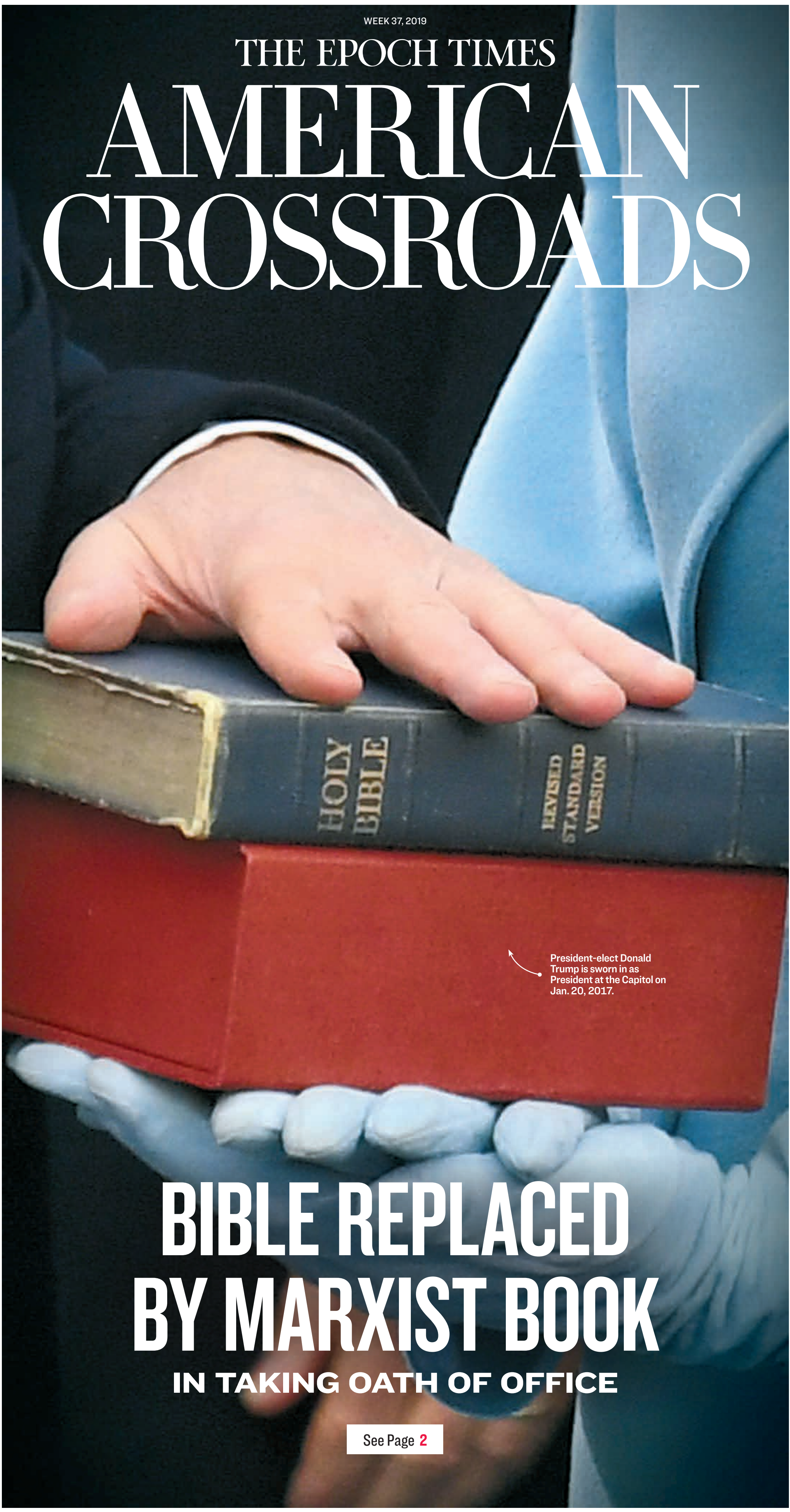


WEEK 37, 2019

THE EPOCH TIMES

AMERICAN CROSSROADS

MARK HASTON/GETTY IMAGES



President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in as President at the Capitol on Jan. 20, 2017.

BIBLE REPLACED BY MARXIST BOOK IN TAKING OATH OF OFFICE

See Page 2

Bible Replaced by Marxist Book in Taking Oath of Office

MARY GRABAR



Commentary
Oklahoma City Council member JoBeth Hamon was sworn in early this year—not on the Bible, but on a copy of Marxist Howard Zinn’s “A People’s History of the United States.”

