

# THE EPOCH TIMES LIFE & TRADITION

Rogliani, who grew up under Hugo Chavez's rule, warns about the parallels she's been seeing between the U.S. and Venezuela.

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COURTESY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON



The Mount Vernon Mansion.

# George Washington's Mount Vernon:

## How the Founding Father's Home Reflects His Character

RACHAEL DYMSKI

**M**OUNT VERNON, Va.—Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, is one of the most iconic landmarks of our nation. The austere mansion and surrounding farm in northern Virginia, just south of Washington, represents so much about our first president's own values and ambitions.

**In the 1790s, he retooled his gristmill with a new design, where each step of his process was hydro-powered.**

Much of what Washington believed was possible of our nation at its beginnings was reflected in his work and improvements at Mount Vernon.

In his lifetime, George Washington took on many titles and roles. He served as a major and ambassador in the French and Indian War. He was the commanding general of the Continental Army, and served as the unanimously elected first president of the newly formed United States. But perhaps the title most dear to his heart was that of entrepreneur and farmer.

Washington was a man who loved his home, and for all the twists life threw at him, was always trying to return to it.

He was a man who believed the country

would succeed through its own resources, ingenuity, and innovation. His own farm and businesses reflected this belief. He was, at his core, an entrepreneur and opportunist with a revolutionary approach to society, farming, and business.

### Opportunity and Innovation

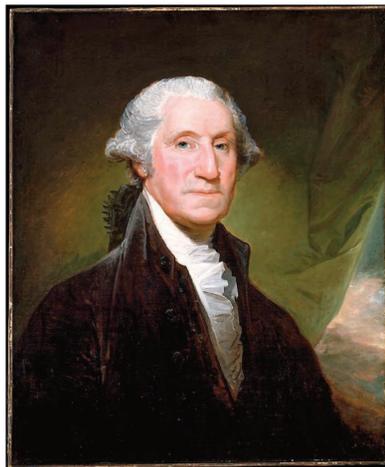
At its prime, Washington's estate contained 8,000 acres, divided into five separate farms. He believed that opportunity, wealth, and prosperity were found in owning land. Even though Washington was a staunch supporter of the colonial currency and trade during the war, he believed land ownership to be the surest way to wealth, and encouraged his farm manager to acquire land whenever possible as an investment tool.

The seeds of revolution were planted in Washington's heart long before the Revolutionary War. As a farmer in Virginia, he was at the mercy of the London merchants to sell the tobacco that he grew. The merchants would sell his tobacco overseas and use the proceeds to buy whatever supplies in England he had requested for that season. That system inevitably left Virginia farmers in debt, because the merchants set their own prices for buying and selling. This economic tyranny stirred within Washington a sense of injustice that would later fuel his fight for freedom alongside a new nation.

Washington's uniqueness lay in his unwillingness to accept life as it was. He continually saw the potential for what could be. Engaged by the tobacco consignment system, he switched from growing tobacco to grains—wheat and barley being the most prominent crops. He purchased a gristmill so that he could process his own wheat, eliminating the need to send it away or rely on anyone else to get the job done. In doing so, he made Mount Vernon one of the first vertically integrated enterprises in the United States.

Eventually, Washington would have a hand in every step of the manufacturing process. He grew the grain, ran it through his innovative and highly efficient 16-sided chafing barn, processed the grain at his own gristmill, and sold flour, bread, biscuits, and whiskey under the brand name G. Washington. In the 1790s, he retooled his gristmill with a new design, where each step of his process was hydro-powered. In his ability to innovate at every step of the process, Washington was the quintessential American.

Portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, 1795.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Over the years, he became an increasingly strong advocate of buying products made in America, and didn't believe the future of the states would be dependent on foreign trade. Rather, he looked to the West, believing that fertile grounds and resources there would lead to the country's prosperity.

### The Mansion

Even the location of Washington's home is significant.

The mansion at Mount Vernon began as a one and one-half story house built by his father. Rather than build a new, separate home, Washington added to and enlarged the original home—seeing the potential in what was already there.

In the New Room of the mansion, grandiose paintings of the Potomac River hang on the walls. Washington believed that waterways would become the key to westward expansion in the United States, and so the mansion itself is located on the Potomac River, which he believed would offer opportunities for growth.

As commanding general and then as president, Washington refused to make himself untouchable. Rather than accept the pomp and circumstance of a king, he made himself

### DEAR JUNE with June Kellum



## Feeling Anxious About the Future

→ Advice for teaching good morals to kids

**QUESTION:** I need advice as I'm feeling anxious about the future in these times when it seems uncertain. Also how do you explain these crazy things to a child? Online school, a deadly virus spreading, Americans violently attacking officers and tearing down statues ... how do you teach good morals at a time like this?

—Melina W., New York

**ANSWER:** You are certainly not alone. My first suggestion would be to spend time outdoors with your child. Nature is very soothing, and while immersed in it, you can feel and see that the natural order of things continues unchanged despite the upheaval in the world.

Concerning the unrest, several years ago, The Epoch Times began to look at how certain destructive ideas were gaining in popularity here in the West. These ideas have some clear parallels with those that fueled the Cultural Revolution in China in the late 1960s and early '70s, and how the Chinese Communist Party has sought to purge traditional ways of thinking from society. As you are probably aware, there has been an increasing number of attacks in recent times against religion, the founding prin-

ciples of America, and the Founders themselves. These attacks are made in the name of justice, progress, and equity. These ideas have been making the rounds in literary circles and academia for decades but have now gained enough popularity that people are emboldened to commit acts of violence and destruction. So, from this perspective, the upheaval we are seeing is a natural progression of these ideas. I would invite you or anyone who wants to better understand these ideas to check out "How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World," which you can read at [ReadEpoch.com/Specter](http://ReadEpoch.com/Specter).

So, how to explain this to your child? First of all, be alert to what they are learning in school. Online learning does offer a unique opportunity for this. If you find they are being taught questionable ideas, find a different school option. If your child is young (under 6), I would protect them as much as possible from current events and answer questions that do arise with a simple spiritual or moral answer like, "Sometimes, adults get angry and forget to be kind (or forget the love of God). That's why, in our family, we try to always be kind and say sorry when we get angry." If your child is

older and asking questions, you could answer the questions with an explanation of human nature, such as that all humans have both good and evil within us and sometimes people let the bad win over.

Reading stories where the protagonists have or learn virtues and overcome evil is an important—and enjoyable!—way to help children understand right and wrong. You can look to classic children's literature for this, and many religious schools have age-appropriate book lists online. With young children, you can read authentic fairy tales, which always have good and evil in them, and the good always wins.

Sincerely, June

*Do you have a question for our advice columnist, Dear June? Whether it's a frustrating family matter, a social etiquette issue, a minor annoyance, or a big life question, send it to [DearJune@EpochTimes.com](mailto:DearJune@EpochTimes.com) or Attn: Dear June, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001*

*June Kellum is a married mother of two and longtime Epoch Times journalist covering family, relationships, and health topics.*

### DEAR NEXT GENERATION:

## 'Always Remember the Past, Live in the Present, and Plan for Your Future'

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

**T**o Everyone: This advice is timeless and will never change from generation to generation. It is easy to say but more difficult to do and continue to do. It revolves around basic common sense, logic, and love. Here is my advice to everyone in one short sentence: "Always remember the past, live in the present, and plan for your future." Now here are the details.

Always remember the past. Embrace the good and learn from the bad. Remember those who sacrificed so much and paved the way to allow you to succeed. We all have made mistakes. Understand and accept them as teachable moments that have allowed you to grow as a person. Honor and celebrate your ancestors and loved ones.

