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SAMIRA BOUADOU/THE EPOCH TIMES



## Movement to Undermine Electoral College Gains Momentum

State Electoral College votes would go to the national popular vote winner. **2**

# Movement to UNDERMINE ELECTORAL COLLEGE Gains Momentum



Snow blankets a statue of Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Square near the White House on Jan. 13, 2019.

## WILLIAM PATRICK

liberal states and elected officials are mounting an increasingly popular initiative to undermine the Electoral College by awarding state Electoral College votes in presidential elections to the winner of the national popular vote.

Supporters of the effort contend that the Electoral College is unfair, and that switching to a national popular vote would make presidential elections more competitive. But critics say that upending the 230-year-old institution would concentrate power in large urban areas that are almost exclusively Democratic strongholds.

The Electoral College is a body of electors established by the U.S. Constitution for the sole purpose of electing a president every four years. It takes 270 of the total 538 Electoral College votes to win a presidential election, with each state awarded a certain number of electors based on state representation in Congress.

According to Hans von Spakovsky, a former member of the Federal Election Commission, the system was devised at America's founding to balance the competing interests of large and small states, and to temper the "tyranny of the majority."

"It prevents candidates from winning an election by focusing only on high-population urban centers (the big cities), ignoring smaller states and the more rural areas of the country—the places that progressives and media elites consider flyover country," von Spakovsky wrote for the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Having recognized the dangers of direct democracy, the framers of the American system of government established a representative democracy in the form of a constitutional republic, he explained, while adding that the Electoral College "forces candidates to seek the support of a larger cross-section of the American electorate—to win a series of regional elections."

"One can see its importance in the fact that despite Hillary Clinton's national popular vote total, she won only about a sixth of the counties nationwide, with her support limited mostly to urban areas on

both coasts," he said.

Clinton would have defeated President Trump in 2016, on the strength of her popular vote margin of victory in California coastal cities alone—whereas a majority of states across diverse regions of the country elected Trump.

Five presidents have taken office without winning the national popular vote, most recently in 2000 and 2016.

Twelve states and the District of Columbia, totaling 172 of the required 270 Electoral College votes, have passed legislation to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The initiative would deliver the all-important electors to the candidate with the most total votes, regardless of which candidate that state's residents actually choose.

Participating states include: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

Colorado recently passed a bill to join the compact, which will be the first presidential swing state in the movement when it's signed into law; the term swing state refers to any state that could reasonably be won by either a Democratic or Republican candidate. The state's nine electors will bring the overall total to 181, or two-thirds of the required 270.

Newly elected Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a progressive Democrat, recently called the Electoral College an "undemocratic relic" of the past.

"I've long supported electing the president by who gets the most votes," Polis said in a Feb. 25, interview. "It's a way to move towards direct election of the president," he said.

Maine could be the next domino to fall. The legislature there is currently considering a national popular vote bill sponsored by the state's Democratic senate President,

“The electoral college prevents candidates from winning an election by focusing only on high-population urban centers (the big cities), ignoring smaller states and the more rural areas of the country—the places that progressives and media elites consider flyover country.”

Hans von Spakovsky, former member, Federal Election Commission



Hans von Spakovsky, manager of the Election Law Reform Initiative at the Heritage Foundation, in Washington on Oct. 17, 2017.

BENJAMIN CHASTEEN/THE EPOCH TIMES

while the state House is also controlled by fellow party members.

According to a 501(c)4 advocacy group called the National Popular Vote, 11 additional states with 89 electoral votes have previously passed national popular vote bills in at least one house of their respective state legislatures, although they have yet to become law.

The National Popular Vote asserts that the shortcomings of the current voting system stem from a "winner-take-all" design that effectively creates 50 independent state elections, rather than one large direct democracy election.

"Because of these state winner-take-all statutes, presidential candidates have no reason to pay attention to the issues of concern to voters in states where the statewide outcome is a foregone conclusion," the group says.

The initiative is a clever end-around to abolishing the Electoral College, which would require an effectively insurmountable three-fourths of states, or 38 of 50, to amend the Constitution. Instead, a national popular vote system will be achieved, ironically, by gaining a majority of electors.

Just three states—California, New York, and Illinois—currently comprise 60 percent of the Compact's 172 total Electoral College votes. Once Colorado officially joins, only 89 more electors will be needed to radically change U.S. presidential elections.

According to von Spakovsky, those who want to "junk" the Electoral College are "ignorant of how our federal system of elections works."

"Our Electoral College system has provided us with orderly elections and a stable government for more than 200 years," he said.

ALEX BRANDON/AP

## CBP CHIEF:

# Immigration Laws Creating a 'Border Security and Humanitarian Crisis'



EWASTUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK



Marlene Castro, a supervisory Border Patrol agent, speaks to a group of unaccompanied minors who crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico into the United States in Hidalgo County, Texas, on May 26, 2017.

## HOLLY KELLUM

WASHINGTON—The commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) says that the abnormally high numbers of migrants—most from Central America—paired with broken U.S. immigration laws, has created a "border security and humanitarian crisis" that has been exploited by smugglers and drug cartels.

Speaking before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 6, CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said apprehensions at the border were higher in February—more than 76,000—than they've been in any February for over a decade, and because U.S. immigration laws are different for children and families coming from Central America—where about 70 percent of the migrants are coming from—CBP has become overwhelmed.

"These flows have border security consequences," he said. "Families and children are routinely used to divert our agents and occupy them while smugglers bring illicit drugs and single adults that are trying to evade capture across our border."

In addition to the onslaught of illegal immigrants, the number of asylum-seekers jumped 120 percent in fiscal year 2018, compared to fiscal year 2017.

After days, and sometimes weeks of travel, he says those arriving at the border often come with injuries and illnesses that U.S. law enforcement agencies are then responsible for treating. This fact was brought to center stage with the deaths of two children last December who were taken into CBP custody; the causes of their deaths are still under investigation.

"Issues where doctors have advised that this child needs surgery within two weeks to repair this, and they get on a bus to head all the way to the U.S. border and report that to the agent as they arrive," he said. "We've seen all manner of medical conditions."

As an example of how much care the migrants need, he said CBP made a high of 130 hospital trips in one day last week, with an average

“It's difficult for me to conceive of any policy we could adopt that could do more, quite perversely, to promote human trafficking than this.”

Sen. Mike Lee

of 55 trips a day.

"That means we spent 6,000 hours of Border Patrol agents waiting at the hospital with people," he said. "That's like losing 30 agents for the year."

To tackle the issue, he suggested a three-pronged approach: fix U.S. immigration laws, reinforce the border, and work with other countries to stop the flow of migrants.

## Immigration Laws

On the legal side, he suggested amending the Flores Settlement, under which a family unit can't be held in custody for more than 20 days.

Once asylum-seekers are released into the country, it often takes years for their cases to be processed. McAleenan recommends keeping them in detention—as a family unit—until their cases have been settled. In that scenario, he estimates it would take six to eight weeks.

He also thinks it could have an effect on the number of children being smuggled into the country with unrelated adults to act as family units.

In the last 10 months, 1,700 people made false claims of being in a family with children they weren't related to. In a few cases, he said,

the adults met the children for the first time at the U.S.-Mexico border.

He says smugglers are advertising to prospective clients that they will be released into the United States if they have a child with them. "And they're right," he said.

