

......

1.1293999

260

3

18

省

### Novement to Undermine Electoral College Gains Momentum

12222200

1278

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

ALEX BRANDON/AP

# Movement to **UNDERMINE ELECTORAL COLLEGE** Gains Momentum



#### WILLIAM PATRICK

iberal 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-yearold 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 or Republican candidate. 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 electorateto 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 The legislature there is currently considersixth of the counties nationwide, with her support limited mostly to urban areas on by the state's Democratic senate President,

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 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. ing a national popular vote bill sponsored

rural areas of the country-the places

Hans von Spakovsky, former member, Federal Election Commission

akovsky

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

that progressives and

media elites consider

flyover country.



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-takeall 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 endaround 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 elec-

tions. 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

### **CBP CHIEF: Immigration Laws Creating a** 'Border Security and Humanitarian Crisis'





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

ASHINGTON-The commissioner of J.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 Americawhere 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

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

#### Sen. Mike Lee

this.

#### 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 familv units.

In the last 10 months, 1,700 people made false claims of being in a family with children they weren't one day last week, with an average related to. In a few cases, he said, Judiciary Committee in Washington on March 6, 2019.

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.

of any policy we could adopt that could do more, quite perversely, to to create impedance and denial in promote human trafficking than certain areas, is a real mission enthis," Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) said in the hearing.

"I think that's a very legitimate Foreign Aid 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 countryis 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.

ed so that children can be sent back to McAleenan, and that is Mexico. to their country–in some cases at It's in Mexico that the cartels, which the request of their home country–an amendment that he believes over the border, are based. would go a long way toward pre-

#### **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

venting child trafficking.

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- From NTD

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,

sand active-duty troops by the

"It's difficult for me to conceive for surveillance capability, and for agents, so having DoD backfill that, hancement for us." he said.

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 He would like to see TVPA amend- least part of the blame, according control human and drug trafficking

> "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."



Kevin K. McAleenan, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at a hearing of the Senate

# **AUTHOR POINTS TO COMMUNISTS AMONG** Diana West THOSE ATTACKING



#### MATTHEW VADUM

RED THREAD

A Search for Ideological Drivers A Search for Ideological Univers Inside the Anti-Trump Conspiracy

> ASHINGTON-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 MI6 officer Christopher Steele that read like a B-movie script and included salacious claims; "Servergate," Hillary Clinton's un66

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

Diana West, award-winning journalist and author.

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 MI6 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**

mazon 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. Muller 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 Helderman 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 would 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

66 Don't have a statement. but these are authentic.

Amazon representative

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

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

#### PETR 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, is looking for."

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

He recalled his recent visit to an apprenticeship facility for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters in Missouri. Not only did the particiof 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



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.

in the coming year.

In March, the administration will announce \$150 million in grants to community colleges pants finish their training just 15 credits short 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 be a lawyer or a doctor, now you're going to make a good wage and you're going to have a lots 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 be-

cause the goal is a family-sustaining wage.' "Is that the signal that we're sending in high schools?"

# Amazon Pulls Vaccine-Questioning Films From

#### 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:

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 anti-vaccine groups now show up high on diseases, and the dissemination of unfounded the list of results when the word 'vaccine' is and debunked theories about the dangers of searched." 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 "Availability Issue: We are always listening 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 demonetizing them. YouTube also removes ads from other kinds of content that it says isn't advertiser-friendly.

Facebook also is poised to make vaccinequestioning 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. Ac-

cording to recent CNN searches on Facebook,

As of March 5, DVD copies of "Vaxxed" could

THE FILM THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE IS AS REPART. IS BUSE FOLIDING AND VERSIONE - WHE FIN OVER DISAFT LIBRE www.vaxxedthemovie.com 🕮 🖓

During a quality

"Vaxxed: From Cover-Up to Catastrophe."

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 antivaccination proponents claim," he previously told CNN. Offit is a co-inventor of a rotavirus vaccine, the author of several pro-vaccination

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

opinion of Trump.

percentage points.

#### **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.

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.

partisan lines in regards to their

On Trump's handling of the

economy, 93 percent of Repub-

licans approved compared to 53

percent of independents and 20

percent of Democrats, the data

showed. Gallup's poll has a mar-

gin of error of plus or minus 3

Meanwhile, on the president's

overall job approval, 90 percent of

Republicans approved, compared

to 35 percent of independents and

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 March 4, 2019.

office and been a major source cy, the pollsters noted. 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-

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



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

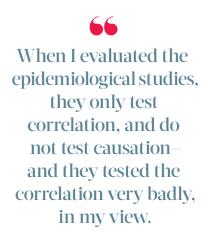
books, and a frequently quoted expert in media reports.

