Eye on the World Jan. 16, 2021

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 Jan. 16, 2021.

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 Tzvi Joffre titled "Israeli Airstrikes Near Syria-Iraq Border Targeted Iranian Weapons" was posted at jpost.com on Jan. 13, 2021. Following is the article.

Airstrikes, allegedly carried out by Israel, targeted dozens of sites in the Deir al-Zor region of eastern Syria and in Albukamal near the Syria-Iraq border on Tuesday night.

The strikes were aimed at dozens of warehouses and sites belonging to pro-Iranian militias and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) throughout the area, according to local news source Deir EzZor 24.

Two residents in the regional capital, Deir al-Zor City, said they could hear the distant sound of huge explosions, apparently from arms depots destroyed in the raids.

The IDF did not immediately comment. Community Affairs Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, who spoke to KAN Bet, declined to discuss the specific reports but said that Israel hits Iranian targets in Syria "whenever our intelligence dictates it and according to our operational capability."

While Syrian state media and Iranian media have refrained from reporting on casualties, large numbers of ambulances were reported in the area soon after the strike. Independent reports on the number of casualties ranged between 25 and 50.

The Hezbollah-affiliated Al-Mayadeen news reported that one person was killed and 14 others were wounded in the strikes, adding that the strikes were carried out by Israeli aircraft using intelligence from the US military.

The Iranian Al-Alam TV reported that an Iranian advisor was injured in the strike, but quickly deleted the report, according to KAN news. As of Wednesday evening, Al-Alam's report stated that the person killed in the strike was a soldier in the Syrian military and that no Iranians were injured in the strikes.

Regional media described the strikes as some of the largest and most intense in eastern Syria in recent years. Images from the site showed a number of buildings had been completely destroyed.

A regional intelligence source said the targets included Syrian security compounds inside Albukamal and Deir al-Zor, while in the past raids had struck only the cities' outskirts.

The latest raids were notable for having hit "advanced weaponry and weapons depots . . . in a large combat arena," the regional intelligence source said.

According to the Step News Agency, strikes by unidentified aircraft, believed to be affiliated with the international coalition, targeted sites belonging to the IRGC in Albukamal also on Tuesday.

Sites belonging to Iranian forces and Iranian-backed militias in the Deir al-Zor area have been hit repeatedly by airstrikes, often by "unidentified aircraft," in recent years.

The strikes were based on intelligence provided by the United States and were aimed at warehouses storing Iranian weapons and components for Iran's nuclear program, an American intelligence source told The Associated Press early Wednesday.

The US official, who spoke to AP anonymously, claimed that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo discussed the strike with Mossad chief Yossi Cohen during a meeting that the two held in the US capital this week. They were spotted dining on Monday at Cafe Milano in Washington, DC.

INSS director-general and former Military Intelligence head Amos Yadlin tweeted that the strikes served as a reminder to Iran that Israel will not stop fighting to stop Iranian activity in Syria, even during the Biden administration.

The strikes also served to remind Syria that "there is a heavy price for the free hand you give to the Iranians in Syria," and to remind the incoming Biden administration that the challenge from Iran includes conventional military threats, not just the nuclear issue, added Yadlin.

While it remains unclear whether the strikes had any direct connection to threats by Iran to retaliate against assassinations and attacks blamed on Israel, Yadlin stressed that "in light of the results of the significant strike [on Tuesday night], Iran's 'open account' with Israel will swell."

Syria's Foreign Ministry condemned the airstrikes on Wednesday, saying that the strikes were conducted in synchronization with the Syrian Democratic Forces, the US and the international coalition "in a clear and uncovered harmony to carry out the US projects."

"The Syrian Arab Republic considers that the frequency and synchronization of the Israeli attacks with terrorist attacks once again prove beyond any doubt that there is agreement and coordination between all the parties hostile to Syria, some of which occupy parts of its territory and violate its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political stability, as well as the exchange of roles in order to implement their common agenda aimed at supporting and continuing takfirist and economic terrorism and to achieve some separatist projects in the region," said the ministry in a letter to the UN secretary-general and the president of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

The ministry added that the Syrian government is determined, with the aid of "friendly countries and their allies, to recover every grain of soil from the lands of the Syrian Arab Republic," specifically the areas of the Golan Heights in Israeli control.

The letter called on the UNSC to take "firm and immediate measures" to prevent Israeli strikes and to require Israel to respect the decisions of the UNSC.

This is the third alleged Israeli airstrike reported in Syria in the past three weeks.

Last week, an airstrike targeted locations in southern Syria, and explosions were heard in the skies over Damascus. The strike reportedly targeted weapons depots, observation points and radar sites belonging to the Syrian military and pro-regime militias.

In December, two strikes targeted sites near the Lebanon-Syria border in al-Zabadani and Masyaf.

The airstrikes come amid the last days of US President Donald Trump's administration, with some analysts concerned that Israel and the US could try to carry out military action against Iran before the Biden administration enters the White House.