In an email to me, Hamon explained that she comes from a social services background, so she wanted to center her campaign “on uplifting voices that aren’t often at the table when our governments make decisions”—the homeless, the car-less, and so forth, from whose perspective, she claimed, Zinn told U.S. history.

“A People’s History,” she thought “would be a good reminder of who I seek to serve.” Hamon upset traditions going back to ninth-century England.

Implicit in the ritual of taking oaths on the Bible is the acknowledgment of the need for God’s guidance—something that U.S. presidents have signaled since George Washington used his own personal Bible as the sacred object for his oath.

In Washington’s first inaugural address, he offered his “fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe” and in his Farewell Address reminded the nation, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” And “national morality” could not “prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

Washington asked, “Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice?”

Hamon sought the guidance not of God, but of a supporter and almost certainly a card-carrying member of the Stalin-controlled Communist Party USA, according to FBI files. Like others at the time, Zinn seems to have dropped his official membership in the Communist Party in order to infiltrate U.S. institutions, in his case by teaching at Spelman College and Boston University, where he attained a cult-like following.

His “A People’s History of the United States,” which has sold a record 2.6 million copies, casts George Washington as a racist money-grubber and Ho Chi Minh as the true Thomas Jefferson. It presents Soviet-backed insurgencies around the world as local independence movements and American women as slaves.

The 1949 communist takeover of China is

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presented as “the closest thing, in the long history of that ancient country, to a people’s government”—in stark contrast to the “corrupt dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek.” The 100 million human beings that Mao and other communist dictators murdered in the 20th century are ignored. Zinn’s “history” was cobbled together from dubious sources—and by dishonest quotation that makes authors say the opposite of what they intended.

President Donald Trump has vowed that “America will never be a socialist country.” But the increasing support for socialism in our country, the politicization of everything, and worship of Zinn show that even if the president is right, it will be a close contest.

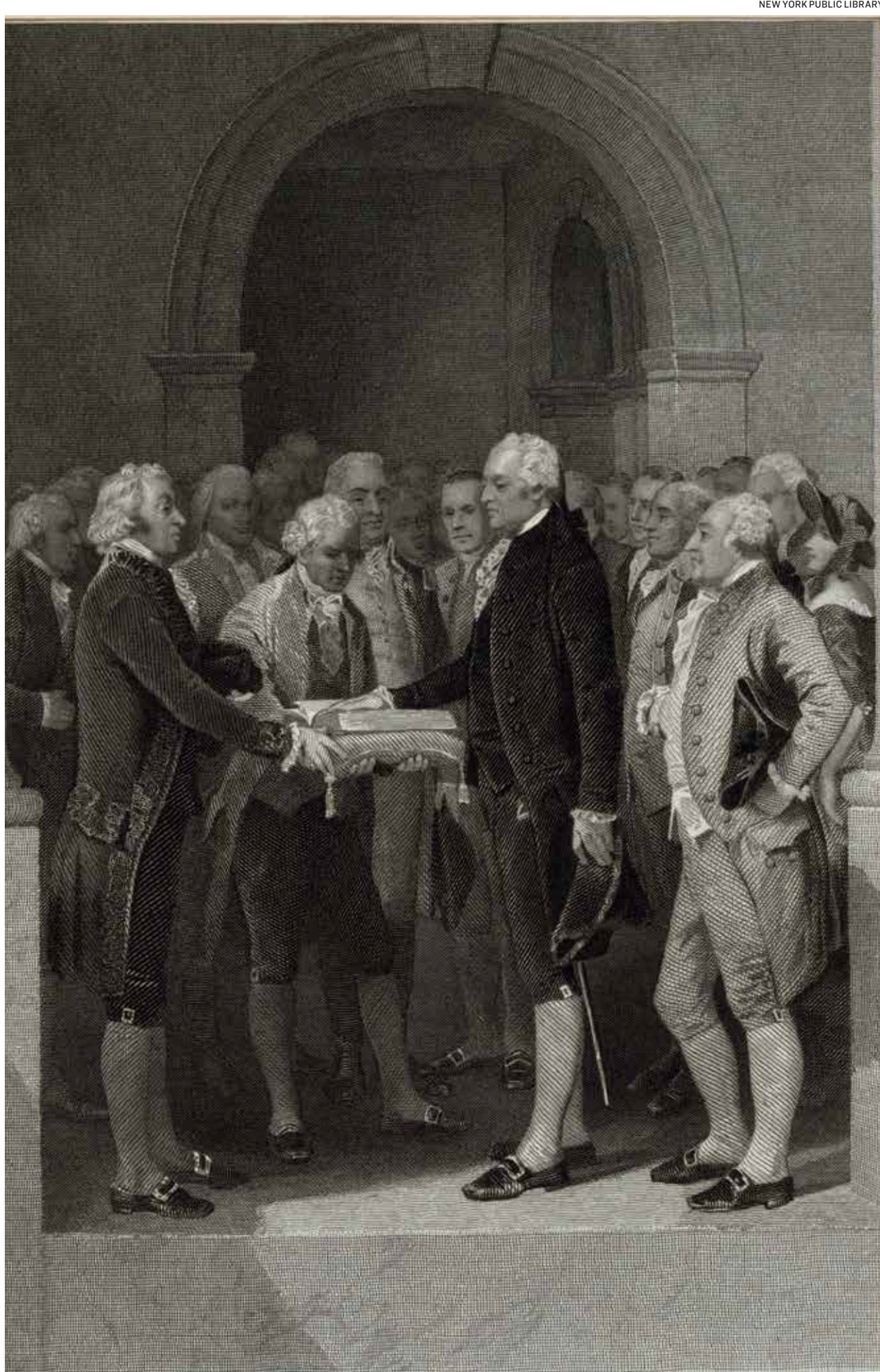
Zinn’s “A People’s History of the United States,” which follows the contours of Communist Party USA leader William Z. Foster’s “Outline Political History of the Americas,” has been gaining influence exponentially since its original publication in 1980. It’s used in classrooms, in teacher-training courses, in the dozens of Zinn-inspired curricular materials available from the nonprofit Zinn Education Project, and in library books and textbooks that cite passages from it.