Live in the present. Be humble, fair, and kind to others. Have compassion and empathy for those who are suffering or are in pain. Be considerate and tolerant of opposing viewpoints. Be a problem solver and not a complainer. Help others whom you can help. Be a positive influence for those around you. Be in the moment when others need you and be a good listener. Commit to a lifetime of learning and being a better version of yourself.

Be charitable if you are able. Lose the hate and be grateful for what is wonderful in life. Use more logic and less emotion to evaluate situations and in making decisions. Be an independent deep thinker and self-reliant. Have some balance in your life. Follow a healthy lifestyle and manage your stress properly. Keep your faith and maintain your composure. Tune out the noise and the poison all around you. Have

fun and laugh!

Plan for your future. Use your past experiences and your present self to draw upon. Dream and have a vision of your future. Be realistic and honest about it. Settle on a path forward. Do not compromise your core values to achieve your goals. Embrace education. Pay attention to the details. Budget properly and save for retirement. Seek out help when you need it. Do not be afraid to fail because it can be a valuable life lesson in the long term. If you fail, do not feel sorry for yourself. Instead, pick yourself up and start over. Never forget where you came from, and continue to remember and learn from the past. Be honest to yourself and everyone you meet. Stay positive even in darker times, and keep everything in perspective. There are always others who are worse off than you. Remain hopeful and take control of whatever direction your life is headed into.

—Barry E. Moschel

To Our Upcoming Leaders of the Future America:

We baby boomers are looking on at our young people as they graduate from college, and we are wondering how an estimated 40 percent of them believe that socialism (communism masqueraded as social democracy) is a healthy system to pursue here in this great country.

We are finally seeing the result of an educational system that has indoctrinated students, teaching the Marxist principles that decry capitalism and liberty, as well as personal responsibility and the ability to create one's own destiny, as we here in America are privileged to do in a free-market society.

We urge you, the hope of our future, to explore ideas outside of the purview of academia.

Take your own initiative and listen to

others on the conservative side, others who have been censored by your universities, and find out how the free-market society we enjoy has improved living standards all over the world in the past century.

Find out how a society which encourages innovation and creativity in our business communities and in our volunteer organizations on a regional level, is successful at local as well as national levels.

Use your education as it was meant to be used, as a mind-opening experience, expanding to include a wide variety of ideas. Learn your true history of this great country called America, as well as the history of the world.

Read about the scourge of communism, the death of millions in Russia under Stalin, under Mao in China, in Italy under Mussolini, and 6 million Jews under Hitler's fascism in Europe.

Listen to the Chinese here in America who are decrying the censorship, and outright persecution of Chinese citizens under the Chinese Communist Party today.

Go to PragerU, a platform founded by Dennis Prager, and watch the five-minute videos on a wide variety of subjects and explaining some of the complex issues we face today. Issues that young leaders like yourselves will be solving in your new business ventures or in your political careers.

Go to "American Thought Leaders," the interviews by Jan Jekielek of The Epoch Times.

Listen to well-read, intelligent leaders in our policy institutions like the Hoover Institution or The Heritage Foundation.

Above all, embrace something greater than yourself. Believe in God, in whatever form you choose. Having a greater power than yourself will give you hope, optimism, and courage to accept the challenges you face in your life going forward. This nation was founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs,

and the trinity of ideas consisting of Liberty, E Pluribus Unum (out of many, one), In God We Trust. It is a young idea, this nation. Only 240 years old, and not perfect, as we know, but it is still the best hope for our world. Stand behind this idea with enthusiasm.

We are counting on you to defeat the lies of the left. Reject the idea of Big Government. It will only imprison you.

Stand strong and carry on. God bless you,

—Jan M. Clement

Here's my advice to the next generation:

Make sure that your sense of right and wrong is always geared toward a decent, peaceful, and civil society; trust your judgment, be firm but kind, stick to your guts and principles, and keep your God your unshakable life anchor.

—Rico Cadayona

Here's what I've told my grandsons, which sums up my philosophy in a nutshell: "Love many, trust few, and learn to row your own canoe."

—Donna Wierzbowski

**What advice would you like to give to the younger generations?**

We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive.

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to [NextGeneration@epochtimes.com](mailto:NextGeneration@epochtimes.com) or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

## George Washington's Mount Vernon

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accessible to the people; he and his wife, Martha, were known for their hospitality.

In 1798, the Washingtons hosted nearly 700 guests at their mansion.

### The American Paradox

The tragic paradox of the birth of America is that many of its fathers, so dedicated to ideas of freedom, made their profits and livelihood by denying that same freedom to others. Washington, like many others involved in the making of this

nation, carried out his innovative ideas and tactics through the labor of slaves.

As he aged, Washington's unease with slavery began to grow. Two of his closest staff officers during the war were John Laurens and Alexander Hamilton, both staunch abolitionists. Washington was a proponent of Laurens's plan to create a regiment of free black soldiers in South Carolina. While Washington never spoke publicly against slavery for fear of rocking the fragile boat of the new Union, in his will, Washington instructed his

123 slaves to be freed after his wife's death. He was the only founding father to do so.

**Present-Day Mount Vernon** In 1858, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association purchased the home and saved it from dilapidation. The mansion and one of the surrounding farms have been restored to reflect how they would have looked in Washington's day.

When Mount Vernon had to close its doors earlier this year in response to the pandemic, its employees focused on keeping a wealth of

information available by putting many resources online. Visitors to Mount Vernon's website can take a virtual tour of the mansion, read about Washington's many exploits and endeavors, and learn the ins and outs of running a large farm. The website makes for a wonderful homeschool or additional learning resource.

Since reopening, the staff members at Mount Vernon have taken numerous health precautions. The reenactors wear masks (to ward off smallpox, the epidemic of Washington's time), and social

distancing is encouraged whenever possible.

The employees and staff at Mount Vernon are still reflecting on Washington's ability to adapt and innovate in every situation, offering our nation hope that when this pandemic is behind us, the Founding Father's home will still be standing strong.

*Rachael Dymski is an author, florist, and mom to two little girls. She is currently writing a novel about the German occupation of the Channel Islands and blogs on her website, [RachaelDymski.com](http://RachaelDymski.com)*

The Central Passage, the entryway into the home.



REBEKAH HANOVER PETTIT

FEDERICO PARRA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A boy carries a drum with water as he walks past a graffiti reading "Is Normality a Privilege?" during a power outage in Venezuela, at Fuerzas Armadas Avenue in Caracas on March 31, 2019.

# Is the US Going the Way of Venezuela?

Elizabeth Rogliani, who grew up under Chavez's rule, warns about the parallels she's been seeing

CATHERINE YANG

When Elizabeth Rogliani opened a TikTok account to share her thoughts on recent protests and the toppling of statues, she thought of it as a blank slate, somewhere to air her thoughts without offending or getting into a debate with sensitive moderate-liberal friends who'd taken issue with her posts on other social media. She talked about how what was happening across the United States was an eerie mirror image of what had taken place back in Venezuela, and then one of her videos went viral. What was happening outside in real time was what she'd seen back home. Statues of Christopher Columbus came down, street names were changed, and the removal of other figures of Western civilization followed. As she thought about it, there were other ongoing similarities, from left-leaning demonstrators being used as political pawns, to a growing welfare state that caused quality of life to deteriorate. And when she pointed this out, it struck a chord with people who had also seen their home countries crumble under the weight of socialist policies.

