

In the NEWS

TAIWAN

is a painful reminder to the Chinese Communist Party that its leadership is not the sole path to economic development, writes columnist James Gorrie. But with the CCP seeking to control every aspect of Chinese life, what will become of the renegade province?

OPINION | A10

NEW DATA

is pointing to better days for the Hispanic-American population as poverty rates hit a record low.

US | A9

MADURO

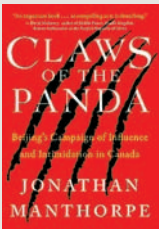
is getting desperate, according to Venezuelan government sources who say that the socialist dictator is raiding the nation's central bank for gold in the face of tightening sanctions.

WORLD | A8

American UNIVERSITIES

will need to be upholding free speech on their campuses if they want access to the \$30 billion annually available in federal funding, says U.S. President Donald Trump.

US | A8



Author of 'CLAWS OF THE PANDA':

Beijing's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in China' says that romanticising China while it remains a communist country is playing into the regime's hands as it continues an ongoing campaign of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of Chinese diaspora.

CHINA | A4

Even after MEDIA SCRUTINY

alleged that the FDA was purchasing fetal tissue from aborted babies for research, the department has signed another contract to ensure its tissue supply continues. It says its procurement process is under review.

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REUTERS/KIM KYUNG-HOON

Canadian businessman Michael Spavor at Beijing Capital International Airport on Jan. 13, 2014. Spavor has been accused by the Chinese regime of stealing state secrets.

CANADA

China Accuses Detained Canadians of Stealing State Secrets

Canada had just agreed to a U.S. extradition request for Huawei's CFO Meng Wanzhou

MARGARET WOLLENSAK

TORONTO—China has accused detained Canadian citizens Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor of acting together to steal state secrets, an announcement that comes just days after Canada said it will proceed with a U.S. extradition request against a Huawei executive.

In a statement online, the Chinese Communist Party's Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission (PLAC) accused Spavor of passing on intelligence to Kovrig. They allege Kovrig used a regular passport and business visas to enter China for "stealing and spying on sensitive Chinese information and intelligence via a contact in China."

They allege that Spavor was Kovrig's main contact, and provided him with intelligence—linking their cases for the first time. The information was published by PLAC and two state-run media.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he is very concerned about China's accusations and reiterated that the two men have been detained "arbitrarily."

Canada continues to call for the immediate release of Spavor and Kovrig, Global Affairs Canada spokesperson Guillaume Bérubé said in an email. Speaking today with reporters in Charlottetown, P.E.I., Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he is very concerned about China's accusations and reiterated that the two men have been detained "arbitrarily."

"It is unfortunate that China continues to move forward on these arbitrary detentions," Trudeau said. "We will continue to stand up for these Canadians."

Chinese authorities detained the two Canadians in early December 2018, shortly after Canada's arrest of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, who faces allegations of fraud in the United States.

Spavor is a businessman who has worked extensively in North Korea. A former Canadian diplomat, Kovrig works for the International Crisis Group, a think tank that

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NORTH KOREA

Trump's North Korea Move Sends Strong Message to China

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump's decision to walk away from the summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un without a deal sent a clear message to Beijing that he has a strong card to play in trade talks.

Trump met the North Korean leader for a second summit last week, in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, where both sides failed to reach a deal on denuclearization because of a dispute over lifting economic sanctions in exchange for partial steps toward denuclearization.

"I am always prepared to walk," Trump said on Feb. 28 at a press conference in Hanoi. "I'm never afraid to walk from a deal. And I would do that with China, too, if it didn't work out."

Gordon Chang, an expert on China and North Korea, told Fox News that when Trump walked away in Hanoi, he showed Beijing he wasn't afraid to leave a bad deal. "I think China has to reassess their approach to trade talks," Chang said.

Trump announced in February that he would meet with Chinese

leader Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago in hopes of finalizing a trade deal. Washington and Beijing are now discussing a late March meeting.

On Feb. 24, Trump announced in a tweet that he held off implementing a planned tariff increase on hundreds of billions of dollars in Chinese imports, due to the progress made in the last round of trade talks in Washington.

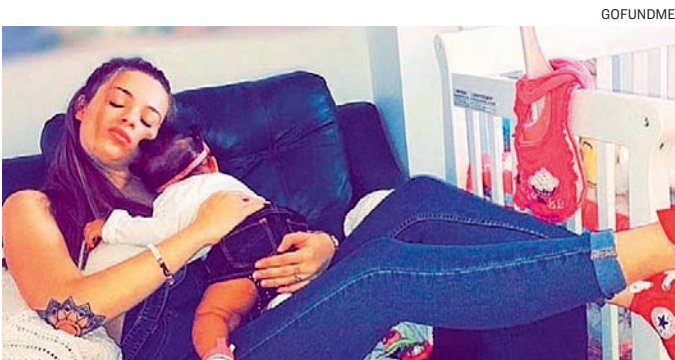
He said that the United States had made "substantial progress" in negotiations with China on important structural issues, including protection of intellectual property and an end to forced technology transfers.

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SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump shakes hands with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un before a meeting in Hanoi on Feb. 27.



GOFUNDME

AUSTRALIA

Australia Is Rejecting Visa Applications From Known Domestic Violence Offenders

RICHARD SZABO

Foreign visa applicants found guilty of domestic violence in any country will be refused entry at the border due to new rules introduced by the Australian government.

The federal government issued a Ministerial Direction in December 2018 to visa decision-makers under s499 of the Migration Act 1958, meaning anyone known to be convicted of violent crimes against women and children in any part of the

world will not be allowed to enter Australia.

The government used the changes, which took effect on Feb. 28, 2019, to warn domestic violence perpetrators they are no longer welcome in Australia, regardless of the country in which they committed the offence or what sentence was handed down.

"Australia has no tolerance for perpetrators of violence against women and children," Federal Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, Peter Dutton, said.

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EUROPEAN UNION

Brexit Could Leave UK Open to 'Interference' From China

JOHN SMITHIES

LONDON—The United Kingdom may be targeted by the Chinese communist regime following Brexit as part of a "divide and rule" strategy, a leading think tank has warned.

According to the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), the UK is a particularly attractive target for the Chinese regime because of its membership on the U.N. Security Council and its geopolitical standing. It's also home to almost 100,000 Chinese students—more than the rest of Europe combined.

"The UK's departure from the EU may increase the CCP's desire to interfere, as it seeks to implement further a 'divide and rule' strategy, aimed at imposing its global vision and promoting its interests," the think tank warned.

"Certain European countries, worried about Chinese investment, may resist unity," a recent report from RUSI says, "but major allies remain concerned about

Continued on A4



WANG ZHAO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party's Political Consultative Conference delivers report in Beijing on March 3

CHINA

Chinese Regime Sets 'Wartime' Measures Ahead of Major Political Meeting

NICOLE HAO

The Chinese regime has drastically tightened security around the country, placing parts of China under "wartime" security measures, as the biggest event on the regime's calendar kicks off this week in Beijing.

For the next two weeks, the annual "two sessions" will be held in Beijing. That is, the meeting of

Continued on A4

US

Trump Calls New House Probe a 'Political Hoax'

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

President Donald Trump called a new investigation into his conduct by Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee a "political hoax" on March 4, while saying he will cooperate with a document request from committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.).

"I cooperate all the time with everybody. You know the beautiful thing—no collusion. It's all a hoax," Trump said at the White House, while hosting the 2018 Division I Football Championship Subdivision champion North Dakota State University Bison.

[epoch\_video]https://www.youtube.com/assets/player/ed186f46-5385-42bf-7266-bb850fa67e0f?r=16x9&s=1920x1080&d=52[/epoch\_video]

"You're going to learn about that as you grow older," Trump said as several football players chuckled. "It's a political hoax. There's no collusion."

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# Millennials Beware of the Dead Hand of Socialism Says Aussie Writer

RICHARD SZABO

A well-known Australian writer has warned young people about the perils of preferring socialism to capitalism in response to a recent survey showing millennials are mostly positive about that style of government.

News Limited columnist Chris Mitchell cautioned the millennial generation, born between the years 1980 and 2000, against having false illusions about the realities of life in a socialist system.

“Millennials need to be careful what they wish for lest they discover how hard life was without the growth neo-liberalism has generated,” he said in an opinion piece published in *The Australian*, on March 4. “They could try to find out why Scandinavians have abandoned the dead hand of state socialism ... and they could ponder how their grandparents and great grandparents coped as young people with two world wars, the Great Depression, the Korean and Vietnam wars.”

Mitchell made the remark in response to an opinion piece penned by Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) Director Tom Switzer who was unhappy about mainstream media ignoring a June 2018 report, expressing concern about most millennials having a favourable view of socialism as an ideology.

He claimed less than a third of millennials surveyed knew Australia spends a lot more on health and education than 10 years ago and more than half falsely believed spending on these two sectors has fallen.

“An even greater percentage believe workers are worse off now than they were 40 years ago,” Switzer said in a public statement. “This fundamental misunderstanding of Australia’s economic and fiscal position is deeply concerning.”

The CIS/YouGov Galaxy poll found 73 percent of millennials had heard of Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler but only 21 percent knew about Chinese Communist Party founder Mao Zedong.

**Adding Socialism to Curriculum**

Switzer suggested adding the history of communism and socialism to state educational curriculum could help address the lack of public awareness, which seems to be prompting millennials to think socialism is not so bad after all.

“Millennials have a limited knowledge of the 20th century’s bloody and botched experiments with socialism,” Switzer said. “It is important to educate people on its brutal history, in order that socialism’s flawed promises of wealth redistribution and equality are not confused with its horrific practical shortcomings ... communism and socialism were responsible

for the deaths of up to 100 million people in the 20th century—as many as both world war combined.”

Mitchell supports Switzer’s view that better education would help remove any false views people may have about the realities of socialism.

“To my mind, favourable attitudes to socialism among the young reflect the dominance of left-wing thought in school education,” he said. “Rigorous education, hard work, saving, and personal responsibility rather than government-imposed socialism lifted them from poverty.”

He accuses leftist supporters, including teacher union officials, teacher educators, and politicians, of propagating the left’s social agenda through the education system.

He gave the example of former Victorian Premier Joan Kirner, and minister of education, who admitted “education has to be reshaped so it is part of the socialist struggle for equality ... rather than an instrument of the capitalist system.”

Mitchell also pointed to former Griffith University lecturer in the school of education Gregory Martin’s comment that a “major task for leftist academics is ... to connect education with community struggles for social justice.”

Since there has been such severe influencing of the education system Mitchell believes it will take a lot of work before the system can return to how it used to be. He referred to former Australian Education Union federal President Pat Byrne’s 2005 comment, “We have succeeded in influencing curriculum develop-

“ Millennials have a limited knowledge of the 20th century’s bloody and botched experiments with socialism

Tom Switzer, Director of the Centre for Independent Studies

ment ... conservatives have a lot of work to do to undo the progressive curriculum.”

Mitchell questioned the necessity of teaching techniques of literary deconstruction in primary and high schools and suggested they could instead be reserved for university literature courses. “[This is because] texts must be analysed in terms of their role in reinforcing capitalist hegemony over the disempowered and disadvantaged, such as women, migrants and the poor,” according to Australian Catholic University senior research fellow Kevin Donnelly.

Former federal Minister for Education David Kemp separately complained the national curriculum placed too much emphasis on Aboriginal history and spirituality and not enough on Western civilisation and traditional economic and personal liberalism, which “received almost no mention in the Australian National Curriculum” said his new book, “The Land of Dreams: How Australians Won Their Freedom.”

“Teachers and educators rightly say the world is changing, old curricula derived from the UK no longer take account of the increasing importance of East Asia, and that in an age swamped by mass media children need to be taught how to think for themselves rather than what to think,” Mitchell said.

“All true, but the best education systems privilege traditional rigour and the role of teachers. International studies confirm this and point to Singapore, Japan, Finland and Shanghai for their success, while Australian students slip on international comparisons.”



Students at Sydney University's campus in Australia, on April 6, 2016.

## Australia Is Rejecting Visa Applications From Domestic Violence Offenders

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zanship and Multicultural Affairs David Coleman said in a public statement. “The message is clear: if you’ve been convicted of a violent crime against women or children, you are not welcome in this country, wherever the offence occurred, whatever the sentence.”

The new direction gives decision-makers from the federal Department of Home Affairs and Administrative Appeals Tribunal the power to stop someone from entering Australia, especially while considering whether to revoke a mandatory cancellation of a visa, or just to cancel or refuse to grant a visa under the Migration Act.

“This means when considering a case, the decision-maker or AAT member must consider all crimes against woman and children as serious and abhorrent crimes, regardless of the length of sentence imposed by the courts,” the statement said. “The direction further specifies that in these circumstances, individuals should generally expect to be denied the privilege of coming to, or to forfeit the privilege of staying in Australia.”

The tighter rules come after the government introduced mandatory cancellation powers in s501 of the Migration Act, which require a person’s visa to be cancelled if they have been sentenced to 12 months or more in prison.

Coleman said the government is now considering more ways it can lower domestic violence-related crime.

“By cancelling the visas of criminals, we have made Australia a safer place,” he said. “These crimes inflict long-lasting trauma on the victims and their friends and family, and foreign criminals who commit them are not welcome in our country.”

In the five years between 2009 and 2013, the left-leaning Labor government cancelled



Australian Minister for Immigration David Coleman (L) with Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove (R) in Canberra, Australia, on August 29, 2018.

582 visas under character provisions in the Migration Act. Since 2014 the centre-right Liberal Coalition government has cancelled more than 4,150 visas of foreign criminals—seven times more than the previous period.

In February, Prime Minister Scott Morrison promised a \$60 million (US\$42.5 million) grants program for eligible organisations to provide new or expanded emergency accommodation for people experiencing domestic and family violence. Morrison also promised \$18 million (US\$12.8 million) to construct up to 450 safe places and help up to 6,500 people a year through the existing Keeping Women Safe in their Homes program.

According to the government, the program has helped more than 5,200 women since 2015-16, providing security upgrades and safety planning so women and children can remain in their own homes if safe to do so.

In comparison, federal opposition leader Bill Shorten has promised to provide \$60 million (US\$42.5 million) in emergency funds to pay rent and buy furniture to Australians who are found to be fleeing domestic violence, if Labor wins the next federal general election in May.

Shorten promises the money will be used to pay for about 20,000 “flexible support packages” for up to four years, which will help women who no longer have a safe place to live provide a safe home for their children and themselves while they attempt to resolve the family issues. The packages will also be available to youth, temporary visa holders, and more.