The IDF has reportedly increased air defenses in the Eilat area and remains on alert along the northern border due to concerns that Iran could carry out an attack against Israel from Lebanon, Syria or Yemen. Tensions have been high in light of an alleged Israeli airstrike last year in which a Hezbollah terrorist was killed and the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, which Iranian officials accuse Israel of conducting.

Iran also recently marked the one-year anniversary since the assassination of IRGC Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani, and officials threatened to carry out revenge attacks on American and Israeli targets in the region.

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An article by Hannah Brown titled "UAE-Israel Collaboration to Bring Innovation in Healthcare, Medical Tech" was posted at jpost.com on Jan. 13, 2021. Following is the article.

In two sessions of the UAE-Israel Peace and Prosperity Roundtable presented by The Khaleej Times and The Jerusalem Post at the 2021 Business Summit, medical professionals, medical technology entrepreneurs and public health officials from Israel and the UAE outlined ways in which technology can improve the future of medicine, and how UAE-Israeli partnerships can further develop and enhance innovation in this field.

In a session moderated by Abdul Karim Hanif of The Khaleej Times with Sherif Beshara, group CEO of the American Hospital, and Dr. Mohammed al-Redha, director of Projects Management Office, Dubai Health Authority, titled, "HealthTech and HealthCare: Achieving the Unimaginable," these professionals stressed the value of this international collaboration in medicine and technology.

While both countries can learn from how the other has coped with the covid-19 pandemic and, most recently, the vaccine rollout, this is only one way in which the two nations can help each other improve healthcare, the two men said.

"The vaccine is only a stepping-stone," said Redha. He emphasized that "the more collaboration, the more innovation that will be built from this relationship." He said that not only the region but "the entire world is waiting on collaborations between the two sides to come up with exciting innovations."

Beshara outlined many ways in which the two nations can work together "to transform healthcare, not just in the two countries but in the entire region."

Medical tourism—in both directions—is another avenue in which the countries can collaborate, Beshara and Redha agreed.

Beshara noted that even before the accords were signed, the American Hospital was approached by an Israeli hospital looking to collaborate on AI and medical data, and said that there would be progress to announce soon in both of these areas.

In a session with Maayan Hoffman, the Post's news editor, Ohad Arazi, the CEO of Zebra Medical Vision Ltd. in Israel, said his company "has been on a mission to transform patient care by teaching computers to automatically read and diagnose medical imaging studies . . . and to shed light on chronic diseases which are typically underreported."

AI can improve coronavirus healthcare, Arazi said. "If you want precision healthcare for covid, you need to examine patients more closely," and Arazi's company has developed an algorithm that analyzes lung CT scans of coronavirus patients to help doctors decide how to best allocate precious resources.

Beshara said that the healthcare sector looked to be "the big winner" out of all the fields in which both countries are now partnering.

"It's time to build a hub for healthcare transformation" in the Middle East, he said.



"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.

■ A Reuters article by Francois Murphy titled "Iran Works on Uranium Metal for Reactor Fuel in New Breach of Nuclear Deal" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 13, 2021.

■ An article by Jerusalem Post Staff titled "Coronavirus: In 10 Days, All Assisted-Living Residents Will Be Vaccinated" was posted at jpost.com on Jan. 14, 2021.

■ An article by Hank Berrien titled "In Poland, Social Media Companies Censoring a Post Could Be Fined \$2 Million" was posted at dailywire.com on Jan. 10, 2021.

■ An article titled "Angela Merkel Calls Trump Twitter Ban 'Problematic' " was posted at dw.com on Jan. 11, 2021.

■ An article by Silvia Amaro titled "Facebook and Other Tech Giants Could Soon Face a Flood of Court Cases in Europe Over Data Privacy" was posted at cnbc.com on Jan. 13, 2021.

■ An article by Kurt Zindulka titled "250,000 Small British Businesses Expected to Be Destroyed by Coronavirus Lockdowns This Year" was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 12, 2021.

■ An article by Victoria Friedman titled "[UK] Police Using License Plate-Reading Cameras to Monitor Drivers" was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 13, 2021.

■ A Reuters article by Tiemoko Diallo titled "Three U.N. Peacemakers Killed, Six Wounded in Mali Attack" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 13, 2021.

■ An article by Erick Erickson titled "The Pope Was Arrested? [Refuting an Internet Theory That Is Circulating]" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 15, 2021.



An article by Bill Donahue titled "Who Is Guilty of Inciting Riots?" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 8, 2021. Following is the article.

In the wake of the storming of the Capitol, many are blaming President Trump for the violence. Of course, he never instructed anyone to engage in violence. Nevertheless, his critics argue that he stoked people's passions, which he did, and can therefore be held accountable.

If this is the standard-inflammatory rhetoric-then Trump's critics are at best ethically compromised. Consider the following remarks, made by the kind of people who are now hammering the president.