"There were a lot of people who've seen this

(Below) Elizabeth Rogliani is now based in Miami; as socialism took over her home country of Venezuela, her relatives starting leaving, spreading all over the world, from Australia to Spain.

(Left) Elizabeth Rogliani as a young child in Venezuela.



in their own country. I've talked to people from Hungary, Greece, people whose grandparents had left China, they felt I was speaking to them as well," Rogliani said. "And then there were a lot of Americans who knew about the situation in Venezuela, and so I think when I drew that parallel, it confirmed something they had in their minds but couldn't articulate.

"I think I just confirmed what a lot of people were thinking."

Growing up under Hugo Chavez's Venezuela, Rogliani has seen her fair share of protests. So much so that when she left the country for boarding school at age 15 and eventually made the United States her home, she tried to disengage from politics.

"I remember telling my friends that I thought American politics were boring, and that was a good thing, because Venezuelan politics were a circus," said Rogliani, who is now in her late 20s. She laughed at the irony when she remembered how the media would prove her wrong in only a few years.

## 'What Happened in Cuba Cannot Possibly Happen Here'

For many in Venezuela, change felt gradual, Rogliani said. From conversations with people from older generations, she can understand why that was, why changes for the worse would become the new normal as everyone went on with their daily lives, until

the next new normal took over.

"I was just a kid when Chavez was elected so I was shielded from a lot of the things that were going on, but I would still hear whispers from parents, adults. It became a really big thing that was going on," Rogliani said. Her parents, who had been relatively apolitical, started getting involved in monthly marches and organizing in their neighborhood against Hugo Chavez's policies. Her friends whose parents worked in the oil industry lost their jobs shortly after Chavez took office, and upheavals in other industries soon followed, prompting many to start leaving the country.

She remembers discussing politics with her friends at age 9 or 10—that was the topic dominating daily life—but still with a rosy, optimistic outlook.

"It was always with the sense of, what happened in Cuba cannot possibly happen here," she said. Those unfamiliar with Venezuela's history might just remember images of the chaos and protests from 2014, and the wild inflation and recession after. Only a few decades ago, Venezuela was a very prosperous country, before the nationalization of its industries led to a gradual leeching of the nation's wealth.

Rogliani points out that Venezuela has a history of valuing freedom; the country led the way in the Spanish-American wars of independence. "We believed that was in our culture, the idea of freedom," Rogliani said. "Obviously, we were naive."

Chaos went from economic instability to rampant crime, and more and more people saw no reason to stay. "Everyone I know knows someone who has been killed or kidnapped, and that's across all socioeconomic classes," she said.

"Slowly but surely, my family started spreading out across the world," said Rogliani, who is now based in Miami. Hers is a large extended family and a very close one, so parting ways across the world, from Australia to Spain, felt like a great loss.

Rogliani herself left to go to boarding school abroad but came home at least once a year to see her family, and maybe because of that, she was able to see the disaster taking place there more clearly than the people who had been surviving day to day in Venezuela. She held onto hope and was still involved in Venezuelan politics throughout her college years in Boston, until the 2014 protests against Nicolás Maduro. There was such an uprising that she had hope for change.

"And then it stopped. Complacency set in, and it was again the new normal; people can get used to anything," she said. "And I don't blame them, because that would have been hard to sustain.

"2014 was the year I thought, 'I can't imagine a future for Venezuela.'"

## Growing Similarities

By 2008, Rogliani had already grown a bit cynical of politics. Though she didn't keep up with American politics, she saw growing support for Barack Obama's platform for hope and change and couldn't help but think of how similar it sounded to Chavez's

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES



A father and daughter resting while someone holds their place before sunrise in a long line to buy food at a supermarket in San Cristobal, Venezuela, on March 8, 2014.



Due to regular water rationing, people line up to fill jerry cans with water in Caracas, Venezuela, on June 13, 2018.

campaign promises. It would be almost 10 years before she realized her gut feeling was correct—there were growing similarities between American politics and what Venezuela had gone through.

"I started to pay attention in 2018, when the caravan was coming through the southern [U.S.-Mexico] border," Rogliani said. She was against illegal immigration, because Venezuela similarly had influxes of people entering decades ago in search of a better quality of life, and the country's public services collapsed as a result. But what really stuck with her was how people expected her to support illegal immigrants because she was Venezuelan and a woman.

law even if they don't change it. That's what happened in Venezuela, we had a constitution that was just ignored for a long time until they were able to change [the constitution]."

## Culture and Family First

Rogliani remembers the last time she returned to Venezuela, she spent New Year's on the beach. Her relatives had all gone upstairs to change and get ready for the party, and all of a sudden the power everywhere went out.

"This was a typical thing, not having utilities or electricity or whatnot. And I went up on the balcony and people were screaming, but they were yelling out jokes about how Maduro sucks or just joking around and laughing. There's a spirit about Venezuelans, you know?" she said.

"The culture of Venezuela is joyful and the people can joke about anything, she said. Rogliani is from the country's capital, Caracas, a city surrounded by scenic mountains and regularly covered with a veil of fog; it's the country where magical realism in literature began.

"That's when I thought, maybe there's something going on in the culture that I'm not paying attention to," she said. She scrutinized the media, read about politics and culture, and the more she learned, the more solid her convictions became.

The past few months have shown starker parallels than ever. Calls and even city council resolutions to "defund the police" are reminiscent of what happened in Venezuela when Chavez replaced the existing police force. The statues being toppled didn't follow any rational criteria but were instead an attack on and attempt to break from history.

"And Chavez used these people as political pawns," Rogliani said. Many protests today might look like grassroots organizing rather than one coordinated political move, but even truly grassroots efforts can be co-opted by a political party, as Venezuelans learned. "When I look back at everything, that's when I could put it all together."

So despite not having any inclination to become a political activist, she wanted to address what was going on, and where American culture was headed.

"What happens here ... also impacts all of Western society, and not for the better," she said.

Compared to Venezuela, the United States is a bigger country and in many ways has stronger institutions and traditional culture, Rogliani said, but that doesn't mean it is immune to collapse.

"There's always ways to destroy a country, it happens all over the world and historically it has always happened," she said. More and more, she thinks about the Reagan quote about how freedom is always just one generation away from extinction, and how true it is.

"As much as I want to believe that the institutions are strong and the Constitution is hard to change, there might be people that come in and don't care what is law, and put people in place who also don't care, and ignore the

## BOOK REVIEW

# Are Karl Marx and Satan Taking Over America?

WILLIAM F. MARSHALL

Alarm bells should be ringing across our great nation in the face of one of the gravest existential threats it has ever faced, and one of those clanging the bell the loudest is that incomparable student of the history of American communism, professor Paul Kengor of Grove City College. His warning comes to us through his superb, just-released book, "The Devil and Karl Marx: Communism's Long March of Death, Deception, and Infiltration."

Many of us thought that the unrivaled success of Ronald Reagan's presidency and the resulting collapse of the Soviet Union under George H.W. Bush spelled the end of Marxism-Leninism for all time as a governing socioeconomic system. Sadly, that evil philosophy proved only to be in abeyance for a short time, while its pernicious, satanic influence fermented in American society over the succeeding three decades in the halls of academe, the newsrooms of Big Media, the studios of Hollywood, the corporate offices of the tech giants and, yes, in politicians' suites across the country.

For those who laugh at the notion of a spiritual dimension to the shocking, recent embrace of radical Marxist policies by the once-mainstream Democratic Party, with seemingly explosive rapidity, Kengor's book will open their eyes. It certainly did mine. Anyone who scoffs does so at their own, and America's, peril.