“These packages are about helping people keep their life together in the most difficult of circumstances,” Shorten said in a public statement to the Australian Associated Press. “[They’re about] keeping the kids in the school they know, keeping the family doctor, being able to stay in work and study.”

Shorten’s package has used Victoria as its model, where flexible support packages have been offered since 2016. Since July 2018, the Victorian government has spent \$64 million on more than 19,000 packages and it has plans to expand the program even further.

## Rising Spending in QLD Casts Spotlight on Impact of Big Government

RICHARD SZABO

There are fresh concerns a growing bureaucracy is causing government spending to jump, according to the latest data from an independent examination of Queensland’s public sector.

State government spending jumped by 17.6 percent to \$67.1 billion in the 2017-18 period, according to the latest financial audit from the Queensland Audit Office.

Half of the \$3 billion increase is due to the estimated \$1.5 billion net cost of holding the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games back in April. The remainder was spent on a combination of implementing the \$494.6 million National Redress Scheme, which aims to assist those who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse, as well as a 6.6 percent increase in employee expenses to \$22.7 billion.

“Health, social protection, recreation and culture, and education reported the largest increases in spending this year,” the report on the audit said. “Health and education continue to be the sectors with the highest portion, [representing a] combined 45 percent of total state expenses.”

Employee numbers in health and education administration have also increased 3.3 percent to 249,525 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) in the five years starting from 2014.

“The number of FTEs has grown by 27,745—an increase of 12.7 percent,” the report said. “These increases have mostly occurred in the health and education sectors.”

The rapid growth in employee numbers has prompted the state government to introduce a limited increase in full-time employment to the same 1.75 percent rate of population growth.

“This year FTEs grew by 3.18 per cent, and the state expects that employee growth will be contained to population growth of 1.75 per cent over the forward estimates (the three-year period

from 2018–19 to 2021–22),” the report said.

In addition to this, employee wages rose 3.3 percent compared to the previous year, with the average FTE earning between \$88,664 and \$99,197 in the past five years.

The expense blow-out absorbed the \$1.75 billion surplus the government achieved through increasing tax, grants, interest income, and royalties.

“The government earned more than it incurred in expenses, this is the fifth consecutive year in which the general government sector reported a surplus,” the report said. “Royalty revenue, driven by higher than expected coal prices, and higher than forecast dividends and taxes from increased profitability in government-owned corporations in the electricity sector both contributed to the higher than expected result.”

According to the report, taxes, grant revenue and the sale of goods and services comprise up to 82 percent of the government’s overall revenue and federal government grants and royalties “can be influenced by factors outside of the state government’s economic policies and pricing.”

Revenue from transactions increased by 3.4 percent to \$58.1 billion in the general state government sector. The Queensland economy grew by 2.6 percent in the period, bringing higher state-based tax revenue and royalties.

Centre-right Liberal shadow treasurer Tim Mander warns ordinary Queenslanders are paying for the left-leaning Labor Party’s “out of control spending.”

“[They] have been hit with an extra \$2.2 billion in taxes this year, plus higher charges like rego,” he told Fairfax Media.

A number of government departments have also been restructured following the November 2017 state general election, resulting in \$10.83 billion in net assets being transferred between departments.



# Uzbek Official Confirms Taliban Talks

CHRISTOPHER C. HULL

Uzbekistan’s ambassador to the United States, Javlon Vakhobov, confirmed his government “had very substantive talks” with a Taliban delegation visiting his nation last August, reportedly to discuss the Afghanistan peace process and withdrawal of foreign forces.

The Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamic dictatorship, held control of Afghanistan for the five years leading up to the al-Qaida attack against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, until a U.S.-led coalition ousted them from power in response, and has battled them ever since.

Vakhobov’s remarks come as U.S. and Taliban negotiators had their highest-level meetings yet in their drive for a peace agreement in America’s longest war.

Asked what Uzbekistan was doing to prepare for the eventuality that the current Afghan government may not survive, Vakhobov reiterated the Uzbek government is focused on “figuring out” two issues: economic support for war-torn Afghanistan, and the ongoing peace process there.

In March 2018, the ambassador noted that the Uzbeks hosted a conference in Tashkent attended by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas A. Shannon Jr.

The Tashkent conference followed a Kabul confab, at which Afghan President Ashraf Ghani laid out a potential process for ending the conflict.

In Tashkent, Shannon noted that “It is the violence of the Taliban that creates the instability that enables these terrorist groups to continue operating in Afghanistan,” saying the United States and its allies were “fully committed to ensuring that the Afghan government has the capabilities to deny the Taliban any military path to victory.”

Conference participants, Shannon said, could help by “prevent[ing] materiel, financial, or political support to the Taliban.”

The United States sought “a negotiated settlement that leads the Taliban to stop violence, break ties with all terrorist groups, and respect the Afghan constitution, including its protections for women and minorities,” according to Shannon.

Vakhobov argued the main goal of the Tashkent conference was to develop the “key principles for peace” in Afghanistan.

In July, following Tashkent, Americans expressed willingness to meet directly with the Taliban about ending the conflict, jettisoning a prior commitment such talks would include the current Afghan government.

Soon thereafter, a Taliban official revealed such a meeting had taken place in Taliban-allied Qatar with Alice Wells, Washington’s top diplomat for South Asia.

Taliban officials also held three days of talks with the U.S. special representative for Afghanistan in Qatar, Zalmay Khalilzad, in November. A prior report from The Wall Street Journal suggested it was the second meeting in the preceding four months.

Those talks included Khairullah Khairkhwa, the former Taliban autocrat of the western Afghan city of Herat, and Mohammad Fazel, a former Taliban militant leader.



Afghan security forces patrol the town of Farah, after having driven the Taliban out, on May 19, 2018.

“  
The lesson is:  
Don’t cut out  
your allies.

Stephen B. Young, official,  
Office of Civil Operations  
and Rural Development  
Support

Both Taliban figures were among the five that the Obama administration released from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2014 in exchange for U.S. deserter Bowe Bergdahl.

Last month, the Uzbek Foreign Minister reiterated an offer to host talks between Afghan government officials and Taliban negotiators.

Finally, on Feb. 25, U.S. officials began the highest-level talks yet with the Taliban, including with the jihadi organization’s deputy leader, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. Prior talks stalled when Taliban representatives said they didn’t have the authority to discuss either a ceasefire or participation of the current Afghan government, both supposedly U.S. prerequisites for a deal.

Yet direct talks with the Taliban continue over Afghan objections.

According to professor Stephen B. Young, a Vietnam War-era official in the Office of Civil Operations and Rural Development Support, Americans negotiating with the Taliban “behind the backs of our allies” echoes the exclusion of South Vietnamese forces from the disastrous deal then-Nixon National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger struck with the Communist regime in Hanoi.

Young argues, “Kissinger had implied in his

memoirs ... Nixon did all this stuff.” But Young, who approached Nixon with what he had learned about Kissinger’s diplomacy based on a review of raw cables from the time, reports that Nixon “looked surprised—maybe even a little bit shocked.”

Nixon said, “No, I don’t remember any of this,” Young recalls, saying, “His face went grey.”

With respect to current negotiations with the Taliban, Young concludes, “The lesson is: Don’t cut out your allies. ... If you cut your allies out against a determined ideological ally, you have basically turned against your country.”

Vakhobov stressed that his government’s talks with the Taliban took place after having consulted with and gained the approval of both Washington and the regime in Kabul.

“In this regard, Uzbek government endeavors are fully supported by the U.S. government—even supported by very our tough neighbors,” the Pakistanis and Iranians, whom Vakhobov reported were “very supportive.”

The Uzbek ambassador addressed a private luncheon at the offices of the World Trade Center of Washington in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on Feb. 19.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP



Michael Kovrig, a former Canadian diplomat, has been accused by the Chinese regime of stealing state secrets.

## China Accuses Detained Canadians of Stealing State Secrets

CONTINUED FROM A1

focuses on conflict resolution. He has denied any involvement in espionage.

“Michael’s work for Crisis Group has been entirely transparent and in the open, as all who follow his work can attest,” said Crisis Group spokesperson Karim Lebour. “Vague and unsubstantiated accusations against him are unwarranted and unfair.”

Canadian consular officials in China have been allowed to see the men at least four times each since their detention began. However, sources familiar with the case have said the men haven’t been allowed access to lawyers or family members. Kovrig is reportedly undergoing multiple interrogation sessions throughout the day, and is kept in a cell in which the lights are kept on at all times, making it difficult for him to sleep. Fewer details are known about Spavor’s conditions in custody.

Beijing’s detention of the two Canadians is widely regarded as an attempt by the regime to pressure Canada over Meng’s case.

The regime has repeatedly demanded that Meng be released. Its foreign ministry reacted angrily last

week when the Canadian government approved an extradition hearing for Meng, calling her detention “a serious political incident.”

David Mulroney, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said the allegations against Kovrig and Spavor are a response to Meng’s extradition hearing being approved.

“Every step in the process will be matched by a step by China. The desire is to raise the pressure to extent that we simply give in,” Mulroney told the Associated Press.

Canadian authorities arrested Meng at the request of the United States on Dec. 1, 2018, as she was changing planes in Vancouver. U.S. authorities have filed charges against both Meng and telecom giant Huawei; Meng is accused of bank and wire fraud that violated U.S. sanctions against Iran.

Meng, who is currently under house arrest after being freed on bail, denies the charges against her. She has filed a civil lawsuit against the Canadian government, the Canada Border Services Agency, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Reuters contributed to this article.

## Venezuela Removed 8 Tons of Central Bank Gold Last Month

Venezuela’s central bank removed at least 8 tons of gold from their vaults last week, multiple sources told Reuters.

The gold was removed between Feb. 20 and Feb. 22 using government vehicles when no security guards were present, legislator Angel Alvarado and three other government sources said. The removal is the latest attempt by illegitimate leader Nicolás Maduro to raise hard currency amid tightening sanctions and is an indication that the embattled dictator is getting desperate.

“They plan to sell it abroad illegally,” Alvarado said.

Alvarado and the government sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, didn’t say where the central bank was transporting the gold. They said the operation took place while central bank head Calixto Ortega was on a trip abroad.

Maduro’s regime has resorted to selling off gold after falling oil production, the country’s wider economic collapse, and mounting sanctions hit public income and made it hard for the country to access credit. Global pressure for socialist dictator Maduro to step down continues to mount.

The once-oil-rich nation has been crippled by the socialist policies implemented by Maduro and his predecessor, Hugo Chavez.

Almost 90 percent of Venezuela’s population live below the poverty line and more than half of families are unable to meet their basic food needs, according to NGO Mercy Corps.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has warned bankers and traders not to deal in Venezuelan gold. President Donald Trump was the first world leader to recognize Juan Guaidó as interim president after the Venezuelan National Assembly declared Maduro as “illegitimate.”

Trump said in a landmark speech in Florida that the United States is aware of the whereabouts of wealth hidden abroad by Venezuelan military officials and their families. Venezuelan military officials have a choice, Trump said Feb. 18: work toward democracy for the future of their families or stand to lose their wealth. He warned Maduro’s backers not to continue to back the dictator.

“If you choose this path,” Trump said, “you will find no safe harbor, no easy exit, and no way out. You will lose everything.”

In 2018, 23 tons of mined gold was transported from Venezuela to Istanbul by plane, according to sources and Turkish government data.

Reuters contributed to this report



A Colombian soldier patrols Colombian border with Venezuela on Feb. 26, 2019.



# Canada’s Naivety on China Could End Five Eyes Network, Warns Author

RAHUL VAIDYANATH

OTTAWA—Canada’s highly romanticized belief that China’s ruling communist regime can be reformed has not served it well. That’s one of the many take-aways from Jonathan Manthorpe’s book “Claws of the Panda: Beijing’s Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in China.”

At its national book launch hosted by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute public policy think tank on Feb. 26, the journalist of 40 years explained that Canadians—politicians, business people, and ordinary citizens alike—need to understand that the rule of law does not apply in China; the rule of law is a threat to the one-party state.

“Canada is never going to change China,” wrote Manthorpe. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s progressive agenda including gender equality and environmental reforms went over like a lead balloon in his Nov. 2017 visit.

Canada should continue to engage China, but it could be steamrolled if it doesn’t rework its approach, says Manthorpe. The problematic belief that Canada could change China with Canadian values remains deeply embedded even today.

Relations

Canada became one of the first western countries to establish diplomatic relations with communist China when former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau visited in 1970. His son has maintained that connection, naming one of the regime’s most vocal supporters, Peter Harder, former president of the Canada China Business Council, as the government representative in the Senate.

Decades later, concerns of intellectual property theft have plagued Canada’s academic and business relations with China.

China’s technological revolution has relied heavily on acquiring foreign technologies. Nortel’s demise roughly coincided with Huawei’s ascension. Brian Shields, a former senior security adviser at Nortel, previously told NTD Television that sophisticated and persistent hacking from Chinese state actors was a major factor in Nortel’s fall.

Manthorpe doubts Canada can have anything more than a basic WTO trade relationship with China. When new initiatives are put forward, he hopes the first question Canadians will ask is: “What benefit to Canada and Canadians can we honestly, realistically expect from the deal?”

There is very little common ground—global diplomacy, civic values, mutual security agreements—between Canada and China compared to other Asian countries like Japan and South Korea.

“Our relations with the PRC [People’s Republic of China] are based solely on trade so when things go wrong, we have no other buffers in the relationships,” he said.

Beijing has dangled access to the massive Chinese market to eager Canadian businesses for decades but Manthorpe pointed out it is not a market of 1.3 billion. It is actually many much smaller markets of 50 million—one example of how business people struggle to understand the politics and culture of China.

**Huawei’s Challenge**

Manthorpe said the recent arrest of Huawei’s CFO and Beijing’s subsequent detention of two Canadians and sentencing of a third to death “exposed the fundamental incompatibility of our values.” It is a critical time for the Sino-Canadian relationship.

Canada has a decision to make regarding Huawei and the construction of 5G infrastructure. But, as it relates to Canada’s allies in the Five Eyes network, “it’s a pretty important moment in the history of shared intelligence,” Manthorpe said.

If Canada concurs with Great Britain that the

“Our relations with the PRC are based solely on trade so when things go wrong, we have no other buffers in the relationships.”

Jonathan Manthorpe, Author of ‘Claws of the Panda: Beijing’s Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in China’



Journalist and author Jonathan Manthorpe at the national launch of his book “Claws of the Panda” hosted by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute in Ottawa on Feb. 26, 2019.

Huawei risk is manageable—as opposed to the United States, Australia, and New Zealand—then it could mean the end of the Five Eyes, says Manthorpe. The United States could stop sharing sensitive information with Canada.