"It's difficult for me to conceive of any policy we could adopt that could do more, quite perversely, to promote human trafficking than this," Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) said in the hearing.

"I think that's a very legitimate concern," McAleenan responded.

McAleenan also suggested that the bar to prove credible fear—the standard an asylum seeker needs to meet to remain in the country—is too low, citing statistics showing that the majority of those who apply for asylum meet the credible fear threshold, but only a fraction turn out to qualify for asylum.

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), children from Central America can't be repatriated like those from Canada and Mexico, another U.S. law that McAleenan said adds to the backup in the system. Less than 2 percent of Central American children are repatriated because of it, he said.

He would like to see TVPA amended so that children can be sent back to their country—in some cases at the request of their home country—an amendment that he believes would go a long way toward preventing child trafficking.

## Border Barrier

Along with better immigration laws, he says human traffickers are taking advantage of the porous U.S.-Mexico border to smuggle people across undetected. More funding for personnel and technology would help, but he also said there needs to be a barrier.

"We need to maintain what we have—the 654 miles—and we need hundreds of additional miles in critical areas where we have difficulty controlling," he said.

The deployment of several thou-

sand active-duty troops by the Department of Defense (DoD) was based off requests by CBP, he said, although he denied requesting a specific number of personnel.

"We have significant need for additional border security barrier, for surveillance capability, and for agents, so having DoD backfill that, to create impedance and denial in certain areas, is a real mission enhancement for us," he said.

## Foreign Aid

Part of mitigating the tide of illegal immigrants to the country requires looking at the factors that are pushing these migrants toward the United States, and McAleenan suggested that more aid to the Northern Triangle of Central America, where the majority of migrants come from, would be wise.

In December, the State Department announced it was committing \$5.8 billion—in public and private investment—to the Northern Triangle to promote institutional reforms and development. It said it would also commit another \$2.5 billion "if commercially viable projects are identified."

But there is another country involved in the crisis that shares at least part of the blame, according to McAleenan, and that is Mexico. It's in Mexico that the cartels, which control human and drug trafficking over the border, are based.

"Partnership with Mexico is essential," McAleenan said. "The United States creates the demand for the drugs that the cartels sell, but we need the government of Mexico to step up and address the enforcement side of this," McAleenan said.

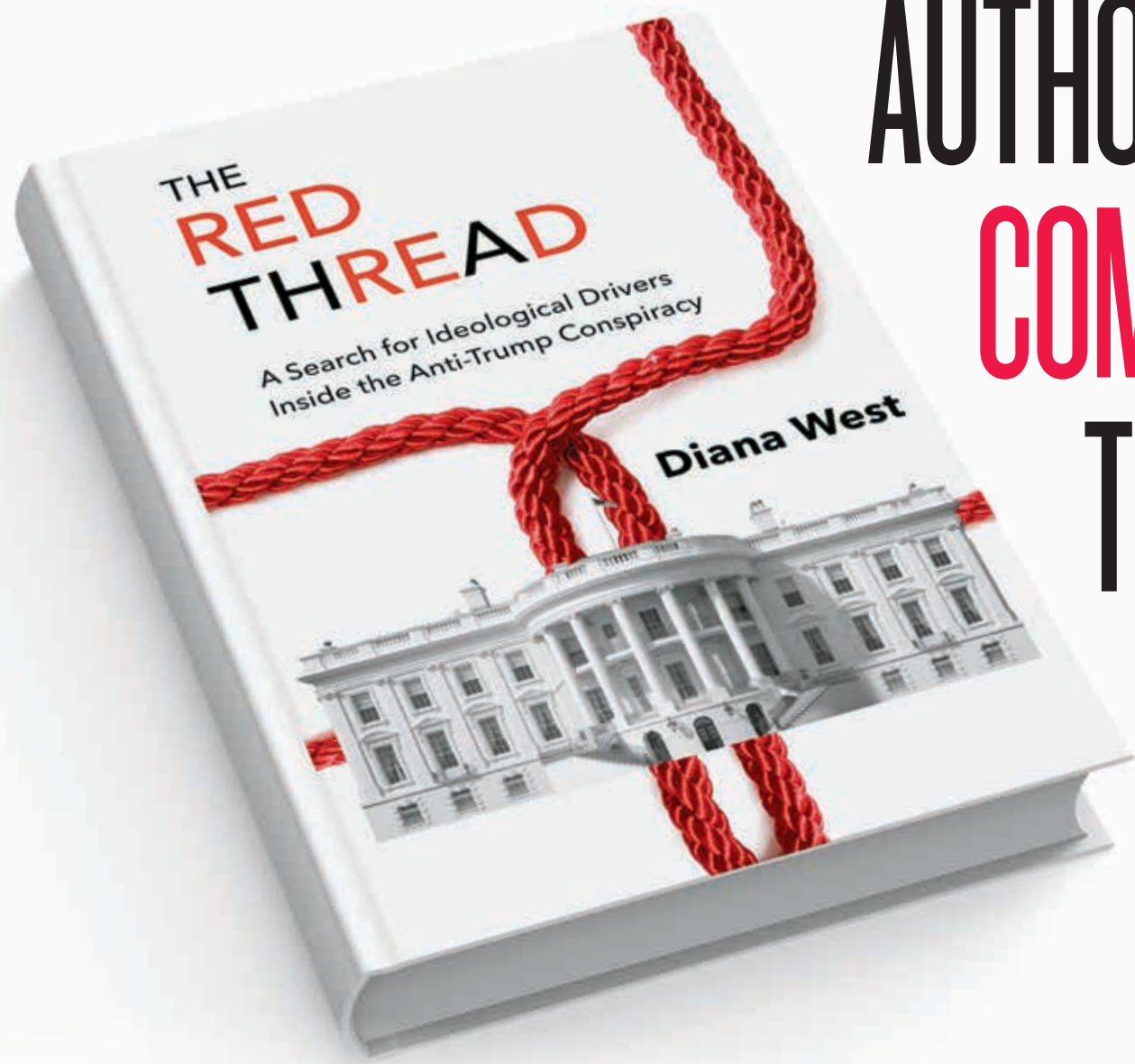
When asked whether they could be doing more than they are, he said he thinks the new administration of Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is working on "making sure any immigration is safe and orderly, and that enforcement posture is improved."

From NTD



Kevin K. McAleenan, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington on March 6, 2019.

WINMCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES



# AUTHOR POINTS TO COMMUNISTS AMONG THOSE ATTACKING TRUMP

MATTHEW VADUM

WASHINGTON—Some of the key ringleaders of the ongoing effort to drive President Donald Trump from office come from communist backgrounds and are using communist-inspired tactics, according to a new book by author Diana West.

West took part in a talk March 8 at the Center for Security Policy about her new book published by CSP, “The Red Thread: A Search for Ideological Drivers Inside the Anti-Trump Conspiracy.” The other panelists were CSP executive chairman Frank Gaffney, Judicial Watch’s investigations director Chris Farrell, and Rich Higgins, who served as a National Security Council official in Trump’s first year in office.

Gaffney said the book “is one of the Rosetta Stones that needs to be taken aboard by every American concerned about what’s happening to our country and what we had best be doing to save it.”

## Left and Right

Marxist ideas have infiltrated both the left and the right, both the Democratic and Republican parties, West said.