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



Dr. James Lyons-Weiler, research scientist

medicine. He started writing a chapter on how much good vaccines have done, then he decided thoroughly. That research changed his views some bad outcomes." 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 he said. 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 epidemiologi-

cal studies, they only test correlation, and do current path.

ing another book on the successes of modern not test causation-and they tested the correlation very badly, in my view. Not all vaccines were tested against valid placebos, and not all to do his due diligence and research the topic vaccines were tested even for correlation with

> 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 governmentcoerced 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,'"

> "For me, the removal of aluminum, mercury, and unsafe epitopes is absolutely necessary to regain public confidence. Doing real studieslong-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

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



**CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON** 

ASHINGTON-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 are claiming asylum, which means they are set free into the United States to be processed Central Americans pass an initial credible fear screening, which alare 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-

And members of family units crease. In fact, we believe it will increase," Hastings said.

Hastings said the number of family units apprehended exthrough the immigration court ceeded single adult males for the system. Around 89 percent of first time in history in October 2018. And in February, family units and unaccompanied chillows them to be released into the dren accounted for 65 percent of country. However, only 9 percent 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, officials 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.



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

Two women and three

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

#### **IVAN PENTCHOUKOV**

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 tries in July 2018 along with President Donald Trump's request of Kelly Armstrong, a Republican \$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 Last year, Cramer co-sponsored and defense departments, bringing the the Border Wall Trust Fund Act, which

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 Induscandidate 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.

would allow U.S. citizens to donate funds toward construction of the border wall In May 2018, Fisher presented his

> President Donald Trump hugs the American flag as he comes on stage at the CPAC convention in Maryland on March 2, 2019. SAMIRA BOUAOU/THE EPOCH TIMES

#### 66

Our wall will provide protection for all Americans, but our proposal is more than just a wall–it's border agents.

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. Illegal border crossings

> spiked 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 more than 640,000 for the fiscal year.

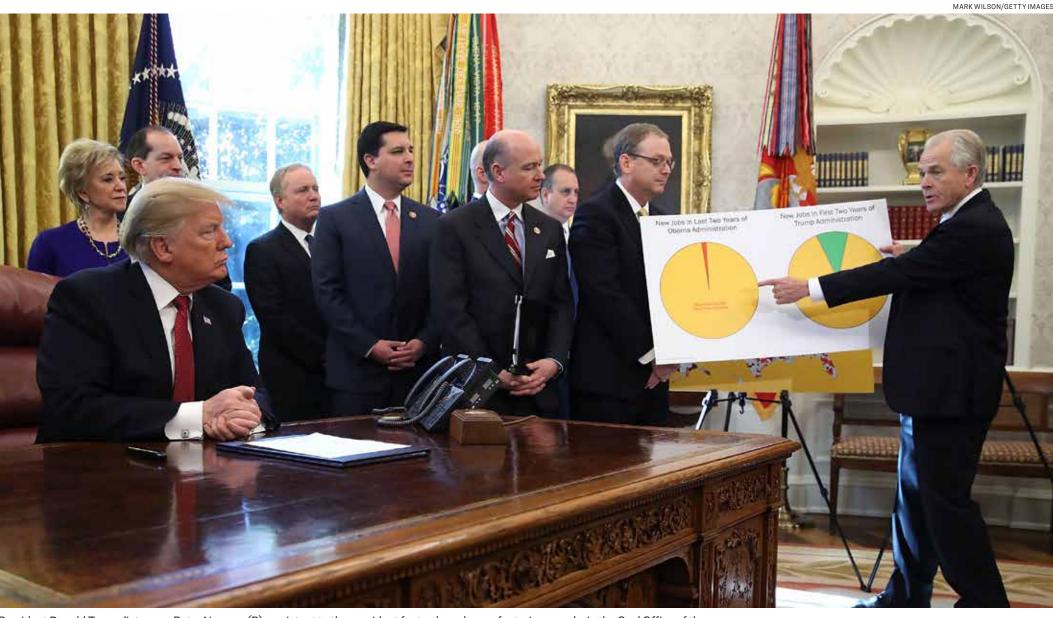
Although the numbers are not as high as the 2005 surge, when around 1.5 million people were apprehended, the demographics of the current border crossers are markedly more complicated, said Border Patrol Chief of Operations Brian Hastings on March 5.

