

Eye on the World

March 30, 2019

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 churchofgodbigsandy.com for the weekend of March 30, 2019.

Compiled by Dave Haver

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 Doug Stanglin titled “We Examined the Gun Laws of a Dozen Countries to Show How They Compare to New Zealand’s New Ban on Semi-Automatic Weapons” was posted at usatoday.com on March 22, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

New Zealand’s rapid decision to ban the semi-automatic weapons used in mosque massacres this month brings the country in line with countries that have stricter gun laws such as Australia, the United Kingdom, and, to a lesser extent, Canada.

At the same time, New Zealand is one of only three countries, including the United States and much of Canada, that does not require registration of most firearms other than handguns, a “loophole” to those who support registration as a key pillar of gun control.

The New Zealand ban also is not across the board. It specifically zeroes in on the type of weapons used in the killing March 15 of 50 people at the Christchurch mosques, but it does not include semi-automatic .22-caliber or smaller guns that hold up to 10 rounds or semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns with non-detachable magazines that hold up to five rounds.

An examination of the gun laws of a dozen countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas shows an equally wide variety of approaches, each tailored to a country's own history and political orientation. The ban on weapons in Japan reflects a cultural orientation dating to the 1700s, when gun ownership was practically eliminated.

The approach to gun laws in each country also varies widely depending on whether owning a gun is considered a right or a privilege.

Even then, laws do not break cleanly between lax and strict. Many countries have a mix.

Panama allows the private possession of semi-automatic assault weapons, according to extracts of Panamanian law posted by gunpolicy.org. It permits concealed carry and makes the application process for a gun permit simple. Yet the process can take up to a year.

■ Singapore

Singapore has perhaps the world's strictest gun laws. Ordinary citizens are not permitted access to any firearms and, if caught, are physically beaten by caning with no fewer than six strokes, according to the Arms Offences Act.

Anyone who uses a firearm while committing a crime faces a mandatory death sentence, even if no one was killed or injured.

■ Australia

After a mass shooting in 1996, when a gunman killed 35 people and injured 23 in Port Arthur, Tasmania, Australia's government moved quickly to restrict ownership of pump-action shotguns and high-capacity semi-automatic rifles with more than five rounds.

In buyback programs, Australians turned over 650,000 assault weapons. Gun owners are now required to demonstrate a "genuine need" for a particular type of gun, which doesn't include self-defense, and to take a firearm safety course.

License holders also must meet strict storage requirements, including keeping ammunition stored separately.

■ Brazil

Under President Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil is moving to overhaul its gun laws to expand the number of people who can own them.

"The people decided in favor of buying guns and ammunition, and we can't deny what the people want at this moment," Bolsonaro said in January at a televised signing ceremony for the new decree.

It establishes a wide range of categories for who qualifies for gun ownership, including citizens living in rural areas, in urban areas with high levels of homicide, business owners, gun collectors and hunters.

Prospective gun owners can't have a criminal record and must still take a psychological exam, a course at a gun club and be at least 25 years old.

■ Great Britain

Only police officers, members of the armed forces or people with written permission from the home secretary may legally own a handgun.

Gun owners must obtain either a Shotgun Certificate or a Firearm Certificate, the Marple Rifle and Pistol Club notes. While people can be permitted to own a gun for "good reason," that does not include self-defense.

According to guidance from the Home Office, determining what is a "good reason" is "one of the most substantial and complex areas of discretion that chief officers may exercise in licensing firearms."

Even hunters who want to shoot game on their own property don't automatically get a license. Police are allowed to determine, for example, whether the land in question contains the specific wild game suitable for the firearm being sought.

■ Canada

A license is required to own any of three categories of guns: non-restricted, restricted (such as certain types of semi-automatic guns) and prohibited, such as automatic weapons, sawed-off shotguns and rifles under a certain length.

Licensees must complete a restricted firearms safety course, covering basic handling and safety practices, and pass a test. Under the Firearms Act, applicants for a license must provide extensive information on their mental health, employment and marital status.

Applicants, as well as their doctor in some cases, may also be interviewed. The waiting period is a minimum of 28 days. Aside from those who use a weapon in their work, individuals can own a restricted gun only for target shooting and for a gun collection.

Owners of non-restricted guns must put a lock on the gun or remove the bolt, so it cannot be fired, or else keep the gun locked in a container or room that is difficult to break into, according to CTV News.

■ China

Civilians are not permitted to have guns and can face life imprisonment for trafficking firearms. They can obtain a firearm for hunting only after a strict licensing process.

Conviction for illegal possession or sale of firearms is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and up to life for arms trafficking, according to the Supreme People's Court.

■ Japan

Gun control in Japan dates back to the mid-16th century. Under the Firearm and Sword law, shotguns, air guns, guns with specific research or industrial purposes, or those used for competitions, are legal, according to an analysis by the Library of Congress.

Even then, prospective owners must undergo formal instruction as well as written, mental and drug tests and a rigorous background check.

Prospective owners must also explain how and where the weapons will be stored and make them available for annual inspection.

■ Norway

Norway does not allow concealed or open carry, but with a specific permit it allows some people to own semi-automatic rifles.

Weapons are individually licensed by local police who can revoke them "if the holder is not sober and reliable or if for special reasons he can be considered unfit to have firearms," according to Norway's Firearms Act.

Likewise, the license can be pulled if the local police conclude the person no longer has a need for it. Self-defense is not accepted as a valid reason for obtaining a gun license.

Fully automatic weapons are generally not permitted, but semi-automatic weapons are legal. For people interested in handguns for sport, they must show continuous activity in the sport for two years before they can get a license to possess their own firearms.

The firearms or their vital components must be stored securely in an owner's residence, and police are allowed to make inspections after a 48-hour notice.

■ Switzerland

Guns play a unique role in Switzerland because of its militia armed forces made up of conscripts or volunteers who are allowed to keep their weapons at home.