“Will politicians decide keeping Five Eyes is more important than getting cheap switches from Huawei?” he asked.

**‘Demonstration of Anxiety’**

Beijing is trying to create political legitimacy while maintaining the solid appearance of an authoritarian state. But such regimes are not as solid as they appear, says Manthorpe.

“They are brittle—you never know when a tap in the right place will make them collapse,” Manthorpe said.

With Chinese president Xi Jinping’s anti-corruption drive, huge amounts of capital are flowing out of China. Canada is one place it is settling. Manthorpe said Canada should examine why that is.

“We’re importing corruption,” he said. Canada has no publicly available registries of beneficial owners (true owners) of properties and companies.

Campaign of Intimidation

The book identifies five “poisonous groups” that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aims to terrorize and silence: Tibetans, Uyghurs of the Xinjiang autonomous region, Taiwan, democracy protestors, and practitioners of the Falun Gong meditation discipline.

Terror comes in the form of harassing phone calls, hate propaganda, monitoring, intimidation, and bullying of those Canadians visiting China with ties to these groups.

Anastasia Lin, who spoke at Manthorpe’s book launch, was a victim of this harassment. She was born in China and lived there for 13 years before coming to Canada. After her emigration she realized she had been indoctrinated all her life.

“I was raised in a dictatorship country—our values, the true human spirit was stifled,” she said.

Lin was chosen as Miss World Canada in 2015 and brought to light the human rights violations in her native country. As a result, her father in China was threatened.

As Lin has travelled the world raising the issue of human rights in China, she has met many Chinese who conform to the CCP’s will so that their families in China will be safe. Her story provides a typical example, says Manthorpe, of how the CCP tries to silence dissident voices in Canada.

## Chinese Regime Sets ‘Wartime’ Measures Ahead of Major Political Meeting

GREG BAKER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

CONTINUED FROM A1

the regime’s rubber-stamp legislature, the National People’s Congress (NPC), and its political advisory body, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

Almost 3,000 delegates of the NPC, whose roles are mainly ceremonial, are expected to ratify legislation, all of which have been pre-approved by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Every year, the party machine initiates heavy restrictions around China, in particular in Beijing, to stamp out dissent and maintain social control while the meetings take place. This year, however, these measures have been upgraded.

‘Wartime’ Restrictions

Taiwan’s Central News Agency on Feb. 26 published a copy of a notice of CCP Political and Legal Affairs Commission of Yingyang City, in central China’s Henan Province, ordering the city to enter “wartime mechanisms” during the period of the two sessions.

The notice ordered police to increase surveillance and control measures and to provide daily reports of their actions.

Travelers to Beijing have also been subject to extra security checks.

Party mouthpiece Xinhua reported that all the passengers on trains going to or passing through Beijing from Feb. 26 to March 17 must go through two rounds of security checks before boarding the train. They’re also subject to another security sweep after they disembark the train in Beijing.

The state postal service also initiated double- and triple-checks on all letters and packages posted to Beijing during the meetings.

As with previous years, dissidents and petitioners in Beijing have been detained in extrajudicial detention centers, or forced to leave Beijing before the two sessions. The detained dissidents typically won’t be released until the meetings end.

Internet Throttled

As of March 2, Chinese online



Military delegates arrive to attend the opening session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 3, 2019.

users from several provinces started reporting on social media that the internet on their cellphones was throttled to 2G speeds.

“My internet was changed from 4G to 3G, and then 2G during the last few days. I really have nothing to say,” Zhang Liang, a Sichuan insurance agent posted on Weibo, China’s version of Twitter, on March 3.

Some netizens suggested that this was caused by a system run by police called “Electric Fence” or “Fake Base Station.”

According to users, this system intercepts cellphone communication with the 4G base station, so police can sweep all text messages, phone calls, browsing history, and other data stored on the phone. This causes a cellphone’s speed to decrease to 2G.

Delegates Sealed Off

The Hong Kong Economic Journal interviewed officials attending the two sessions on March 2, who said they and their staff aren’t allowed to bring their cellphones into the conference venues. For all emergency communication, participants can only use walkie-talkie radios.

Lu Tianming, a prominent pro-CCP writer, posted photos on Weibo of the hotel where Lianghui representatives were staying, which showed barbed

wire fencing. There was also a heavy police presence surrounding the site.

Lu’s post was soon deleted, but people took screenshots and shared them on many websites.

Lin Heli, a Hong Kong political commentator, told Hong Kong newspaper Apple Daily that all Lianghui participants were instructed to “keep silent,” and not speak to foreign media.

Chinese human-rights activist Hu Jia told Voice of America on March 1: “More than 1 million military, armed police, public security, national security, and social security forces have been deployed to protect a congress meeting.

“What kind of country ... has to expend this much of its own resources to hold a meeting? “But China does this every year. And it will arrange for stricter measures in special years [as with this year].”

The year 2019 is being treated as special by the CCP because it marks a number of controversial anniversaries. In the months ahead, it will be 30 years since the Tiananmen Square massacre, 20 years since the persecution of the spiritual practice Falun Gong began, 100 years since the May Fourth Movement, and 70 years since the CCP seized power in China.

## Brexit Could Leave UK Open to ‘Interference’ From China

CONTINUED FROM A1

interference,” adding that many fields rely on Chinese funding, making them reluctant to stand up to the Chinese regime.

It said the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had a “need to ensure UK compliance with its aims” and had targeted the UK for “interference.”

“The Chinese Communist Party sees controlling the narrative about China abroad as important for reinforcing its legitimacy and justifying its monopoly on domestic power,” the report says. “It is also important for advancing its geopolitical aims.”

Post-Brexit, RUSI urged the UK to be “clear about what it is dealing with” when trading with other countries that may have financial ties to Beijing.

Lawmaker Geraint Davies, who recently spoke out on the likelihood of Chinese interference in the wake of Brexit, said the balance of power would shift after the UK leaves the EU.

“By removing ourselves from the EU, the EU is weaker, and, obviously, we’re weaker alone,” he told NTD.

“So the balance of power will shift very much in favor of powers like China, and people need to be clear about whether that’s what they want.

“This Chinese discussion is part of a wider discussion around Brexit, but it is crucially important for Britain’s future,” he said.

Brazen Interference

The RUSI report said Chinese interference is often difficult to

detect but quite brazen, and encompasses fund for apparently independent think tanks and Confucius Institutes, which are embedded within local university campuses.

Other tactics used by Beijing include monitoring people who support the spiritual discipline, Falun Gong, which is heavily repressed in China.

RUSI cited one instance in Australia in which Chinese authorities were able to identify and threaten a student who had “merely been in the company of a friend who had signed a Falun Gong petition.”

Countering this interference requires finding a balance between “unproductive confrontation with Beijing” and “creating dangerous dependencies on economic benefits,” RUSI said.

It added that although the CCP may react negatively to publicity around its interference, it does tend to change its behavior.

“Its bluff should therefore be called, even if this causes short-term turbulence,” the report noted.

More concretely, the report said that the British government should map the extent to which the Chinese regime is already interfering in the UK. It also said that officials from countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States should meet to discuss CCP interference.

“In the longer term, an insistence on non-interference will earn respect and ensure a healthier, more mutually beneficial relationship,” the report said.

TOLGA AKMEN/REUTERS



The Union Flag and a European Union flag fly near the Elizabeth Tower in central London, Sept. 9, 2017.



STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

# China’s Chipmaking Ambitions Threaten Global Markets, Report Says

FRANK FANG

Semiconductor chips power everything from smartphones to missiles, and Beijing has already set a goal to become the global leader in the manufacturing of these chips.

But a new think tank report warns that the Chinese regime’s aggressive moves to achieve its ambitions are having a negative effect on global industries, and the impact will likely be further exacerbated if trends continued.

The report, published by Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on Feb. 27, was drafted by James Andrew Lewis, the think tank’s senior vice president and a former foreign service officer at the departments of State and Commerce.

“There is concern that if China achieved a dominant position in semiconductors, it might attempt to squeeze foreign competitors out of the market or use its lead as a coercive tool by denying or limiting sales,” Lewis wrote.

He explained how China’s actions are different from competition in the free market.

“While the efforts of Japan, Korea, and Taiwan raised competitiveness and trade concerns in the United States, they did not raise strategic or military concerns. These countries are partners. China is not,” he wrote.

Aside from the United States, those three Asian countries are the world’s semiconductor powerhouses. According to U.S.-based semiconductor research company IC Insights, the top 15 semiconductor sales leaders in the first half of 2018 comprised of seven U.S. companies, three European companies, two South Korean companies, two Taiwanese companies, and one Japanese company. South Korean tech conglomerate Samsung ranked first, followed by Intel.

According to the report, China currently only produces about 16 percent of its semiconductor needs, relying heavily on foreign imports. In 2017, China imported \$260 billion worth of semiconductors, more than its total value of crude oil imports, according to Reuters.

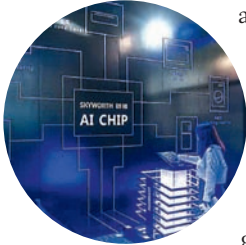
The report warns that if China succeeds in dominating world markets, “it will use it for intelligence, military, commercial, and political advantage by manipulating the semiconductor supply chains that Western economies and militaries depend upon.”

It gave the example of telecom giant Huawei as an indicator of what a state-backed semiconductor

“ [China] might attempt to squeeze foreign competitors out of the market or use its lead as a coercive tool by denying or limiting sales.

James Andrew Lewis, senior vice president, Center for Strategic and International Studies

A woman interacts with a presentation of an AI chip developed by Chinese chipmaker Skyworth during the Consumer Electronics Show Asia in Shanghai on June 13, 2018.



industry could do: having received subsidies and investments from Beijing, while using industrial espionage to steal know-how from Western tech firms (citing Cisco and Motorola as examples), Huawei flourished because it could make quality products at low costs.

Furthermore, the company benefits the Chinese regime; “access to telecommunications infrastructure can provide significant intelligence advantage,” the report stated.

### State-Led Approach

The Chinese regime announced its semiconductor ambitions early on. In June 2014, China’s State Council announced the “National Integrated Circuit Industry Development Guidelines,” which set up a central-level state fund to boost China’s IC (integrated circuit) industry, while encouraging regional governments to set up their own funds.

About a year later, Beijing announced its “Made in China 2025” plan, which set out the goal for China to fulfill 40 percent of its domestic semiconductor needs. By 2025, the goal was to increase the rate to 70 percent.

According to the report, China’s semiconductor industry is currently supported by over \$58 billion “in different kinds of central government semiconductor investment funds, and buttressed by pledges of another \$60 billion in 30 additional semiconductor funds created by local governments.”

Such subsidized expansion of China’s industry will

eventually squeeze out producers in other countries, as workers see their incomes shrink and their firms spend less on further research and development, the report predicts. Ultimately, that would “weaken the global industry and the pace of semiconductor innovation.”

### China Continues to Lag

But China’s semiconductor technology advancements are still very limited at the moment.

Of all the different kind of chips—logic, memory, sensors, power, signal, and analog—China has had success with making memory chips that store data, which require a less complicated manufacturing process. On the contrary, it isn’t capable of producing high-end logic chips, such as CPUs (central processing unit) that function as the main engine of computers.

China’s challenge is that it lacks “know-how,” or knowledge and skills built with years of experience, according to the report, despite the fact that 19 new semiconductor fabrication facilities (fabs) have been built since 2017. It’s precisely that disadvantage that has led China to try to acquire U.S. chip makers such as Lattice, Micron Technology, and Western Digital Corp.

In 2016, Unisplendour, a unit of China’s state-backed chipmaker Tsinghua Unigroup, attempted to acquire a 15 percent stake in U.S. manufacturer Western Digital, according to The Wall Street Journal. The Chinese company abandoned the plan after the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States decided to investigate the deal.

▲ A mobile phone chip by Chinese chip-maker Huawei during the AI World Conference & Expo in Shanghai on Sept. 17, 2018.

# Preschool Enrollment in China Falls, Indicating Effects of Low Birth Rate

NICOLE HAO

The gravity of China’s declining population was made apparent in recent official statistics.

The number of children enrolled in preschool in 2018 fell to 18.6 million, a roughly 3.8 percent decline from the prior year, according to recently published data from China’s Ministry of Education (MOE).

Meanwhile, the gross enrollment rate for preschool children rose 2.1 percent to a total of about 82 percent—meaning that the decline in actual numbers of enrolled children is likely because of fewer children being born.

As the country’s birth rate continues to fall, fewer school enrollments will be a continuing trend in the future, the MOE said at a press conference on Feb. 26.

Liu Changya, a director of development planning at MOE, explained that the annual number of children born has fluctuated in the past decade due to changes in the Chinese regime’s policies.

Until 2013, couples in China weren’t allowed to have more than one child. That year, the Chinese authorities loosened the rule and allowed couples to have two children.

The policy seemed to have a positive initial effect.

According to a Feb. 26 report by 21st Century Business Herald, China’s preschool enrollment rose to 19.4 million in 2017 from 19.2 million in 2016—as children who were born in the first year after the two-child policy began entering pre-school. But as the recent data shows, the bump in enrollment has dissipated.

According to World Bank data, China has the largest population in the world, at 1.386 billion in 2017. While that’s roughly 18 percent of the world’s population, but China’s declining fertility rate is expected to soon take its toll.

World Bank data shows that the fertility rate, measured as the number of children born per woman, was 1.62 in 2016, which ranked No. 162 among a list of 200 countries. By comparison, that year, the fertility rate in the United States was 1.8, and the world average was 2.44.

The Chinese regime has resorted to several different population-control policies over the years, which have contributed to today’s distorted demographics. China’s fertility rate was once as high as 6.0 in the 1950s and 1960s, as the Chinese regime encouraged couples to have children and produce offspring who could later foot the bill for the country’s retirement pensions via taxes.

But the social upheaval during the Cultural Revolution, which occurred from 1966 to 1976, slashed



STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The Chinese regime has resorted to several different population control policies over the years, which have contributed to today’s distorted demographics.

that rate.

Since the Chinese regime launched the one-child policy in 1979 as a measure to stymie the fast-growing population, the fertility rate fell from 2.75 that year to the lowest point of 1.59 in 2011. The two-child policy hasn’t significantly affected the fertility rate.

As the one-child policy created a significant gender imbalance and an insufficient labor force, Chinese authorities have since proposed incentives to encourage couples to have more children, such as allocating “birth funds” from one’s work paycheck and requiring women to not abort a child unless medically necessary.

But the high costs of child-rearing has kept many couples from deciding to have children.