People such as dissident Republican Bill Kristol, a reformed Trotskyist, are “joining hands with the left” in a united front against Trump because they view the president as a threat to the established order and the globalism that dominates today’s political system, she told The Epoch Times after the panel discussion.

“The progression left has been marked and so just because you have a label or a past in Republican politics should not blind us to behavior, attitudes, beliefs, money flows,” West said. “We just saw the new Kristol publication, The Bulwark, covering CPAC with a very leftist reporter.”

West was referring to leftist Molly Jong-Fast who mocked the annual Conservative Political Action Conference in a March 1 Bulwark article as “a magical place where college dropouts lecture college students.” She described attendees as “poorly educated Trumpkins.”

Kristol, a co-founder of the failed Weekly Standard, is a director of Defending Democracy Together, a Republican-dominated group that aims to have Trump impeached and removed from office.

The group’s executive director is Sarah Longwell, senior vice president at public relations shop Berman and Co. As a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, its donors are secret. One of the group’s projects is Republicans for the Rule of Law, which focuses on protecting special counsel Robert Mueller’s ongoing investigation of Trump and his associates.

## ‘Subverted From Within’

The campaign against Trump “is an internal operation all of its own to realign conservative politics,” West said.

“Has the right been subverted from within? I mean it’s not just the left that has a communist problem, or a subversion problem, or has been targeted for covert takedown.”

Ever since 1920, when Communist Party organizations were raided and “they basically found the entire roadmap ... one of the items was talking about going into politics on both sides. Don’t just go into the Democratic Party, go into the Republican Party, too, so there’s always been an effort to undermine the right, just as the left.”

In the book, West identifies the five “-gate” suffixed operations-turned-scandals that the anti-Trump forces have used to try to bring down the president.

They are, she says, “Dossiergate,” the Democratic National Committee-funded so-called Russian kompromat dossier associated with British M16 officer Christopher Steele that read like a B-movie script and included salacious claims; “Servergate,” Hillary Clinton’s un-

“What is readily apparent is a unifying drive to save not America, but the globalist system that was created in the aftermath of World War II.

Diana West, author, ‘The Red Thread’

lawful, hacker-friendly private email system designed to shield the then-secretary of state’s activities from public scrutiny; “FISAgate,” in which government officials obtained counter-intelligence surveillance warrants on Trump campaign officials from a secret court without advising it that the supporting material came from Trump’s political opponent; “Spygate,” in which the governmental intelligence apparatus was used against the Trump campaign; and “Muellergate,” the ongoing fishing expedition against Trump by special counsel Robert Mueller.

From Trump’s victory “anti-Trump cells inside federal bureaucracies, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, the media, and a network of organizations attacked the legitimacy of the election by alleging that Donald Trump’s epic triumph was the twisted result of ‘collusion’ between the Trump campaign and Russia.”

## Communist Backgrounds

In the book, West reminds readers of the communist backgrounds of those spearheading the effort to undermine Trump, which have been downplayed or entirely ignored by the mainstream media.

West says British M16 officer Steele was a “confirmed socialist” and supporter of the Soviet-led 1980s nuclear freeze movement, with “CND credentials” when he was president of the Cambridge Union debating society, the book notes. CND stands for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Marxist-infiltrated group MI5 that deemed subversive for its efforts to unilaterally disarm the United Kingdom during the Cold War, remove U.S. cruise missiles from the UK, and break up the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance.

Former FBI Director James Comey cites Marxist and Socialist Party member Reinhold Niebuhr as “a formative influence,” she writes.

Strangely, Comey said he moved away from being “Communist,” yet he still considers Niebuhr his intellectual hero, she adds. Then-Sen. Barack Obama also said in 2007 that he admired Niebuhr. And in 1976, Obama era CIA Director John Brennan voted for Communist Party USA candidate Gus Hall for president.

These plotters “do not believe in the democratic process or the rule of law.” “Stripping away labels and traditions, what is readily apparent is a unifying drive to save not America, but the globalist system that was created in the aftermath of World War II, anchored in such institutions as the United Nations and the World Bank. Both of these globalist institutions, not at all incidentally, were shepherded into existence by two key Soviet agents covertly embedded inside the U.S. government: Alger Hiss and Harry Dexter White.”

Panelist Higgins told The Epoch Times that Trump has forced the radicals out into the open.

“Trump has forced the socialist oligarchy to tighten its grip to include a coup attempt. I mean, their hand has been revealed now and I mean they’ve shifted from a Menshevik subversive policy now to just short of shots being fired. I mean that’s where they’re at.”

Higgins expressed alarm at the inroads the far left has made into the conservative movement.

“Last week, there on Drudge Report ... it said ‘Dems gamble, move left,’ and the irony of that headline just jumped off the pages ... because at the very same moment Drudge posts that, Van Jones, an admitted communist, is not speaking at NYU, he’s speaking at CPAC where Diana West is not allowed to speak, and Tucker Carlson is not allowed to speak, and Ann Coulter is not allowed to speak.”

There is “a failure to see comprehensively the ideological side of the fight,” Higgins said. “And that left-right paradigm is completely concocted. This is American versus un-American at this point. And as long as you continue to fall into that party dialectic trap, you’re not going to be able to do your analysis correctly.”

# Amazon Accepting Preorders for Full Mueller Report to Be Released on March 26

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

Amazon started the presale of the print version of the final report from the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller on March 6, with two books slated for release on March 26.

An Amazon representative confirmed that both listings are authentic and directed The Epoch Times to the two publishers: Simon and Schuster, and Skyhorse.

“Don’t have a statement, but these are authentic,” the representative wrote in an email. “The Mueller Report: The Final Report of the Special Counsel Into Donald Trump, Russia, and Collusion” is available for preorder in paperback with an option for free two-day delivery via Amazon Prime. The book includes an introduction by constitutional scholar Alan Dershowitz. The front cover notes that the document will appear “as issued by the Department of Justice.” Special counsel Robert Mueller is listed as the author of the book.

“There has never been a more important political investigation than that of Robert S. Mueller III’s into President Donald Trump’s possible collusion with Russia, now introduced by constitutional scholar and New York Times bestselling author Alan Dershowitz,” the product description states.

Dershowitz told The Epoch Times that the March 26 date is “merely a placeholder.”

“I’ve written several introductions for this publisher,” Dershowitz wrote in an email. “I’ve agreed to write one if and when the Mueller Report is made public. I wrote an intro to the Starr report back then.”

Another version of the report is offered “with related materials by The Washington Post.” The newspaper is listed as the author of the book. According to the listing, the book includes an

introduction and commentary by reporters Rosalind Helder and Matt Zapotosky.

“The only book with exclusive analysis by the Pulitzer Prize-winning staff of The Washington Post, and the most complete and authoritative available,” the product description states. “Read the findings of the special counsel’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, complete with accompanying analysis by the Post reporters who’ve covered the story from the beginning.”

Mueller’s office hasn’t announced a date for the release of its final report, and it’s unclear how much of the document will be made public.

The spokesman for Mueller’s office, Peter Carr, didn’t provide a comment on the listings, and referred The Epoch Times to two paragraphs that govern the reporting requirements of special counsel investigations.

“At the conclusion of the special counsel’s work, he or she shall provide the attorney general with a confidential report explaining the prosecution or declination decisions reached by the special counsel,” the first section states.