Our tax dollars support this indoctrination in other ways, such as a recent “teach-in” at the Smithsonian, a credit-bearing workshop for teachers that used Zinn’s twisted

Howard Zinn at the Pathfinder book store in Los Angeles in August, 2000.



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NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

▲ George Washington takes the oath as the first president of the United States of America, April 30th, 1789.



AP PHOTO FILE

Youths at a rally during the height of the Red Guard upheaval waving copies Mao’s Little Red Book and carrying a poster of Karl Marx on Sept. 14, 1966. The Cultural Revolution set off a decade of violence and tumult to achieve communist goals and enforce a radical egalitarianism.

Silicon Valley Matches China in Thought Control

JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



People burn incense under a surveillance camera at the back of a temple in China on Aug. 25, 2018.



SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

ROGER L. SIMON



Commentary
Silicon Valley has long had a romance with China. Much of this was, and is, motivated by the great lure of profit from the world’s most populous nation.

But when you do business with a totalitarian state, perhaps inevitably some of its ideology seeps into you.

This is especially true on our increasingly high-tech planet, where many parties are competing for the latest advances and the money that flows from them. China, however, is utilizing these advances for particularly dangerous ends. In a manner that’s eerily similar to that predicted many years ago in George Orwell’s “Nineteen Eighty-Four” and Aldous Huxley’s “Brave New World,” China has been instituting a social credit system.

This program, being rolled out across that country with a population approaching 1.5 billion, measures the obedience of its citizens in areas from their religion (the Chinese don’t like it) to whether they jaywalk. These same citizens are then rewarded or restricted in almost all aspects of their lives (such as being able to travel abroad or obtain a mortgage) according to the scores they have received.

This is Big Brother taken to the nth degree. It will homogenize people to an extent that Mao only dreamed of during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, because it will happen without people even realizing what’s being done to them. It’s all seemingly in the spirit of competitive online fun. This is why some call the social credit score “authoritarianism gamified.”

But China is far from alone. Google, Facebook, and others are right behind them—possibly even in front of them—in the race for an obedient, homogenized society, even though the tech giants claim the reverse. (It was Google, after all, that was allegedly designing a politically censored search engine for the Chinese, until the tech behemoth pulled back under heavy criticism.)