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).

Charlotte Cuthbertson contributed to this report.





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 Smaldone sent the letter to the sidies weren't much of a problem in president, Commerce Secretary Wilthe past, when consumers generally bur Ross, and Trump's trade adviser, bought their products from retail-Peter Navarro. He also sent letters ers. But with the advancement of to his state's senators–Sens. Corv Booker (D-N.J.), Bob Menendez (D-SAMIRA BOUAOU/THE EPOCH TIMES

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 vear 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.

Jayme 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 com pany 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 problem.

packages weighing more than a pound. For example, the cost of when he decided to write an 18-page shipping a four-pound package from letter to Trump, explaining why the New Jersey to California is \$18. But postal union rates were unfair.



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 rais-

ing 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

However, his turning point occurred

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

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.

#### 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-

internet and online shopping, the mail has become the primary way for products to travel and this helped fuel growth of knockoffs online, he said.

Since Mighty Mug has a patent, the company can request the removal of knockoff listings. Over the last six months, the company removed 2,700 knockoffs, most shipping directly from China.

Counterfeiting will always be around, but if the UPU problem gets resolved, the overwhelming majority of the counterfeits will go away, 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 selfdeclared 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."

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

# **MSNBC:** Big Lie Sausage Factory

#### **DIANA WEST**

It may be that the media and their political wing in Congress are preparing for the aftermath of a disappointing Mueller report.

If they were anticipating hot, spicy evidence of "Russian collusion," why would House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) promise to return to re-investigate "Russian collusion"

at the infamous Trump Tower meeting? Or take a recent narrative-setting session with MSNBC's Katy Tur and MSNBC analyst Michael McFaul, the former ambassador to Russia credited with designing the Obama-Clinton "reset." If they really thought the special counsel was about to nail President Donald Trump, why would they now be rebaiting some of the same old sorry traps?

Of course, it's also possible they're priming the public to accept the special counsel's findings by re-enforcing a series of forgotten false narratives-big lies-which depend on constant repetition to achieve conventional wisdom status-the subject of my last column.

In that column, I addressed "The Big Lie About 'Russian' 'Hacking'" at the Democratic National Committee (DNC)-an assertion, an attitude, a state of mind created without evidence, neither from the FBI, which never examined the DNC's servers, nor from the special counsel's indictments to date. Tur and McFaul just pretend such evidence exists, and McFaul even gives a shout-out to Mueller and the "intelligence community" for finding it.

The MSNBC session opens with the fantastical assertion that Trump wasn't being a wise guy when, on July 27, 2016, he said during a press conference: "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing. I think you will probably be rewarded mightily by our press."

No, this was high treason in prime time, Tur and McFaul maintain, and with fairly straight faces.

What, Tur asks McFaul, were the Russians thinking when Trump said that?

McFaul replies: "They were thinking that their work was helping Trump to win. WikiLeaks, their data dump, the conversation about the emails, and linking it to the 30,000 missing emails that President, then candidate, Trump did very deliberately-that was all part of a negative messaging against Secretary Clinton, and the Russians played the instrumental role in that. Without the Russians, that wouldn't have happened. When they heard that, I think they're thinking, 'Oh, our strategy has been working here."

If McFaul was seriously trying to execute cable TV analysis, we might worry about the poor man's mental faculties on reading his response. But agitprop is another matter.

Next, Tur flashes a quote on screen from the special counsel's 2018 indictment of 12 Russian spies for spying. It states: "[O]n or about July 27, 2016, the Conspirators attempted after hours to spearphish for the first time email accounts at a domain hosted by a third party provider and used by Clinton's personal office. At or around the same time, they also targeted 76 email addresses at the domain for the Clinton Campaign."

But see the date, July 27, 2016. Why, that's the date of Trump's press conference–July 27, 2016! Get it? Trump asked Russia for the 30,000 missing emails (which, of course, the NSA has),



House Intelligence Committee then-ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) stands next to a photograph of President Donald Trump and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, during a news conference at the U.S. Capitol on May 17, 2017.