Let's face it. As we watch Antifa and Black Lives Matter riot, and the incredible embrace of these people by political figures and corporate America, any sane American must be asking, "What on earth is going on?" The actions of these "protesters" can only be described as demonic. They are literally burning Bibles, attempting to torch government buildings with police officers inside, while blocking escape routes, brutally assaulting innocent civilians trying to protect others under attack, and shooting to death passersby, like a young mother who had the temerity to say the most commonsensical thing imaginable, that "all lives matter." These are the behaviors of demonic individuals. And there is a reason for that, as Kengor so ably explains.



Author Paul Kengor.

While Kengor is careful to note that he did not find evidence that Karl Marx was a practicing satanist (although other Marx biographers suggest he was), in the manner of holding black masses or engaging in satanic rituals, he delves into Marx's early literature and reveals a man whose writings were replete with paeans to Satan. In a poem called "The Pale Maiden," Marx wrote: "Thus Heaven I've forfeited, I know it full well. My soul, once true to God, is chosen for Hell." In another poem, "The Player," Marx waxed: "See the sword—the Prince of Darkness sold it to me. For he beats the time and gives the signs. Ever more boldly I play the dance of death."

## [Kengor] delves into Marx's early literature and reveals a man whose writings were replete with paeans to Satan.

There are many similar sentiments expressed by Marx in his writings. His own family members and friends believed him to be possessed or influenced by the devil. His friend and collaborator, Friedrich Engels, called Marx a "monster of ten thousand devils." His father said he was "governed by a demon," and his son Edgar called him "my dear devil." Kengor provides many more such examples, and notes,

"The frequency of such observations of and by Marx is really quite bracing and far too frequent to shrug off."

And as Kengor details in this illuminating work, Marxists, communists, and socialists have demonstrated a similar affinity for the devil since Marx gave birth to his hellish philosophy. One might dismiss such suggestions as hyperbolic descriptions of Marx or things said in jest of someone with a temper or a bizarre personality, but serious scholars of Marx agree that they had never encountered descriptions of other historical figures by their contemporaries and close associates in such frequent demonic phraseology.

And since the proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating, consider the manifest results of Marx's work. As Kengor outlines, Marx's ideology in its communist and socialistic manifestations as governing systems since he

conjured it has led to more human man death and suffering by far than any other political system. The most conservative estimate, contained in Harvard's "The Black Book of Communism," places the number of those who perished at the hands of

communists at 100 million. More realistic estimates place it near 140 million. But as Kengor notes, only God, and perhaps the devil, knows the real figure, as even those estimates may be low.

A theologically based analysis of Marx is no mere academic exercise. As Kengor writes: "Far too many people ... separate Marx the man from the evils ushered in by Marxism. That is a grave mistake. Not only are the results of Marxism very much the result of Marx's ideas and his very pen, but Marx himself penned some very devilish things. Karl Marx wrote not only about the hell that was communism, but about hell itself."

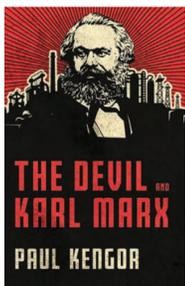
Some time is spent exploring Marx's early years. His father converted the family from Judaism to Protestantism, and Karl was baptized a Christian at age six. He left Christianity and became a strident atheist in college. Sound familiar? At one point during his studies, his angst-ridden father berated Karl for spending his nights "giving birth to monsters" in his writing.

Kengor then goes on to explore the satanic ties of prominent Marxists and communist organizations throughout history, including their consistent efforts to destroy traditional religions and to infiltrate and undermine the Church, both Catholic and Protestant. That's not coincidence. It's all of a piece of Marx's original plan to remove the divine from man in order to control him.

Kengor's review of political and cultural Marxism and its adherents' ties to Satan continues through modern times, with a particular focus on the depravities, sexual and otherwise, that seem to characterize many of the most prominent Marxists in our culture.

As our country grapples with the outrages being perpetrated by Antifa and Black Lives Matter, whose founders proudly declare themselves to be "Marxist-trained," "The Devil and Karl Marx" could not be timelier. If we are going to deal with these destroyers of American culture and tradition, we must understand what is driving them. And as Kengor ably describes, what is driving them is truly demonic, whether they realize it themselves or not.

William F. Marshall has been an intelligence analyst and investigator in the government, private, and non-profit sectors for more than 33 years. He is a senior investigator for Judicial Watch, Inc., and a contributor to Townhall, American Thinker, and The Federalist.



"The Devil and Karl Marx: Communism's Long March of Death, Deception, and Infiltration" by Paul Kengor.

## VETERANS

# Ski's 40 Thieves: The Elite Platoon of US Marines Who Worked Behind Enemy Lines on Saipan

ANDREW THOMAS

While the Allies defeated Nazi Germany on May 7, 1945, it would take another three months of intense combat in the Pacific theater to bring an end to World War II. In June of that same year, Allied forces arrived on the island of Saipan, which was long considered to be the last line of defense for Imperial Japan—putting mainland within striking distance of U.S. B-29 Superfortresses.

In time for the 75th anniversary of the signed surrender of Imperial Japan, a new history book details how an elite platoon of U.S. Marines fought behind enemy lines on the islands, and how their undercover operations would prove critical to ending the war.

In “40 Thieves on Saipan: The Elite Marine Scout-Snipers in One of WWII’s Bloodiest Battles,” Joseph Tachovsky uncovers the story of his father, a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps who never spoke to his son

“All of these old fellows became like second fathers to me.”

Joseph Tachovsky



Joseph Tachovsky with his father Frank.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSEPH TACHOVSKY COLLECTION



The “40 Thieves on Saipan.” The platoon consisted of 40 Marines who served on the island of Saipan in WWII. (Standing L-R) Richard Knoll, Francis Moynihan, Barney Wheelless, Daniel Kenny, Ira Causey, Albert Malanga, Corporal Don Evans, Bill Emerick, Bernie Jones. (Seated L-R) Otto Hebel, Al Yunker, John Zuziak, Lonnie Jackson, Hal Moore, Wayland Stevens, Keith Clark, Sergeant Bill Knuppel.

about the war. It was only after his father, Frank, passed away in 2011, at age 96, that Tachovsky learned that he’d been part of an elite platoon of Scout Snipers.

After the funeral, Tachovsky came across a 1944 December issue of the Marine Corps Leatherneck Magazine, which featured an article about the platoon, titled “Tachovsky’s Terrors.” A son of one of the Marines mentioned in the article had left a comment online, pointing out that everything in the article was true except for the name of the unit. It was actually called “Ski’s 40 Thieves,” in reference to Frank.

It led Tachovsky to his father’s “off-limits” footlocker, which had been kept a secret. Though Tachovsky had once walked in on his father examining its contents, he had never seen them. Now, opening it for the

first time, he found the platoon’s roster, letters, photographs, a Silver Star (from the president of the United States and presented by Admiral Chester Nimitz, as it turned out), and more memorabilia.

“It was like a big Christmas present, finding all of these things that, at the time, made no sense,” Tachovsky said.

### Silent and Deadly

Tachovsky found another edition of Leatherneck Magazine in the footlocker, which featured a memorial article about the Battle of Saipan. He looked at the roster again and found that some of the names matched some of those mentioned in the article.

The platoon was an elite group from the Marine Corps Sixth Regiment. During World War II, only two of these Scout Sniper

units had ever existed. They were trained to live and serve behind enemy lines for days and sometimes weeks at a time. They were tasked with collecting intelligence, locating enemy installations for bombardment, and generally disrupting the Japanese forces however they could.