Raising a child from birth to the age of 18 costs about 700,000 yuan (\$104,600) in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and other bigger Chinese cities, according to a report by state-run media China News on July 28, 2018.

“My son is nearly 1-year-old, while my daughter is in primary school. We spent about 70,000 yuan (\$10,460) on them last year, which is nearly all my wages,” a woman identified as Ms. Song told China News.

Song and her family live in Changsha, the capital city of Hunan Province. She wants all of her children to go to university, but the cost of tuition is increasingly expensive.

“There are still many years ahead. I don’t dare to think about the costs in the future,” Song said.

China Business Daily reported on Jan. 23, 2018, that some women of child-bearing age hesitate to have children because they may lose their jobs if their performance is influenced as a result of their pregnancy or raising a child.

China’s population has also begun aging since 1999. According to China’s National Committee on Aging (NCA), an agency of the cabinet-like State Council, 241 million Chinese were over the age of 60 in 2017—about 17 percent of China’s population.

Wang Jianjun, the vice director of NCA, told state-run media Xinhua on July 19, 2018, that by 2025, 300 million Chinese are estimated to be older than 60, which would be 20 percent of the population. By 2035, 487 million Chinese— one-third of the population—will top 60 years of age.

▲ Young Chinese children attend a preschool in Beijing on April 26, 2012.

# Huawei CFO Suing Canadian Authorities as Extradition Hearing Proceeds

TORONTO—Huawei’s chief financial officer is suing the Canadian government, its border agency, and the national police force, saying they detained, searched, and interrogated her before telling her she was under arrest.

Lawyers for Meng Wanzhou said March 3 they filed a notice of civil claim in the British Columbia Supreme Court on March 1.

Canada arrested the daughter of Huawei’s founder at the request of the United States on Dec. 1 at Vancouver’s airport, amid growing global concerns that products made by the Chinese tech giant could be exploited by the Chinese regime to conduct espionage.

The U.S. Department of Justice alleges that, since 2007, Chinese telecom giant Huawei misled global banks and U.S. authorities about the company’s relationship with Hong Kong-based Skycom Tech. Prosecutors allege that Skycom conducted business in Iran on behalf of Huawei. The company maintains that they are two independent companies. U.S. authorities also allege that Meng herself was personally involved in concealing the true nature of the Huawei-Skycom relationship.

The latest civil suit alleges that instead of immediately arresting Meng, authorities interrogated her “under the guise of a routine customs” examination and used the opportunity to “compel her to provide evidence and information.”

The suit alleges Canada Border Service Agency agents seized her electronic devices, obtained passwords, and unlawfully viewed the contents and intentionally failed to advise her of the true reasons for her detention. The suit said only after three hours was she told she was under arrest and had the right to an attorney.

Such actions amounted to a “serious breach” of Meng’s constitutional rights, the lawsuit alleges, according to Canadian

media outlet The Globe and Mail.

Meng is currently out on bail and living in Vancouver awaiting extradition proceedings.

On March 1, Canadian Justice Department officials gave the go-ahead for her extradition proceedings to begin. Meng is due in court on March 6 to set a date for the proceedings to start. It could be several months or even years before her case is resolved.

Meng’s arrest set off a diplomatic furor and severely strained Canadian relations with China. In the aftermath of the arrest, the communist regime warned Canada of “grave consequences” if it did not release Meng.

China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor on Dec. 10 in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to release Meng.

A Chinese court also sentenced a Canadian to death in a sudden retrial, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier. Kovrig and Spavor haven’t had access to a lawyer or to their families since being arrested.

Messages left for the Canadian government, the Canada Border Services Agency, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police were not immediately returned.

Huawei’s subsidiaries are indicted in a separate U.S. case in which they are charged with fraud, trade secrets conspiracy, and other alleged crimes. Prosecutors say they conspired to steal trade secrets from mobile carrier T-Mobile US Inc. between 2012 and 2014.

The company’s units pleaded not guilty in a federal court in Seattle on Feb. 28. A trial date was set for March 2020.

Prosecutors accused Huawei of stealing technology called “Tappy,” which mimicked human fingers and was used to test smartphones.

By Rob Gillies. From The Associated Press The Epoch Times contributed to this report.



# Join in Restoring Virtue and Values to Society

## For Our Children and Grandchildren’s Sake...

At The Epoch Times, we’re building a media supported by readers instead of corporate advertisers, ensuring it’s free from outside influences—forever. Please help to strengthen this vision.

### A REAL DANGER

Our Civilisation Faces Serious Treats at This Moment in History

1. Our nation is in trouble. According to a 2018 survey, 58 percent of young Australian voters say they would prefer to live in a socialist society.\*
2. If this trend continues, within the next decade, Australia could become a socialist country.
3. 85% of newspaper sales in Australia are controlled by two corporations. They’re not out to tell you the truth about what’s happening; they only tell you the picture of the world that they represent.
4. For decades, ideas stemming from communist ideology like socialism and cultural marxism have been moving Australia away from the preservation of rights enshrined in the Magna Carta.
5. These ideas create social turmoil, division, frustration, hatred, and violence; they break down the morality at the foundations of society. These same ideas now have found their way into the government, schools, and other key institutions across the nation.

\* POLICY PAPER ON MILLENNIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD SOCIALISM CONDUCTED BY THE CULTURE, PROSPERITY CIVIL SOCIETY and THE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT STUDIES.

### THE BEST DEFENSE

The Epoch Times Stands Firmly Against this Subversion

1. The Epoch Times has the wisdom to expose the evil nature of communism and its infiltration into our media, schools, government, churches, and society.
2. The Chinese regime makes it clear to companies that have business ties with China that working with us will cost them business.
3. Built on the values of Truth and Tradition, and based on the virtue of compassion, The Epoch Times promotes long-established universal values that represent the best of humankind.



**“After being lobbied and seduced by those puppets, politicians, journalists and leaders of all sorts of organisations across the country believe they are responding to the wishes of ‘Chinese-Australians’. They are in fact dancing to the tune of the Chinese Communist Party.”**

Clive Hamilton, Author of ‘Silent Invasion: China’s Influence in Australia’

### THE CHALLENGES

We’ve Been Fighting a Long Battle

Since our founding in 2000, the Chinese Communist Party, with its multibillion-dollar lobbying and overseas propaganda budget, has tried relentlessly to stop The Epoch Times. It’s not easy to stand up to the world’s biggest dictatorship, with the world’s largest propaganda and fake news operations, but we have done it.

These Are Some of the Many Challenges We Face:

1. The Chinese Communist Party has threatened and intimidated our advertisers and ad agencies.
2. The Chinese regime makes it clear to companies with business ties with China that working with us will cost them business.
3. The Chinese regime has had its agents steal our newspapers and distribution boxes, vandalise our offices, and spread misinformation about us abroad. Inside China, the regime has jailed and tortured our journalists.

## Violence We Faced



In 2006, Dr. Peter Li, chief technical officer of The Epoch Times, was beaten, tied up, blindfolded with duct tape, and robbed of two laptop computers by three Asian men who burst into his suburban Atlanta home, wielding a gun and a knife.



In 2000, Zhang Yuhui, the former editor-in-chief of the China branch of The Epoch Times, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his work.

## A NEWSPAPER you can trust



### This Did Not Stop Us

You can help make the global communist community’s efforts meaningless—and help us to expand! To achieve this, we need your help!

## The Epoch Times Contributes to Society

1. Truthful reporting on the issues that matter, including the Trump administration’s achievements in the United States and around the world.
2. Leading the reporting on the Chinese communist threat over the last 18 years (since 2000).
3. Exposing communist thought in our government, schools, universities, popular culture, and media.
4. Reporting on the persecution of Falun Gong, including the state-sponsored forced organ harvesting in China—one of the most underreported atrocities of our time.
5. Spreading the truth through Freegate secure anti-censorship software.
6. Providing an acclaimed Mind & Body section that offers insights from traditional wisdom and holistic wellness.

### Rigorously Exposing Communism

The Epoch Times actively works to investigate and expose communist ideology, its history, theory, and true intentions. Our latest series, **“How the Spectre of Communism is Ruling Our World,”** exposes the nature of communism and the harm it has brought and continues to inflict on the world.

Since the book “Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party” was published by The Epoch Times in December 2004, 320 million Chinese people have renounced the Chinese Communist Party and its associated organisations.

The Epoch Times reports issues and events side-stepped by other media, but which are vital to exposing the harm communism poses to humanity. These include the persecution of Tibetans, underground Christians, practitioners of Falun Gong, Uyghurs, and other groups in China.



Our infographics have had a big impact on society, allowing people to understand the intricate connections between seemingly unrelated events, revealing what mainstream media is not telling you.

### Our Investigations

We have championed a new method of investigative journalism, bringing together the best of both traditional journalism and quality design to tell stories that expose corruption and subversion. Our work has included investigations about:

1. Illegal Spying on President Trump (February 9, 2018)
2. China’s Military Expansion Into Space (March 23, 2018)
3. The Secret Propaganda War on Our Minds (April 6, 2018)
4. Hillary Clinton and the Uranium One Deal (February 16, 2018)
5. Spygate: The True Story of Collusion (October 12, 2018)
6. Clinton Foundation ‘Pay to Play’ Model Under Investigation (December 5, 2018)

### IMPACT OF THE EPOCH TIMES

Conscience Over Profit:

Organ Killings in China—The Sixty Million Dollar Decision

Entrepreneur Jeffrey Van Middlebrook turned down \$60 million in R&D funding from China after finding out the Chinese regime harvests organs from practitioners of Falun Gong.



**“Once I started reading these articles in your newspaper I decided I could not do business with China.”**

Jeffrey Van Middlebrook, entrepreneur







We are the “lucky country.” But our parliamentary democracy only works when the populace is well informed through an honest and transparent press. This is the role that The Epoch Times strives to fulfill.

What People Are Saying



“The Epoch Times is a distinctive newspaper and reports the news truthfully, decently and fairly. It’s a shame that only Chinese Epoch Times was available in the early days. Now, I look forward to the relaunch of the English edition. The Australian community needs to know what is happening in China and the suppression of human rights under the CCP. This will uphold Australian values and is also an opportunity for Australians to help improve the human rights situations in China.”

Qi Jiazhen, Writer



“I think as a media company The Epoch Times can be part of a positive force for the culture and a positive force within this economic machine of capitalism to help elevate cultural products and ideas that are going to help heal society as you preserve the family.”

Carrie Sheffield, founder, Bold



“‘The first duty of the press,’ the great London newspaper The Times declared as long ago in 1851, ‘is to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing them, to make them the common property of the nation.’ ‘There can be no doubt that in assessing the newspapers of the world, The Epoch Times deserves the encomium that it is a leader in observing, to the very highest degree, this timeless enunciation of the first duty of the press.’”

Emeritus Professor David Flint AM



“As a child, my father would eagerly look forward to reading The Epoch Times newspaper. Now I understand why, it’s 100% correct. A rare publication celebrating Chinese culture whilst speaking against the atrocities of communism. Australians take note.”

Asha Towers, NSW President of the National Civic Council



“The Epoch Times has done a great job in its quest for truth and its devotion to humanitarian concerns.”

Feng Chongyi, Associate Professor in China Studies at University of Technology Sydney

A Brief Introduction to The Epoch Times

Started in 2000 by Chinese-Americans who fled communism, The Epoch Times was founded in America to bring truthful and uncensored news to Chinese people worldwide—people oppressed by lies, violence, and propaganda. The English edition of Epoch Times was started in 2004, and has upheld the same values.

In December 2000, a few months after we began publishing, 10 of our staff members in China were jailed and tortured. They were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to 10 years, forcing us to work largely underground in China. Later, Epoch Times contributors continued to be targeted: One died in a Chinese prison in 2017 after 12 years in jail; another was just released on Feb. 13, 2018 after over 10 years in jail.

Despite these challenges, we have been committed from the beginning to getting the truth out under difficult circumstances, and this is and will forever be part of The Epoch Times.

Having faced extreme challenges (financial, physical, and cyber) from

one of the most despotic regimes on the planet, The Epoch Times has never stopped delivering on its promise to readers: to use traditional, upright, and true journalism to keep the public informed.

We investigate issues overlooked—or avoided—by other media outlets. We don’t spin the news, push biased agendas, or create false narratives. We give the facts and context to allow readers to make up their own minds.

We report on a wide range of topics, from national politics, to holistic health, foreign affairs, traditional culture, immigration, and food & lifestyle.

We also hold that one of the most overlooked stories of the 21st century is the global cultural and moral destruction wrought by communism, and so we take special care to expose this deadly ideology and the harm it has caused to us all.

In all that we do, we make an earnest attempt to hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity. This is our promise to you.

Make a Difference Today

The Power of Your Contribution

- 1. Help us publish truthful news.
- 2. Builds a nonpartisan, independent media that stands outside of any political interests.
- 3. Helps fund the research that exposes the true nature of communism and its impact on our media, our schools, our government, our religious institutions, and our society as a whole.
- 4. Helps us to report stories within Australia and abroad that are rarely reported by other media outlets.
- 5. Safeguards a forum for discussion of traditional values and the traditional vision of journalism.
- 6. Informs schools, universities and other public institutions with our content.

What Your Contribution Achieves

- \$50 – Help us get our message of ‘Truth and Tradition’ into local universities.
- \$500 – Help 250 households test drive The Epoch Times newspaper.
- \$5,000 – Help us create an ebook of “How the Spectre of Communism is Ruling our World” so that millions of people can enjoy reading it in book form.
- \$10,000 – Fund the research and production of a new investigative piece so that millions of people can benefit from it.
- \$20,000 – Help us reach an extra 1 million people with an Epoch Times investigative journalism video.



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# Trump to Sign Executive Order Protecting Free Speech on Campuses

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

President Donald Trump said on March 2 he would soon sign an executive order requiring universities and colleges to protect free speech on campuses or risk losing federal research funds.

Trump made the announcement at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) after bringing to the stage Hayden Williams, a conservative activist who was punched in the face at the University of California–Berkeley last month while recruiting students for Turning Point USA, a conservative group.

“Today, I am proud to announce that I will be very soon signing an executive order requiring colleges and universities to support free speech if they want federal research funds,” Trump said, drawing cheers and chants of “U-S-A” from the audience.

If universities do not comply, “it will be very costly,” the president added.

The government awards universities more than \$30 billion annually in research funds. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on details of the order.

The University of California said the attacker, 28-year-old Zachary Greenberg, was arrested on March 1 and released on bail, according to Campus Reform. The university issued a statement condemning the attack shortly after videos of the incident surfaced on social media.

Turning Point USA is one of the largest conservative student organizations, operating on 1,400 campuses. The group’s founder and president, Charlie Kirk, spoke at CPAC two days before Trump.