Once they have completed their military service, former members can keep their service weapon if they obtain a firearms acquisition license.

Automatic military firearms are converted to semi-automatic firearms. In 2011, a referendum failed that would have prohibited this keeping of weapons at home. It had been prompted by several incidents in which militiamen killed themselves or others with their weapons.

Since 1999, Switzerland has federalized its gun control laws, which had been controlled by individual cantons. The Swiss Weapons Act requires an acquisition license for handguns and a carrying license for any permitted firearm for defensive purposes, according to a Library of Congress analysis. Automatic weapons are prohibited outright.

■ Czech Republic

The republic recognizes the right to self-defense more strongly than most countries, even if the right to own firearms is not constitutionally recognized.

Citizens may obtain concealed-carry permits without declaring a reason and can carry up to two concealed firearms. Police have the authority to conduct inspections of privately stored firearms, after notifying the owner.

■ Italy

The government is moving to ease restrictions by supporting a "legitimate defense" bill that would, among other things, lower penalties for Italians who kill someone thought to be a threat in their own home, according to CBS News.

Concealed carry is permitted, and citizens—like a security guard or store owner fearful of a robbery—can even carry a loaded firearm in public after proving a "valid reason." Such a license is difficult to obtain and must be renewed every year.

Citizens can own and keep in their home up to three handguns, 12 sports handguns or long guns, and an unlimited number of hunting long guns.

Private firearms must be registered at the local police department within 72 hours after purchase. Ammunition must be registered and is normally limited to 200 rounds for handguns and 1,500 rounds for hunting firearms.

■ Finland

Finland, where hunting is popular, has the highest per capita gun ownership in the Nordic countries. Handgun license applicants are allowed to purchase firearms only if they can prove they are active members of regulated shooting clubs.

Before they can get a gun, applicants must pass an aptitude test, submit to a police interview and show they have a proper gun storage unit.



An article by Kyle Mizokami titled "Who Makes the World's Best Guns? Glock? Sig Sauer? We Made 5 Picks" was posted at nationalinterest.com on March 14, 2019. Following is the article.

One of the oldest names in American firearms, Smith and Wesson was founded in 1852. From the early Volcanic lever action pistol to the current M&P series of polymer, striker-fired handguns, Smith and Wesson has continually produced pistols over its 165-year history.

America's prolific firearms industry means that choosing the top five manufacturers is no easy task. While boutique handgun builders may produce some very fine pieces, quantity has a quality all its own, and several companies ship hundreds of thousands of handguns a year.

Like the auto industry, some of the best handguns come from foreign manufacturers. Here are the five best handgun manufacturers.

■ Glock

Gaston Glock's initial attempt to build a handgun for the Austrian military has exploded into an international empire, all the more amazing considering that it was built solely on handguns.

From the original Glock 17, the company now offers twenty-six handguns on the U.S. market in calibers from .380 Auto to .45 G.A.P. The company's simple emphasis on lightweight, slim-profile, "pointable" pistols was a recipe for success, impressing first-time shooters with their ease of use and longtime shooters with their reliability and accuracy.

For all of the variety, Glock's handguns are strikingly similar to one another, demonstrating that Glock won't fix what isn't broken.

■ Sturm Ruger & Co.

Known colloquially as Ruger, the Sturm Ruger & Company was founded by Alexander Sturm and Bill Ruger in 1949. Unlike Glock, Ruger manufactures both long guns and handguns.

Ruger's handguns are generally similar to Ford pickup trucks: simple, reliable and moderately priced compared to the competition. Ruger's GP100 is one of the leading full-size revolvers, while the company's LCR series of hammerless, double-action-only compact revolvers make excellent concealed-carry weapons.

The company also produces a variety of pistols, including the .22 caliber Mark IV target pistol and the SR1911, its own in-house version of John Browning's 1911. The new Ruger American pistol is Ruger's entry into the high-capacity, polymer-frame pistol market.

■ Sig Sauer

A Swiss-German company, Sig Sauer was relatively unknown in the U.S. market until its failed entrant in the competition to replace the Colt 1911A1 handgun in U.S. military service was picked up by the U.S. Navy SEALs.

Sig's handgun line is based on the original Sig P210, originally designed for Swiss military service.

A redesign and reconfiguration into new full-sized and compact models saw the Sig series of handguns widely accepted among U.S. police forces, including the San Francisco Police Department, and are acceptable carry pistols for the New York and Houston police departments.

Like most gun manufacturers Sig Sauer produces its own version of the 1911. Sig Sauer recently won the contract for the U.S. Army's new M17 handgun.

■ Smith and Wesson

One of the oldest names in American firearms, Smith and Wesson was founded in 1852. From the early Volcanic lever action pistol to the current M&P series of polymer, striker-fired handguns, Smith and Wesson has continually produced pistols over its 165-year history.

The company's Model 1 handgun was purchased privately by soldiers on both sides of the U.S. Civil War, while the heavier Schofield revolver was carried by postwar U.S. cavalrymen.

Today the M&P pistols are standard issue in many police departments worldwide, including the Chicago, Houston and Detroit police departments, while Smith and Wesson revolvers are considered the standard in American revolvers.

■ Heckler and Koch

A postwar German arms maker that rose from the ashes of the legendary Mauser corporation, Heckler and Koch has made a reputation building innovative, reliable firearms.

"H&K," as it is known in the U.S. market, makes everything from grenade launchers for the United States Army to the U.S. Marine Corps' new M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle. H&K's nine-millimeter VP9 series of handguns are durable and reliable, while the .45 caliber HK45 fires a more powerful round.

The USP, or Universal Service Pistol, was designed as an entry in U.S. Special Operations Command's Offensive Handgun Weapon System.



"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.