And this approach is being adopted by a variety of sources, not just the

Google and Facebook giants. The likes of insurance companies and restaurant suppliers are employing these new technologies to survey social media or shared lists to give potential clients their own version of a “score.” We’re all being monitored all the time, almost always without knowing it’s actually happening. Only lip service is paid. But we’re all getting social credit scores of one sort or another.

This ominous trend is motivated in part by the ideological uniformity of management and employees we see at Google, Facebook, and so on. They think they’re doing the right thing. But unchecked global (i.e., cross-border) corporate greed is equally at play, one reinforcing the other.

Whatever the motivations, the results constitute a serious, possibly even terminal, threat to democracy as we know it. In an important article on Fast Company, Mike Elgan writes that Silicon Valley is replicating the equivalent of China’s social credit system for the United States and the larger Western audience.

“Many Westerners are disturbed by what they read about China’s social credit system. But such systems, it turns out, are not unique to China. A parallel system is developing in the United States, in part as the result of Silicon Valley and technology-industry user policies, and in part by surveillance of social media activity by private companies,” Elgan writes.

If there’s an emergency in our society, it’s not global warming, but this growing thought control. The Chinese and Big Tech have indeed turned authoritarianism into a game we’re all playing. The fun is at our own—and our freedom’s—expense.

Roger L. Simon, co-founder and CEO emeritus of PJ Media, is an award-winning author and an Academy Award-nominated screenwriter. His new novel, “The Goat,” is available on Amazon.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

MASON TRINCA/GETTY IMAGES



Employees walk out of Google’s headquarters to protest the companies handling of sexual misconduct allegations, in Mountain View, Calif., on Nov. 1, 2018.

and plagiarized version of the discovery of America, and trained them in conducting an “Abolish Columbus Day” campaign in the classroom. The National Endowment for the Arts supported the Kronos Festival, where Zinn’s “penetrating words” were used to “unite music with energized action.”

Two generations have been steeped in Zinn’s America-hating history, and we are seeing its influence pervade our workplaces, politics, arts, and culture, especially among millennials. One of the most famous of that generation, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), in claiming that ICE detention centers were “concentration camps” mimicked Zinn’s false depiction of earlier U.S. detention facilities for Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Other less famous millennials elected to political office have specifically claimed the history professor, who died in 2010, as their inspiration. Newly elected District Attorney Natasha Irving of Waldoboro, Maine, cited Zinn’s autobiography, “You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train,” in her inaugural speech: “As district attorney, I cannot be neutral in the face of mass incarceration. I cannot be neutral in the prosecution of the sick for being sick, the poor for being poor.”

As if any of this were the reality of life in the United States—rather than the lies and distortions of Howard Zinn.

Mary Grabar holds a doctorate in English from the University of Georgia and is a resident fellow at the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization. Grabar is the author of “Debunking Howard Zinn: Exposing the Fake History that Turned a Generation against America,” recently published by Regnery History.

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CNN's Climate Crisis Town Hall: A Scorecard

MARK HENDRICKSON



Commentary

The Sept. 4 CNN-hosted "Climate Crisis Town Hall" for Democratic presidential candidates provided an interesting test: Which candidates would go "all in" on climate change radicalism, and which (if any) would express moderate views?

The dominant position among progressives and socialists (i.e., Democrats) is that human-generated CO2 emissions will dangerously elevate global temperatures, precipitating a climate catastrophe that can only be averted if we forswear fossil fuels and radically alter the way we live. Since progressives and socialists believe, as an article of faith, in a messianic role for government requiring massive increases in government power over our lives, the climate change issue is tailor-made for them.

I've expressed my doubts about the catastrophist scenario before, but to briefly recapitulate some of them: It's silly to view CO2 as the thermostat that controls Earth's temperature. Solar activity, Earth's orbit, volcanoes, clouds, ocean circulation, and tectonic activity are other contributing factors. Water vapor, not CO2, is the crucial greenhouse gas. Numerous times over the millennia atmospheric CO2 and global temperature decoupled, including the periods from World War II to the 1970s and from about 1999 to 2016 when temperatures either fell or remained stagnant at the same time that CO2 concentrations increased rapidly. CO2 absorbs heat on a logarithmic scale, and is nearing its maximum capacity. And even if the planet does warm for whatever reason, there's considerable evidence that a warmer climate would be an overall positive. Certainly, spending trillions of dollars to switch from cheap, reliable fossil fuels could, by slowing if not reversing economic growth, be counterproductive, making us more vulnerable to nature's future onslaughts.