The second section indicates that the attorney general will determine whether to release the final report to the public. The Justice Department didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mueller has been investigating allegations of collusion between the Trump campaign



Former FBI director Robert Mueller at the FBI headquarters in Washington on Oct. 28, 2013.

“Don’t have a statement, but these are authentic.

Amazon representative

and Russia since May 2017. The special counsel hasn’t charged any person with collusion or accused any U.S. citizen of coordinating with Russia.

In January, then-acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker told Congress that Mueller’s investigation was almost complete. Whitaker left the department March 2. The Senate confirmed William Barr as the attorney general Feb. 14.

It’s unclear if either of the books will actually include the Mueller report, since the special counsel isn’t obliged to make the findings of his investigation public. Parallel investigations by the House and Senate intelligence committees have both concluded that there is no evidence that President Donald Trump colluded with Russia to influence the 2016 election. Trump has always denied the allegations and called Mueller’s probe a “witch hunt.”

# Trump Administration Aims for 1 Million New Apprenticeships

PETER SVAB

The Trump administration has set a goal to have 1 million new apprenticeships created in the country in the coming year, Labor Secretary Alex Acosta said.

Speaking to the National Association of Counties on March 4, Acosta expounded on the administration’s focus on apprenticeships and rethinking avenues for success for young Americans in general.

He touted the positive economic indicators,

including low unemployment (averaging 3.9 percent in 2018) and wage growth of 3.5 percent, based on average weekly earnings for private nonfarm payrolls.

“We’ve seen something we’ve never seen before,” Acosta said, pointing to the fact that there are more than 7 million job openings in America with only about 6 million Americans considered unemployed.

“The challenges are preparing individuals and offering them the skills that this economy is looking for.”

He recalled his recent visit to an apprenticeship facility for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters in Missouri. Not only did the participants finish their training just 15 credits short of a degree (thanks to an agreement with the local community college), but, after leaving, their lowest starting wage was \$28 an hour.

“That is a good, family-sustaining wage,” Acosta said.

The administration reached almost 500,000 new apprenticeships over the past two years, he said, committing to a goal of a million more

in the coming year.

In March, the administration will announce \$150 million in grants to community colleges to support apprenticeships. The colleges are asked to find “matching partners” for the programs in the business sector, Acosta said. The government will pay three dollars for every dollar invested into the programs.

“I bet you that when it comes time, those businesses that invested in those programs are going to hire the individuals that are graduating,” he said.

The Labor Department also has launched a website, Apprenticeship.gov, that allows Americans to search for apprenticeship opportunities by location.

## Multiple Ways

The Trump administration is the first in decades to heavily focus on apprenticeships and on the benefits of blue-collar jobs, many of which offer a solid wage.

For decades, American schooling has been dominated by the mantra of college as the surest path to success, only to see millions of young and not-so-young Americans burdened with the total of nearly \$1.5 trillion of student debt, and in many cases, for degrees that hold little employment value.

[epoch\_video|/epoch\_video]

“The question is: What signals are we sending to young Americans? Are we saying, ‘you only have one path to success and all other paths are no good?’ Or are we saying there are multiple paths?” Acosta asked.

“Are we saying, ‘You can go to college, you can study, you can go to be a lawyer or a doctor, now you’re going to make a good wage and you’re going to have a lot of debt and it’s going to take a while.’

“Or you can go being an apprentice carpenter and you can go build something and you won’t have student debt and it won’t take as long and you’ll also have a good wage. And decide what you love and pursue what you love and choose what you love and what makes you happy because the goal is a family-sustaining wage.”

“Is that the signal that we’re sending in high schools?”



President Donald Trump alongside Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta (R) during the National Teacher of the Year reception at the White House on May 2, 2018.

# Amazon Pulls Vaccine-Questioning Films From PRIME VIDEO

JUNE FAKKERT

Amazon pulled the documentary film “Vaxxed: From Cover-up to Catastrophe” from its streaming services on March 2, in the most recent of several moves that restrict the public’s access to content that questions the safety of vaccines.

According to CNN, Amazon also made unavailable two other films: “We Don’t Vaccinate!” and “Shoot ‘Em Up: The Truth About Vaccines.”

Amazon didn’t respond to requests by The Epoch Times and by CNN as to why the films were removed.

The creators of “Vaxxed,” which has been available on Amazon since 2016, shared the rationale Amazon gave them for removing the documentary:

“Availability Issue: We are always listening to customer feedback and iterating on their behalf. During a quality assurance review, we found that the following title contains content that doesn’t meet our customer content quality expectations. As a result, all offers (‘Included with Prime,’ ‘Buy,’ and ‘Rent’) have been removed. We will not be accepting resubmission of the impacted titles.”

The removal comes a day after Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) sent a letter to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos asking the company to restrict information that could make parents unwilling to vaccinate their children.

“The scientific and medical communities are in overwhelming consensus that vaccines are both safe and effective,” Schiff wrote in the letter. “There is no evidence to suggest that vaccines cause life-threatening or disabling diseases, and the dissemination of unfounded and debunked theories about the dangers of vaccinations pose a great risk to public health.”

Schiff cited a CNN Business report that found that Amazon was recommending books and movies that question the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

Both Schiff and CNN say this content is “misinformation” about vaccines. In February, Schiff also wrote to Facebook and Google CEOs asking them to curtail “vaccine misinformation.”