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- An article by Robert Hutton and Kitty Donaldson titled "[Theresa] May Loses Control of Brexit Process As Parliament Takes Over" was posted at bloomberg.com on March 26, 2019.
 - An article by Will Metcalfe titled "All New Cars in the E.U. Could Have Speed Restrictors Fitted As Standard by 2022" was posted at yahoo.com on March 26, 2019.
 - An article by Melanie Arter titled "Trump: U.S. Recognizes Israel's Sovereignty Over the Golan Heights" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 21, 2019.
 - An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Pompeo: Certainly Possible That Trump, Like Queen Esther, Was Chosen to Save the Jews From Iran" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 22, 2019.

- An article titled “Israel Strikes Gaza After Border Bombs” was posted at yahoo.com on March 24, 2019.
- An article by Josef Federman and Fares Akram titled “Israel, Gaza Militants in 2nd Day of Cross-Border Fighting” was posted at apnews.com on March 25, 2019.
- An article by Ilan Ben Zion titled “Ancient West Bank Site [Tel Shiloh is the Alleged Site of the Biblical Tabernacle] Draws Christians, and Controversy” was posted at apnews.com on March 27, 2019.
- An article by Anuj Chopra titled “In Saudi Trial, Detained Women Speak of Torture, Abuse” was posted at yahoo.com on March 27, 2019.
- An article by Anthony Harwood titled “Saudi Arabia Is on Course for a Record Number of Executions Including Public Beheadings in 2019 Despite Claims Kingdom Is ‘Modernizing’ ” was posted at thesun.co.uk on March 25, 2019.
- An article titled “Taiwan Mulls Death Penalty for Drunk Driving” was posted at yahoo.com on March 28, 2019.
- An article by Chris Dyer titled “Gay Sex and Adultery Will Be Punishable by Stoning to Death and Thieves Will Be Amputated Under ‘Vicious’ New Sharia Laws Brought in by Brunei [the First East Asian Country to Introduce Islamic Criminal Law in 2014]” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on March 27, 2019.
- An article titled “China Protests After U.S. Navy Sails Through Taiwan Strait Again” was posted at bloomberg.com on March 25, 2019.
- An article by Maria Lorente titled “Venezuela Returns to ‘Middle Ages’ During Power Outages” was posted at yahoo.com on March 28, 2019.

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An article by Brent Bozell and Tim Graham titled “The End of Collusion Fantasy” was posted at townhall.com on March 27, 2019. Following is the article.

The psychedelic balloon of liberal hope in Robert Mueller is no more. It started to leak helium months ago, and some liberals worried that his final conclusions might be “disappointing.”

They wanted the special counsel to deliver the goods, the evidence of collusion. This would not make Donald Trump an ordinary run-of -the-mill felon. This would make him complicit in an effort to subvert the federal government. Donald Trump would be a traitor.

What a pound full of sick puppies.

To wish this against your own president is its own form of anti-Americanism, if one contemplates the ensuing constitutional upheaval at home and the truly

frightening international scenarios abroad. Russia, China, Iran and North Korea would run wild, as would every dangerous terror movement across the globe.

- A patriotic liberal would set aside personal and political hostilities and celebrate the vindication of his president.
- We're not seeing this because the loudest of President Trump's detractors—especially in the press—are radicals, not liberals, and they're quite willing to endure existential chaos if that's the price for Trump's removal.

We have counted almost 2,300 minutes of Russia-scandal coverage on just the ABC, CBS and NBC evening-news programs during this presidency. Then add hundreds of hours of cable speculation on CNN and MSNBC, virtually none of it lacking in opinion.

Day after day, night after night, they imagined the deepest trouble for Trump, breathless in anticipation of the report that would surely result in criminal indictments of the worst sort.

Morning after morning, the "prestige" papers were boiling over with hype about Trump's malignant contacts with Russians attempting to undermine the American electoral process.

Time magazine inflated Mueller into a goddess, saying: "It goes back to the Greeks, who understood that the peril of kings was hubris, and that hubris was an invitation to the avenging goddess called Nemesis. In Robert Mueller, Trump may have found his."

Liberals even made Catholic-inspired prayer candles with Mueller's face on them.

But their sainted figure screwed it all up. He found no collusion—no criminal conspiracy. Here they'd mocked Trump endlessly for declaring there was no collusion—and damned if that wasn't the case all along.

To be fair, most people expected some form of condemnation, even if just a wrist slap. We include ourselves in that number. Anyone who has ever been subjected to a federal investigation will tell you that the more time and money the government spends investigating you, those agents must find in equal proportion something—anything—to justify that effort.

Two years, almost 20 lawyers and millions of taxpayer dollars later, they had to feel enormous pressure to deliver something—anything.

But instead, Mueller closed up shop, saying he had nothing further to prosecute.

What an absolute disaster for the never-Trumpers, for Hollywood, for Democrats and for the media. It just vanished, the long-expected Best Scenario for Impeachment, the kind that would cause the Republicans to surrender to their most feverish scandal dreams.

The big question is: Why did the media spend two years endlessly speculating that Trump was toast?

How could they justify the “reality” that Trump deserved 90 percent negative coverage of a fantasy of Russian collusion when their expected finale never emerged?

If they expected America to believe that Mueller’s team never leaked to the press, then why were they so cocky about taking him down?

- They didn’t spend hours wondering what it would mean if Trump were to be cleared.
- They took their war on Trump and packaged it as journalism, riddled with bias and falsehoods, some the product of recklessness and some carefully deliberate, because with the left, the ends will always justify the means.
- There were no apologies when it was over, as if anybody expected that.

When Mueller closed up shop, they went right back to their relentless crusade to ruin his presidency, placing all their hopes now on the federal prosecutors of the Southern District of New York.

Collusion was a fantasy all along, and it underscores a terrible reality.