- "I need you to get out and talk to your friends and talk to your neighbors. I want you to talk to them whether they are independent or whether they are Republican. I want you to argue with them and get in their face." Presidential candidate Barack Obama, 2008
- "When they go low, we kick 'em. That's what this new Democratic Party is about." Former Attorney General Eric Holder, 2018
- "Let's make sure we show up wherever we have to show up. And if you see anybody from that [Trump] Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and create a crowd. And you push back on them. And you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere." Rep. Maxine Waters, 2018
- "Please, get up in the face of some congresspeople." Sen. Cory Booker, 2020
- "People will do what they do." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi commenting on violent protesters, 2020
- "You know, there needs to be unrest in the streets for as long as there is unrest in our lives, and unfortunately there is plenty to go around." Rep. Ayanna Pressley, 2020
- "They're [left-wing protesters] not gonna stop before Election Day in November and they're not gonna stop after Election Day. And that should be—everyone should take note of that on both levels, that this isn't, they're not gonna let up and they should not. And we should not." Sen. Kamala Harris, 2020
- "And please, show me where it says protesters are supposed to be polite and peaceful." CNN host Chris Cuomo, 2020
- "When you see a nation, an entire nation, simultaneously grappling with an extraordinary crisis seeded in 400 years of American racism, I'm sorry, that is not the same question as the understandably aggrieved store owner or the devout religious person who wants to go back to services." New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio justifying illegal street protests that violated social distancing norms while he restricted church services, 2020
- "I can't imagine what it would look like if we said to people, 'Actually, you have to stay in. You have to ignore systemic racism—I'm sorry, just ignore it. Stay in.' "New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy justifying illegal street protests that violated social distancing norms while restricting church services, 2020
- "As public health advocates, we do not condemn these gatherings as risky for covid-19 transmission. We support them as vital to the national public health and to the threatened health specifically of black people in the United States." Twelve-hundred health and medical colleagues justifying illegal street protests that violated social distancing norms, 2020
- "Destroying property, which can be replaced, is not violence." Nikole Hannah-Jones, *New York Times* journalist, 2020
- "We don't have to finger-wag at protesters about property. That can be rebuilt." David Remnick, *New Yorker* journalist

- "The notion that nonviolence is tactically more effective . . . has not only been proven wrong over the past week by sheer numbers; it cannot be historically supported." R.H. Lossin, Ph.D., *The Nation* magazine, 2020
- "A siege [of the White House] only works if it is sustained. We witnessed this—the multiplying power of a strategic occupation—nine years ago. You dig in, hold your ground, and the tension accumulates, amplifies, goes global." Adbusters, the group that started Occupy Wall Street, 2020

Many more examples could be given. In fairness, these comments, while incendiary, are not direct calls for violence. But it is also true that nothing Trump said was a direct call for violence either.

Left-wing commentators and activists (pretty much the same these days) have no moral authority to lecture the rest of us about violence committed by right-wing protesters. They nurtured a climate of violence over the past year by giving Antifa and Black Lives Matter their blessings.

If they were principled, they would do as the Catholic League does and condemn violent protesters regardless of their cause. But they are not.



An article by Michelle Malkin titled "Amnesia of the Anarcho-Tyrannists" was posted at creators.com on Jan. 13, 2021. Following is the article.

Is it just me or has the entire universe of establishment media, politics and Hollywood forgotten that this country has endured an entire year of relentless violent anarchotyranny?

Antifa and Black Lives Matter rioters set businesses and churches ablaze, smashed state capitols and laid siege to federal courthouses. They permanently destroyed precious statues and symbols of America's heritage. They assaulted elderly people, stalked and menaced bystanders, taunted and terrorized law enforcement. And they committed murder—dozens of times—in the name of social justice while the powers that be sat idly by.

How conveniently they have all forgotten the grief of Ann Dorn, widow of retired St. Louis police captain David Dorn, who was slain by George Floyd vigilantes looting a pawn shop he was guarding on June 2, 2020. Ann Dorn condemned the violence during a speech to the Republican National Convention last summer and recounted how she relives "that horror in my mind every single day. My hope is that having you relive it with me now will help shake this country from this nightmare we're witnessing in our cities" and "bring about positive, peaceful change."

Dorn's plea went unheeded. Why? Because riots and invasive protest are the primary means by which the left operates and has always operated.

When they take over government buildings, like 40,000 Democratic union workers did when they stormed Wisconsin's state capitol in 2011 for nearly a month, it's not an insurrection. It's a First Amendment celebration.

When they take over U.S. Senators' offices, like they did during the 2018 Kavanaugh confirmation hearings, it's not sedition. It's "democracy."

When they feel like blocking traffic and shutting down highways, the police don't arrest them. They protect them.

And when they occupy U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities and vandalize federal courthouses—while obstructing homeland security operations, shining lasers in cops' eyes to blind them and hurling bricks at them to maim them—it's not a crime. It's "peaceful protest."

This is not "whataboutism." It's an absolutely necessary and vital backdrop as we seek to make sense of what happened last week in our nation's Capitol. (And isn't it the Left that always urges us to identify "root causes" when their thugs cross the line?) Law-abiding Americans are angry and frustrated precisely because the law has not been equally applied.