American universities are overwhelmingly liberal. Only 12 percent of undergraduate faculty identified as conservative, compared to nearly 60 percent who identified as left or far left, according to a 2013–2014 study (pdf) by the University of

“There are so many conservative students across the country who are facing discrimination, harassment, and worse if they dare speak up on campus.”

*Hayden Williams, conservative activist with Turning Point USA*



California–Los Angeles. Liberal professors dominate the faculties of Ivy League schools. A Harvard faculty survey found that more than 83 percent of the professors at the university identified as liberal or very liberal, while less than 2 percent identified as conservative or very conservative.

The liberal constituency of the colleges has resulted in a variety of policies and mechanisms stifling free speech, including “safe spaces,” “gender identity” policies, and “hate-speech” codes.

“We reject oppressive speech codes, censorship, political correctness, and every other attempt by the hard leftists to stop people from challenging ridiculous and dangerous ideas,” the president said. “Instead we believe in free speech, including online and including on campus.”

If universities “want our dollars—and we give to them by the billions—they have to allow people like Hayden and many other great young people and old people to speak. Free speech,” Trump said.

Trump administration officials have suggested that the rights of speakers on college campuses have been trampled by student protesters who

find their views offensive and suggested conservatives have been unfairly targeted. Trump said Williams “took a hard punch in the face for all of us.”

“It’s great that I’m being recognized, but there are so many conservative students across the country who are facing discrimination, harassment, and worse if they dare speak up on campus,” Williams said on stage at CPAC as Trump looked on.

“If these socialist progressives had their way they would put our Constitution through the paper shredder in a heartbeat,” Williams said.

The Justice Department filed a statement of interest in 2018 in a free speech lawsuit filed against the University of California–Berkeley, accusing the school of discriminating against speakers with conservative views. In a settlement, the school agreed to change its policies and pay \$70,000 to cover legal costs of the Berkeley College Republicans and the conservative Young America’s Foundation.

*Reuters contributed to this report.*

▲ President Donald Trump and Hayden Williams at the CPAC convention in Oxon Hill, Md., on March 2, 2019.



## Trump’s North Korea Move Sends Strong Message to China

Trump now faces a challenge, as the maximum pressure strategy is “entirely dependent on Beijing’s goodwill.”

CONTINUED FROM A1

Tariffs had been planned to increase to 25 percent from 10 percent on March 1. But Trump agreed to postpone that increase in hopes of finalizing a deal during a summit with Xi at his Florida resort.

In a recent tweet, Trump also asked China to “immediately remove” all tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods, including beef and pork, since both sides were “moving along nicely” with trade talks.

“This is very important for our great farmers and me,” he wrote.

The Trump administration believes Beijing has reasons to compromise as economic woes continue to put pressure on the Chinese regime. Economists predict that Beijing could soon implement more extensive stimulus measures to counter the weak economy.

“Our stock market is almost at its all-time high. Our economy is incredible,” Trump said at the press conference. “And with China, they’re having some difficulty, as you know. But I think that a lot of the difficulty is because of the tariffs that they’re having.”

Under the weight of U.S. tariffs, the Chinese economy weakened further last year. The growth of the world’s second-largest economy slowed to its weakest pace in nearly three decades. If both sides fail to reach a deal at Mar-a-Lago and trade tensions resume, China’s troubles will deepen, according to analysts.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Mar. 3 that Washington and Beijing are close to a trade deal and a formal agreement could be reached at the Trump–Xi summit around March 27, according to people familiar with the discussions.

**China’s North Korea Card**

It isn’t clear whether China will make concessions to the United States, but one wild card in the trade talks is the leverage Beijing has on North Korean leader Kim.

“China is always the X-factor when it comes to the North Korea challenge,” said Harry Kazianis, director of Korea Studies at the Center for the National Interest, a foreign policy think tank. “Beijing could clearly

use North Korea as the ultimate weapon against Washington, specifically if trade talks collapse.”

The Trump administration launched in 2017 a maximum pressure campaign through economic sanctions to end Pyongyang’s illicit missile and nuclear activity. The sanctions were almost entirely enforced with the help of Beijing.

Trump has frequently praised China and Chinese leader Xi for playing a crucial role in containing the North Korean regime. At the press conference in Hanoi, Trump touted China again.

“China has been a big help—bigger than most people know,” he said. “On the border, as you know, 93 percent of the goods coming into North Korea come through China. So, there’s a great power there.”

China is North Korea’s biggest trading partner and the main source of food and energy; hence, Beijing has the most leverage on Kim’s regime. Before the summit, North Korea warned that it was facing a food crisis, blaming a bad harvest and economic sanctions.

China’s trade with North Korea fell almost 53 percent year-on-year in the period from January to November last year, according to Reuters. Imports from North Korea fell about 89 percent in the same period, while exports to North Korea fell 33 percent.

As a result of economic sanctions, Pyongyang stopped testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles and was forced to the negotiating table last year.

Trump now faces a challenge, according to Kazianis, as the maximum pressure strategy is “entirely dependent on Beijing’s goodwill.”

“Imagine a situation where President Xi can’t secure a trade deal it feels is fair and wants to push back against the United States,” he said. “The easiest way to do that is to weaken the sanctions regime to such an extent that Kim feels no need to negotiate with Trump anymore.”

Trump repeatedly said that he was in “no rush” for a deal with Kim. The United States and North Korea will continue to work together, but didn’t set any date for the next summit.

◀ North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping inspect honor guards, as Kim paid an unofficial visit to Beijing, China, on March 28, 2018.

## Trump Calls New House Probe a ‘Political Hoax’

CONTINUED FROM A1

The House Judiciary Committee is looking into “alleged obstruction of justice, public corruption, and other abuses of power” by the president. The committee’s press release offered no evidence for any of the allegations. The panel sent document requests to 81 people and entities, including Trump’s family, campaign staff, current and former White House officials, and government agencies.

“We have sent these document requests in order to begin building the public record,” Nadler said in a statement. “We will act quickly to gather this information, assess the evidence, and follow the facts where they lead with full transparency with the American people.”

Shedding light on how partial the investigation would be, Nadler told ABC News before he issued the document requests that he’s convinced that Trump has obstructed justice.

Large-scale investigations led by the FBI, Congress, and special counsel Robert Mueller haven’t yielded any evidence of wrongdoing by Trump. The House and Senate intelligence committees found no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. Meanwhile, Mueller, who took over the FBI investigation in 2017, isn’t expected to charge Trump with any misconduct in a forthcoming report.

“The House Judiciary Committee’s letter has been received by the White House,” White House press secretary Sarah

Sanders said in a statement. “The Counsel’s Office and relevant White House officials will review it and respond at the appropriate time.”

Democrats secured the majority in the House of Representatives in the 2018 midterm election, and with it, the power to launch investigations. Republicans see the probe by the judiciary committee is part of a larger effort by House Democrats to use investigative powers to hamstring Trump and his 2020 campaign, a tactic the president calls “presidential harassment.”

“Presidential Harassment by ‘crazed’ Democrats at the highest level in the history of our Country. Likewise, the most vicious and corrupt Mainstream Media that any president has ever had to endure, yet the most successful first two years for any President,” Trump wrote on Twitter.

“We are WINNING big, the envy of the WORLD, but just think what it could be?”

A committee lawyer told reporters the immediate aim is to amass a large trove of evidence to guide the investigation and help decide which witnesses to approach. The panel is prepared to use its subpoena power if needed, the lawyer said.

Republicans in Congress said that Democrats are pursuing an impeachment agenda against Trump as part of a political strategy to reclaim the White House in the 2020 election.

*Reuters contributed to this report.*

▶ Former FBI Director Robert Mueller, special counsel on the Russian investigation, leaves the Capitol in Washington on June 21, 2017.





SAMIRA BOUAOU/THE EPOCH TIMES

# Speakers at Biggest Conservative Gathering Warn of Rise of Socialism

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

Key figures in the conservative movement called out the Democratic Party’s surging affinity for socialism on Feb. 28, criticizing the ideology as a failure and a threat to the United States in remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland.

In speech after speech, the biggest names among conservative activists, pundits, and officials pointed out the hard swing left toward socialism within the Democratic Party and positioned the fight against the ideology as one of the defining issues in American politics and the 2020 presidential election.

The annual conference, the biggest gathering of conservatives in the United States, opened with a video montage depicting the dangers and failures of socialism. The montage featured footage of socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) stating that breadlines are a good thing, socialist Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) admitting that she is a radical, and images of hunger and violence in socialist regimes.

A theme-setting opening panel featuring Reps. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) targeted the “Green New Deal” proposal by Democratic socialist Ocasio-Cortez, suggesting that the policy is emblematic of the Democrats’ embrace of socialism.

Meadows, taking a humorous approach, ridiculed one of the more bizarre proposals of the Green New Deal, which suggested that the United States would eventually need to get rid of “farting cows and airplanes.” The language has since been scrapped from Ocasio-Cortez’s website, but continues to fuel ridicule of the radical proposal.

“With this Green New Deal, they’re trying to get rid of all the cows,” Meadows said, referring to the conservative-owned fast food chain. “But I’ve got good news. Chik-fil-A stock will go way up because we’re going to eat more chicken.”

“We can laugh a little bit about it, but this is a serious thing,” Meadows added. “They’re trying to take away everything that is foundational to who we are.”

Conservative television host Deneen Borelli said that Democrats are openly embracing socialism, with 2020 presidential candidates “trying to ‘out-left’ “ each other. Borelli criticized the socialist policies backed by the 2020 Democratic candidates,

“This is what Stalin dreamed about but never achieved.

Sebastian Gorka, Trump’s former deputy assistant



including the “Green New Deal” and “Medicare for All,” as horrible.

“America will never be a socialist country,” Borelli said, quoting President Donald Trump’s State of the Union speech.

Trump’s former deputy assistant, Sebastian Gorka, said that socialism endangers the world and warned that socialism’s encroachment on the United States is an even bigger threat.

“But you know what the biggest threat to America is? Not socialism in Moscow,” Gorka said, transitioning from remarks about Russia’s malign activity around the globe. “[It’s] socialism here in America.”

Gorka pointed out that 52 percent of millennials would like to live in a socialist or communist America, citing statistics from the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. Some 40 Democrats ran on an openly socialist platform during the 2018 midterm election, Gorka said, adding that communism is taking over America under the guise of Democratic socialism.

The danger of socialism and communism is personal to Gorka, whose father was tortured by the secret police in Soviet Russia.

Like the other speakers, Gorka ridiculed the Green New Deal.

“It’s a watermelon. Green on the outside, deep,

deep communist red on the inside,” Gorka said.

“They want to take your pickup truck, they want to rebuild your home, they want to take away your hamburgers,” Gorka said, referring to the Green New Deal’s call to get rid of all combustion-engine cars and rebuild all homes. “This is what Stalin dreamed about but never achieved.”

According to an estimate by the American Action Forum, the Green New Deal could cost up to \$93 trillion over the course of 10 years, \$33 trillion more than the entire projected spending of the U.S. government in the same timeframe.

Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist and president of Turning Point USA, positioned the fight against socialism as the defining issue in what he called a “culture war” leading up to the 2020 presidential election.

“There is a culture war brewing right now and it’s a culture war different from the ‘80s and ‘90s. It is one fundamental question. What is America? Is America a place for victims or victors? Is America a place where you can achieve your dreams or dwell in mediocrity? Is America a socialist place or is America a place that embraces freedom?” Kirk said.

“That will be the question of the 2020 election. It will be the most important culture war in American history. And we will win.”

Charlie Kirk from Turning Point USA at the CPAC convention in Washington on Feb. 28, 2019.

# US Government Extends Contract for Mice ‘Humanized’ With Aborted Organ Tissue

PETR SVAB

A contract for a steady supply of mice implanted with tissue from aborted babies was extended by 90 more days in February by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

It was the second time in a row that the HHS opted for only a 90-day extension instead of a full-year one for the contract as the department reviews all research involving fetal tissue for moral, ethical, and other concerns.

The contract with the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF), dates back to 2013 and pays over \$2 million a year for a supply of about 100 mice a month, 90 of which are implanted with human fetal thymus and liver tissue. The mice are used for testing HIV drugs.

HHS launched its review in September in response to media scrutiny of the Food and Drug Administration’s contract with Advanced Bioscience Resources (ABR), a nonprofit referred by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) to the FBI in 2016 (pdf) for allegedly selling body parts of aborted babies.

HHS terminated the ABR contract and committed to an audit of “all acquisitions involving human fetal tissue to ensure conformity with procurement and human fetal tissue research laws and regulations,” the department stated in a Sept. 24 release.

“In addition, HHS has initiated a comprehensive review of all research involving fetal tissue ... in light of the serious regulatory, moral, and ethical considerations involved.”

The HHS also said it would look into potential alternatives to using fetal tissue. The review is still in progress, HHS told The Epoch Times via email.

HHS plans to spend \$95 million on fetal tissue research in fiscal 2019, down from \$103 million in 2018.

Critics of such research, including anti-abortion advocates, point out that it creates a demand for late-term abortions of healthy babies.

### Humanized Mouse

Scientists have crafted “humanized” mice for well over a decade using pieces of fetal organs, including the liver, gut, and thymus—two small lobes in front of the heart which are a crucial part of the immune system. The mice are implanted with pieces of tissue each about the size of a sesame seed as well as stem cells. The mice then develop bodily functions, such as an immune system, more similar to the human ones, helping scientists to predict how new treatments would work in humans.

Abortion providers must get women to consent if their fetuses are to be used in such research. It’s not clear, however, whether the women know that the fetal tissue would be implanted into mice.

### Late Term Connection

One 2015 research article (pdf) on experiments involving humanized mice specified that the fetal liver cells were obtained from babies aborted at 20-24 weeks of pregnancy.

Another article (pdf), published in 2017, described implanting mice with fetal gut tissues from babies aborted at 18-24 weeks “obtained from women with normal pregnancies before elective termination for nonmedical reasons.”

At 18 weeks, unborn babies begin to hear and can roll and flip, exhibiting coordinated limb movement, according to the Mayo Clinic.

At 24 weeks, babies already have more than a 50 percent chance of survival if they receive hospital care upon birth.

### Abortion Survivors

Since the 2003 federal ban on partial-birth abortion, abortionists have adjusted their techniques to kill the unborn child before it even partially exits the birth canal during an abortion. That is sometimes achieved with an injection of digoxin, a poison, into the woman’s belly. The poison, however, spoils the tissue for researchers. Some abortionists kill the baby by cutting the umbilical cord inside the womb, which starves the baby of oxygen and nutrients. Yet that method can induce labor and the baby can survive, but have a slim chance of survival unless at least 22 weeks old and given intensive care.