- For journalists, the facts just do not come first.
- These self-righteous leftists who marched under the banner of “objective journalism” while advancing the overthrow of a duly elected president have lost all credibility.
- They have committed professional suicide.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles about the “Russian collusion.” The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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- An article by Katie Pavlich titled “No Collusion: The Special Counsel Investigation Is Done and Mueller Isn’t Indicting President Trump” was posted at townhall.com on March 22, 2019.
 - An article by Lisa De Moraes titled “Robert Mueller Investigation Is Over After 675 Days” was posted at deadline.com on March 22, 2019.
 - An article by Sharyl Attkisson titled “Apologies to President Trump” was posted at thehill.com on March 25, 2019.
 - An article by Justin Caruso titled “Flashback: 50 Hollywood Stars Who Accused Trump of Treason, Collusion With Russia” was posted at breitbart.com on March 25, 2019.

- An article by Tom Elliott titled "Flashback: Dems, Media Predict Mueller Probe Results in Impeachment, Prison" was posted at grabien.com on March 22, 2019.

Media

- An article by Cal Thomas titled "Media Complicit in Collusion Narrative" was posted at townhall.com on March 28, 2019.
- An article by Ann Coulter titled "Hold the Pulitzer" was posted at anncoulter.com on March 27, 2019.
- An article by Laura Hollis titled "Can the Media Earn Back Our Trust?" was posted at townhall.com on March 28, 2019.
- An article by Rich Noyes titled "Fizzles: Nets Gave Whopping 2,284 Minutes to Russia Probe" was posted at newsbusters.org on March 24, 2019.
- An article by Tom Elliott titled "MSNBC's Maddow Appears Emotional Reporting on Mueller Not Indicting Anyone Else" was posted at grabien.com on March 22, 2019.
- An article by Mark Finkelstein titled "Joy Reid Keeps Hope Alive After Mueller: Lots of Other Investigations" was posted at newsbusters.org on March 23, 2019.
- An article by Tom Elliott titled "[Chris] Matthews Fumes Over Mueller; 'How Could They Let Trump Off the Hook?'" was posted at grabien.com on March 22, 2019.
- An article by Sohrab Ahman titled "Mueller Madness: The Media Pundits Who Got It Most Wrong" was posted at nypost.com on March 25, 2019.
- A video and an article by Bill D'Agostino and Curtis Houck titled "Video: The Liberal Media's Most Embarrassing Mueller Failures" were posted at newsbusters.org on March 25, 2019.
- An article by Paul Farhi titled "Rachel Maddow, the Left's Powerhouse on Cable, Won't Let the Mueller Probe Go" was posted at washingtonpost.com on March 26, 2019.
- An article by Joshua Caplan titled "Jeff Zucker [CNN President]: No Regrets on CNN's Russia Hoax Coverage, 'We Are Not Investigators'" was posted at breitbart.com on March 26, 2019.

Politicians

- Looking back to 2017, an article by Taylor Lorenz titled "Maxine Waters: I 'Guarantee' Trump Is Colluding With Russia" was posted at thehill.com on Sept. 21, 2017.
- An article by Kyle Olson titled "Maxine Meltdown: 'This Is Not the End of Anything!'" was posted at theamericanmirror.com on March 24, 2019.
- Looking back to August, an article by Daniel Chaitin titled "Adam Schiff: 'Plenty of Evidence' of Trump-Russia Collusion or Conspiracy 'In Plain Sight'" was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Aug. 5, 2018.

- Looking back to February, an article by Patrick Temple-West titled “‘Evidence in Plain Sight’ of Trump Collusion With Russia, Schiff Says” was posted at politico.com on Feb. 17, 2019.
- An article by Karoun Demirjian titled “Schiff Doubles Down on Trump Despite Russia Report: ‘Undoubtedly There Is Collusion’ ” was posted at washingtonpost.com on March 27, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled “Schiff: Mueller Is Going to Have to Come In and Testify; ‘We Are Not Done’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on March 28, 2019.

Other investigations

- An article by Rebecca Ballhaus and Nicole Hong titled “Mueller Report Concludes, But Other Investigations Loom” was posted at wsj.com on March 22, 2019.
- An article by Ben Protess, William K. Rashbaum, Benjamin Weiser and Maggie Haberman titled “As Mueller Report Lands, Prosecutorial Focus Moves to New York” was posted at nytimes.com on March 23, 2019.



An article by Armstrong Williams (a black conservative) titled “A Northam-Smollett America” was posted at townhall.com on March 28, 2019. Following is the article.

February was a good—albeit controversial—month for discussions about race in this country. Not only was it the traditional Black History Month, but two race-centric bombshells rocked the country within the same news cycle.

- First, newly elected Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam admitted that he was the blackface character featured in his medical school yearbook page. Not surprisingly, he later changed his position and stated that he was not the black-face character. Likely as a result, he still remains governor of Virginia.
- It was also discovered that Jussie Smollett, star of the FOX TV show “Empire,” had fabricated what was initially deemed a racially charged assault upon himself in a pathetic attempt to increase his salary. Instead, his cowardly actions only served to prey on America’s knee-jerk paranoia when it comes to racial issues and acts of overt racism.

These two episodes are fantastic case studies of how Americans have pivoted far off the course of healing and reconciliation around race. Furthermore, it is worth pointing out that episodes like these—particularly one that involves a totally fabricated, racially motivated attack—undo years of racial progress and only serve to further damage race relations and deepen the divide within our country.

Let’s examine these two vignettes which, on paper, could not be more different—a tale of two men who would never meet in a lifetime of lifetimes.

On one hand, there is Northam, who clumsily, perhaps even stupidly, entered the court of righteous public judgment and was deemed guilty before his statehouse press conference was even over.

On the other, you have Smollett, whose case was a beautiful example of the racial hatred that continues to stain this nation and President Donald Trump only encourages—or so it seemed. News commentators, Hollywood actors and politicians alike were all quick to blindly offer support to Smollett, despite his questionable account of events, simply because his “story” fit perfectly into their anti-Trump narrative.

For Northam, on the day of his atonement, his answers were awkward and clumsy. He looked more clueless than calculating in his public defense. Yet those around him were unmerciful. Yet somehow, he remains, to this day, governor of Virginia while Smollett, rightfully, was indicted on 16 felony charges.