Whether we're talking about lockdown rules or mob rules or election rules, the elites and their allies live by one set of rules and govern by another. Hundreds of thousands of peaceful Donald Trump supporters are being smeared by pundits and politicians who have downplayed left-wing lawlessness from Day One of the Trump presidency. Those who protest this injustice are being purged from social media and the public square at warp speed:

- Some 70,000 dissidents on Twitter were summarily purged after being tarred as dangerous conspiracy theorists on Monday.
- Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed Trump supporter who was gunned down by Capitol police last week, has been ruthlessly defamed by blue-checkmarked celebrities on Twitter and labeled a domestic terrorist.
- MAGA moms and their children are being dragged off airplanes by federal jackboots for attending the Jan. 6 rally, while antifa and BLM advocates gloat.
- "Stop the Steal" organizer Ali Alexander and his colleagues have been wiped off Silicon Valley platforms, along with conservative social media company Parler, libertarian Ron Paul, "War Room" host Steve Bannon, "America First" host Nick Fuentes, "Red Elephants" host Vince James, cartoonist Ben Garrison, Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton, election fraud researcher Ron Watkins, Gen. Michael Flynn, and lawyers Sidney Powell and Lin Wood.
- Trump faces yet another phony impeachment attack despite his explicit call for supporters to "peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard."

Meanwhile, actual convicted domestic terrorists like Black Liberation Army assassin Assata Shakur, Weather Underground killers Kathy Boudin and David Gilbert, and May 19th Communist Organizer Susan Rosenberg (a left-wing weapons supplier and insurrectionist pardoned by Bill Clinton and now a board member of the umbrella group overseeing Black Lives Matter) are deified by the media, Hollywood and academia.

Maxine Waters has been cribbing Martin Luther King Jr.'s line about riots being the "language of the unheard" ever since she danced on the ashes of the L.A. riots with Bloods and Crips.

Liberal magazine Slate declared just six months ago in defense of antifa and BLM anarchotyrannists that "non-violence is an important tool for protest, but so is violence."

There simply cannot be peace and civil order in such a dysfunctional country of double standards and stifled dissent. It is dishonest and harmful to our republic to pretend otherwise.

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An article by Derek Hunter titled "Do Not Believe These People" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 12, 2021. Following is the article.

Maybe I'm just cynical, which I know I am, but every single time one of those teleprompter-reading TV personalities masquerading as journalists use a phrase like "It's a sad day" or "It's impacted all of us," I want to throw up. There has never been a phonier, less trustworthy group of people with more influence in history.

When idiots stormed the Capitol building, the pearl clutchers went into overdrive with the "this is horrible to see" and some "this is a tragedy" talk. Yes, both are true, but does anyone believe they actually feel any of it personally? Why would anyone care about a country when they hold half its citizens in contempt?

Anderson Cooper let the cat out of the bag when, while speaking of attendees at the rally and not just the rioters, he said they were "going to go back to the Olive Garden and to the Holiday Inn they're staying at, or the Garden Marriott, and they're going to have some drinks and talk about the great day they had in Washington."

He was calling everyone who dared think the election results were a little odd low-brow, low class, and most definitely beneath him. We can't all be born into the Vanderbilt family.

While that line, and those like it by other overpaid talking point parrots, was designed to "humanize" the person saying it as someone concerned about the events of the day, it really just exposed who these people are when they think they're in safe company.

Americans who can't afford to eat at Michelin-stared restaurants every night of the week know what's really going on, they see through the smile to the hate below it.

That level of hate may not play well with normal Americans, but it kills on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, where Cooper and his ilk will regale themselves with tales of the times they rubbed elbows with someone who showers because of work and not for it.

They've always hated us, they used to just try to hide it. Not very well, but at least they tried.

Watching them talk about the riot at the Capitol reminded me of the Don Henley song "Dirty Laundry." You can forget, from time to time, what they're really like, but the lines, "We got the bubble headed bleach blonde, who comes on at five, she can tell you 'bout the plane crash with a gleam in her eye It's interesting when people die, give us dirty laundry."

That's what they live for, though only in one direction.

Got anything that will harm or embarrass a Republican and they'll have the satellite truck parked on your lawn in 20 minutes. Have anything casting a shadow of doubt on the character of a Democrat and you might as well dump your own body in the bay.

There hasn't been a rumor unworthy of reporting about Donald Trump and Republicans, no matter how disconnected from the possibility of knowing their "anonymous source" may be. But when it comes to verified stories that, to put it mildly, reflect poorly on Democrats, any Democrat, no amount of information is enough to warrant informing the public.

When it was learned that Congressman Eric Swalwell, who has access to this nation's most important national security secrets as a member of the House Intelligence Committee, had a long-term connection with a Chinese communist spy, and that she helped him fundraise for his reelection in 2014 even though she was a college student (which should seem weird how a foreign national college student could have enough contacts to be a political money bundler), the networks barely touched the story. CNN had him on for a short, softball interview, and The New York Times, to this day, hasn't mentioned it once. Americans have been sent to prison for taking pictures on a submarine, and Nancy Pelosi actually defended his position on the Intel Committee and refuses to discuss it further, not that any "journalist" would ask again.

These people hate you, and when you hate someone, lying to them is no big deal. In fact, it's easy to justify to yourself.

