli says that calling someone “racist” is one of the most severe accusations that can be made against a person but at the same time is among the vaguest.

Years ago, one had to don a hood and robe to be a certified racist.

Today, it’s much easier. Tucker Carlson of Fox News questioned whether diversity is all that it’s cracked up to be. He asked: “How, precisely, is diver-

sity our strength? Can you think, for example, of other institutions, such as . . . marriage or military units, in which the less people have in common the more cohesive they are?"

The Washington Post's media critic declared that it was racist for Carlson to cast doubt on the proposition that diversity is good.

Voegeli's article is rich with many other examples of how lots of Americans are losing their minds in matters of race (<http://tinyurl.com/yd8fhe9f>).

Muhammad Ali had it right when he said: "Hating people because of their color is wrong. And it doesn't matter which color does the hating. It's just plain wrong."



An article by Burt Prelutsk titled "The Decline and Fall of America" was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 8, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

It has become increasingly difficult to believe that the nation the Founders envisioned will even be remotely recognizable in a couple of decades down the road.

Even today, when you realize that so many of those elected to defend our constitution and our borders don't care to defend either, and that even after eight years of Barack Obama's spineless administration, the voters handed control of the House back to the Democrats, you begin to realize that the stupidity of the American voter and demographics both argue against a restoration of anything close to the ideal.

This isn't to say that things were ever perfect in this nation. We have been bedeviled by slavery, Jim Crow laws, and the usual corruption of our ruling class.

But today you can add to the list the federal support of Planned Parenthood, the abortion mill made sacrosanct by Congress; the largest market in the world for heroin, cocaine, meth, and fentanyl, with voters constantly deciding to legalize the use and sale of marijuana; gender confusion; same-sex marriages; an eroding education system; and a nationwide propaganda network devoted to promoting Socialism, all the while pretending to be objective dispensers of news, due all the protections of the 1st Amendment.

It doesn't help that so many politicians in both parties are so eager to pass themselves off as the human equivalent of Jiminy Cricket that they felt the need to self-righteously lash out at President Trump for saying that it was not in our national interest to make too big a deal of the Saudis assassinating a so-called journalist who had ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Liberals have a convenient way of forgetting what they don't wish to remember, such as FDR aligning himself with Joseph Stalin in the 1940s and Barack Obama prostrating himself before Saudi King Abdullah, not to mention vowing to be increasingly flexible in his dealings with Russia after the 2012 election.

At least when Trump decided to turn a blind eye to the Saudi's naughtiness it was to ensure that a huge trade deal went through and that we could continue to count on Saudi Arabia to act as a barrier to Iranian expansion and to provide support for Israel.

I can't speak for everyone, unfortunately, but a lot of much nicer people than Jamal Khashoggi are killed every day all over the world, and nobody cares about it.

Khashoggi wasn't a cop and he wasn't a soldier. In fact, he wasn't even an American. It's true that as a journalist who occasionally appeared in the pages of the fake news Washington Post, he was vocal in his opposition to Saudi Arabia. But that was because he wanted it to be more like Turkey, which is led by an Islamist autocrat named Recep Erdogan, who counts it a wasted day if he hasn't killed at least one of his political foes before breakfast!

■ 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

How is it that ever since I can remember, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has been filled with left-wing pinheads in black robes? Even when liberals were in control of the Supreme Court, the 9th Circuit had more of its decisions overturned than any other appeals court in the nation.

■ England has snowflakes, too

Leeds Trinity College in the UK has decided it's verboten for its professors to say the word "don't" or to use capital letters to spell out words in email exchanges with their students because it could be interpreted as shouting. It seems such things are believed likely to traumatize students. But these days, what doesn't?

As Victor Davis Hanson sadly pointed out, the great grandparents of these English snowflakes were fighting and dying in the trenches of World War I, their grandparents were laying down their lives to protect Western civilization from the Nazis, and today their lily-livered descendants are caving before the merciless onslaught of capital letters.