OK, whether you believe that CO2 is scary or not, let's look at what various Democratic candidates said about climate change.

Most Nonsensical Statement

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro: "I know that too often it's people that are poor, communities of color, who take the brunt of storms that are getting more frequent and more powerful."

In the first place, even the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has doubts that storms are getting more frequent and powerful. But please explain, Mr. Castro, how the storms figure out where the poor people and people of color live to hit them with more force than non-poor white people?

Now, if what you mean by this is that poor people tend to live in flimsier dwellings that are less able to withstand the fury of hurricanes, etc., then I can agree with you, but wouldn't the solution be to adopt policies that facilitate economic growth so that poor people can afford

sturdier, safer homes?

Most Extreme "Go for the Jugular" Statement

Runner-up: Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who flatly declared that she would say to fossil fuel companies and all their workers, "Sorry guys, but by 2035, you're done." This, of course, is one of the oldest political tricks in the book: Promise you will do something impossible, but push the date far enough into the future so that you will be safely out of office before your arbitrary deadline arrives.

Winner: Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) said that she would order the Department of Justice to prosecute fossil fuel companies, because "They are causing harm and death in communities." In her climate change morality play, we've got to punish the bad guys (reminding me of the line in the movie "National Treasure" that "Somebody's got to go to jail"). By the way Sen. Harris's claim of "harm and death" could have been categorized with Castro's under "most nonsensical statement," because where are the alleged casualties? Has she or can she identify and quantify who has been killed by climate change? (Please don't cite storms, because storms have been just as intense, and during some periods more frequent, than at the present.)

However, before prosecuting executives of fossil fuel companies for phantom manslaughter, how about giving them some credit for their positive contributions? Harris likes to liken fossil fuel companies to tobacco companies. The comparison is inapt. Whereas tobacco unarguably has caused millions of deaths while saving none, fossil fuels have saved millions of lives. Think of the incalculably large number of people who have not died during heat waves because oil or gas generated the electricity that powered their air conditioning. Think of the reduced number of deaths caused by cold weather because of oil- or gas-fueled heat. Think of the increase in human longevity as cheap, reliable fossil fuels propelled human societies to unprecedented improvements in standards of living.

As for Harris's allegation that oil and gas companies "have directly impacted global warming," that remains a standard socialist accusation that is merely asserted and not proved, just as it has not been proved that warming has caused more deaths.

Most Trivial Response

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) proposed canceling the Trump administration's easing of regulations on methane emissions, saying President Donald Trump's policy "is very dangerous." While she gets credit for seizing on a recent action by the evil Trump, the senator is playing small ball. Methane is a sideshow, a footnote, compared to CO2. It seems she didn't want to be associated with the extremists

Most Pathetic Response

Former vice president Joe Biden offered nothing beyond yet one more flirtation with a perennial Democratic boondoggle. With a straight face, he averred, "We can take millions of vehicles off the road if we

have high-speed rail."

Apart from such projects being horrendously expensive and always way over budget, high-speed rail projects actually proceed at slow speed. There's no way that a massive nationwide network of such transportation would be in place before "the end" arrives in 12 years according to the Alexandria Ocasio Cortez wing of the Democratic Party. And by the way, does he really want to tell the American people that he plans to take away the freedom and flexibility they currently enjoy with private vehicles and herd us into mass transit?

Most Ominous Veer-Off-Topic Response

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), when questioned by someone who asserted, "The planet cannot sustain this growth [in the human population]," did not dispute the assertion, but instead pivoted to abortion rights. Why not come right out and say it, senator? You do believe there are too many people. Which ones would you eliminate and how?

Sen. Sanders' evasiveness also surfaced in his reply to a question about his top priority for action against climate change. He basically said, just vote for me and lawmakers that support my platform and "things [will] fall into place." That sure sounds like an appeal to blind faith, folks. (And by the way, where does Sanders think the \$16.3 trillion that he proposes to spend on combating climate change will "fall into place" from?)

Most Vacuous Attempt at Profundity

South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg declared that combating climate change could be more challenging than winning World War II. Well, duh. We won World War II, so we know that's possible. But it's a highly dubious proposition to attempt to steer or control the climate, as Buttigieg et al. claim we must. Believing that humans can move the global thermostat is either madness or the height of hubris.