The Marines were equipped with 1903 Springfield rifles, and their scopes allowed them to hit targets that were up to nearly a mile away with incredible accuracy. However, firing their weapons was often the last resort, so they were also skilled at using less conspicuous weapons, such as knives and piano wire. All were trained in demolitions and carried two-pound blocks of TNT. The Japanese were most active at night, so the platoon would track them then and sketch maps from memory.

These Marines had a reputation for stealing equipment. When they arrived on Saipan, they were only equipped with World War I-era weapons and rations, and would often steal from U.S. Army and Navy supply stations, which were better-equipped. In one instance, they even stole an Army captain’s Jeep.

Frank also sought out a certain type of Marine for his Scout Sniper unit.

“When they were looking for men, he didn’t want to interview the men right away. He just wanted to look at their record books,” Tachovsky said.

Bill Knuppel, a longtime friend of Frank who had served as a sergeant in his platoon, said Frank was looking for Marines who had been in the brig for fights, because it showed they could handle themselves in tough situations.

“The winner of the fight is thrown in the brig. The loser goes to the infirmary. The guy in the brig is the kind of guy I want,” Frank had told Knuppel.

Once, a platoon squad leader named Martin Dyer led a mission during which they discovered a huge assembly of Japanese troops in a valley, which Tachovsky believes was the headquarters of Lt. Gen. Yoshitsugu Saito, who commanded the Japanese forces at the Battle of Saipan. Dyer was awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy’s highest honor, for his actions in delivering the information and coordinates for a bombardment.

“There were many instances where they worked behind enemy lines, deep into enemy territory, and brought back information that helped line troops advance more rapidly and with less opposition,” Tachovsky said.

Saito referred to the mountainous island of Saipan as Emperor Hirohito’s “treasure.” The mountainous island was the site of a strategic airfield, as was a neighboring island. If the Allies captured them, they would be within bombing distance of the Japanese mainland.

### Oral Histories

When Tachovsky discovered the roster and magazine article in his father’s foot-

locker, he used the hometowns he had gathered from Knuppel to track down the other men in the platoon.

He found out who might still be alive through Marine Corps documentation, and sent them handwritten letters, knowing that they most likely did not have email. Four Marines—other than Knuppel—were still alive. Two surviving wives and several sons also wrote back.

Tachovsky set out to travel the country, meeting with the men, forging friendships, and learning from them.

In West Virginia, Roscoe Mullins told Tachovsky he looked just like his father. Mullins told him about the cruelty the Japanese inflicted on Allied prisoners, and how the platoon had voted and agreed that a wounded Marine of theirs would never be taken alive.

In Oklahoma, Tachovsky told Bob Smotts that if the Sooners ever made into the college football playoffs, he’d watch the game with him.

In Montana, he spent six days at Marvin Strombo’s bedside in the hospice. When it came time for Tachovsky to leave, Strombo pointed at him and said, “Semper fi.”

“All of these old fellows became like second fathers to me,” Tachovsky said.

He learned that his father had once

saved the entire platoon when he destroyed a Japanese tank with a bazooka. When the men spoke about their friends who had been killed on Saipan, they rarely let any emotion show. However, when they talked about the Japanese mass suicide at Marpi Point, they would all choke up. There, Japanese civilian families waded out to sea or jumped off 800-foot cliffs to evade capture. Many believed the Japanese propaganda that horrific deaths would await them at the hands of the Americans if they were ever captured.

Knuppel gave Tachovsky a box of photographs and other memorabilia. After handing him the box, Knuppel looked at him and said, “This would make one good story.” That’s when Tachovsky decided to compile all of these story pieces into a book.

In telling the story of the platoon, he wanted to show the nobility of these Marines, and the trauma they survived and lived with. Half of the royalties from the book will be donated to veterans organizations.

“I felt it almost a duty to put their stories together and tell their stories, because they were so reticent to do so for their entire lives,” Tachovsky said.



Gen. Holland “Howlin’ Mad” Smith awarding the Bronze Star Medal to Frank Tachovsky Jr. on Saipan.

## BOOKS

## Growing Passionate Readers

JEFF MINICK

Here’s the understatement of the year: Our educational system is in a state of flux.

Parents and many grandparents know first-hand the reality of this mess. Some of you have decided to homeschool your children, bought the necessary books and supplies, and now, face the challenges of that new endeavor. Others whose students remain enrolled in public or private schools are distance learning as they did this past spring, or are attending school two or three days a week and engaging in digital learning the rest of the time.

And many of you are wondering: Are my children receiving a worthwhile education? Are they keeping up? Is the new way of learning working for them?

Only you can answer those questions, but keep one thing in mind: whatever your school situation, you have the freedom to add subjects to the curriculum.

Which brings me to books and reading.

### Reading and School

All too often our young people associate reading with academics and school. Most of them first learn to read in a classroom, and as they grow older, they are forced to take up unappealing books and are then compelled to take tests or write papers on what they have read.

In addition to teaching my own children at home, I spent 20 years teaching literature courses to

seminars of homeschool students from grades 7-12. My students read scads of novels, plays, short stories, and poetry ranging from Sophocles’ “Antigone” to Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town,” from “Pride and Prejudice” to “Watership Down,” from the poetry of Emily Dickinson and John Donne to the short stories of Frank O’Connor and Rudyard Kipling. My seventh-graders even read “Calvin and Hobbes” for its excellent vocabulary and irony. Some of the students liked and profited from my selections, while others weren’t at all happy. And yes, they often wrote essays on what the books they had read.

But this isn’t the sort of reading I mean here.

### Pleasures and Treasures

Adults may have to study certain books, magazines, or articles for their work, but most of us come to the printed word for amusement or for information. Bob, the history buff, encounters Shelby Foote’s “The Civil War” and falls in love with what some have called the American “Iliad.” Arthur, the guy with the 9-to-5 job at the bank, picks up the latest Lee Childs novel at a bookstore and silently cackles with glee at the pleasures awaiting him that evening. Susan, who has dreamed for years of visiting Paris, pores over the photographs and commentaries in the art and travel books she snagged from the library.

We can pass this same sense of excitement about books to our children. To do so, we must disas-

sociate reading from the books required for the classroom. If homeschooling, in particular, we must set aside time for reading outside of the school day and treat it as we might soccer, gymnastics, or piano lessons, an activity to be enjoyed for its own sake.

Does 17-year-old James love sports of all kinds? Get him a subscription to “Sports Illustrated,” which, in addition to sports coverage, offers some of the finest writing in American magazines. Is 9-year-old Sally enamored of all things equestrian? Take her to the public library and introduce her to books, both fiction and nonfiction, about horses. Has 7-year-old Henry become fascinated by dinosaurs after his grandmother gave him a package filled with plastic replicas for his birthday? Again, off you go to the library or local bookstore, and your son will likely gulp down these books with the same enthusiasm he shows toward a bowl of ice cream.

### Magic Kingdoms

We often forget how blessed we are living in America. We turn a spigot, and out comes water hot or cold. We push a button, and four minutes later, a microwaved meal of General Tso’s chicken appears. We push a few buttons on a cell phone, speak briefly with a teenager behind a cash register, and 20 minutes later, a pizza arrives at our doorstep.

The same forgetfulness is true of our libraries, those magical castles of stories, histories, biographies, and all sorts of other genres for children. The United States has more than 9,000 libraries, all of them eager to welcome and grant young patrons a library card. In Front Royal, Virginia, where I live and where I visit the library two or three times a week, it’s not unusual to see a mother with three or four children hauling home several bags of books. For an inveterate reader like me, this sight induces a burst of euphoria, a joy that young readers still take pleasure in print and paper.