In the aftermath of all of this, I wonder, How do we begin a new level of discussion and, hopefully, healing in America?

As a society of many colors, not just black and white, are we not able to—or perhaps not allowed to—openly admit that mistakes dealing with race—and prejudice of many other ilks—are—as in Northam’s case—most often driven by insensitive foolishness and prejudice rather than maniacal hatred?

Perhaps rather than defaulting to “mob-rule” in instances like the Northam case, we should use these difficult times as teaching moments. If we don’t, we’re likely to encourage more Smollests who see opportunities to profit financially and politically from America’s current paranoia and mob-rule insistence on a lifetime of politically correct behavior. Perhaps Northam and Smollett and cases like theirs can be catalysts that usher in awareness and understanding.

When examined separately from each other, the stories of Northam and Smollett may simply be two different and isolated examples of race and racism. Yet a closer look reveals how similar these two events are.

At their core, they both represent a mob-style reaction to accusation. We’ve come to the point in America where everything can be lost and destroyed in a media-fueled frenzy of hatred.

Sometimes, as in Smollett’s case, the accusers can be caught and their lies exposed. Sometimes, those who falsely accuse and prosecute are found to have been the true criminals. Yet, even if the truth comes out in time—or in a court of law—those who find themselves attacked in the media suffer greatly.

They have to endure the destruction of their reputations and deal with hardship at home as their family reels from relentless media harassment, and—whether they must pay to defend themselves in a court of law or merely in the court of public opinion—they are often stung with a financial cost that can exceed millions of dollars.

Where do we turn for help—and for hope?

I think we need to turn to people who have gained the wisdom that can sometimes come only from suffering.

Consider, for example, how former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell is now serving us all. McDonnell's story, in case you don't remember it, represents one of the true miscarriages of justice in recent American political history. Hounded by the media and opposition politicians and prosecutors, McDonnell was charged with felonies on flimsy evidence and false reasoning. He was convicted. His family was put through years of media harassment and stung with millions of dollars in debt.

Ultimately, McDonnell's case made its way to the Supreme Court of the United States of America, where they found—unanimously—that McDonnell was innocent.

Yes, you read that right. A governor was charged, convicted, harassed and humiliated for years, and he was innocent all along.

Imagine how you or your family would feel in a case like that?

Well, McDonnell could have engaged in his own pity party and portrayed himself as yet another victim of politics. Instead, today, he's leading a much-needed honest and heartfelt conversation on race and reconciliation.

Few Americans have suffered what McDonnell did, but perhaps we can all take from his example. We all have within us the power to help others heal if, despite the pain of the past, we have the courage to engage in honest conversation.



An article by Michelle Malkin titled "Crony State: Obamas' Chicago Fixer Tina Tchea" was posted at michellemalkin.com on March 27, 2019. Following is the article.

How did hate crime huckster Jussie Smollett get away with it? All crooked roads in Chicago lead back to the Obamas.

On Tuesday, as part of a sealed deal, the Illinois state attorney's office dismissed 16 felony charges brought by a grand jury against the Trump-hating actor, who blamed phantom white MAGA supporters for a brutal racist "assault" that left him with a teensy-weensy scratch under his eye. The day before the "attack," Smollett's two bodybuilding friends were caught on surveillance tape buying costumery (red hat, ski masks, bandanas, sunglasses and gloves) that just happened to match Smollett's descriptions of what his still-fugitive assailants were wearing.

But I guess there's no use crying over spilled bleach.

To atone for the-fakery-that-shall-not-be-named, Smollett performed 18 hours of "community service" with Jesse Jackson's PUSH Coalition and forfeited his \$10,000 bond.

Minority liberal race-hustling has its privileges.

And that brings us to the Democratic operatives behind the scenes. Two weeks ago, *Chicago Sun-Times* reporters discovered that Obama crony pal and deep-pocketed campaign finance mega-bundler Tina Tchen had inserted herself in the investigation.

Tchen texted Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx just three days after the incident "on behalf of Jussie Smollett and family who I know" to express "concerns." She suggested that Foxx lean on Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson to yield to the FBI and she shared an unidentified Smollett's family member's cellphone number with Foxx.

Foxx texted back that she had done as requested and that Chief Johnson was "going to make the ask." The unidentified relative rejoiced: "OMG this would be a huge victory."

Only after Foxx meddled did she recuse herself and name an underling to take over—which rendered her Kabuki recusal meaningless to veteran observers of the "Crook" County criminal justice system. So, who was the Smollett relative with all the right (or rather, left) connections? Follow the trail:

- Tchen and Smollett's sister, Jurnee Smollett-Bell, joined together in March 2018 at South by Southwest in Austin to proclaim that "There Is No Time's Up Without Women Of Color."
- In May 2018, Tchen and Smollett-Bell took the stage together again—hand-in-hand, glued at the hip—at the United State of Women Summit in Los Angeles (where Tchen's former boss and gal pal, Michelle Obama, also appeared).
- Smollett-Bell and another sister, Jazz Smollett-Warwell, worked for the Obama campaigns in 2008 and 2012 and volunteered as tireless surrogates.
- My search of White House visitor logs shows Jurnee Smollett-Bell paying at least one personal visit to "POTUS/FLOTUS" at their residence in March 2013 while Tchen was serving as a top strategist to both Obamas.

To minimize Tchen's role in the Obamas' political lives as merely an "aide" is journalistic malpractice. As I have previously reported:

- Tchen personally shoveled more than \$200,000 into the 2008 Obama presidential campaign coffers while a high-powered lawyer at white-shoe Skadden Arps.
- Tchen served as special assistant to President Obama, and then took over as chief of staff in the East Wing for Mrs. Obama.
- Tchen headed up the Obama White House Office of Public Engagement, spearheaded by longtime Chicago pal and fellow corporate lawyer/bundler Valerie Jarrett.
- Tchen coordinated Hollywood celebrities to promote Obama's domestic policy agenda through the taxpayer-subsidized National Endowment for the Arts.