If they really thought the special counsel was about to nail President Donald Trump, why would they now be re-baiting some of the same old sorry traps?

and, presto, Lubyanka answered their leader's call! How about that? Tur asks.

McFaul says: "The evidence is just clear as Clinton." day. I'm glad you reminded your viewers of that. I remember when I first saw those lines in the indictment, we all assumed that, but they have the evidence there. Incredible, by the way, that we have that intelligence, just to give credit to Mueller and our intelligence community.'

In fact, the evidence is anything but as "clear as day." In a podcast, William Binney, a former technical director of the National Security Agency, explains why it is that the basis of this Mueller indictment of 12 Russians is based on "a fabrication." As Binney puts it, "When you base an indictment that way, your whole indictment is a fabrication, too."

McFaul continues: "But think about what we're talking about here. The candidate, Trump, is asking a foreign government-by the way, an enemy government-to help him win the presidential election. And they not only were doing that–and I think played a very important role with the WikiLeaks data dump generally–but then even attempted to go farther when he publicly asked them to do so."

Tur then turns to a Russia Today (RT) special on Julian Assange, which she says aired in August 2016. She mentions a couple of items from the special, which appear to be derived from WikiLeaks-published emails. "[The] U.S. government ... did use Libya as a conduit to get arms to jihadists in Syria. They also talked about Hillarv Clinton's health," she says, although we already knew the former from Benghazi hearings, and certainly, anyone with eyes could watch enough Clinton stumbles, collapses, and coughing fits to talk about her health without WikiLeaks.

Tur continues: "They mirrored a lot of what

Donald Trump ended up talking about in the campaign when he started to go after Hillary

Count to 10 ... so the WikiLeaks emails constituted-altogether now -"NEWS."

WikiLeaks has published more than 1 million documents and never had to retract a single one, which is an unequaled record for accuracy. The bad, the ugly, the corrupt, the inane, the downright disturbing-all of it is the genuine article, and very much in the public interest to disseminate ... oh, what's the use?

McFaul says: "Exactly, exactly. ... Their messaging was very consistent, echoing each other, and candidate Trump, and his Trump organization, and the presidential campaign with him were encouraging Americans to look at WikiLeaks.' Imagine that

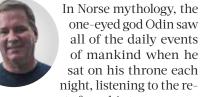
Finally, the end is near. Tur says: "When you look at this all together. These emails get hacked. Trump calls for more emails to get hacked. RT is starting their propaganda campaign that mirrors WikiLeaks, which then mir rors what Trump is saying, and the head of the CIA is urgently calling top lawmakers, it seems like we really need to focus on that summer ... and what exactly the campaign or the president knew then, and whether or not Russia was taking orders from him or vice versa." God save the Republic.

Diana West is an award-winning journalist and the author of two books, "American Betrayal: The Secret Assault on Our Nation's Character" and "The Death of the Grown-Up: How America's Arrested Development Is Bringing Down Western Civilization."

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

### **OPINION THE SCOLD WAR HEATS UP** The new arms race between China and the US

#### **JAMES GRUNDVIG**



one-eyed god Odin saw all of the daily events of mankind when he sat on his throne each night, listening to the reports from his two ravens-

Thought and Memory–with one raven whispering the activities it saw, while the other explained their meaning.

In 2019, China believes it's a dozen years away from achieving the technological equivalent of Odin's all-world vision in gaining knowledge of human activities, no matter how mundane or scattered, in near real-time.

To cast the widespread data net, the defense spending bill that

China will need to control the fifth generation (5G) telecommunications infrastructure that will become ubiquitous in connecting the world over the next five years. To that end, China announced plans to invest more than \$220 billion in 5G by 2025 to achieve that goal, according to China Daily.

Today, 5G is the focal point of the superpowers vying for global supremacy. 5G underpins the new cold war, replacing the Soviet nuclear arms race with information warfare on an electromagnetic spectrum

At the center of the push is China's global telecom leader Huawei, which has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government "to challenge

blocks executive agencies from using its telecommunications equipment," as reported in the New York Times.

That's one way to amplify the fierce competition in trying to become the builder of 5G networks and commercialize them throughout the world.

#### 'Unrestricted Digital Warfare'

China's scorched-earth approach to global hegemony has roots in its doctrine of unrestricted warfare, set out in a book of the same name. Written by a pair of People's Liberation Army (PLA) colonels in 1999, it maps 26 warfare domains that cover the spectrum from military and



A man uses his phone next to a 5G hotspot sign at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on Feb. 26, 2019.