Commence that love affair with the library when your children are toddlers. My daughter, my oldest child, was five days old on our first visit to the library in Charlottesville, Virginia, which was an easy walk from our house. Yep, a little crazy, but she remains a reader.

### Toddlers and the Rest of Us

Want to have your kids become lifelong book lovers? Want to prepare them for kindergarten? Want to introduce them at the age of 2 or 3 to the great conversation of our culture?

Fill their heads with nursery rhymes and fairy tales. Let them shake hands with “Jack and Jill,” “Little Boy Blue,” “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “The Princess and the Pea,” “Cinderella,” and “Hansel and Gretel.” When they get a little older, add the fables of Aesop—“The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse,” “The Fox and the Grapes,” “The Lion and the Mouse.”

While I was teaching, I was always astounded when I would mention such rhymes and tales to my classes of homeschoolers, and find one or two who had no idea of what I was talking about. These treasures of childhood are as much a part of our literary culture as Shakespeare, Dante, or Mark Twain.

### Tips for Adolescents and Teens

As our children grow older, their need to connect with others their age increases. Many of the homeschool students who attended my seminars were there not only to learn, but also to spend time with their peers. Friendships were forged or strengthened, and at least four pairs of these students later became husband and wife.

You don’t need a classroom to bring your adolescent and teen readers to books and bonds of friendship. A good many years ago, I helped form a book club, where a dozen students read the same book or story, and then met once a month to discuss that read-

ing, with an adult asking questions and keeping the discussion on track. We followed the meeting with a social hour, and the kids had a great time.

Another idea: have students read the same book or story, and then sponsor a movie night using a film based on the book, with discussion following the movie. Did they like the way the writers adapted the story to the film? Why or why not? And why did the film’s writers and director make these changes?

One young woman I knew threw a Halloween party and invited her friends to come decked out as their favorite literary character. Some of these young people went all out, not only dressing the part but also playing Long John Silver or Elizabeth Bennet.

### A Gift for a Lifetime

Let’s end with Emily Dickinson’s poem about books:

There is no Frigate like a Book  
To take us Lands away  
Nor any Coursers like a Page  
Of prancing Poetry—  
This Traverse may the poorest  
take  
Without oppress of Toll—  
How frugal is the Chariot  
That bears the Human Soul—

If we give rein to our young people in their reading—with guidance, of course—we’re preparing them for a lifetime of pleasure in the printed page and equipping them with tools they’ll need as adults. Books will strengthen their ties to the parade of humanity, past and present.

Let’s help our children become a part of that parade.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See [Jeff Minick.com](#) to follow his blog.

## EDUCATION

## Google’s Plan to Disrupt the College Degree Is Exactly What the Higher Education Market Needs

JON MILTMORE

My wife and I recently hired a financial adviser who is helping us map out our financial future.

He seemed stunned that we didn’t want to take advantage of the U.S. tax code’s 529 provision, which helps parents save for their children’s education.

“You have three kids,” he said. “Odds are at least one will go to college. It’s a no-brainer.”

We nonetheless demurred. I like shaving my tax liability as much as the next guy, but the truth is, both my wife and I have serious doubts about higher education. Though we both attended college ourselves, options today look less promising than they once did.

College might have been a “no-brainer” at one time for parents and students who could afford it, but that is no longer the case. Soaring costs, grade inflation, diminishing degree value, the politicization of campuses, and a host of other issues have made the once-clear benefits of college less clear.

Despite all this, a large part of me still wants my kids to go to college because it feels like so few other options are available. That could be changing, however.

### Google’s Effort to Disrupt the College Diploma

In July, Kent Walker, Google’s senior vice president for global affairs and chief legal officer, announced on Twitter that the company was expanding its education options.

It was a direct salvo at America’s higher education industry.

“College degrees are out of reach for many Americans, and you shouldn’t need a college diploma to have economic security,” Walker wrote on Google’s blog. “We need new, accessible job-training solutions—from enhanced vocational programs to online education—to help

America recover and rebuild.”

To be sure, it’s hard to imagine anyone taking on America’s \$600 billion higher education industry. Nevertheless, a quick look at Google’s model shows why colleges should be worried.

Google is launching various professional courses that offer training for specific high-paying jobs that are in high demand. Program graduates can earn a “Google Career Certificate” in one of the following positions: project manager (\$93,000), data analyst (\$66,000), and user experience designer (\$75,000).

While Google didn’t say how much it would cost to earn a certificate, if it’s anything close to Google’s IT Support Professional Certificate, the cost is quite low, especially compared to college.

That Google IT support program costs enrollees \$49 per month. That means a six-month program would cost about \$300—about what many college students cough up on textbooks alone in a semester, Inc. magazine points out.

Compare that price tag to that of college, where students on average pay about \$30,000 per year when tuition, housing, room and board, fees, and other expenses are factored in.

Unlike college, Google won’t just hand you a diploma and send you away, however. The company has promised to assist graduates in their job searches,

connecting them with employers such as Intel, Bank of America, Hulu, Walmart, and Best Buy. Graduates will also be eligible for one of the hundreds of apprenticeship opportunities the company is offering.

“College degrees are out of reach for many Americans, and you shouldn’t need a college diploma to have economic security.”

Kent Walker, senior vice president for global affairs, Google

### Is College ‘Worth It’?

In economics, we use a simple term to talk about something’s worth: value. We know that value is subjective. But if consumers freely purchase something, it suggests consumers place a value on that good higher than the price.

Judging the value of a degree is tricky, however. It’s not like buying steak at a grocery store. Buyers are mostly shielded from the costs in the short term, and the benefits of the purchase are extended out over many years.

We know that for many stu-

dents, college is a wonderful investment that increases their earnings, while for others it will turn out to be a poor investment because they don’t graduate or they acquire job skills that don’t translate into increased earnings. (For example, I was a bartender after I received my undergraduate degree; I didn’t make more money because I had a degree.)

We also know that the prices and value change over time. In the case of higher education, prices have increased sharply in the last 30 years while the value has diminished.

As Arthur C. Brooks pointed out in *The Atlantic* in July, from 1989 to 2016, university costs in tuition and fees increased by 98 percent in real dollars (inflation-adjusted), about 11 times that of the median household income.

At the same time, there is compelling evidence that while the price of college is increasing sharply, the value of degrees is diminishing because of a surplus of college diplomas.

For parents like myself, the idea of spending \$350,000 to send my three children to university is, to be frank, slightly nauseating. All things being equal, I don’t see the value there. (As I tell my wife, however, this doesn’t mean I won’t send my child to Princeton if he or she is admitted, and I believe college is the right fit for that particular child.) Over the last couple of years, whenever I’d think about my children’s futures, I’d find myself growing more and more nervous.

If not college, then what? Why are there not better options? There’s a huge need.

The beautiful thing about free markets is that needs do not go unmet for very long. In a free system, innovation has a way of filling the gaps to fulfill what consumers want.

Google’s expansion of its ac-

creditation system offers two things young people (and their parents) highly value: 1) job training skills and 2) prestige.

Do not underestimate the power of the latter. Prestige matters a lot. In fact, when you look at the actual education many college students receive today, prestige is what they’re purchasing, not education.

The value of degrees might have been diminishing for years, but parents and kids could still rationalize the excessive costs because there was a certain amount of status and recognition conferred simply for being in college and then graduating.

Major corporations like Google have more to offer than they realize. In today’s marketplace, having Google on a resume can offer the same prestige as a university—and arguably far more in terms of job skills.