But they don't really lie to you, because you aren't watching them. They're lying about you to their audience, who has been conditioned to believe those lies by being fed a steady stream of them. If these people want to talk about a "threat to democracy" maybe they should find a mirror.



An article by Ben Shapiro titled "The Lies Tearing America Apart" was posted at creators.com on Jan. 13, 2021. Following is the article.

Last week, the Capitol was breached by a group of fringe Trump supporters who had bought into a series of lies: the lie that President Donald Trump lost the election due to proven voter fraud and irregularity; the lie that the

Electoral College results, legally certified state by state, could be overturned by Congress or the vice president; the lie that Trump would remain in office if only some sort of armed rebellion were to prevent the election certification by Congress. Those were lies. And those lies had deadly consequences.

Thankfully, the vast majority of Americans don't believe those lies. Which means we should be able to unify around certain basic truths: that Joe Biden is legally president-elect of the United States; that violence in pursuit of political ends is a deep wrong and those who participate in it should be punished to the full extent of the law; that broad claims regarding invasion of rights ought to be backed by compelling evidence.

But we won't.

That's because while the Democratic Party and the political left agree that Joe Biden is president-elect, they absolutely disagree with both the fundamental precept that violence in pursuit of political ends is a deep wrong and the even more fundamental precept that claims require evidence. We saw that this summer when Democratic Party officials made light of riots spreading across the nation in the name of yet another lie—the lie that America is systemically racist, rooted in slavery and Jim Crow, and replete with bigoted police dedicated to endangering black lives. Democrats demanded no evidence to support those claims; in kneejerk fashion, they simply repeated ad nauseam untruths about the existential threat to black Americans in the United States. Which means that for the Democrats and the political left, violence is fine so long as it supports their narrative, and un-evidenced claims are fine so long as they support an agenda.

In order to defend such violence, the political left has mobilized behind another convenient and advantageous lie: the lie that the Capitol riots represent all conservatives and Republicans. Paul Krugman of The New York Times suggested that the "putsch was decades in the making," chalking up the rioting to "Republican elites" since before Ronald Reagan. The Washington Post amplified a nutty post from the chairman of the Nye County Republican Party in Nevada into a referendum on a "long-festering struggle within the Republican Party over conspiracy theories, purity tests, and fealty to the rule of law." Members of the media gleefully hunted for Republicans to blame for the Capitol riots, calling for the deplatforming of brand-name conservatives and cheering on social media crackdowns.

Lies are dangerous. And double standards are perhaps the most dangerous form of lying: They grant the bravery of purity to those most willing to defy decency, prompting similar spasms of cruelty and malice from the other side. The solution to our national crisis of conscience isn't bad-faith political purges or repetition of tiresome falsehoods about the nature of the United States. It's truth.

But truth is more a shield than a sword. And we are now in the age of swords, wielded aggressively by those with little principle but an unending sense of their own moral superiority.

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An article by Dennis Prager titled "The 'Good American' " was posted at town-hall.com on Jan. 12, 2021. Following is the article.

In my last column, I described how I have come to better understand the moral problem of the "'good German,' the term used to describe the average, presumably decent German, who did nothing to hurt Jews but also did nothing to help them and did nothing to undermine the Nazi regime."

Watching America accept the rationally and morally indefensible physical and economic lockdown of the country, I concluded: "Apathy in the face of tyranny turns out not to be a German or Russian characteristic. I just never thought it could happen in America."

In one week, it has gotten worse. Now we are faced with a lockdown on speech the likes of which have never been seen in America. And the parallels with Germany are even more stark. The left-wing party (the Democrats) and the left-wing media (the "mainstream media") are using the mob invasion of the Capitol exactly the way the Nazis used the Reichstag fire.

On Feb. 27, 1933, exactly one month after the Nazis came to power, the German parliament building, the Reichstag, was set ablaze. The Nazis blamed the fire on their archenemy, the communists, and used the fire to essentially extinguish the Communist Party and its ability to publish, speak or otherwise spread its message. Using the Reichstag fire as an excuse, the Nazis passed the Enabling Act, a law that gave the Nazi chancellor, Adolf Hitler, the power to pass laws by decree—without the Reichstag.

Now to America 2021.

On Jan. 6, 2021, a right-wing mob of a few hundred people broke away from a peaceful right-wing protest involving tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of American conservatives and forced its way into the U.S. Capitol. One Capitol policeman was killed after being hit in the head with a fire extinguisher, and one of the right-wing Capitol invaders was shot by a Capitol police officer. (A handful of others who died in the vicinity of the Capitol did so of nonviolent causes.) Aside from smashed windows, the mob seems to have done little damage to the Capitol. Their intent is still not clear. It seems to have been largely catharsis. They hurt no legislators, and if they intended to overthrow the government, they were delusional.

Beginning the next day, the American left used the Capitol mob just as the Nazis used the Reichstag: as an excuse to subjugate its conservative enemies and further squelch civil liberties in America—specifically, freedom of speech.

Twitter not only permanently banned the account of President of the United States but permanently banned him from Twitter. Any Twitter account found tweeting Donald Trump was permanently banned.