The PayPal headquarters in San Jose, Calif., on April 9, 2018.

#### OPINION

Л	ЦЦ	IS THE NEW	/

#### ADRIAN NORMAN

Within just a few short years, we might be saying, "Welcome to a Brave New America–a dystopian freak show of a world, where the capricious whims of a few control the lives of the many."

Picture it as a dark existence where faceless, nameless authoritarians are free to make decisions on your behalf and against vour will. You have no recourse. There's no one to petition, no one to object, and no one to stand on your behalf

This is the world being created, as tech giants and banks work in tandem with progressive advocacy organizations to exclude people from participating in society, simply because they hold different views.

Censorship is virulently spreading in the United States. In the name of "tolerance" and "social justice," people are being systematically excluded from online conversation.

In recent times, however, the censorship hasn't only been limited to online discussion-it has spread to commerce as well. Companies and banks are now using someone's exercise of his or her free speech rights as a pretext to close accounts and prevent that person from engaging in commerce.

I recently posted a tweet in defense of conservative journalist Laura Loomer, saying: "The banning of Laura Loomer from Twitter, Venmo, PayPal, Uber, Lyft, Uber Eats, and Teespring should be illegal. In a The outcry would be free nation, no person or company should have the power to block people from speech and commerce, simply because they disagree w/ their politics."

Immediately, the post received comments from people (predictably) stating that private companies are allowed to refuse service to anyone. Despite the fact that many of the companies engaged in this behavior are public (and social-media sites, specifically, are operating spaces for public speech and discourse), this goes beyond the issue of companies being able to refuse service. It's about the United States creeping toward an authoritarian system that can prevent any person from participating in commerce, simply for "wrongthink."

"PayPal banned me. That was 90 percent

of my income," Loomer told me via telephone. "I can't monetize my website."

I learned how easy it is for these companies to shut you out of modern life, as there are some places and merchants that only allow the use of a single payment platform, such as PayPal. So, if you're banned, you can't just go to a competitor-there is no other option. We've now seen an evolution from monopolistic social-media companies autonomously defining and self-regulating acceptable speech, to unelected, unaccountable individuals at companies that run digital payment systems determining who is allowed to buy or sell on the basis of whether or not they agree with your politics.

Imagine if conservatives banned supporters of Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) from taking rideshare services to her campaign events. Imagine if grinning, MAGA-hat wearing Trump supporters prevented fans of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) from not only sharing her bad policy ideas on social media, but making political donations via credit card or by any electronic means. Imagine The Heritage Foundation lobbying

to have CNN White House correspondent Jim

Acosta's bank accounts closed. The outcry

would be deafening.

#### Imagine The Heritage Foundation lobbying to have Jim Acosta's bank accounts closed deafening.

Yet, these types of attacks have been happening against conservatives and no one really seems to care.

It was recently reported that JPMorgan Chase suspended "Enrique Tarrio, the black leader of the Proud Boys, a group that has laughably been branded a white supremacist organization by liberals," along with Loomer and Martina Markota–over politics.

It happened again in April 2018, when New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli urged credit card and banking companies to stop the processing of payments for firearms-be-

cause of his own anti-Second Amendmen beliefs.

Officials clearly have no problem circum venting legal procedures, and by reaching out to Visa, American Express, Mastercard, Bank of America, and JPMorgan Chase, they showed their willingness to resort to extraconstitutional tactics to punish law-abiding

Americans who have committed no crime. In another example, Visa and Mastercard blocked the David Horowitz Freedom Center (a conservative organization) from receiving donations. The ban was based on a complaint from the Southern Poverty Law Center, a group that actively works to have conservatives censored and de-platformed. After two days of meetings with attorneys, the bans were reversed.

Reacting to the news, one user in the Daily Wire comments section wrote: "Surely these things must start falling under antitrust. When the public platform is now the internet, and all monetary transactions are done by two credit card companies worldwide; there in no way should be 15 or 20 unelected zealots on the US coast that can unilaterally dictate that entire organizations and individuals be completely moved from the public space."

#### **A Dystopian Future**

This may not seem like an urgent matter, with multiple payment options and cash still being used in roughly half of small transactions and 30 percent of all payments.