Once corporations figure out their brand can offer commodities consumers want—job-training and validation—it could disrupt the current education model. It’s possible corporations could also bring on a resurgence of the once-popular apprenticeship-style learning that can be traced back to the Code of Hammurabi in Ancient Babylon through to business-training programs of today like Praxis and Google.

At the very least, programs like Google Career Certificates will offer much-needed competition to the university system and additional options to young people looking to take their next step in the world.

Parents of the world, rejoice!

Jonathan Miltmore is the managing editor of FEE.org. His writing/reporting has been the subject of articles in TIME magazine, The Wall Street Journal, CNN, Forbes, Fox News, and the Star Tribune. This article was originally published on FEE.org



You can instill a love of reading by encouraging children to read about the topics they’re interested in.



A man walks past the Google logo in Paris, in this file photo.

# Answering the Call to Homeschool

Homeschooling advice from Leigh A. Bortins, founder of Classical Conversations

BARBARA DANZA

As many parents trepidatiously dip their toes in the homeschooling waters this year, veteran homeschoolers are watching and cheering, knowing that so many children are about to experience newfound freedom in their education and life.

While homeschooling may be a new concept to some, it's become a learning style, and indeed a lifestyle, enjoyed by many for decades.

Leigh A. Bortins, a veteran homeschooling parent, not only educated her children at home but also shares her homeschooling wisdom with countless others through her company, Classical Conversations, and numerous books, including "Echo in Celebration: A Call to Home-Centered Education." I asked Bortins for her advice for new homeschoolers just getting started.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** You began homeschooling your children in the 1980s, before the internet, and when homeschooling was considered, perhaps, a radical idea to some. What inspired you to take that leap?

**LEIGH A. BORTINS:** My husband and I were studying aerospace engineering in college when we were married and had our first son, Robert. My husband, Rob, was concerned about the low educational standards of incoming freshmen (he was older and working toward his third degree), and I had a horrible K-12 experience that I didn't want my children to repeat.

I saw an episode of a talk show about homeschooling, and I was convinced that we would homeschool, even though our first son was still a baby. I told my husband about the option, and he was very relieved.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** As if that didn't keep you busy enough, you started a company that has since grown to serve countless homeschooling families. How did Classical Conversations come to be?

**MS. BORTINS:** I read a lot of books on classical education. The dialectic and rhetorical arts require a community of students to debate, practice speeches, give presentations, participate in plays, wrestle with math concepts, and enjoy science experiments. You can do



ARTFAMILY/SHUTTERSTOCK

For those who find themselves unexpectedly homeschooling this year, Bortins recommends reconnecting as a family and identifying opportunities. For example, perhaps young children would benefit from more playtime.

this with just your family, but we wanted our sons to have some time in small academic groups.

So we merged our love of family school, service, and work with a one-day-a-week culmination of rigorous academic activities with homeschooling families. The Classical Conversations families did the hard work at home and then met to improve and share their studies through projects and performances.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What words of encouragement would you offer the many parents who find themselves unexpectedly homeschooling this year?  
**MS. BORTINS:** Take a breath and consider the blessing of this opportunity. Use the time to reconnect as a family and consider holistic opportunities in education. Maybe your little children need more playtime. Maybe your older children need more service time. Maybe your family can finally travel. Also, consider the skills that encourage healthy family life and spend time cultivating your family's legacy.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What do you feel are the key elements to a successful first year of homeschool?  
**MS. BORTINS:** Put your own oxygen mask on first. Read about parenting, homeschooling, and classical education. Join a community of homeschoolers like Classical Conversations who can support you. Expect great things!

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** If you could go

back in time, what advice would you give your younger self starting out along the homeschool journey?

**MS. BORTINS:** Don't expect big heads on little bodies. Adults tend to overestimate children's experiences and underestimate children's abilities. Little children can be taught to complete a complicated task, if given infinite time and a patient instructor. Children learn through repetition over extended periods of time. I wish I knew how to be as patient as a grandparent when I was only a young parent.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What did you find to be the greatest benefit of homeschooling your children?

**MS. BORTINS:** The comedy show. My kids make me laugh and laugh and laugh. Good thing they all live nearby as adults and we can include grandchildren and in-laws, as well as aunts, uncles, and extended family. Academics are one way to expand the material for life as a family.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Through your work, you surely interact with numerous other homeschooling families. What do you believe are the most common mistakes homeschooling families make?  
**MS. BORTINS:** The credits in school systems encourage us to check off boxes that do not reflect truth. For example, parents have told me that their child doesn't need to participate in our Classical Conversations' biology seminar because their 10th-grader has already studied biology. My response is, "Really? They know

everything about biology as a 16-year-old?"

As a homeschooler, I believe everything we do is practice for the next day and the rest of life. We are never finished learning. We are only practicing. Rereading the same material from different perspectives is part of that practice.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Why do you believe homeschooling has grown so significantly in popularity in recent years?

**MS. BORTINS:** Seeing is believing. Most people now know someone who has successfully homeschooled their children and trust the process. Homeschooled children do well as adults. Take a look at NHERI.org for 30 years of research on homeschool outcomes.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Would you like to offer any final pieces of advice to this year's new homeschoolers?  
**MS. BORTINS:** I'll make a guarantee. Substitute the long day of carpooling and time in classrooms with just two hours a day of mixed reading, and you will successfully educate your children. Mixed reading means any mixture of fiction and non-fiction that is below, at, and above your child's reading level. You read aloud to the whole family for an hour a day and let them read alone for an hour a day. Introduce them to the best of ideas they wouldn't explore for your read-aloud books, and let them read what interests them on their own time. You'll find the children begin to broaden their reading choices as you broaden yours.



Leigh Bortins, founder of Classical Conversations.

## Gallup Poll: Homeschooling Rate Doubles as School Satisfaction Plummets

An educational sea change is happening, and there are reasons to believe it will be permanent

KERRY MCDONALD

Results of a new Gallup poll released last week may give us the sharpest look yet at how the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted American education and what may lie ahead.

According to the poll, parents' overall satisfaction with their child's education dropped 10 percent over last year, while, at the same time, the number of parents saying they will choose homeschooling doubled in 2020 to 10 percent.

Throughout the summer, parents have expressed their frustration with back-to-school plans, including disappointment over continued remote learning and strict social distancing requirements. Homeschooling registrations soared across the country, and many families began to spontaneously organize "pandemic pods" to offer small group learning and social interaction for their children.

Opting out of conventional schooling this fall in favor of homeschooling or "podding" has become not only acceptable but widely embraced.

Indeed, the new Gallup poll

found that attendance in public schools, while still most common, declined 7 percent in 2020 to 76 percent of U.S. K-12 children, indicating that more parents are seeking alternatives to their assigned district school. Many of these parents are choosing homeschooling for this academic year, which Gallup defines as "not enrolled in a formal school, but taught at home."

This wording clarification is significant in distinguishing between children who are learning at home while enrolled in a public, private, or virtual school, and children who are being independently homeschooled.

The rise in homeschooling this year is likely being accelerated by the creation of collaborative learning pods that make homeschooling easier for parents and profitable for teachers. As teachers' unions stymie reopening plans, and court battles ensue, the free market has been quick to respond to parental demand, bypassing the bureaucratic back-to-school mayhem and offering viable solutions.

Entrepreneurs such as Sarah Kurtz McKinnon have stepped in to facilitate pod-building and ex-

pand schooling alternatives. The founder of Pod School Prep, Kurtz McKinnon is a longtime summer camp director and camp counselor trainer who recognized the rapid growth of pods and wanted to help train facilitators to lead pod programs.