■ 53 GOP Senate seats

Thanks to the election in Mississippi, the GOP now has 53 seats in the Senate. Also, because Corker and Flake will be gone, you can in a sense add two to that number because they were as likely to go along with Schumer as they were to align themselves with Trump. Which means Trump can no longer be held hostage by the likes of Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski.

■ Democratic candidates

Speaking of elections, a recent poll of Democrats disclosed that 33% of them would prefer to see Joe Biden running in 2020; 13%, Bernie Sanders; 9%, Kamala Harris; 8%, Elizabeth Warren; 5% each, Cory Booker and John Kerry.

But it's still only 2018, and we have yet to see the entire zoo that includes Tom Steyer, Eric Swalwell, Deval Patrick, Terry McAuliffe, Howard Schultz,

Robert Francis O'Rourke, Eric Holder, Hillary Clinton, Michael Bloomberg, Andrew Gillum, and possibly even Oprah Winfrey lacing up their track shoes.

Forget the 2020 Olympics; this is the competition that should actually be fun to watch, at least for those of us who can stand the sight of blood.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "From Cars to Chicken" was posted at patriotpост.us on Dec. 10, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

As I assume you've heard, General Motors is closing factories in Michigan, Maryland, and Ohio, but not, God forbid, in China or Mexico. You might suspect that the company is looking to dash Donald Trump's reelection hopes in 2020. He did, after all, include bringing back factory jobs as a major plank in his 2016 platform.

Some people have said that the president should stay out of it and not threaten GM with reprisals.

As a rule, I prefer not to see the federal government getting too involved in publicly owned companies, but this is different. General Motors was bailed out with our tax dollars back in 2008, just as Chrysler was some years earlier. What's more, GM is still the beneficiary of federal subsidies for its electric cars, which nobody wants to buy. That means we, with Trump as our intermediary, should have a say in the company's future.

So, as far as I'm concerned, if Trump decides to bust General Motors down to a corporal or even a buck private, it's okay with me.

Apparently, the plants that GM has targeted for closure are those turning out models nobody seems to want. Therefore, it probably makes sense to shut them down. But there are thousands of workers and their families who will be on the dole through no fault of their own, so perhaps a better idea is to simply convert them so they can make the cars people are willing to pay for. Perhaps the very ones that can presently be found rolling off the assembly lines in China and Mexico.

■ Fast-food boycott

Speaking of boycotts, Rider College of New Jersey surveyed the students to find out which of a multitude of fast food franchises they wanted represented on campus. Although their overwhelming choice was, with good reason, Chick-fil-A, the administrators decided to conduct a do-over, this time without Chick-fil-A being one of the options.

The reason given was that the authorities didn't find the company in sync with the LGBTQ RSTUVWXYZ community. It's not that Chick-fil-A refuses to hire or to sell chicken sandwiches to people who are perpetually confused about their sexual identities. The company simply objects to same-sex marriages. That

would seem to be its right, just as it is its right to close its shops on the Christian sabbath, as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas, when I suspect its founder, S. Truett Cathy, thought his staff should be home with their families.

Mr. Cathy, who died a few years ago, was an interesting character, a Southern Baptist who created a multibillion-dollar franchise with 1,950 outlets and never attended college. He lived to be 93 years old, which brought an end not only to his life but to his 66-year marriage. He and the missus had three children, a daughter and two sons, one of whom was actually named Bubba. Until now, I had thought that Bubba was a made-up name that only appeared in jokes about southerners.

■ Warning about Muslim politicians

It seems that Muslims have become something of a political force in America. Three Muslims, two from Minnesota, one from Indiana, will now be serving in Congress, while Keith Ellison, formerly a congressman from Minnesota, is now the state's attorney general. Can Sharia Law be far behind?

In addition, 13 Muslims in nine different states won state office. Only one of them, in New York, of all places, is a Republican.

Dozens more have won county and city office all over the nation, along with half a dozen judgeships.



An article titled "Why Millions of Americans Are Still Working Past the Age of 65" was posted at cbsnews.com on Dec. 12, 2018. Following is the article.