The left was able to do all this not only by using the Capitol mob incident but also by engaging in a series of lies.

The first was blaming the attack on President Donald Trump. Over and over, in every left-wing medium and stated repeatedly by Democrats, Trump is blamed for "inciting" the riot in his speech just before it took place. Almost never is a Trump quote cited. Because there is none. On the contrary, he did say, "I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard" (italics added).

Another lie was the immediate labeling of the mob attack on the Capitol as "insurrection." All left-wing media and Democrats now refer to the event as an "insurrection," a term defined by almost every dictionary as "an act or instance of revolting against civil authority or an established government." As morally repulsive as the actions of the mob were, they did not constitute a revolt against civil authority or an established government. Disrupting the work of legislators for a few hours—as wrong as that was—does not constitute a "revolt."

But what proves the left's "insurrection" label is a lie is that Democrats and their media never once labeled the left-wing riots of 2020—which involved the destruction by fire and/or occupation and vandalizing of police stations, and the establishment of "autonomous zones," which, by definition, revolted against "established governments"—as an "insurrection." The enormous number of businesses burned down, looted or otherwise destroyed was barely covered by the mainstream media, and their violent perpetrators were almost never prosecuted, let alone condemned, as engaging in an insurrection. Dozens of people were killed in these riots, yet there was more outcry and condemnation against the hourslong occupation of the U.S. Capitol than against six months of left-wing violent riots.

Then, like the Nazi regime after the Reichstag fire, the left immediately moved to further curtail civil liberties, specifically conservatives' ability to promote their ideas. Twitter and Amazon made it impossible for the alternative to Twitter, Parler, to exist, all in the name of preventing another right-wing "insurrection."

In the name of the Capitol "insurrection," the Democrats announced they would impeach the president of the United States, though he had only 14 days left in office.

In the name of the Capitol "insurrection," the editor of Forbes, Randall Lane, announced that Forbes media was "holding those who lied for Trump accountable" in what he called "a truth reckoning": "Hire any of Trump's (press secretaries)," Lane warned, "and Forbes will assume that everything your company or firm talks about is a lie."

In the name of the Capitol mob attack, 159 law professors at Chapman University have called for the firing of John Eastman, a tenured fellow law professor and holder of an endowed chair at Chapman—because "his actions Wednesday (that) helped incite a riot." Eastman had spoken at the Trump rally.

The professors ended their Los Angeles Times letter: "He does not belong on our campus."

Words well chosen.

What the left is doing is announcing—and enforcing—that conservatives "do not belong" in our society. The parallels to 1933 are precise. And most good Americans are keeping silent, just as did most Germans. Though they do not risk being beaten up, are Americans in 2021 as afraid of the American left as Germans in 1933 were of the German fascists? We're about to find out.

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An article by Melania Trump titled "Our Path Forward" was posted at white-house.gov on Jan. 11, 2021. Following is the article.

Like all of you, I have reflected on the past year and how the invisible enemy, covid-19, swept across our beautiful country. All Nations have experienced the loss of loved ones, economic pain, and the negative impacts of isolation.

As your First Lady, it has been inspiring to witness firsthand what the people of our great Nation will do for one another, especially when we are at our most vulnerable.

With nearly every experience I have had, I found myself carrying many individual's stories home with me in my heart.

Most recently, my heart goes out to: Air Force Veteran, Ashli Babbitt, Benjamin Philips, Kevin Greeson, Roseanne Boyland, and Capitol Police Officers, Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood. I pray for their families comfort and strength during this difficult time.

I am disappointed and disheartened with what happened last week. I find it shameful that surrounding these tragic events there has been salacious gossip, unwarranted personal attacks, and false misleading accusations on me—from people who are looking to be relevant and have an agenda. This time is solely about healing our country and its citizens. It should not be used for personal gain.

Our Nation must heal in a civil manner. Make no mistake about it, I absolutely condemn the violence that has occurred on our Nation's Capitol. Violence is never acceptable.

As an American, I am proud of our freedom to express our viewpoints without persecution. It is one of the paramount ideals which America is fundamentally built on. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect that right. With that in mind, I would like to call on the citizens of this country to take a moment, pause, and look at things from all perspectives.

I implore people to stop the violence, never make assumptions based on the color of a person's skin or use differing political ideologies as a basis for aggression and viciousness. We must listen to one another, focus on what unites us, and rise above what divides us.

It is inspiring to see that so many have found a passion and enthusiasm in participating in an election, but we must not allow that passion to turn to vio-

lence. Our path forward is to come together, find our commonalities, and be the kind and strong people that I know we are.

Our country's strength and character have revealed themselves in the communities that have been impacted by natural disasters and throughout this terrible pandemic that has affected all of us. The common thread in all of these challenging situations is American's unwavering resolve to help one another. Your compassion has shown the true spirit of our country.

As I said over the summer, it is these defining moments that we will look back and tell our grandchildren that through empathy, strength, and determination, we were able to restore the promise of our future. Each of you are the backbone of this country. You are the people who continue to make the United States of America what it is, and who have the incredible responsibility of preparing our future generations to leave everything better than they found it.