In the name of supposedly being able to soften or regulate climate change, the socialistic Democrats and democratic socialists propose to completely wean our country off fossil fuels in a mere decade or two (totally unrealistic without causing massive economic disruption)—and to accomplish what?

We fought World War II to defeat tyranny. The Democrats want to wage a war against climate change that would defeat prosperity. Since, by their own admission, it would cost trillions of dollars to wage this war, and since it is quite possible that the climate change war would have no impact on the climate at all, the Democrats are touting what undoubtedly would be the most wasteful program in the history of government programs—and that's saying a lot.

Most Cockamamie Conspiracy Theory

We have a repeat winner: Sen. Warren. She charged the demonic fossil fuel industry with trying to get progressives and other opponents of fossil fuels side-tracked.

According to Warren, those evil con-

spirators have been steering the public conversation to topics such as cutting down on red meat and banning plastic straws. Oh, how fiendishly clever of them! Uh, by the way, where's the smoking gun? How about some emails from the CEO of Exxon directing his minions to furtively fund an anti-beef campaign? Or are we expected to uncritically accept as a self-evident fact that fossil fuel executives are guilty criminals and that we don't need any proof to condemn them as such?

Most Untrue and Misleading Statement

Mayor Buttigieg is our second repeat winner. He gets the booby prize for his whopper that CO2 is "poison being belched into the air ... and people [are] being harmed by it." (Entrepreneur Andrew Yang also brought up the specter of "poisoning our kids," but since Buttigieg is the more viable candidate, he gets top billing.) For the umpteenth time: CO2 is neither toxic nor poisonous.

By the way, in case you are wondering, there is no possibility that Buttigieg was referring to actual toxic gases, because he was speaking in the context of countries "in low-lying areas" that are threatened by floods (the risk of which has increased due to land subsidence, not by the minuscule rate of rising sea levels) allegedly attributable to CO2.

Also, like Sen. Harris above, before lecturing us about stopping CO2 emissions as part of the moral imperative of "taking care of our neighbor," perhaps he should have the good grace to acknowledge that cheap fossil fuel energy and the higher standards of living they have produced have been indispensable to the marked improvements in health, safety, and longevity that we and millions of our neighbors have experienced.

The Democrats want to wage a war against climate change that would defeat prosperity.

Most Commonsensical, Rational Statement

Thank you, Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.)! Your statement, "Freedom is one of the most sacred values—whatever you want to eat, go ahead and eat it," was a breath of fresh air in a suffocatingly stale discussion. It was a rare treat—an outlier, actually—to hear a Democrat call for "freedom" in the sense of freedom from an overbearing government. And Sen. Booker also deserves commendation for pointing out the obvious fact that nuclear energy will have to be part of a CO2-free energy industry—at least, for the next few decades.

Of course, if one looks at the rest of Sen. Booker's positions on issues, it's clear he is not a born-again libertarian. He still wants to spend \$3 trillion to wean us from fossil fuels, and for Big Government to create millions of new jobs. I wish someone had asked Booker if, in the name of freedom, it would be permissible for Americans to heat their houses to whatever temperature makes them comfortable during the cold of winter. In other words, where is the dividing line between doing what must be done to allegedly save the planet and what individual freedoms Americans will be allowed to retain?

Free health care, guaranteed jobs, paid vacations—all while totally revamping our country's energy consumption, production, and infrastructure. Speaking as if even a fraction of this is affordable is, to put it kindly, a fantasy. Can the candidates really be that ignorant? I doubt it. Folks, what you saw at the climate crisis town hall was pandering, demagoguery, and political salesmanship. What they promised is salvation. What they would deliver is ruin.

Mark Hendrickson, an economist, recently retired from the faculty of Grove City College, where he remains a fellow for economic and social policy at the Institute for Faith & Freedom.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.



Members of Antifa march in Washington on July 6, 2019.

Liberals Can't Stop the Left

MARK BAUERLEIN



Commentary

Liberalism keeps losing. Not to the right, but to the left, which liberals have always feared more than conservatives.

Liberals have seen what progressives and identity politicians and social justice types will do if you tell the wrong joke, use the wrong pronoun, or fail to register sufficient indignation at a person who crosses those lines.

It isn't conservatives who go back many years through someone's tweets or interviews in search of evidence that will get that person fired or banned, as leftists did with Tucker Carlson.