Retiring comfortably at 65 is now out of reach for millions of Americans. Tom Coomer was a machinist at the aerospace manufacturer McDonnell Douglas for 29 years, but the plant closed one year before he was due to get his full pension. Now 80 years old, he works as a greeter five days a week at a Walmart in Oklahoma.

While Coomer and his wife have downsized their lifestyle, it's still hard for them to make ends meet. They're just two of nearly 10 million Americans still working past the age of 65.

According to CBS News business analyst Jill Schlesinger, Americans are facing three main obstacles to retirement.

- They're living longer.
- Median wages have stagnated over the past 20 years.
- A shift from pension plans to 401(k)s have all put a burden on employees.

But the National Bureau of Economic Research has found that working longer by even a short period of time can have a dramatic impact on retirement. For example, retiring at 66 instead of 62 can increase the standard of living in retirement by almost 33 percent.

“Hang in there until age 70, and your standard of living will improve nearly 75 percent,” Schlesinger said.

That delay allows workers to contribute to retirement plans while allowing savings and investments time to grow. By waiting to file for Social Security benefits, workers will also see a larger monthly check once they do retire.

But Schlesinger acknowledges working longer isn’t an option for everyone. Health issues, disability or becoming a caregiver may take over that primary job. And like Coomer, some workers who want to work longer may be faced with downsizing by their company.

“Anyone who right now can work and can put away some money, it’s all the more important to do so as early as you possibly can,” Schlesinger said.



“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 Kate Davidson titled “Treasury: U.S. Budget Deficit Widened to \$305 Billion in First Two Months of Fiscal 2019” was posted at wsj.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- An article by Susan Jones titled “Record 156,795,000 Employed in USA, 13th Record-Breaker Under Trump” was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 7, 2018.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “Manufacturing Jobs Up 27,000 in November; 456,000 Under Trump” was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 7, 2018.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “Government Jobs Down 6,000 in November” was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 7, 2018.
- An article by John Woolfolk titled “Now California Wants to Tax Text-Messaging?” was posted at mercurynews.com on Dec. 11, 2018.
- An article by Lina Batarags titled “San Francisco Is So Expensive That Waiters Can No Longer Afford to Live in the City, and It’s Changing the Way Restaurants Are Serving Food and Hiring Workers” was posted at sfgate.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Jon Porter titled “Apple Announces New \$1 Billion Austin Campus As Part of Big US Expansion” was posted at theverge.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- An article titled “Citigroup: Trade War Damage in China Is Already Done” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 13, 2018.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Michael Burke titled "Some Migrant Caravan Members Demanding Reparations to Turn Around: Report" was posted at thehill.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Nancy Pelosi Says No Funding for 'Immoral' Border Wall" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 6, 2018.
- An article by Melanie Arter titled "Trump to Schumer: 'I Am Proud to Shut Down the Government for Border Security' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 11, 2018.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Nancy Pelosi: Trump Wants a Border Wall Because of His Manhood, or Something" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 11, 2018.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "DHS: New Border Wall Stops 'Violent Mob of 1,000 People'... 'No Breaches' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- A Reuters article by Doina Chiacu and Anthony Esposito titled "Trump Says Trade Deal Pays for Border Wall, Democrats Scoff" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- A Reuters article titled "Mexican President Says He and Trump Discussed Joint Program on Migration" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 12, 2018.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Joe Tacopino titled "Charlotteville Killer James Fields Convicted of First-Degree Murder" was posted at nypost.com on Dec. 7, 2018.
- An article by Matt Vespa titled "It's Official: Dick's Sporting Goods Says Business Is Declining Because of Their Pro-Gun-Control Nonsense" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 10, 2018.
- An article by Emily Ward titled "Proposed N.Y. Law Would Require Gun License Applicants to Submit to Social Media Checks" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 11, 2018.
- An article by Mark Overstreet titled "Top 10 Reasons You Should Own an AR-15" was posted at thefederalist.com on Dec. 12, 2018.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Trump Forces Chuck and Nancy to Debate Him in Front of America; They Didn't Like It" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 11, 2018.
- An article by Melanie Arter titled "Grassley: Border Patrol Used Tear Gas 79 Times Under Obama" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Kyle Olson titled "After Two Years in Office, Trump's Approval Rating Matches Obama's at Same Point of Presidency" was posted at theamericanmirror.com on Dec. 12, 2018.