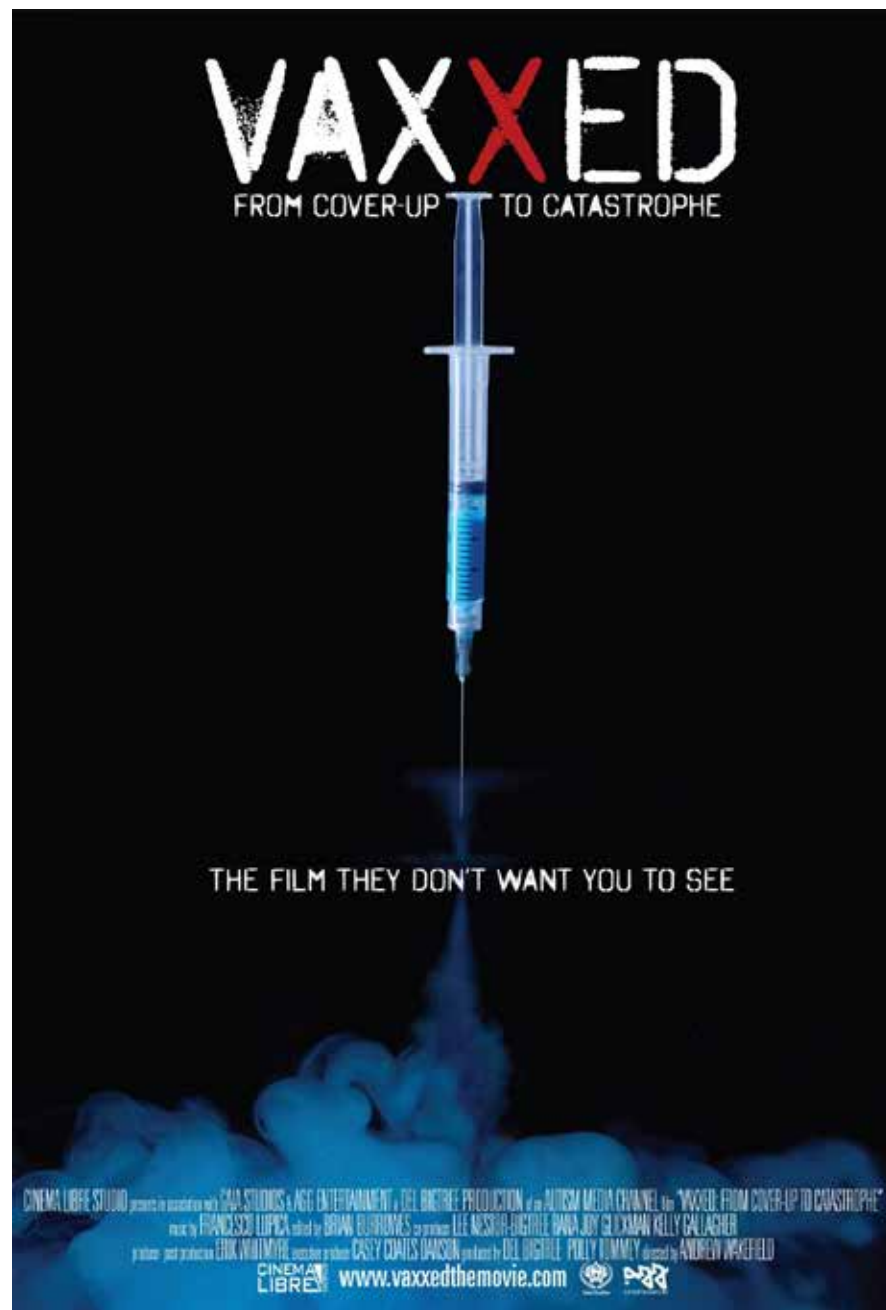
Amazon’s restrictions on vaccine-questioning content follow similar moves by Pinterest and YouTube.

Pinterest is the most restrictive, having removed all vaccine content. If the search term “vaccine” is entered on the site, a blank screen appears with the message “Sorry, we couldn’t find any Pins for this search.”

YouTube, which is owned by Google, announced in January that it will start reducing the spread of content that comes close to violating its Community Guidelines by not recommending certain videos. According to a CNN report, YouTube doesn’t allow ads to appear on videos that question vaccine safety, thus monetizing them. YouTube also removes ads from other kinds of content that it says isn’t advertiser-friendly.

Facebook also is poised to make vaccine-questioning content less prominent, according to the CNN report from Feb. 26: “Facebook is also considering making changes in its advertising policy, according to the [unnamed] representative. ... Another change would involve putting results with vaccine misinformation farther down when people search for certain terms. This could result in major changes. According to recent CNN searches on Facebook, anti-vaccine groups now show up high on the list of results when the word ‘vaccine’ is searched.”

As of March 5, DVD copies of “Vaxxed” could



“Vaxxed: From Cover-Up to Catastrophe.”

“During a quality assurance review, we found that the following title contains content that doesn’t meet our customer content quality expectations.”

Statement by Amazon, as reported by the creators of “Vaxxed”

still be purchased on Amazon; the film was listed as a No. 1 best-seller in the special interests category. It also had close to 4,000 reviews, of which 76 percent were five-star and 23 percent were one-star.

This isn’t the first time the film has been censored. It was pulled from the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival due to the controversy surrounding its content.

#### Heart of the Debate

“Vaxxed” explores what is perhaps the most volatile issue in the vaccine debate: whether vaccines can cause autism. While public health officials are adamant that vaccines don’t cause the developmental disorder, some researchers and doctors, as well as many parents, disagree.

Dr. Paul Offit, director of the vaccine education center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, is one who disagrees that there could be a link. “There aren’t two sides to the science. Vaccines don’t cause autism, diabetes, MS, or any of the other chronic disorders anti-vaccination proponents claim,” he previously told CNN. Offit is a co-inventor of a rotavirus vaccine, the author of several pro-vaccination

EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



The Amazon logo in New York on Sept. 28, 2011.

books, and a frequently quoted expert in media reports.

In an article on Medscape, Offit said that studies suggesting links between vaccines and many disorders do exist, but he dismisses these studies en masse as not being high quality and thus not worth taking seriously.

“In truth, you don’t have to look very far to find hundreds of published studies claiming that vaccines cause virtually every disease known to humankind,” Offit wrote. “About 6,500 medical and scientific journals in the world’s literature publish 4,000 studies every day. Not surprisingly, the quality of these studies follows a bell-shaped curve. Some are excellent. Some are awful. Most are mediocre. Scientific studies making irreproducible claims in the name of transparency are published all the time.”

Dr. James Lyons-Weiler, a research scientist and author of a book that explores complex science linking vaccine ingredients to autism, has a different point of view.

Lyons-Weiler, who has a background in biology, genetics, cancer research, and statistical analysis, wasn’t critical of vaccines before writ-

“When I evaluated the epidemiological studies, they only test correlation, and do not test causation—and they tested the correlation very badly, in my view.”

Dr. James Lyons-Weiler, research scientist

ing another book on the successes of modern medicine. He started writing a chapter on how much good vaccines have done, then he decided to do his due diligence and research the topic thoroughly. That research changed his views on vaccines; he now believes there is cause for concern that a certain subset of the population is more at risk for serious adverse reactions, and that further research is needed.

He says that, even though the epidemiological studies used by public health to show vaccines are safe are large, they can only show a lack of correlation. Lack of correlation doesn’t prove there is no causation in a subset of the population, but rather simply that vaccines may not be responsible for the majority of cases.

“My background in clinical and translational biomarker research told me that the epidemiology studies might miss real adverse events that occur in an unidentified genetic subset of individuals,” Lyons-Weiler told The Epoch Times.

“Causation is tested by mechanistic studies and experiment—and those studies tell a different story. When I evaluated the epidemiological studies, they only test correlation, and do

not test causation—and they tested the correlation very badly, in my view. Not all vaccines were tested against valid placebos, and not all vaccines were tested even for correlation with some bad outcomes.”

He said he believes that public trust in vaccines can only be regained with better studies carried out by entities without financial conflicts of interest.

“With their latest moves with government-coerced censorship, Congress is vastly underestimating the degree to which public confidence is lost in the CDC, FDA, and other government agencies—and in vaccines, and in ‘Science,’” he said.

“For me, the removal of aluminum, mercury, and unsafe adjuvants is absolutely necessary to regain public confidence. Doing real studies—long-term, saline-controlled vaccine safety studies of individual vaccines and of alternative schedules, by teams used to doing intervention studies, not epidemiologists—and at universities, not within agencies, is not only necessary to regain the public trust, but it is highly unethical to continue going down the current path.”

# Trump’s Approval Rating on Economy Hits New High: Gallup Poll

BOWEN XIAO

resident Donald Trump’s approval rating on his handling of the economy reached the highest point in his presidency, according to the latest Gallup poll published March 5. At the same time, his approval rating on unemployment soared nearly as high.

Polling data revealed that 56 percent of Americans approve of how the president is handling the economy, marking a new high for Trump. The percentage was also the highest number out of all the 14 domestic and foreign issues tested in the latest Gallup poll. Not far behind was Trump’s handling of unemployment, where he gained an approval rating of 54 percent.