It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve as your First Lady. I want to thank the millions of Americans who supported my husband and me over the past 4 years and shown the incredible impact of the American spirit. I am grateful to you all for letting me serve you on platforms which are dear to me.

Most importantly, I ask for healing, grace, understanding, and peace for our great Nation.

Every day let us remember that we are one Nation under God. God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.



"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.



Deficit

- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "Number Employed by Government in United States Declined 1,278,000 in 2020" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 8, 2021.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "Federal Spending Sets Record Through December" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 13, 2021.

Capitol violence

- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Mark Levin Condemns Criminals, Blasts Media Exploitation of Capitol Violence" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by Lindsey Ellefson titled "Washington Times Apologizes for Story Falsely Claiming Antifa Involved in Capitol Siege" was posted at thewrap.com on Jan. 7, 2021.

- An article by Danielle Wallace titled "FBI Says Pre-Capitol Riots Intelligence Led to Proud Boys Leader's Arrest" was posted at foxnews.com on Jan. 14, 2021.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "'Let's Burn This Sh*t Down': BLM Activist Arrested After Attending Capitol Riots" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 14, 2021.
- An article by Rob Natelson titled "Weren't the U.S. Capitol Protesters 'Mostly Peaceful'?" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 7, 2021.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Video Shows Trump Supporters Attempting to Stop People From Breaking Into the Capitol" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 7, 2021.
- An article by John Daniel Davidson titled "Media Outrage Over Capitol Riot Isn't About Defending Democracy; It's About Wielding Power" was posted at thefederalist.com on Jan. 7, 2021.
- An article by Ashe Schow titled "MSNBC Reporter [Ali Velshi] Who Claimed Minneapolis Riots Were 'Mostly Peaceful' [While Standing] in Front of Burning Building Says We Shouldn't Sugar Coat Capitol Riots" was posted at dailywire.com on Jan. 7, 2021.
- An article by Daniel Payne titled "Black Lives Matter Boomerang: How Media Flipped Script on Violent Protests After Capitol Riot" was posted at justthenews.com on Jan. 8, 2021.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "CNN Anchor [Brianna Keilar] Defends Left-Wing Violence While Calling Tucker Carlson a 'Parasite' " was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 8, 2021.
- An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "Tucker [Carlson] Rails Against CNN's Description of US Capitol Riot" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 8, 2021.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Democrat Law Professor [Jonathan Turley]: Trump Never Actually Called for Violence or a Riot" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article titled "Many Trump Supporters 'Disgusted' With Being Lumped in With Violent Rioters: Lawrence Jones" was posted at foxnews.com on Jan. 12, 2021.
- An article by Michael Brown titled "Arnold Schwarzenegger, There Is a Massive Difference Between Kristallnacht and the Storming of the Capitol" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "GOP Rep. [Tom McClintock of California]: If We Had Strongly Prosecuted BLM-Antifa Rioters, Capitol Riot May Not Have Happened" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 13, 2021.
- An article by Raheem Kassam titled "Cops, Kids, Reporters and Activists Were Murdered As Democrats Incited 2020 Riots; Now They've Accused Trump of Their Tactics" was posted at thenationalpulse.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by Libby Emmons titled "Flashback: Rep. Maxine Waters and Sen. Cory Booker Called for Violence [in 2018] Against Elected Leaders and Cabinet Members" was posted at thepostmillennial.com on Jan. 13, 2021.

■ An article by Julio Rosas titled "Don Lemon: If You Voted for Trump, You Support the Klan and Capitol Building Rioters" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 14, 2021.

Assault by Big Tech

- An article by Larry Elder titled "Twitter Permanently Bans Trump; Why Do Hillary Clinton, Jimmy Carter and Harry Reid Get a Pass?" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 14, 2021.
- An article by Ian Hanchett titled "Fox News Channel's [Howard] Kurtz: Many in Media Aren't Considering 'Free Speech Implications' of Trump Twitter Ban" was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 9, 2021.
- An article by Kyle Morris titled "ACLU Warns of 'Unchecked Power' After Facebook, Twitter Suspend Trump" was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 9, 2021.
- An article by Post Editorial Board titled "Big Tech's Assault on Parler Proves It's Gone Full Cartel" was posted at nypost.com on Jan. 10, 2021.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Parler CEO Blasts 'Coordinated Attack by Tech Giants to Kill Competition' As Amazon Pulls Its Servers" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 10, 2021.
- An article by Tristan Justice titled "Sec. of State [Mike] Pompeo Blasts Tech Censors: 'Authoritarianism Cloaked As Moral Righteousness' "was posted at thefederalist.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Brent Bozell: Big Tech Is Doing What Tyrants Like Hitler, Mao and Stalin Do" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article titled "Tucker [Carlson]: Corporations Colluding With Democrats to Silence Americans" was posted at foxnews.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by Hans Bader titled "Big Tech Bans Based on Leftist Officials' Whims Would Violate First Amendment" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by Joshua Lawson titled "Handing Government the Keys to Social Media Would Make Things Far Worse" was posted at thefederalist.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "[Dan] Bongino: Amazon Pulling Parler's Servers Is 'Stage 2' of the Left's 'Gross Totalitarian' Takeover" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Conservative Leaders: Tech Companies Pose Existential Threat, Must Be Broken Up" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article by David Rutz titled "[Left-Wing Journalist Glenn] Greenwald Slams Liberals for Being 'Overwhelmingly Supportive' of Big Tech 'Brute Force' Against Conservatives" was posted at foxnews.com on Jan. 12, 2021.