“I literally have had women come in and they’ll go in the [operating room] and they’re back out in three minutes,” said Perrin Larton, head of ABR’s procurement services, in a 2014 undercover video by the Live Action anti-abortion organization. “And I’m going, ‘what’s going on?’ [And they say:] ‘Oh yea, the fetus was already in the vaginal canal, whenever we put her in the stirrups it just fell out.’”

The Republican-controlled Senate has repeatedly tried to pass a bill this year requiring abortionists to provide such survivors of abortion the same care expected from “a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care practitioner” for any other baby born at that stage. Upon such care, the abortionists would have to ensure the newborn is transported to a hospital.

Nearly all Democrats in the Senate voted against the bill, preventing the minimum seven votes needed by the GOP to overcome a filibuster.

Democrats have called the bill an attack on women and health care, while Republicans accused Democrats of supporting infanticide.

Companies like ABR that, sometimes for a small fee, collect fetuses after abortions, appear to increase the incentive for abortionists to leave babies accidentally born alive to die.

Larton said ABR staffers would wait right by the door to the operating room to collect the fetus as soon as possible—before it’s damaged by mortal decay.

“We get the tissue, the doctor makes sure the termination is complete ... we have it immediately after,” she said.

An ultrasound image of a baby in the 18th week of pregnancy. (Baby McBride Ultrasound 17 Weeks 6 Days.



NOGWATER/FLICKR

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES



President Donald Trump at a rally in El Paso, Texas, on Feb. 11.

# Rate of Hispanic Poverty in America Hits Record Low

BOWEN XIAO

The poverty rate among Hispanics in the United States fell to a historic low of 18.3 percent in 2017, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau—the lowest rate recorded since the agency first started tracking the data in 1972.

In 2017, the rate of poverty declined overall, but for Hispanics in particular, the rate was one of the largest year-to-year drops across demographic groups, shedding 1.1 percentage points from 2016, according to the annual report “Income and Poverty in the United States: 2017.”

The 1.1 percent decrease in 2017 was also the largest year-to-year decline for the Hispanic population, and was a larger drop than any other demographic.

The Bureau said the rate of poverty declined slightly for all Americans in 2017 to 12.3 percent, marking the third year in a row that the rate has fallen. Census officials also noted that for non-Hispanics, the year-on-year decline wasn’t statistically significant.

Aside from the declining poverty rates, the inflation-adjusted median household income for Hispanics also increased by 3.7 percent in 2017 to \$50,486. Both the increase in income and the declining poverty rate marked the third consecutive year of such numbers for Hispanics.

The poverty declines for Hispanics were concentrated among Hispanic males, who witnessed a 1.1 percent decrease. Meanwhile, foreign-born Hispanics experienced a 1.4 percentage point decrease and those living in the West saw a 2.3 percent drop.

For Hispanic women, native-born Hispanics, and Hispanics living in regions outside the West or in metropolitan statistical areas, poverty rates were not statistically

different from 2016.

President Donald Trump, in his State of the Union address touted the gains made in the Hispanic-American community.

“Hispanic-American and Asian-American unemployment have all reached their lowest levels ever recorded,” he said. “Unemployment for Americans with disabilities has also reached an all-time low. More people are working now than at any time in our history.”

**Latinos for Trump**

Republican National Committee data from Trump’s rally in Texas on Feb. 12 revealed that among the roughly 30,000 people who had registered online, an estimated 70 percent were Hispanic.

The Feb. 12 rally—Trump’s big push for a U.S.–Mexico border wall—was held at The El Paso County Coliseum, which holds around 8,000 people. Tens of thousands were also outside the arena.

Latino support of the president has been overlooked. “The El Paso rally had thousands of people from New Mexico ... The left’s narrative isn’t working, Latinos support @realDonaldTrump in epic numbers,” Trump 2020 campaign manager Brad Parscale said on Twitter.

Trump’s approval rating among Latinos also had shot up by 19 points, according to an NPR/PBS NewsHour poll released in January.

The poll, conducted from Jan. 10 to Jan. 13, found that 50 percent of Latinos surveyed approve of the job Trump is doing, compared to 31 percent in December. Pollsters surveyed 1,023 adults by phone in the latest one.

Trump said the survey’s findings reflect how important the wall is to Hispanics, “That is because they know the Border issue better than anyone, and they want Security, which can only be gotten with a Wall.”



# No Deal at Trump–Kim Summit is Bad News for China

XIAOXU SEAN LIN

President Donald Trump decisively ended the talk with Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, when Kim could not deliver any verifiable promise for denuclearization in exchange for lifting U.S. sanctions. This was a dispiriting end to such a high-profile summit with global attention, especially with so much show of mutual friendship at the beginning.

But no deal is not a failure, as Trump at least reached one of his objectives—to keep the region stable without nuclear tests. On the other hand, no deal is a success, as it means that the United States did not make any compromise, not casually lift sanctions and not offer free cash when dealing with a communist regime. It is already a big success that Trump was not fooled or tricked by a communist regime. And Trump and Pompeo did not abruptly break the connection with North Korea and still showed the willingness for further negotiation.

No deal means that Kim Jong Un rejected a wonderful opportunity to transform his country into an open society. The Trump administration even deliberately arranged the chance for him to see the economic success in Singapore and Vietnam. Kim enjoyed the “glorious” diplomatic show at the summit, for which his own state-run propaganda machine will present endless praise and bring up high hopes. But now he has to face even more pressure from his own party because his trip did not bring any results.

The main pillars that Kim used to support his regime were his nuclear weapons and propaganda against the United States. And now, both pillars are sort of crippled. He cannot further develop his nuclear weapons or resume nuclear tests, as he promised denuclearization in front of the global media. And he probably could not vehemently attack the United States in his propaganda machine, as a continual dialogue with Pompeo and Trump will keep North Korea at the bargaining table. What he could do is blame the United States for bullying North Korea. And he needs to worry whether the United States will resume military drills with South Korea.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in probably felt uneasy at this moment. When the Trump–Kim summit did not deliver any further progress on the denuclearization on the peninsula, Moon’s efforts to make peace with North Korea last year appeared to be so pale. President Moon is likely facing more criticism for his version of the “Sun-shine” policy with Kim Jong Un.

Another person who cannot rest easy would be China’s Xi Jinping. At the press conference in Hanoi, Trump clearly pointed out that 93 percent of supplies that crossed the North Korean border was from China. This is an indirect criticism towards China for breaching sanctions on North Korea. This would become another bargaining chip for the United States at the negotiation table during U.S.–China trade talks.



President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sit down before their one-on-one chat during the second U.S.-North Korea summit at the Metropole Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Feb. 27, 2019.

The Trump administration is already upset over China’s continual support of Maduro’s government in Venezuela. Both Chavez and Maduro are pupils of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Maduro is learning the tactics that the CCP used to slander the student democracy movement in 1989, when the CCP set military trucks on fire and blamed the students for it. Maduro is now blaming the United States for setting fires on humanitarian aid trucks on Feb. 23.

The no-result from the Trump–Kim summit and China’s support of Maduro’s regime would allow the Trump administration to see clearly that dealing with socialist or communist regimes is never going to be a smooth process, as their leaders just do not care about the lives of their citizens and the futures of their countries.

Walking out of Hanoi without a deal is not a satisfactory result for the Trump administration and many critics stated that Trump lost a much-needed triumph. However, whatever Trump missed in Hanoi, he would take it out on China in the U.S.–China trade negotiations.

So, no deal from the Trump–Kim summit is ac-

Whatever Trump missed in Hanoi, he would take it out on China in the U.S.–China trade negotiations.

tually bad news for China. Walking out of a bad deal shows Trump’s nature as a keen businessman, and the strong will to stick to principles. Xi Jinping will have to worry: Will Trump walk out on me as well when I meet him again in Mar-a-Lago?

*Dr. Xiaoxu Sean Lin is a former U.S. Army officer with expertise on infectious diseases, surveillance and global public health. He was the co-founder and former executive vice president of Sound of Hope Radio Network, and hosted talk shows on China’s current affairs on New Tang Dynasty TV. Currently, he is the founder and general manager of WQER-LP radio station. He is also a frequent news analyst and commentator for Sound of Hope Radio Network, with a focus on global public health, national security and foreign relations related to Asian affairs.*

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

## Is a China–Taiwan War On the Horizon?

JAMES GORRIE



The biggest threat to the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) isn’t the U.S. navy, North Korean nukes, or even economic recession. All of these factors pose serious challenges to the CCP rule in China, but the locus of all those problems is Taiwan.

**A Real Alternative to the CCP**

Domestically, every day Taiwan represents a real political and economic alternative to the ruling CCP. For decades, Taiwan has managed to grow its economy despite not having the CCP in charge. It also enjoys much greater freedoms than Mainland China.

These painful and very obvious facts show the Chinese people that the CCP’s claim that its leadership is the sole path for Chinese economic development is a fraud. That’s why the very existence of the “renegade province” is such a threat to China’s communist leadership.

From 1979 onward, the tacit deal between the CCP and the Chinese people has been the Party will deliver economic prosperity and the people will not challenge the communists’ rule over them. As is widely known, economic growth is the CCP’s main claim to political legitimacy.

But as China’s economy continues to slow, the CCP’s legitimacy wears thinner for more people.

**China’s Economic Problems Mount**

Regardless of the “official” economic figures on GDP growth and productivity that the state produces, China’s sluggish economy is choking on debt, fraud, waste and corruption. Given the trade war with the United States and the Eurozone’s entry into recession, this recent downward economic trend is expected



to continue. It may be China’s worst economy in two decades. At some point, the CCP may well face a crisis in legitimacy that expresses itself in rising civil unrest—if it hasn’t already.

In any case, the rise in state repression in response to U.S. trade tariffs gives a clear picture of the mindset of China’s leadership. Furthermore, the outflow of more than a trillion dollars from the CCP’s grasp is another solid indicator of how many in China view their near-term prospects. Consumer confidence in the direction of the country is low and falling.

As this legitimacy crisis deepens, the regime, like many often do, will also look for ways to deflect attention away from their failures. And, according to CCP doctrine, bringing Taiwan under CCP control is a necessity. Not doing so continues to be viewed by CCP leadership as both a domestic and a foreign policy failure.

**Taiwan’s “Military Threat”**

Militarily, Taiwan has no ambitions of invading China. But its geographical location puts it athwart of China’s major ports. Coupled with the island nation’s close military cooperation with the United States, in the event

▲ Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-Wen (C in blue jacket) and assembled naval personnel take part in a ceremony to commission two Perry-class guided missile frigates from the U.S. into the Taiwan Navy, in the southern port of Kaohsiung on Nov. 8, 2018.

of a conflict, Taiwan along with the United States could effectively block material and supplies from entering China from China’s key entry points. That would include up to 86 percent of China’s maritime oil imports and over 50 percent of its natural gas, which would cripple China’s economy and military.

This glaring vulnerability will remain as long as Taiwan is separate from China. What’s more, China’s goals are to push the United States out of the Asian-Pacific region, both militarily and economically. But to do so, it must first gain control of Taiwan.

**Taking Taiwan as a Top Military Objective for China**

That’s why, with the U.S.–China relations deteriorating, the leaders of Taiwan and Japan, along with U.S. defense establishment view it likely that China will move on Taiwan sooner than later. Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s rhetoric has underscored that point on several recent occasions, saying:

“We make no promise to give up the use of military force and reserve the option of taking all necessary means against Taiwanese separatist activities and ‘outside forces’ that interfere with reunification.”

A recent Pentagon report not only confirm Xi’s intentions, but adds that the entire strategic build-up of the Chinese military has been focused upon bringing Taiwan under the CCP’s control. Xi’s call for China’s troops to “prepare for battle” may be bluster at the moment, but it’s also likely an order that his generals will follow immediately. After all, he has publicly announced that “Taiwan independence is a dead end” and that China “must and will be re-unified.”

**Taiwan and Others Take China’s Threats Seriously**

China has ramped up its rhetoric and military activities aimed at Taiwan since the nation elected pro-independence politician Tsai Ing-wen for president in 2016. In response, President Tsai has ordered the Taiwanese military to increase defensive preparations to counter an attack from China that could occur at any time, noting that Taiwan “must be prepared at all times.”

But Taiwan’s president isn’t the only leader who sees the writing on the wall portending a Chinese attack on Taiwan. Former Japanese Air Self-Defense Force Air Support Commander Orita Kunio predicted that in a recent interview that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could come as early as 2020. Furthermore, he anticipates that such a military action would be the first of many to establish Chinese dominance across the Asian-Pacific region up to and including Okinawa.

**US Responds to China’s Threats**

The Trump Administration holds similar views about China’s military build-up and their intentions behind it. The U.S. response has been to deepen its military and diplomatic relationship with Taiwan. Concurrently, it has continued to conduct naval patrols in the Taiwan Strait and other

sensitive locales in the region against China’s warnings not to. Additionally, American defense spending is increasing in response to China’s growing power and defense planners are shifting more weight into the Asian-Pacific region.

Of course, the trade war also plays a role in China’s perceptions, and perhaps even its strategic decisions.

**Taiwan as Both Problem and Solution?**

Ultimately, Taiwan may be portrayed by China’s leadership as both the cause and solution to their problems and long-term goals. They would certainly point to Taiwan’s U.S.-assisted military build-up as a provocation and their close ties to the United States as an obstacle to their own U.S. relationship. And as noted earlier, the Taipei presents a whole host of potential threats to the continuation of CCP rule merely by its own existence.

The bottom line is that the CCP must have control over every aspect of Chinese life if it is to remain in power. But in order to maintain control, the CCP must retain legitimacy in the eyes of a significant portion of their society. Even the most committed of communist ideologues knows that a party of around 90 million members can’t rule a nation of 1.4 billion people for very long without legitimacy. For the CCP and Xi Jinping, the “renegade province” may soon provide a convenient and necessary adversary upon which to both lay their own failures as well as a path “to remedy” them in order to retain their monopoly on power.

*James Gorrie is a writer based in Texas. He is the author of “The China Crisis.”*

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



THE EPOCH TIMES

Australia Epoch Times, Publisher  
Jasper Fakkert, Editor-in-Chief

ABOUT US

The Epoch Times is a media organization dedicated to seeking the truth through insightful and independent journalism.

Standing outside of political interests and the pursuit of profit, our starting point and our goal is to create a media for the public benefit, to be truly responsible to society.

We endeavor to educate readers about today's most important topics, seeking to broaden and uplift minds. We believe that rational, balanced debate is key for fostering a healthy democracy and a compassionate society.