His overall job approval numbers, meanwhile, were recorded at 43 percent, roughly the same numbers as Gallop’s previous February poll. The pollsters noted that Trump’s overall rating “appears to be stabilizing at a higher level than it had been in late 2018 and early 2019.”

#### A Closer Look

The polling data was taken from interviews with 1,932 adults between the period of Feb. 12 to 28. Respondents largely voted along

**Fifty-six percent of Americans approve of how the president is handling the economy, marking a new high for Trump.**

partisan lines in regards to their opinion of Trump.

On Trump’s handling of the economy, 93 percent of Republicans approved compared to 53 percent of independents and 20 percent of Democrats, the data showed. Gallup’s poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Meanwhile, on the president’s overall job approval, 90 percent of Republicans approved, compared to 35 percent of independents and only 6 percent of Democrats.

Among Republicans, the lowest assessment of the president among all the domestic and foreign issues polled was his handling of the situation in Syria in regards to U.S. involvement.

On Trump’s handling of Syria, 71 percent of Republicans approved, compared to 29 percent of independents and 9 percent of Democrats. In February, Trump said on Twitter that the United States “will soon control 100% of ISIS territory in Syria.”

“Americans’ views of Trump remain sharply polarized along partisan lines,” the pollsters said.

#### Economic Gains

The nation’s view of the economy under Trump has been largely positive throughout his time in

office and been a major source of strength to his public image, according to the poll.

Trump’s recent 56 percent approval rating on his handling of the economy marks a rise of four points since early February. The jump could be attributed to a mix of low unemployment rates—4 percent in January—and improvements in stock market performance.

Trump’s approval rating on the economy has not fallen below 45 percent throughout his presiden-

cy, the pollsters noted.

Last month, Trump denounced the former administration’s economic policies and said they would have dragged the nation down.

“We have a great economy DESPITE the Obama Administration and all of its job killing Regulations and Roadblocks,” he said on Twitter. “If that thinking prevailed in the 2016 Election, the U.S. would be in a Depression right now! We were heading down, and don’t let the Democrats sound bites fool you!”



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York on March 4, 2019.

# Border Patrol Boggled Down With 66,000 Illegal Crossings in February

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON

WASHINGTON—Illegal border crossings spiked ever higher in February with more than 66,000 apprehensions, according to Customs and Border Protection data. In January, the number was almost 48,000.

So far this fiscal year, Border Patrol has apprehended almost 268,000 people at the southwest border. The numbers are on target to reach beyond 640,000 for the fiscal year.

Although the numbers are not as high as the 2005 surge, when around 1.5 million people were apprehended, the demographics of the current border crossers are markedly more complicated, said Border Patrol chief of operations Brian Hastings on March 5.

He said historically 70 to 90 percent of Border Patrol arrests were Mexican nationals, who could be quickly returned to Mexico. Now, however, 70 percent of all apprehensions are from Guatemala, El Salvador, or Honduras.

Under current laws, Border Patrol cannot return minors to their home country unless they are Mexican or Canadian (contiguous countries).

“Border Patrol has no reason to expect that this trend will decrease. In fact, we believe it will increase.”

Brian Hastings, chief of operations, Border Patrol

And members of family units are claiming asylum, which means they are set free into the United States to be processed through the immigration court system. Around 89 percent of Central Americans pass an initial credible fear screening, which allows them to be released into the country. However, only 9 percent are eventually granted asylum through immigration courts.

“So without a consequence, without being able to deliver a consequence to these individuals for illegally crossing our borders, the Border Patrol has no reason to expect that this trend will de-

crease. In fact, we believe it will increase,” Hastings said.

Hastings said the number of family units apprehended exceeded single adult males for the first time in history in October 2018. And in February, family units and unaccompanied children accounted for 65 percent of all Border Patrol apprehensions. Hastings said word has quickly spread in Central America that adults and children will not be detained during their immigration proceedings.

“If you bring a child, you’ll be successful,” he said.

Over the past 10 months, offi-

cial have discovered almost 2,400 fraudulent family claims, he said.

“Of those fraudulent claims, some are folks who have claimed that they’re under 18 and are not. Others have actually been fraudulent familial claims,” Hastings said.

Many of the illegal immigrants require medical care, with Border Patrol sending at least 55 per day to local hospitals.

And Mexican cartels are using the new phenomenon of large groups of 100-plus asylum seekers to distract Border Patrol while they sneak in their contraband at nearby, unpatrolled locations.



Two women and three children attempt to cross the Rio Grande from Mexico into the United States illegally near Eagle Pass, Texas, on Feb. 16, 2019.

# CEO Offers to Build 234 Miles of Border Wall for \$1.4 Billion

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

A builder from North Dakota has offered to put up 234 miles of border walls on the U.S.-Mexico border for \$1.4 billion, which is approximately 80 percent less expensive than the projected cost for the government to build the project.

Tommy Fisher, the president and CEO of Fisher Sand and Gravel Co. believes that the government is paying too much for the wall. Fisher said that for \$4.31 billion, he would build the wall featuring paved roads, border technology, and a warranty.

"Our whole point is to break through the government bureaucracy," Fisher told the Washington Examiner. "If they do the small procurements as they are now ... that's not going to cut it."

Fisher Sand and Gravel Co. did not respond to a request for more information.

Congress approved some \$1.4 billion in funding for 55 miles of border wall in the Rio Grande Valley, far short of President Donald Trump's request of \$5.7 billion. Fisher said that the \$1.4 billion could be used to build the 55 miles in the Rio Grande Valley and an additional 214 miles of walls elsewhere. The funds allotted by Congress can only be used in the Rio Grande Valley.

After Congress failed to deliver the \$5.7 billion requested by the president and the Department of Homeland Security, Trump shifted \$3.1 billion from the Treasury and defense departments toward wall construction. The president also declared a national emergency, clearing the way to reallocate an additional \$3.6 billion from the military budget.

As Trump predicted, the emergency declaration was challenged in court. The court challenge doesn't affect the \$3.1 billion shifted from the Treasury and defense departments, bringing the

effective border funding total to some \$4.5 billion.

A representative with the Army Corps of Engineers told the Washington Examiner that the department hasn't yet requested bids from the private sector.

Fisher Industries video footage shows a border wall proposal, which includes roads elevated on mounds. Border Patrol agents could drive up to the elevations to surveil the territory on the Mexico side of the border, the footage from the Fisher Sand and Gravel subsidiary suggests.

"Our wall will provide protection for all Americans, but our proposal is more than just a wall—it's infrastructure for border agents," Fisher Sand and Gravel wrote on Twitter.

Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) toured Fisher Industries in July 2018 along with Kelly Armstrong, a Republican candidate for the House of Representatives. Armstrong praised Fisher for his knowledge about the project.

"Amazing to see Dickinson-based Fisher Industries forms for building the border wall. Even more impressive was Tommy Fisher's knowledge and enthusiasm about the project," Armstrong wrote on Twitter.

Cramer and Armstrong viewed Fisher Industries' patented concrete wall forming system, which allows for concrete to be poured on site of the wall construction.

"Here at Fisher Industries in Dickinson ND, I tested just how easy it is to install a panel of wall myself. It's time to secure our border once and for all," Cramer wrote on Twitter.