■ Tchen was listed in 2009 White House visitor logs I reviewed as having met there with radical left-wing billionaire George Soros.

■ As Breitbart's Joel Pollak noted, Soros donated a total of \$408,000 to super PACs supporting Foxx's successful primary and general campaigns for Cook County state attorney.

Given Jurnee Smollett-Bell's hand-holding friendship with Tchen, Tchen's intimacy with the Obamas, and Michelle Obama's chumminess with Jussie Smollett (she hosted him at a musical event at the White House in 2016 and danced with him on stage at a College Signing Day Event in 2018), it is not unreasonable to wonder how much direct knowledge the Obamas themselves may have had about Tchen's role as Smollett's fixer.

Tchen has made quite the career out of exploiting her Obama connections, including cushy spots on VICE's Diversity and Inclusion Board, Uber's #MeToo advisory board, and the Grammys' task force for inclusion and diversity.

But those plum jobs and her role in Smollett's Folly all pale in comparison to her newest gig: playing watchdog over the crumbling Southern Poverty Law Center.

After decades of manufacturing "hate" against peaceful, law-abiding conservatives, sharia opponents, Christian activists and immigration enforcement hawks, the junk mail order house that grifter Morris Dees built is in chaos amid long-brewing strife over internal gender and racial discrimination—not to mention a slew of outside defamation lawsuits.

Fresh off assisting one celebrity hate crime huckster, Tchen will now be doing damage control for the granddaddy of all racial hoax rackets.

Like I said: Minority liberal race-hustling has its privileges.

I would advise Americans sick and tired of the crony state and its smear merchants to do all they can to prevent Tchen and the Obama machine from getting their grubby hands on the \$PLC's half-billion-dollar endowment.

Support the real victims of hate crime conspiracies. Start with DefendGavin.com. The only way to revoke the privilege is to destroy it.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Jews & Antisemites" was posted at patriotpst.us on March 23, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Over the years, the one question that has been asked of me most often is why do so many Jews insist on voting for and donating to Democrats.

There's no single answer. But we can begin with tradition. Starting with the wave of Jewish immigrants in the early 20th century, Jews have seen

Democrats as their protectors. Later, they came to see FDR as their savior during World War II and Harry Truman as the defender of Israel.

On top of that, Jews are often drawn to professions that benefit from left-wing policies, including the law, teaching and social work.

They have also made their mark in the arts, journalism, TV, movies and finances. As a result, they have enjoyed influence that far exceeds their numbers.

As with all, or nearly all generalizations, there are numerous exceptions, but, as a rule, we Jews don't pursue careers in the military, professional sports or law enforcement. You will far more often find us defending criminals in court than arresting them on the street.

Because, historically, they have often been persecuted and oppressed, they tend to regard themselves as underdogs, which helps explain why they so often side with others they perceive to be victims, even when most of those laying claim to their sympathy (urban blacks, illegal Latino aliens, Muslims) often despise them the most. That fact doesn't necessarily elude them. Rather, it tends to make them feel even better about themselves, as it suggests that they are able to rise above it all. It's possible that the virtue-signaling that has in recent times become all the rage was invented by Jews.

I am certain that there are some Jews who would take the preceding as the screed of a self-hating Jew, but they'd be mistaken. I don't hate Jews, I hate the political beliefs of the 70% who will support any of the 3,750 Democrats who are seeking the presidential nomination in the hopes of sending Donald Trump back to Manhattan. In other words, I hate the sin, not the sinner.

It's never easy counting Jews because there are many who have no connection to Judaism as a religion, but feel themselves cultural Jews, which might mean they enjoy corned beef sandwiches or that they subscribe to the *N.Y. Times*. But, however you count us, we constitute less than two percent of the nation's population. However, we make up 8% of the current Senate and 7% of the House. And none of the eight senators and only two of the 27 House members, Lee Zeldin of New York and David Kustoff of Tennessee, are Republicans.

As if that's not bad enough, many of the 35 Jewish members of Congress are high-profile and extremely influential, including Chuck Schumer, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Blumenthal, Bernie Sanders, Ben Cardin, Jerry Nadler, Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Brad Sherman and Adam Schiff.

It doesn't speak well for them that some of them side with Arabs and Muslims against Israel and share Rep. Ilhan Omar's contempt for the Jewish state, and, moreover, went along with passing the watered-down resolution condemning Omar's spewing of anti-Semitic speech to a antiseptic call for respect of all races, religions and, in fact, of everyone except President Trump and those of us who support him.

The fact is, if Israel didn't exist, those on the Left would have had to invent it so that devout anti-Semites ranging from Vanessa Redgrave to Ms. Omar could pretend they didn't hate Jews, but merely opposed the policies of the Jewish state on, of all things, humanitarian grounds.

■ Jewish community in L.A.

So far as I know, I only have two liberal subscribers. I very rarely hear from one of them. I only hear from the other when he has some niggling bone to pick with me.

So it came as no surprise that when I mentioned that Jews make up a sizable portion of the readership of the *L.A. Times*, he challenged me with an email that read: "Gotta ask you, Burt, 'the majority of Times readers are Jewish'?? You are, I am, but you think more than 51% are?"

I replied: "I didn't say a majority of the paper's readers are Jewish. I wrote that although a large portion of their coverage involves positive stories about urban blacks; Latinos, legal and otherwise; and the sexually bewildered, the majority of its subscribers are white, heterosexual, largely Jewish and middle or upper middle-class.

"Do you actually doubt that a sizable portion of its readership happen to be Jews living in Beverly Hills, Westwood, Brentwood, Santa Monica and the upper strata of the Valley? Why do you seem to take a passing reference to Jews as insulting? God knows there's a lot about Jewish politicians that I find offensive, but the fact that a great many L.A. Jews read and take seriously what appears in the Times is merely troubling."