As an independent media outlet, we use our freedom to investigate issues overlooked—or avoided—by other media outlets. We seek to highlight solutions and what's good in society rather than what divides us.

We report respectfully, compassionately, and rigorously.

We stand against the destruction wrought by communism, including the harm done to cultures around the world.

We are inspired in this by our own experience. The Epoch Times was founded in 2000 to bring honest and uncensored news to people oppressed by the lies and violence in communist China.

We still believe journalism is a noble vocation, but only when it genuinely seeks to serve its communities and help them to flourish. In all that we do, we will hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity. This is our promise to you.

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THE EPOCH TIMES SPECIAL SERIES

How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World

The Epoch Times here serializes a translation from the Chinese of a new book, “How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World,” by the editorial team of the “Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party.”

Introduction

The collapse of the communist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe marked the end of a half-century-long Cold War between the capitalist and communist camps in the East and West. Many were thus optimistic, holding the belief that communism had become a relic of the past.

However, the sad truth is that a transmogrified communist ideology has instead taken hold and entrenched itself around the world.

There are the outright communist regimes like China, North Korea, Cuba, and Vietnam. There are the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, where communist ideology and customs still exert a significant influence. There are the African and South American countries, which attempt socialism under the banner of democracy and republicanism—and then there are the nations of Europe and North America, whose body politics have become host to communist influences, without people even realizing it.

Communism breeds war, famine, slaughter, and tyranny. These in themselves are terrifying enough, but the damage dealt by communism goes far beyond this. It has become increasingly clear to many that, unlike any other system in history, what communism declares war on is humanity itself—including human values and human dignity.

Over the course of a century, communism established massive dictatorships in the Soviet Union and China; it caused more than 100 million unnatural deaths; it enslaved billions; and it brought the world to the brink of nuclear war and, thus, destruction.

Yet more important is its deliberate and widespread destruction of the family, its fomenting of social disorder, and its attack on morality, all of which are ruinous to the foundations of civilization.

What, then, is the nature of communism? What is its objective? Why does it take mankind as its enemy? How can we escape it?

1. Communism Is a Devil Bent on the Destruction of Humanity

“The Communist Manifesto” begins, “A specter is haunting Europe—the specter of communism.” The use of the term “specter” was not a whim of Karl Marx. The preface of this book argues that communism should not be understood as being an ideological movement, a political doctrine, or a failed attempt at a new way of ordering human affairs. Instead, it should be understood as being a devil—an evil specter forged by hate, degeneracy, and other elemental forces in the universe.

The communist specter took the form of a serpent, then that of a red dragon. It keeps company with Satan, who hates God, and exploits low-level beings and demons to wreak havoc on man. The goal of the specter is to ruin humanity, and while the divine offers salvation to humanity, communism tells man not to believe, attacks human morality so as to renounce tradition, and causes man not to heed God's instruction and, ultimately, to be destroyed.

Following the Cold War, the poison of communism not only continued to harm formerly communist countries, but also, olmspread throughout the world. The ideological infiltration of communism has led the specter to influence human society on a global scale, and many people even think that the dark wishes of communism are their own. With this, people lose their ability to judge right from wrong, to differentiate good from evil. This, a devil's conspiracy, has almost

been carried out.

Thus, even as the specter congratulated itself, delighted with its sinister victory, most people thought that it had been destroyed. There's nothing more dangerous than mankind being on the verge of destruction yet ignorantly celebrating its triumph.

Like cancer, communism eliminates other beliefs as it metastasizes, including the belief in God.

2. The Devil's Ways and Means

Man was created by God, and the compassion of gods has long protected man. This the devil knew, and so it set about severing this connection, to corrupt man so that gods would no longer take care of him. The devil's approach has been to subvert the culture given to mankind by gods, corrupt human morality, and thus warp man and make him unworthy of salvation.

Both good and evil, God and the devil, reside in the heart of every person; a life can sink into moral decadence or elevate through moral cultivation. Those who believe in gods know that by striving for moral conduct and thought, one's righteous thoughts can be strengthened by gods, and gods will allow miracles to happen. Gods will also help one's morality rise in level, to help one become a more noble person, in the end allowing one to return to Heaven.

A person of low morality, however, is filled with selfishness—desire, greed, ignorance, hubris. While gods will never recognize such thoughts and actions, the devil will magnify them, intensifying selfishness and wickedness, and manipulating the person into wrongdoing, thus creating karma and causing further moral decay, until, in the end, only Hell awaits.

If the moral standards of human society as a whole decline, the devil will hasten these trends with the goal of causing more wrongdoing, more karma, and humanity's eventual destruction. The turbulence of Europe beginning in the 18th century, and the attendant moral decline, gave the devil an opportunity. It set about subverting, step by step, the criteria of discernment between good and evil. It promoted atheism, materialism, Darwinism, and the philosophy of struggle.

The ideological infiltration of communism has led the specter to influence human society on a global scale, and many people even think that the dark wishes of communism are their own. With this, people lose their ability to judge right from wrong, to differentiate good from evil.

The devil chose Marx as its envoy among men. Marx's “Communist Manifesto” of 1848 advocated the violent destruction of private enterprise, social classes, nations, religions, and the family. The Paris Commune of 1871 was its first attempt at seizing power.

His followers argue that political power is the central question of Marxian political science; this is both true and not true.

Being clear about the ultimate aims of communism means we can recognize that political power is both important and unimportant to the communist project.

It is important in that access to political power allows a rapid means of the widespread corruption of humanity. With the levers of power, communists can promote their ideology with violence and eradicate a traditional culture in mere decades or years.

Yet it is also unimportant in that even without the apparatus of the state, the devil has other means of exploiting the weaknesses and shortcomings of man; to deceive, co-opt, coerce, confuse, and so overturn traditional thought, subvert order, and create upheaval; and to divide and conquer, with the objective of gaining global control.

3. Communism Is the Ideology of the Devil

God established a rich culture for human society based on universal values, paving the way for humans to return to Heaven. The communism of the devil and the traditional culture of God are irreconcilable.

Unlike any other system in history, what communism declares war on is humanity itself—including human values and human dignity.

At the core of the evil specter is atheism and materialism: a confluence of elements from German philosophy, French social revolution, and British political economy assembled as a secular religion meant to replace the position previously occupied by God and orthodox beliefs. Communism turns the world into its church, bringing all aspects of social life under its purview. The devil occupies people's thoughts, causing them to revolt against God and discard tradition. This is how the devil leads man to his own destruction.

The devil chose Marx and others as its agents to oppose and destroy the principles laid down by God for human society. It promotes class struggle and the abolition of established social structures.

In the East, it launched a violent revolution and established a totalitarian state that united politics and secular religion. In the West, it undertakes progressive, nonviolent communism through high levels of taxation and wealth redistribution.

On a worldwide scale, it seeks to spread communist ideology to political systems everywhere, with the goal of undermining nation-states and establishing a global ruling body. This is the “paradise on earth” promised in communism, a supposed collective society without class, nations, or government, based on the principles of “from each according to his ability and to each according to his need.”

Communism uses its program of creating a paradise on earth to promote an atheistic conception of “social progress”; it uses materialism to undermine the spiritual pursuits of mankind, including belief in the divine and religion, in order to allow communist ideology to spread to every sphere, including politics, economy, education, philosophy, history, literature, art, social science, natural science, and even religion. Like cancer, communism eliminates other beliefs as it metastasizes, including the belief in God. In turn, it destroys

national sovereignty and identity, and humanity's moral and cultural traditions, thus leading man to destruction.

In “The Communist Manifesto,” Marx proclaimed, “The communist revolution is the most radical rupture with traditional property relations; no wonder that its development involves the most radical rupture with traditional ideas.” Thus, Marx himself accurately summarized the practice of communism over nearly the past two centuries.

God is the source of moral order, and God's morality is eternal and unchanging. Moral standards should never be determined by man, nor can they be changed by man's power. Communism tries to sentence morality to death and to have the communist New Man establish a new morality. Yet while it denies real morality, communism uses negative methods to expel from human tradition all its positive factors, with the goal of having negative factors occupy the world.

Traditional laws come from morality and are intended to uphold morality. Communism tries to separate morality from the law, then destroys morality by concocting bad laws and maliciously interpreting traditional ones.

God calls on man to be kind; communism agitates class struggle and advocates violence and killing.

God established the family as the basic social unit; communism believes that the family is a manifestation of the private, capitalist system and threatens to eliminate it.

God gives man the freedom to obtain wealth and the right to life; communism seeks to eliminate private property, expropriate assets, raise taxes, monopolize credit and capital, and completely control economic life.

God established the form that morality, government, law, society, and culture should take; communism seeks the “violent overthrow of the whole existing social structure.”

God transmitted to man the unique form of traditional art as a means of passing on his image; traditional art recalls to mankind the beauty of heaven, reinforces faith in God, elevates morality, and nurtures virtue. Communism, on the other hand, would have man worship warped modern creations and artistic productions that stifle our divine nature, give full rein to the demonic impulse toward chaos and disorder, and manipulate the art world by spreading base, ugly, malformed, evil, and decadent ideas.

God wants man to be humble and full of reverence and wonder at divine creation. Communism connives at the demonic and arrogance in man, encouraging him to revolt against God. By amplifying the evil inherent and inescapable in human nature, it exploits the idea of “freedom” to encourage conduct unrestrained by morality and unfettered by a sense of duty or burden. The slogan of “equality” is used to stir up envy and vanity, as man is tempted by fame and material interests.

After World War II, the communists expanded their military and economic empire, and the communist bloc and the free world contended for decades. Communist doctrine became a secular religion in those countries, an unchallengeable truth written into textbooks. But elsewhere, communism under other guises also took root and has had tremendous influence.

See next week's edition for the next installment.



# Feminism: Where It Goes Wrong

CID LAZAROU

James Brown once sang, “This is a man’s world, but it would be nothing without a woman or a girl.” As the song continued, it proclaimed that man-made cars, roads, trains, electric lights, and other inventions. Yet, he would be lost in the wilderness without a woman or a girl.

When we take off our ideological sunglasses, this song profoundly embodies the historical relationship between men and women.

Equality is considered an absolute in this day and age. But as much as it pains some people to admit it, this is impossible when we aspire for equality of outcome. Equality of opportunity is more realistic, but when we assume we’re all the same, we inevitably expect uniformity. This is where feminists go wrong.

Viva la Difference

Men and women aren’t the same, though differences don’t mean better or worse. If we consider Brown’s song, perhaps we can make sense of these differences without feeling the automatic outrage many feel about this today. Men are the builders of civilizations, creating amazing technological feats of engineering that would bore all but the most dedicated mind.

Of course, there are always exceptions—and that’s okay because equality of opportunity means that merit, in theory, should come first. But exceptions don’t make rules.

You’ll always find women and girls who enjoy engineering. Given the choice, however, most prefer people over things. What this means is that they like to work with people rather than abstract concepts such as science, and when they do work in science, it’s usually either soft sciences like psychology, or caring professions such as medicine.

This matters when we’re told there aren’t enough women in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) because sexism stops women from entering these professions. This is a key feminist complaint—also a demonstration of where feminism goes wrong.

Perhaps, feminists could learn a thing or two from Brown’s song. It’s not that men are conspiring to keep women down. Rather, the very purpose of men is the love and protection of women. Again, exceptions apply, but how far would we have gotten as a species if men had decided they don’t need women?

Likewise, how far would we have gotten if women thought they didn’t need men?

Feminist Gloria Steinem once said that “a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.” She couldn’t be more wrong. In reality, men and women need each other. This is one of the most precious relationships in nature, especially among human beings. You could even call it sacred.

What does it take to make women believe that men despise, resent, or even hate them—that men prefer their own sex to the respect, love, and companionship of women? It would be a place warped by adverse experiences that make women and girls vulnerable to indoctrination: the girl abused by a male relative; the mother that poisons her daughter against her father during an acrimonious divorce; or the girl bullied by boys in school.

These experiences, and others, can affect a woman



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Dozens of protesters against the confirmation of Republican Supreme court appointee Justice Brett Kavanaugh gathered in New York on Sept. 27, 2018, expressing their belief of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford.

forever. Some can rise above this with psychological support and personal development. But in a culture of identity politics, this isn’t encouraged.

In this culture, women and girls are taught that masculinity equals privilege and toxicity, that males stop women breaking through the glass ceiling or becoming the next president of the United States. The result is women that see men as opposition, and a society that treats masculinity as pathological.

Not only is this destructive to the foundation that makes civilization possible, but it harms the very cycle of life itself.

Presumption of Innocence

Setting aside the impossibility of equality of outcome, equality under the law is another matter. Once again, feminists have gotten this wrong as a whole, especially when it comes to a presumption of innocence. We’re told that women should always be believed, in spite of evidence. Recent events in 2018 have demonstrated why this is folly.

In the UK, during the celebrity reality TV show “Big Brother,” contestant Roxanne Pallett was tapped on the shoulder by fellow-contestant Ryan Thomas during a playful interaction. She subsequently played the victim by suggesting she was abused, to which the public was widely appalled by this mischaracterization. The conclusion many reached was that, had it occurred somewhere without cameras filming, the man’s life would have been over.

In the United States, Justice Brett Kavanaugh had his name dragged through the mud when Christine Blasey Ford accused him of an alleged sexual assault that took place over 35 years ago at a house party. After

What does it take to make women believe that men despise, resent, or even hate them?

a hearing and FBI investigation, no credible evidence or witnesses were found. Yet, some believe the absence of evidence doesn’t absolve Kavanaugh.

They say we should always believe the victim (Bill Clinton being an exception), and ask why Ford would lie? The answer to this question is simple: Women are human and humans can lie, especially for politically motivated reasons like stopping President Trump from selecting a second member of the Supreme Court.

Whatever feminism was supposed to represent, today it’s another part of the perpetual cycle of victimhood that drives our current political climate—the multi-headed hydra of cultural Marxism that takes many forms.

As with any movement, the risk is always that the extreme elements will take over and marginalize the moderates, who will eventually leave in disgust. What feminists and the Democratic Party tried to do to Kavanaugh—the trial by media and the destruction of the presumption of innocence—is what we saw under communism: show trials where legal protections and rights were secondary to the words of a woman who could bring no evidence to bear on the accused.

Is it so surprising that this is what happens under communism, when there are so many willing to chip away at our legal protections for political advantage?

Cid Lazarou is a blogger, writer, and freelance journalist from the UK.

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

# Media Is Being Forced Into Writing Mueller Fan Fiction

BRIAN CATES



President Donald Trump’s former lawyer, Michael Cohen, may possibly be the dumbest person to have ever passed the bar exam.