Last year, Cramer co-sponsored the Border Wall Trust Fund Act, which

would allow U.S. citizens to donate funds toward construction of the border wall.

In May 2018, Fisher presented his

border wall construction plan to Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), who was then chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security. During the same month, Fisher Sand and Gravel announced the purchase of 1,075 acres of property along the Mexico border in southern California.

"This unique land acquisition allows us to showcase our border security system construction abilities," the company wrote about the purchase on Twitter.

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Charlotte Cuthbertson contributed to this report.



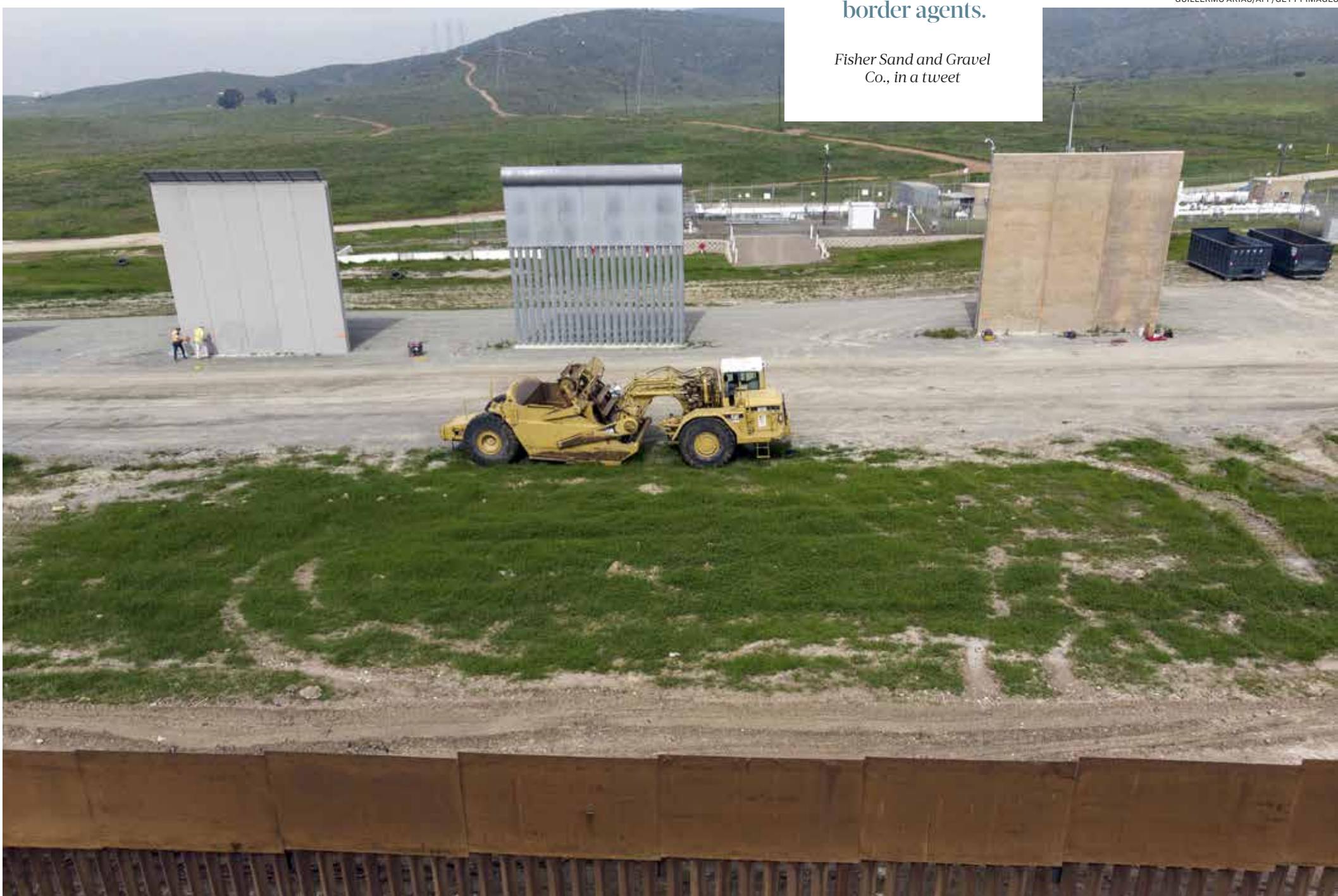
President Donald Trump hugs the American flag as he comes on stage at the CPAC convention in Maryland on March 2, 2019.

SAMIRA BOUADU/THE EPOCH TIMES

“Our wall will provide protection for all Americans, but our proposal is more than just a wall—it’s infrastructure for border agents.”

Fisher Sand and Gravel Co., in a tweet

GUILLERMO ARIAS/AP/GETTY IMAGES



Wall prototypes at the U.S.-Mexico border, as seen from Tijuana, Mexico, on Feb. 26, 2019.



President Donald Trump listens as Peter Navarro (R), assistant to the president for trade and manufacturing, speaks in the Oval Office of the White House on Jan. 31, 2019.

## Trump Seeks to Reduce Counterfeiting Enabled by UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—U.S. companies fighting Chinese knockoffs have cheered President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Universal Postal Union (UPU), an agency that governs international postal rates.

A small business owner from New Jersey is confident that the move will eliminate over 90 percent of the counterfeit problem he faces.

Trump announced in October last year that the United States was starting the yearlong withdrawal process from the postal union, a 145-year-old organization that's now an agency of the United Nations.

Under the UPU framework, mail services for small packages shipped from countries such as China to the United States cost significantly less than what the United States Postal Service (USPS) charges American mailers for a similar service. That inequality in shipping costs puts U.S. businesses at a significant disadvantage.

Jayne Smaldone, a small business owner from Rahway, New Jersey, first became aware of the UPU problem more than a year ago when he noticed Chinese knockoffs of his product popping up like weeds on various e-commerce sites.

Smaldone runs a 9-employee company called Mighty Mug. He produces innovative coffee and travel mugs that automatically grip to tables or desks when bumped. Since its inception in 2011, Mighty Mug has sold more than four million units across the United States and overseas.

Smaldone said he was shocked to find out about the UPU problem and see how the shipping rates of Chinese companies were so low. He pays the USPS \$6.30 to ship a one-pound package within the United States.

"But a competitor knocking me off, sending it 8,000 miles from China, pays \$1.30," he said.

The problem is exacerbated for packages weighing more than a pound. For example, the cost of shipping a four-pound package from New Jersey to California is \$18. But



A woman unloads a U.S. Postal Service truck in Norfolk, Va., on Jan. 26, 2018.

a Chinese competitor that ships the same product to the same address pays \$3.70, he said.

These subsidized rates, also known as terminal dues, are set by the UPU for delivery of lightweight packages that weigh up to 4.4 pounds.

"I thought this was a very big issue that somehow flew under the radar," Smaldone said.

He spent more than a year raising awareness of the UPU and its discriminatory rate structure. He spoke with other business owners, trade associations, journalists, and government officials to explain the problem. He said the USPS executives ignored him when he complained about the inequity in rates. He was told not to waste his time to fix the problem.

However, his turning point occurred when he decided to write an 18-page letter to Trump, explaining why the postal union rates were unfair.

“It’s the United States’ strong preference to remain in the UPU but we can’t do so if taxpayers are forced to subsidize the shipping of packages from other countries like China.”