He replied: "Just to clarify, I definitely don't take a reference to Jews as insulting. I merely doubted the statistic because we are such a low percentage of the citizenship of the country and of L.A."

I wrote back to state: "True about the country, not true about L.A., Frank. The city's population is 3.8 million, 520,000 of whom are Jewish. That's about 13%. Do you really doubt that they don't come close to constituting a near-majority, if not an actual majority, of Times subscribers?"

■ Reporter answers LeBron

After Lebron James, the vastly overpaid star of the mediocre L.A. Lakers, called President Trump a bum and declared Barack Obama the greatest president ever, it took a letter written by former Houston news reporter Hal Lundgren to set him straight.

He opened with "Dear Mr. James: No one in my circle discusses French Modernist artists. That comforts me. Such a discussion would expose me as an illiterate on French Modernism, just as I am an illiterate on cooking and many other things. When I know nothing on a subject, my mouth stays closed. That's at least one difference between us. You are an economics illiterate. The dishonest 'reporters' who cover you want to be your buddy. They won't embarrass you by being honest journalists and treating your words as

economics illiteracy. When you call Trump a bum, none of them will tell you that statistics rank him as one of our best presidents for black Americans.

"His tax cuts and freeing us from absurd regulations have resulted in—after only 24 months—the lowest unemployment numbers EVER for Hispanic and black Americans, and one of the lowest numbers for women.

"During those 24 months, Trump's policies created about four times more manufacturing jobs than were created during the entire Obama administration's eight years!!"



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Just Another College Scandal" was posted at patriotpost.us on March 25, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

By now, I assume you've all heard about Operation Varsity Blues, a multi-million dollar scam that might better be called Affirmative Action for the rich and influential.

The Justice Department has indicted about 50 individuals, including wealthy parents like actresses I've barely heard of—Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman—soccer coaches and college admission officers at Yale, Georgetown, USC, UCLA, Georgetown, Wake Forest, Texas, San Diego, NYU and Stanford.

The bribes paid in order to facilitate their children's admission to elite universities ranged from \$200,000 to \$6.5 million. For a few extra bucks, I have no doubt they could have gotten their dogs and cats admitted to Yale and Stanford.

What's more, they could have defended it on the grounds that it made for a more diversified campus.

Although definitely newsworthy, I find it a less odious problem than other academic crimes that involve a lot more than 50 people. Those would include ever-rising tuition fees for what, arguably, involves only the cost of books, lecture halls and classrooms, but includes obscenely large salaries for professors, coaches, administrators and, apparently, landscapers.

Then there is the problem of athletic scholarships and the multi-million dollar contracts doled out to those who have mastered the skill of drawing X's on a blackboard for over-sized grunts who, for the most part, have no good reason to be on college campuses, and who would, in a sane world, be compelled to compete for academic scholarships or be working as bouncers at gentlemen's clubs (formerly called burlesque houses).

Moreover, we haven't even gotten around to the fact that the schools are mainly an extension of the media arm promoting the Socialist agenda being ballyhooed by most of the Democrats running to evict Trump from his rightful place in the Oval Office.

Perhaps worst of all, the kids are taking on a mountain of debt in order to major in such nonsensical fields as Black, Latino and Lesbian Studies.

■ Criticizing without watching

Back in the day when I was still playing tennis, one of the participants in the weekend group was a liberal who was constantly bad-mouthing Fox. When I asked if he had ever watched any of the shows, he confessed he hadn't. So I challenged him to watch Bret Baier's "Special Report" for the next five days because, aside from the panel at the end of the show, it's all news without opinion. And even the panel always has at least one liberal mucking it up.

The following weekend, I asked the guy if he had come around at all when it came to Fox. He confessed he hadn't watched even once.

■ Media Matters is tax exempt

Liberals would much prefer having George Soros's Media Matters determine what they watch on TV. What's confounding about Media Matters is that, in spite of its colluding with Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton and promoting its partisan agenda, it has managed to hang on to its tax exempt status.

Thus, because the FCC has either been asleep at the switch or, more likely, because the FCC is as corrupt as the FBI, the Justice Department and the IRS, we are all subsidizing the machinations of George Soros and his flying monkeys.

■ Enlarging the Supreme Court

As you may have heard, the latest ploy to gain control of the Supreme Court is by adding justices to the traditional nine, but only if a Democrat is elected president next year.

As stupid as that sounds, it's not the first time it's been tried. Back in the mid-30s, Franklin Delano Roosevelt tried packing the Court after it regularly began striking down some of his increasingly Socialistic laws and regulations. But even a Senate controlled by fawning Democrats who had ridden FDR's coattails to victory deemed that a bridge too far.

Unfortunately, because Roosevelt served three full terms and part of a fourth, he eventually wound up seating eight of the nine justices, leaving a left-wing legacy that persisted for decades after his belated departure.

■ Whites and air pollution

According to the *Washington Post*, which could as easily be called Jeff Bezos's Memo Pad, recently broke the news that "Whites are mainly to blame for air pollution, but Blacks and Hispanics bear the burden," according to a new (but unnamed) study.

What makes this so questionable, anti-Caucasian racism aside, is that air pollution is no longer a problem in this country. Where it is such a problem that the natives rarely go out in public without a paper mask to filter out the pollutants, is the Orient; specifically, China, where pedestrians can often not see 20 feet beyond their nose.

And the last time that either I or Jeff Bezos looked, the Chinese are not white people.

■ Birth strike

Someone who takes A O-C's dire warnings seriously recently paid a visit to Tucker Carlson's show. Blythe Pepino, a 32-year-old English woman who founded a group called "Birth Strike," believes it is immoral for people to have children because the future is so bleak.