Conservatives don't eavesdrop on others' conversations and report what they hear to the authorities, as Lena Dunham did at JFK Airport, when she thought she overheard a flight attendant in a waiting area make a transphobic remark.

Conservatives haven't publicized political donations in order to smear the donors and ruin their businesses, as actress Debra Messing did, when she called for all attendees at a Hollywood fundraiser for President Donald Trump be publicized.

It isn't conservatives telling all Americans that they must not only tolerate biological-men-who-identify-as-women competing in women's sports—they must affirm it.

Liberals have watched leftists take one extra step of intimidation after another, and they realize they'll keep going. These are standard tactics in the playbook from Lenin to Saul Alinsky to The Squad. A solid record of left-leaning service won't shield a liberal from attack if the liberal wavers.

After House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) showed her impatience this summer with The Squad capturing so much attention, stating that The Squad were but four members of Congress, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) responded by saying, "But the persistent singling out ... it got to the point that it was just outright disrespectful ... the explicit singling out of newly-elected women of color." The implication: Nancy Pelosi, racial profiler.

Not even eight years of loyal service alongside President Barack Obama could protect Joe Biden from Sen. Kamala Harris's (D-Calif.) charges in the June Democratic Party presidential debate. Biden, you see, joined with some Southern segregationist senators in the '70s and opposed busing, and Harris, who remembered being bused as a child, had to call him out. That was 45 years ago, and Biden has been a steady liberal in a thousand ways since then, but no matter—he's guilty!

The individual freedoms liberalism carved out over three centuries depended on exactly the restraints that leftists will not respect.

Biden tried to answer the charges, as did Pelosi, and even Whoopi Goldberg judged Messing's call as dangerous. But liberals haven't halted the habit of leftist targeting one bit, even though it runs squarely against liberal basics—for the individual freedoms liberalism carved out over three centuries depended on exactly the restraints that leftists won't respect.

People must be given their own space. When someone is dining in a restaurant, you leave him alone, though he may be a famous politician for the other side. You don't look too deeply into his private life, either, especially from many years ago. Actual crimes you may seek, yes, but not thought-crimes and word-crimes.

If everything is political, as the leftist premise has it, there will never be any peace. Everybody will be on edge, guarded, and suspicious until they are assured that everyone in the room shares a political outlook. We will pass from Johnny Carson and Michael Jordan (who during his playing days refused to comment on politics) to Stephen Colbert and Megan Rapinoe. Does anyone except the angry left believe this is progress?

It has turned the public square into a sour habitat. The bare joy of e pluribus unum is disappearing. The Academy Awards, late-night talk shows, the NFL on Sunday, comic books, and children's books ... they've fallen prey to an identity politics that is anything but inspiring. Is there anyone less witty and diverting than a social justice warrior?

It's hard not to believe that the de-

struction of civic peace in the United States is the precise goal of the left. They seem so bent on stoking alarm. Read the website of Bill Moyers and you feel you've landed in a mental ward (essay titles posted during and after the campaign include: "How the U.S. Went Fascist: Mass Media Make Excuses for Trump Voters," "If We Don't Act Now, Fascism Will Be on Our Doorstep, Says Yale Historian," "Forget Fascism. It's Anarchy We Have to Worry About," and "Trump: The American Fascist.")

Raise the temperature of civic life, convert political difference into material threat, and license the targeting that is described above—that's the way to social change.

This isn't liberalism. Liberalism is about civil society, which requires a polity that here and there suspends politics. That's the formula for national calm.

The left doesn't want calm. Reform and revolution don't happen among pacific groups. Let's have no more talk about the left's good intentions, their vision of a better world. By their actions, they reveal that the destruction of their opponents and the intimidation of their allies is a much stronger motivation than is the prospect of a just, egalitarian society.

Mark Bauerlein is a professor of English at Emory College.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

A solid record of left-leaning service won't shield a liberal from attack if the liberal wavers.



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Kamala Harris speaks at a Labor Day rally for health care workers on Sept. 2, 2019, in Los Angeles.



Tucker Carlson during the Politicon 2018 at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Oct. 21, 2018. It isn't conservatives who go back many years through someone's tweets or interviews in search of evidence that will get that person fired or banned, as leftists did with Carlson.

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH *and* TRADITION

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“

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Stephen Gregory
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