Senior administration official

Smaldone sent the letter to the president, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, and Trump's trade adviser, Peter Navarro. He also sent letters to his state's senators—Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Bob Menendez (D-

SAMIRA BOUADU/THE EPOCH TIMES

N.J.)—and the congressmen both in his home and business district. "I sent the letter to probably eight people. And no one responded except, interestingly enough, the White House, which I thought was really incredible," he said.

Smaldone said he talked to the White House officials who promised him they would resolve the problem. Several months later he saw on the news Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the UPU.

"The whole story is crazy," Smaldone said.

"If I have to put a number on it, I would say over 90 percent."

Instead of withdrawing from the UPU, Smaldone hopes that the United States will resolve the problem with the organization and remain in it.

"I think it's the easiest thing and something that we probably should have looked at five years ago," he said.

The Trump administration is currently renegotiating a fair shipping deal with the UPU. If the postal union overhauls its rules, the administration will rescind the notice of withdrawal and remain in the UPU, according to the White House.

Since the announcement of the withdrawal last year, there was a round of negotiations between the postal union and the United States, said a senior administration official, who added that there would be follow-up meetings.

"It's the United States' strong preference to remain in the UPU but we can't do so if taxpayers are forced to subsidize the shipping of packages from other countries like China," the official said.

The United States prefers to adopt self-declared rates for terminal dues, meaning that it would determine the rates. So far, UPU officials presented Washington several options in hopes of addressing U.S. concerns.

The options that don't include self-declared rates aren't acceptable to the United States, the official said.

"We're moving forward with establishing self-declared rates and really, it's up to the UPU to determine whether the union is better off with the United States in it or not."

2,700 Knockoffs

Half of all internet commerce originates from China. Due to the old UPU treaty, the world's second-largest economy can still enjoy subsidized rates reserved for developing nations such as Cuba and Gabon, and the subsidy is one-sided.

According to Smaldone, these sub-



## OPINION

# THE 5G COLD WAR HEATS UP

The new arms race between China and the US

EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A guest tours a center devoted to promoting China tech giant Huawei in Brussels on March 5, 2019.

Continued from Page 10

trans-military, such as network and smuggling warfare, to non-military warfare in trade, media, and finance, among other areas of destabilization.

By observing the U.S. military's tactics and smart weapons used in the First Gulf War, the PLA colonels discovered that information is the linchpin to achieving total and swift victory.

"The PLA spent more than a decade examining U.S. military publications on network-centric warfare and the evolution of American doctrine on information warfare ... In the Balkans and the first Gulf War, the PLA saw the effect of modern information operations on the battlefield and in the international arena," wrote Larry M. Wortzel in a 2014 U.S. Army War College report, "The Chinese People's Liberation Army and Information Warfare."

If Wortzel updated his report today, he would expand on the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) triple warfare used against the Uyghurs. Key in taking over Xinjiang Province, home to 12 million indigenous people, the CCP used the unholy trinity of legal, public opinion, and psychological warfares. The end result has been an effective media blackout and muting of public sentiment on crimes against humanity, even in the Muslim world.

### Uyghur 5G Warfare Lab

Since 2017, China has erected concentration camps, where it has imprisoned more than one million of the ethnic minority, stripping them of their human rights and religious identity. Thousands of dissidents have disappeared. But the real tool for total domination comes with the pervasive spying built on 5G-wireless networks that have digitally enslaved Uyghurs who aren't in the camps.

Every minute of every day, the Uyghurs are tracked by their smartphones and followed around the towns and cities by thousands of facial-recognition cameras. They are scanned, searched, and questioned at checkpoints. The police take their DNA samples and biometric prints, while inspecting mobile apps and photos on their smartphones for illegal content. The stream of information is then transmitted to databases for actionable intelligence.

Why is arid, dusty Xinjiang so important to the CCP's plans?

It sits on the footprint of the old Silk Road. Soon, the fabled land will bridge Pakistan in China's Belt and

Road Initiative to trade routes to the Mid-East and Europe. The goal is to cut out the United States and its Western European allies in the new commerce paradigm. Beyond building conduits and transport lines, China's 5G networks will track shipments and supply chains, measure workers' productivity, and make sure no person or Belt Road partner falls out of line with the CCP vision or policies.

### Can China Be Trusted With 5G?

With download speeds that will be 200 times faster than 4G technology, 5G will deploy artificial intelligence (AI) on data gathered from hundreds of billions of sensors embedded in people, devices, kiosks, cameras, ro-

ads in real time.

Despite 5G radiation health risks raised by scores of physicians and scientists, there are three other areas of 5G networks that should concern Western leaders. They are China exporting surveillance, taking advantage of cybersecurity gaps, and implementing military applications.

Standing at the center of the 5G donnybrook is Huawei. Founded in 1987 by Ren Zhengfei, a PLA veteran who came up through the ranks as a military IT researcher, Huawei has been losing the media warfare battle of late.

Huawei is under investigation for the intellectual property theft of the robot used by T-Mobile to test

gaps need to be examined more deeply.

Take the scenario in which Huawei's equipment is embedded in everything that is "smart," from meters and appliances, homes and buildings, to autonomous vehicles and the grids of smart cities. China would be able to shut down any part of the system at any time, including the loss of power to nuclear power plants and hospitals, or allow hackers to penetrate the lives of people or steal the trade secrets of businesses.

Since 5G will be both ground-based and on satellites orbiting the Earth, the PLA would be able to spy on users beyond Huawei's networks, such as poor countries without tele-

communications to "Take Over the World" at the Conservative Political Action Conference on March 1, and stated:

"The race for 5G will be determined in the next two to three years and is really going to determine the fate of the world for the first half of this century. And it better not be Huawei, if we want to be free."

Can China be trusted after casting aside the international law of the sea by building military bases on atolls in the South China Sea? Can China be trusted after subjugating the Uyghurs and other ethnic people for the crime of being themselves? Can Chinese tech companies, such as ZTE and Huawei, be trusted to secure and not abuse your data?

The answers are no, no, and no.

ROBYN BECK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Attendees wait in line for a 5G exhibition at the Qualcomm booth during CES 2019 in Las Vegas on Jan. 10, 2019.

bots, machines, transactions, and blockchain ledgers and contracts. 5G-AI will empower machine-to-machine communication for autonomous drones, vehicles, and weapons, transforming the analog world to all digital on the massive internet of things.

In this hyperconnected future, oceans of data will flow into databases to be analyzed and acted upon

smartphones. The high-profile arrest for alleged sanctions violations of Huawei's CFO Meng Wanzhou, Zhengfei's daughter and apparent successor, has added to the negative press.

In Huawei's equipment, there have been accusations of backdoor data dumps to the CCP, while spying on Americans in their homes and workplaces. The potential security

com infrastructure. The real threat, however, comes in near-future military use of 5G. There, China could disrupt sea, air, and land navigation, unleash machine-command drone warfare, or take out 5G antennae networks or 5G satellites in space.

Gordon Chang, the author of "The Coming Collapse of China," sat on the panel "21st Century Terminator: How China is Using 5G and AI

James Grundvig is the author of "Master Manipulator: The Explosive True Story of Fraud, Embezzlement and Government Betrayal at the CDC." He lives and works in New York City.

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