Well, if you happen to believe that a combination of fossil fuels and bovine flatulence will combine to end life on Earth in 12 years, it would be rather selfish to bring little people into such a world. But imagine how surprised Ms. Pepino will be when she's 60 and childless and the world didn't end in accordance with Ocasio-Cortez's schedule.

On the other end, a few less pinheads like Pepino floating around and voting wouldn't be a tragedy of massive proportions.

■ Private jets

The fact is, I would be a lot happier if the Green New Deal would concentrate more on fossil fuels and less on cows. For one thing, no matter what they say, people like Al Gore, Michael Moore and Bernie Sanders, who are always flying around on private jets, would miss fossil fuel far more than I, a stay-at-home living in a temperate climate, would.

■ Meatless Mondays

But when a lunkhead like New York's Mayor Bill DeBlasio starts touting mandatory "Meatless Mondays," he's going out of his way to [hack] me off. There's just too much at steak. (Sorry, I couldn't control myself.)

It's probably worth mentioning that the most famous vegetarian in history was none other than Adolf Hitler.



"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 titled "Disney Expected to Lay Off 4,000 Employees at Fox" was posted at thewrap.com on March 21, 2019.
- An article by Jeff Cox titled "GDP Q4 Final Reading Up 2.2% As Expected, But Leaves Full Year Short of Trump's Goal" was posted at cnbc.com on March 28, 2019.

Green New Deal

- A Reuters article by Valerie Volcovici and Nichola Groom titled "Solar and Wind Firms Call 'the Green New Deal' Too Extreme" was posted at reuters.com on March 21, 2019.
- An article by Alex Madajian titled "Sen. [Dan] Sullivan [From Alaska]: Burn More Natural Gas, A Fossil Fuel, to Combat Climate Change" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 22, 2019.
- An article by Ledyard King titled "Pelosi Calls Green New Deal 'A List of Aspirations,' and Her Democratic Party Isn't Sold on It Either" was posted at usatoday.com on March 22, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Timothy Gardner titled "Republicans Defeat Green New Deal in U.S. Senate Vote [57-0] Democrats Call a Stunt [With 43 Democrats Voting 'Present']" was posted at reuters.com on March 26, 2019.
- An article by Hans Baker titled "Green New Deal Would End Productive, Low-Carbon Nuclear Power" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 27, 2019.
- An article by Ross Marchand titled "California 'Bullet' Train Just One of Countless Projects Bilking Taxpayers" was posted at townhall.com on March 27, 2019.
- An article titled "Trump Tell Hannity Why He's Trying to Be Positive About Green New Deal [Because He Wants the Issue to Continue Into the 2020 Election]" was posted at yahoo.com on March 28, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Stephen Dinan titled "92 Percent of Illegal Immigrant Families Ignore Deportations, Lindsey Graham" was posted at washingtontimes.com on March 28, 2019.
- An article by John Binder titled "U.S. Projected to Add 1.5M Illegal Aliens to Population This Year" was posted at breitbart.com on March 27, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- A Reuters article by Lawrence Hurley titled "U.S. Supreme Court Rebuffs Bid to Block Trump's Gun 'Bump Stock' Ban" was posted at reuters.com on March 28, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Karl Rove titled "Move On From Robert Mueller, Mr. President" was posted at wsj.com on March 27, 2019.
- An article by Brianna Heldt titled "Black Pro-Life Speaker [Jannique Stewart with the Life Training Institute] Disinvited From Cornell" was posted at townhall.com on March 27, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Laura Davison titled “Democrats Love a Wealth Tax, But Europeans Are Ditching the Idea” was posted at bloomberg.com on March 28, 2019.
- An article by John Bowden titled “Poll: Biden Leads 2020 Dem Field by Double Digits Followed by Sanders, O’Rourke” was posted at thehill.com on March 28, 2019.
- An article titled “Kamala Harris Says Older Democratic Leaders Need to Know When to ‘Pass the Baton’ ” was posted at marketwatch.com on March 25, 2019.
- An article by Roque Planas titled “Kamala Harris Tells Texas She’d Give Teachers a Big Raise” was posted at huffpost.com on March 23, 2019.
- An article titled “Sen. Kamala Harris Releases Details for Plans to Raise Average Teacher Pay by \$13,500” was posted at yahoo.com on March 26, 2019.
- An article by Michael Mathes titled “Pete Buttigieg’s Star Rises in Crowded 2020 Race” was posted at yahoo.com on March 28, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled “2020 Democrat Andrew Yang Says Men Should Have Nothing to Do With Abortion Decisions” was posted at cnsnews.com on March 22, 2019.

Irishman Robert Francis (Beto) O’Rourke

- An article by Chris White titled “Bloomberg’s Take on Beto’s Unusual Campaign Approach; ‘He’s Apologized for Being Born’ ” was posted at daily-caller.com on March 22, 2019.
- An article by Allie Raffa titled “Beto O’Rourke Picking Off Support From Primary Rivals Out of the Gate” was posted at foxnews.com on March 28, 2019.
- An article by Salena Zito titled “Beto Takes Extreme Abortion Stance; Media Doesn’t Bat an Eye” was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on March 29, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Clark Mindock titled “Fox and Friends Co-Host [Brian Kilmeade] Criticises Trump for Attacks on John McCain: ‘It Makes Absolutely No Sense’ ” was posted at independent.co.uk on March 22, 2019.
- An article by Lauretta Brown titled “MSNBC’s Katy Tur Presses Sen. Mazie Hirono on Not Voting for Green New Deal: ‘Why Not Take a Stand and Vote Yes?’ ” was posted at townhall.com on March 27, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Alexa Lardieri titled “Chick-Fil-A Banned From Opening in San Antonio Airport [With a 6-4 Council Vote]” was posted at usnews.com on March 22, 2019.

- An article by Lenore Skenazy titled "Mom Ignores Doctor When Her Sick 2-Year-Old Starts Feeling Better; Child Services Send a SWAT Team" was posted at reason.com on March 27, 2019.



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.”