But banks and governments have been incrementally pushing the world toward a cashless monetary system. Should such a system materialize, politicians such as Di-Napoli and political activists-working handin-hand with financial companies-will have the ability to prevent anyone they don't like from being able to purchase food, goods, and services, or even to travel

And this danger is closer than you may think. The digital control grid of China recently blocked 23 million people from purchasing travel tickets, simply because it deemed their behavior unacceptable.

"If a 'cashless' government becomes authoritarian, it can not only monitor and tax everything you buy, but also ban purchases," wrote Lowell Ponte on American Thinker. "This authoritarian step-by-step plan makes people depend on credit cards and on renting things instead of owning them. Then it outlaws cash as something only outlaws use. The government can control what people are permitted to buy by regulating and intimi-

dating banks and credit card companies." Many of the comments on Loomer's situation focus on social-media bans and whether or not a company can interdict free speech. Few have weighed in on the ethics and efficacy of denving someone access to our economic system because some anonymous person doesn't like what they post.

These bans on conservatives seem like a test run to record just what sort of appetite the United States has for such a system.

#### The Ultimate Goal

The ultimate goal for these so-called "elites" is to regulate people's thoughts and actions. Control is the "why." Censorship is the "how." These efforts should be rejected by everyone in the United States, especially those

taking the brunt of the force right now. "Conservatives with power need to stop mumbling platitudes about the free market and capitalism while their supporters are being stomped into the ground," said John Hawkins in an op-ed. "They need to defend the real human beings, warts and all, who make it possible for conservatism to exist."

Censorship is when one manner of thinking is banned and replaced by another. In this way, censorship is not simply its own form of speech, but also a type of conditioning. These policies are designed to modify human behavior through force, coercion, and duplicity.

Tech giants are behaving in an increasingly Orwellian fashion, acting as their own Ministry of Truth to erase from the public record those with whom they disagree, in a bid to reshape history and fabricate a world they desire.

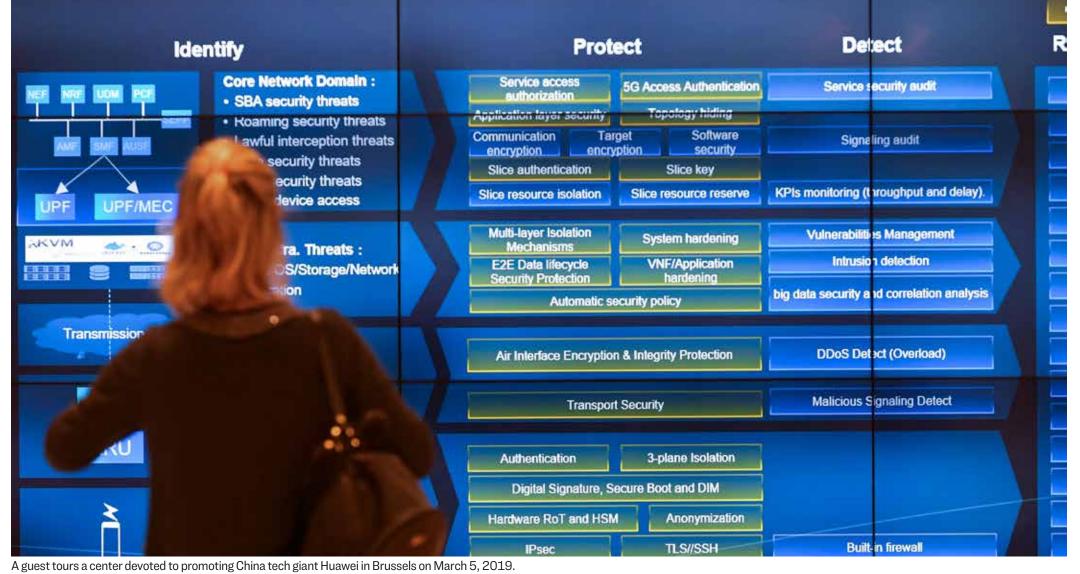
"Thought crime," "doublespeak," and "memory hole" are no longer just concepts from George Orwell's book "Nineteen Eighty-Four"; they now have real-world applications. It's as if the book were a blueprint, rather than a warning.

Adrian Norman is a writer and political commentator.

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

# THE Second Secon

### Huawei Provides Comprehensive Features for 5G



#### 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

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 from 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?

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.

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 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?

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 5Gwireless 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 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-

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

Since 5G will be both groundbased 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-

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-tomachine 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.