■ A video and an article by Noah David Alter titled "Watch: [Left-Wing Journalist] Glenn Greenwald Says Tech Giants, Not Parler, Hosted the Majority of Capitol Hill Riot Planning" were posted at the postmillennial.com on Jan. 13, 2021.

Punishment of conservatives

- An article by Todd Starnes titled "The Conservative Purge Won't Stop With Big Tech" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 11, 2021.
- An article titled "Joe Scarborough [of MSNBC] Drops F-Bomb on 'Morning Joe,' Demands Arrests of Trump, Giuliani and Trump Jr." was posted at the-hollywoodreporter.com on Jan. 7, 2021.
- An article by Jordan Davidson titled "10 Times Democrats Urged Violence Against Trump and His Followers" was posted at thefederalist.com on Jan. 8, 2021.
- An article by Bronson Sterling titled "What's Happening to a Public School Teacher Who Attended the D.C. Protest [Relieved of Duty] Should Worry Us All" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 10, 2021.
- An article by Michael Dorstewitz titled "Forbes Says It's Targeting Trump Staffers and Their Future Employers" was posted at newsmax.com on Jan. 10, 2021.
- An article by Hannah Bleau titled "Walt Disney Co. Suspends Contributions to Lawmakers Who Objected to Election Certification" was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 13, 2021.
- An article by Melanie Arter titled "Rep. Jim Jordan: More Democrats Objected to 2016 Electoral College Results Than GOP Did This Year" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 13, 2021.
- An article by Chris Pandolfo titled "CNN Analyst [Juliette Kayyem] Says Trump Is the 'Leader of a Terrorist Organization'" was posted at theblaze.com on Jan. 12, 2021.
- An article by Robert Kraychik titled "Project Veritas: PBS Counsel Says Trump Supporters' Children Should Be Taken, Put in 'Re-Education Camps' " was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 12, 2021.
- An article by David Ng titled "Sean Penn Compares Trump Supporters to Al-Qaeda, Says Trump Is 'Bin Laden' " was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 13, 2021.
- An article by Joel B. Pollak titled "House Democrats Temporarily Changed Rules to Allow President to Be Called a Racist" was posted at breitbart.com on Jan. 13, 2021.

General interest

■ Looking back to September 2020, an article by Andrew Kerr and Kyle Hooten titled "Bail Fund Promoted by Kamala Harris Helped Man Accused of Sexually [Assaulting] a Child" was posted at dailycaller.com on Sept. 16, 2020.

- A video and an article by Libby Emmons titled "Watch: Nancy Pelosi Breaks Proposed Congressional Rules on Gendered Language That She Endorsed" were posted at the postmillennial.com on Jan. 13, 2021.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Police Say Portland Major Ted Wheeler Attacked by Antifa Thug" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 7, 2021.
- An article by Keyon Harrold titled "Woman Who Wrongly Accused Black Teen [of Stealing Her Phone] Is Arrested, Apologizes" was posted at apnews. com on Jan. 8, 2021.
- An article by Isabella Bridle DeLeo titled "Second Largest School District [Los Angeles Public Schools] Will Require Students Get Covid-19 Vaccine" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 12, 2021.
- An article by Tony Maglio titled "Jimmy Fallon Drew the Smallest 'Tonight Show' TV Audience Ever Last Night" was posted at thewrap.com on Jan. 12, 2021.
- An article by Sarah Krouse titled "Dollar General [Store] Will Pay Workers to Get a Covid-19 Vaccine" was posted at wsj.com on Jan. 13, 2021.
- A Reuters article by Julie Steenhuysen titled "Johnson & Johnson Vaccine on Track for March Rollout With Target to Deliver 1 Billion Doses This Year" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 13, 2021.
- An article by Jack Davis titled "[Delta] Airline Adds Hundreds [880] to No-Fly List Over Mask Violations" was posted at westernjournal.com on Jan. 14, 2021.
- An article by Jordan Lancaster titled "[New York] Restaurants Win Lawsuit Challenging Cuomo's Coronavirus Restrictions, Are Allowed to Open" was posted at dailycaller.com on Jan. 14, 2021.
- An article by Stephen Gutowski titled "New York Bill Would Make It First State to Ban Bulletproof Vests" was posted at freebeacon.com on Jan. 14, 2021.
- An article by Kate Duffy titled "Bill Gates Now Owns 242,000 Acres of Farmland, Making Him America's Biggest Private Farmland Owner, According to a New Report" was posted at businessinsider.com on Jan. 15, 2021.



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."