"As schools across the country moved to virtual models, I quickly recognized that there was going to be a childcare crisis," Kurtz McKinnon told me in a recent interview. "I saw immediate discussions in Facebook groups about the idea of 'pods' and thought that camp-counselor type people would be excellent candidates to lead pods, but training is necessary."

In addition to targeting podding parents who want trained facilitators, Kurtz McKinnon and her startup team are also partnering with organizations such as the YMCA that are providing alternative learning spaces this fall. In Virginia, for example, the YMCA recently announced all-day in-person programming for children whose public schools pursue remote learning plans.

"Across the country, many families and educators are getting forced into a new educational

model. It's a big experiment and it's happening rapidly!" said Kurtz McKinnon. "We want parents, educators, and students to be inspired by the possibilities that pod learning presents and use this knowledge to make education as we know it even better."

**Parents are positioned to be a driving force in advancing education choice and innovation, while entrepreneurs respond with new learning models.**

The increased openness to pod learning and homeschooling this year, along with a greater emphasis on school choice mechanisms to expand learning options to more families, will likely continue to disrupt and reshape American education during and after the pandemic.

Now that parents have gained a closer look at what their children are learning (or not learning) in school, and feel more empowered to help guide their education, they will not so quickly hand back the reins to bureaucrats and educationists.

Parents are positioned to be a driving force in advancing education choice and innovation, while entrepreneurs respond with new learning models that suit the 21st century far better than the current 19th-century prototype.

The virus and related lockdowns have created serious educational challenges for families, but as the Gallup poll suggests, they may have also exposed parents to new possibilities for education beyond traditional schooling. Now, more parents may feel emboldened to advocate for new and better learning options for all children.

*Kerry McDonald is a senior education fellow at FEE and author of "Unschooling: Raising Curious, Well-Educated Children Outside the Conventional Classroom" (Chicago Review Press, 2019). This article was originally published on FEE.org*



# FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

### Autumn Fires

by Robert Louis Stevenson

In the other gardens  
And all up the vale,  
From the autumn bonfires  
See the smoke trail!  
Pleasant summer over  
And all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes,  
The grey smoke towers.  
Sing a song of seasons!  
Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the summer,  
Fires in the fall!

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

### WHY DID SUMMER CATCH AUTUMN?

BECAUSE IT WAS ABOUT TO FALL.

ALINA KRUK/SHUTTERSTOCK

### Wild is the music of autumnal winds among the faded woods.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770-1850), ENGLISH POET

LJUPCO SMOVKOVSKI/SHUTTERSTOCK



## ADVENT OF THE ROLL-FILM CAMERA



George Eastman

THE KODAK CAMERA.

"You press the button, - - - we do the rest."

The only camera that anybody can use without instructions. Send for the Primer, free.

The Kodak is for sale by all Photo stock dealers.

**The Eastman Dry Plate and Film Co.,**  
Price \$25.00—Loaded for 100 Pictures. ROCHESTER, N. Y.

A full line Eastman's goods always in stock at LOEBER BROS., 111 Nassau Street, New York.

An advertisement from The Photographic Herald and Amateur Sportsman (November 1889)

On Sept. 4, 1888, George Eastman of New York patented the first roll-film camera and registered the Eastman Kodak Company. (Kodak was simply a word he made up.)

His invention made personal photography practical for the average person. His company's slogan was "You press the button, we do the rest."

By Aidan Danza, age 14

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

# THE WALRUS

**W**alruses are unique animals. They are not quite a narwhal, not quite a sea lion, and not quite a seal, but seem to combine all three animals into one blubbery, tusky, enormous package.

Male tusks can reach up to three feet in length.

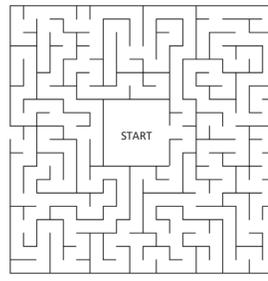
They have brown skin, but bright white tusks, and they're huge. Females can weigh up to 2,600 pounds and be up to 10 feet long. A big male can tip the scales at 4,200 pounds, and attain a length of 12 feet. They have a short snout, all covered in rough whiskers called vibrissae. Both males and females have tusks, but those of the males are bigger, reaching a length of up to three feet. Males also have large, knobly protrusions on their front half. The walrus is covered in blond to brown hair, which is sparse on both males and females, but dissipates with age on males but not females. The two- to four-inch-thick skin varies with temperature and season, because of the amount of blood circulating out to the walrus's outer layer of skin. It appears redder in warmer temperatures, which is the effect of blood rising to the surface, causing heat to dissipate. In winter, when heat must be conserved, blood is kept away from the surface of the walrus, causing it to look brown.

Walruses live in several populations around the Arctic, including the Bering Sea, the Hudson Bay area, Svalbard Island in Norway, and the Novaya Zemlya archipelago of central Russia.

Walruses like to eat mostly clams and mussels, but also small fish that live on the seafloor, and sometimes other seals and seabirds. Much like a pig, it will snuffle around under water with its snout and eat whatever it finds.

The tusks of the walrus are used not only as weapons, but also as a sort of status symbol or threat and as a practical aid to haul itself up onto the ice after a dive. Walruses live in colonies, which amass to thousands during breeding season.

## AMAZING ESCAPES!



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, -, AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1+ (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

8	10
4	9

Solution For Easy 1  
6 + 01 = (9 - 8)

Medium puzzle 1

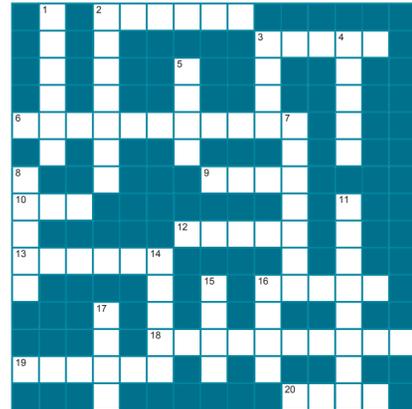
2	18
1	13

Solution for Medium 1  
81 - 81 = (1 + 2)

Hard puzzle 1

10	34
10	23

Solution for Hard 1  
98 + 82 = (01 - 01)



### Across

- Who sits around the dinner table (6)
- Jack's last name (5)
- Fall dressing treat (11)
- Frost's cousin (4)
- Split Pea 'N \_\_\_\_\_ soup (3)
- Spread (5)

### Down

- We all love Fall \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
- "That's what \_\_\_\_\_ are for" (7)
- We can roast chestnuts on a \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
- Tossed green \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- It's best on the cob! (4)
- It wards off a chill (7)
- Texas cook-off dish (5)
- Thanksgiving dessert (8)
- "\_\_\_\_ on!" ("Come and get it!") (5)
- "Where the heart is" (4)
- Best way to keep the house warm! (4)
- The most colorful season? (4)

### 13

- Nature's Thanksgiving decorations (6)
- We love the smell of fresh baked \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- Dessert for Peter? (10)
- Honey Crisp, Gala, Pink Ladies, etc (6)
- Where pies come from (4)



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**H**ello there, Epoch VIP! We're thrilled to have you here with us. We hope this paper finds you well—especially in today's world. There are new developments almost every day, with different interpretations coming from all different factions. It's a situation which makes it quite difficult to see what our future looks like as a country, and as a society. In times like these, we believe that the best way to ground ourselves is to look into the past and see what's worked for our forefathers. That's why you may have heard that our motto is "truth and tradition," or that we're bringing back "traditional American journalism." To us, this means that our work is guided by the same values and ideals that have guided

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The Epoch Times

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