Comments about Trump opposition

- Looking back to November, an article by Matt Vespa titled "Jeff Flake Holding Up Trump's Judicial Nominees Until Senate Votes on Bill Protecting Mueller Probe" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 14, 2018.
- An article by Geoff Earle titled "President's Former Lawyer Michael Cohen Tearfully Lays the Blame for His Fraud and Lies on 'Blind Loyalty' to Cover Up the 'Dirty Deeds' of Trump, As He Is Jailed for Three Years" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Erin Banco titled "Get Ready for Mueller's Phase Two: The Middle East Connection" was posted at thedailybeast.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- An article titled "Trump Inauguration Spending Under Criminal Investigation by Federal Prosecutors" was posted at wsj.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "The DOJ Inspector General Found 19,000 'Lost' Strzok and Page Texts" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- An article by John Daniel Davidson titled "The Transgender Movement Is Not Interested in Compromise" was posted at thefederalist.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Alexandra Villarreal titled "Julian Castro Calls Latinos to Action As He Moves Toward 2020 Run" was posted at theguardian.com on Dec. 12, 2018.

News about the media

- An article by Paul Bond titled "TheBlaze [Glenn Beck] and CRTV [Mark Levin] Merge to Create Conservative Media Powerhouse (Exclusive)" was posted at hollywoodreporter.com on Dec. 2, 2018.
- An article by Charlie Spiering titled "Michelle Malkin Leaves CRTV After Merge With the Blaze" was posted at Breitbart.com on Dec. 3, 2018.
- An article by David Leach titled "Is the Merger Between CRTV and TheBlaze All It's Cracked Up to Be?" was posted at stridentconservative.com on Dec. 4, 2018.
- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Chris Cuomo Calls Fellow CNN Anchor [Don Lemon] 'Petty and Small' for His Comments About Trump at Bush Funeral" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 6, 2018.
- An article titled "Boston Globe to Senator Elizabeth Warren: Don't Run in 2020" was posted at thedailybeast.com on Dec. 6, 2018.
- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "WaPo Bemoans the 'Foxification' of Trump Administration, So Ari Fleischer Reminds Them About Obama Administration Makeup" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 7, 2018.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "ESPN's Gameplan to Make 'Sports-Center' Great Again: Less Trump-Bashing, Politics and More Sports" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 7, 2018.

- An article by Lee Moran titled “MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell: ‘Donald Trump Will Be, Must Be Impeached’ ” was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 8, 2018.
- An article titled “MSNBC’s Mika Brzezinski Apologizes for Homophobic Comment [Against Mike Pompeo]” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 13, 2018.

General interest

- An article by Emily Price titled “Nissan Is Recalling 150,000 Vehicles” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 7, 2018.
- An article by Katy Stech Ferek titled “Boy Scouts of America Considers Bankruptcy Filing Amid Sex-Abuse Lawsuits” was posted at wsj.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Tiffany Kary and Deena Shanker titled “Whole Foods Ranked Worst on Cancer-Linked Package Chemicals” was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article titled “Parents Accuse CDC of Not Reporting Children’s Deaths From Polio-Like AFM [Acute Flaccid Myelitis, a Disease That Paralyzes Healthy Children in a Matter of Hours]” was posted at abc7chicago.com on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article titled “Taylor Swift Uses Facial Recognition on Concert-Goers to Weed Out Stalkers” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Dec. 12, 2018.
- An article by Tom Jackman titled “FBI Plans ‘Rapid DNA’ Network for Quick Database Checks on Arrestees” was posted at washingtonpost.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- An article by Scott Berson titled “Your Risk of Heart Attack Is Greatest at This Specific Time [10:00 p.m.] on Christmas Eve, Study Says” was posted at miamiherald.com on Dec. 13, 2018.



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.”