This entire televised spectacle of his testimony before the House Oversight and Reform Committee was absurd. The now-Democratic-run panel brought back a disbarred lawyer—already convicted of perjury himself before Congress—to commit more perjury under oath.

Eager to testify before Congress about what he supposedly knew of extensive Trump-related criminal activity in the hope of getting his three-year prison sentence reduced, Cohen instead managed to get himself hit with fresh perjury accusations.

It’s not just that Cohen decided to perjure himself yet again under oath before Congress—it’s that he decided to perjure himself on such easily provable lies.

He claimed vociferously that he never wanted or sought a job in the Trump White House, something that is laughable on its face, considering the number of people he hounded for just such a job and interviews that he gave shortly after the election, some of which are on video.

Even before Cohen testified, the DNC media complex was in full spin mode, regaling its ever-shrinking audience with tales of all the huge bombshells Cohen would testify to in front of congressional lawmakers.

The actual televised hearing was an unmitigated disaster. Before it was over, Cohen had dropped two crucial bombshells—just not the ones the anti-Trump media wanted:



EVA HAMBACH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Television screens inside a newsroom as they air live Michael Cohen’s testimony before the House Oversight and Reform Committee on Feb. 27, 2019.

This is why the story keeps changing as you see them drop the “collusion” narrative they pushed for over two years to suddenly begin hyping up “obstruction of justice” and “campaign-finance violations.”

- 1. Trump never directed him to lie to Congress
- 2. He had never been to Prague

Each of these admissions is problematic for the anti-Trump narratives in its own way.

BuzzFeed Blues

BuzzFeed and its defenders were still forlornly hoping that Cohen would somehow manage to vindicate the fake news article the site had published, claiming the Mueller special counsel team had been given documentary evidence from Cohen proving Trump had ordered him to lie about a real estate deal to build a new Trump Tower in Moscow.

As I wrote in an earlier column, this article from BuzzFeed was so disastrously wrong that the special counsel’s office took the highly unusual step of releasing a public statement that pointedly asserted that BuzzFeed’s story was false.

Far from tossing BuzzFeed a

life preserver in his latest testimony, Cohen stated under oath that Trump didn’t order or direct him to lie to Congress. Not once during his testimony did he mention any documentation he is claimed to have given to the special counsel that would prove Trump ordered or directed him to perjure himself.

Recall that BuzzFeed reporter and serial fabulist Jason Leopold asserted during an interview that he had personally seen the documents that supposedly were in the possession of the special counsel. The other reporter for the BuzzFeed story, Anthony Cormier, stated in a different interview that he’d seen no documents whatsoever. Oops!

**Steele Dossier Shenanigans**

The entire “Trump–Russia Election Collusion” narrative hinges on Cohen having been in Prague in 2016 because that is a central assertion of the Steele dossier—and if that central claim

turns out to be false, the entire house of cards collapses.

Leaving aside that the Steele dossier itself is an amalgamation of unverified stories told to Christopher Steele by shady unknown Russians—who are still anonymous to this day—and that it was Hillary Clinton and the Democratic National Committee who paid Steele to collect these fanciful tales from these anonymous Russians, the “Cohen in Prague” claim contained in the dossier was one of the first to be conclusively debunked.

And yet, over the past two years, there have been repeated attempts to rehabilitate both Steele and his dossier’s unverified claims.

The last such attempt was in December 2018, when McClatchy News attempted to resurrect the “Cohen in Prague” dossier allegation by publishing a story about Cohen’s cell phone being “pinged” in the “Prague area” in 2016. Completely “trustworthy” anonymous sources assured McClatchy’s Peter Stone and Greg Gordon that European intelligence agencies had the records to prove this. The reporters themselves saw no such records, so the report was dubious at best.

Now, Cohen has explicitly stated under oath on live television before the entire country the same thing he’s been saying for two years: He’s never been to Prague, never been to the Czech Republic, and he’s never been to Russia, either.

It remains to be seen if there’s some enterprising news outlet out there that will have another try at rehabilitating the “Cohen in Prague” claim. My guess is probably not.

If Mueller had any evidence whatsoever that Cohen had traveled to Prague to pay people for having engaged in the crime of

hacking in order to steal emails, you’d have seen that long ago. “Collusion” may not be a crime, but paying people for committing criminal acts certainly is.

In case you are wondering how the DNC media complex coped with this utter debunking of the Steele dossier and its claims, the answer is that they started moving the goalposts without skipping a beat.

CNN legal analyst Renato Mariotti quickly rushed out a piece in Time Magazine explaining why it was never really the job of the special counsel to “prove collusion.” Instead, Mueller will nail Trump’s scalp to the wall based on “evidence” Cohen supposedly testified to that allegedly proves Trump engaged in “obstruction of justice” and violated campaign-finance laws.

Anything real against Trump that Mueller had would have been leaked long ago, and yet still, at this late stage, media outlets are desperately hoping that somehow Mueller has an ace hidden up his sleeve that he’s about to toss onto the table.

*Brian Cates is a political pundit and writer based in southern Texas and the author of “Nobody Asked For My Opinion... But Here It Is Anyway!” He can be reached on Twitter at @drawandstrike*

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



Trust Your Body, It Will Tell You

Researchers say men and women are different in terms of the factors that contribute to their longevity. Here's what you can do to live better, for longer.

See B4



Mr. Rogers' Message

The man believed that children needed to be taught that they have inherent value, but has his message bred a culture of entitlement?

See B11

THURSDAY, MAR. 7, 2019

# LIFE

THE EPOCH TIMES

RADKA STANKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

## Bootless in Rwanda

Losing my boots and finding my step trekking Rwanda's magnificent mountain gorillas

This mountain gorilla family roams around in the safety of its 23-member group, named for its silverback leader, Agashya. Wild celery, roots, fruit, tree bark, and tree pulp make up the main diet of mountain gorillas.



GIANNELLA M. GARRETT

GIANNELLA M. GARRETT

I decided it was time to go to Rwanda. What roused me was the splashy "Visit Rwanda" ad campaign that Britain's Arsenal Football Club players have been displaying on their uniform sleeves, and the uplifting Kwita Izina baby mountain gorilla-naming ceremony held annually in September. "May I offer you a drink?" the hotel manager asked, flashing me a friendly smile. Surprised by his gesture but not enough to refuse a glass of wine, I said, "Sure, I'll have a cabernet." He walked across the lounge—an expanse of colorful sofas in bold animal prints arranged in cozy nooks around several flaming hearths—to fetch my wine at the bar. It was a late afternoon in June at the Mountain View Gorilla Lodge in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, a tiny country in East Africa about the size of Maryland. "He's preparing you for the not-so-good news about your boots," warned Gerry Mutabazi, my driver and guide. I was on a two-week road trip through Rwanda, dubbed "Land of a Thousand Hills" for its rolling landscape and breathtaking views. We were sipping ginger tea, planning the next day's events. The day before, I had worn my sturdy Timberlands to hike to the 10,000-foot-high Karisoke Research Center, the compound that legendary American

primatologist Dian Fossey founded in 1967. Like foot armor, they had kept me sure-footed and upright on the steep and swampy but spectacular climb, as I dodged prickly nettles, plucked off driver ants, and waved away thorny oversized vegetation that stung and slapped with each stride. Back at the lodge, a staffer peeled off my mud-caked boots and sent them off for cleaning. "They'll be ready tomorrow morning," she promised. My notion of a boot cleaning had been a splash in a puddle or a dance in the rain. I felt a jolt of anticipation at the thought of a pair of buffed, shiny boots for my first gorilla trek. The next morning the lodge's embarrassed concierge informed me, "We can't find your boots." "No," I bleated, like a wounded animal. I looked down at my worn running shoes and asked, "What will I wear?" "We'll keep looking," he said, eager to end the conversation. "Check back with us later." I stormed out the door and climbed into Gerry's idling Land Cruiser. We headed to Kinigi Headquarters, where the gorilla treks start. Silhouettes of the soaring Virunga volcanoes emerged through the misty horizon and seized my attention. The fragrance of raw earth wafted through the windows. I'll go bare-footed if I have to, I thought. I had bought the boots in 2013 for a trip through the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. Decades earlier, when I moved to New York, I traded all the accouterments of my college outdoor life for the suits and pumps of an urban professional. The boots had aroused a renewed desire for adventure. I yearned for wildlife. I wore them on five subsequent African expeditions. I thought we'd be a lifelong team.

Continued on B2

A view of farm fields and Virunga National Park, Rwanda, in the distance.





GIANNELLA M. GARRETT



Following Lake Kivu south from Volcanoes National Park offers up a glorious ride through rolling hills that contain a mosaic of tea plantations and fertile fields of sugarcane, bananas, green peas, and coffee.

GIANNELLA M. GARRETT



A baby gorilla climbed up a tall bamboo stalk, grabbing a vine with nimble fingers and prehensile toes.

ATTILA JANDI/SHUTTERSTOCK



A mountain gorilla in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda.

GIANNELLA M. GARRETT



The expressive, amber-eyed golden monkeys, endemic to the Virunga volcanoes, frolic in the potato fields while sampling some of the crop. Fortunately, tourist dollars reimburse the farmers the value of their ingested property.

# Bootless in Rwanda

Losing my boots and finding my step trekking Rwanda’s magnificent mountain gorillas

Continued from B1

### The Sabyinyo Gorilla Family

Francois Bigirimana has been tracking gorillas and guiding tours since the early 1980s. He gathered our group—two Italians, a Scot, and two Americans, one being me—for a prep talk. “Do not get closer to the apes than 20 feet. Avoid making loud noises or sudden movements. Lower your head and look submissive if the silverback charges,” he advised, grinning.

We were visiting the Sabyinyo group of 16 gorillas and two silverbacks. They wandered in the bamboo forest of the lower slopes of Mount Sabyinyo, the most identifiable volcano in the Virunga range. Its jagged spire, nicknamed “old man’s teeth,” rises 11,960 feet.

Everyone wore boots—except me. We hiked through plowed potato farms and pyrethrum daisy fields to a six-foot-high stone wall that marked the crossover into the wild. We clambered over it to find a narrow but deep ravine on the other side. Our machete-wielding trackers hacked four saplings and joined them together over the rift, creating an impromptu bridge for us to cross. We entered the dense rainforest canopy. Beneath moss covered trees dripping tangled vines, with bird whoops and hollers for a soundtrack, we marched, single file, on surprisingly dry, solid ground.

After about a half hour, Bigirimana turned to face us, all smiles. He raised an index finger to his lips and whispered, “Shh, they’re here.”

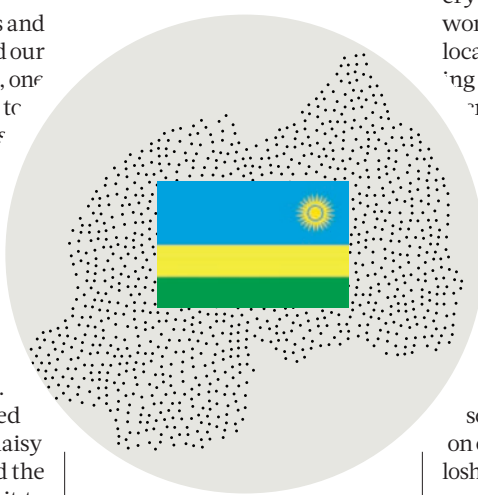
We followed a large black-backed gorilla into a bamboo grove. A half-dozen family members of various ages and sizes were grooming and chomping on bamboo shoots, oblivious to our intrusion. A few more ambled in, actually brushing against me, as I watched awe-filled and joy-struck. A baby gorilla climbed up a tall bamboo stalk and grabbed a vine with nimble fingers and prehensile toes. He swung back and forth, making laugh noises and chest-beating, while the silverbacks napped. I envied his thick, leathery soles.

Later, back at the lodge, I wrote in my journal, “Best day ever, despite going bootless.”

### Boots Go Missing

When I met Gerry in the lounge for tea later that afternoon, where this story began, the fuss over my boots was languishing at the back of my mind, nearly forgotten. The hotel manager returned from the bar, sat next to me, and handed me the complimentary glass of wine. He smiled and hesitated. I braced myself for grim news.

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“Your boots were mistakenly packed in a box belonging to an American tour group that departed for Kigali last night,” he explained. “We tried to notify them at their hotel there this morning, but they had already left.”

My boots and our African travels together flashed through my mind like a movie trailer. I thought about all the hidden memories trapped within their creases and folds—Namibian sand, Zambian pebbles, shards of Ethiopian volcanic rock. That’s why I never properly cleaned my boots, I realized. I treasured all the dust and dirt that lodged in the lining and infiltrated the soles from each journey.

“We’ll lend you another pair for your second gorilla trek tomorrow,” the manager said. “When you return, we’ll take you to a used shoe store in nearby Musanze, where you can select a pair of replacements—on us.”

I appreciated his attempt at damage control. Everything—except for losing my boots—had been wonderful about this cozy, rustic country lodge, located on the edge of the park. Each night, returning to my guest cottage from dinner, I’d find logs crackling in the fireplace and a hot water bottle tucked under the bed covers. I had been on a mission to contribute my tourist dollars to Rwanda’s growing economy. I was delighted to see an all-Rwandan staff employed here.

### The Agashya Gorilla Family

The next morning, I wore a pair of loaner banana-green knee-high rubber boots on the marshy trek to the Agashya gorilla family. When the left boot slipped into a thick, swampy section my foot flew out, but I managed to balance on one leg and ease my toes back into the rubber gash, held upright by the muck. I realized I would have sunk to my knees had I been wearing my lost boots.

We found the 23-member gorilla group and their silverback on a verdant hillside, feeding on wild celery. For the entire hour we spent in their magical presence, two adolescent males wrestled in each other’s arms, teeth bared, yelping and barking—typical primate play-fighting. They’d stop for a breather, panting and exhausted, then give each other the nod and begin again.

That afternoon at the shoe store in Musanze I selected a handsome pair of used Skechers. I wore them the next day trekking golden monkeys. And again two days later on a chimpanzee trek in a canopy walk over Nyungwe Forest National Park.

A week later, in Kigali, I emailed the leader of that departed American tour group. “Yes,” she wrote back from the United States, “we noticed an extra pair of boots. We thought they belonged to someone who wanted to leave them for a future hiker in Rwanda, so we left them outside the door of our hotel room when we checked out.” I went to the hotel to see if they had been found and put aside. They hadn’t.

Back in New York, I stored the Sketchers in the old Timberland box. Things come and go, I reasoned. It’s the cycle of life. I was home safe. The gorilla population has grown. Rwanda is thriving after a genocide almost destroyed the country 25 years ago.

I felt fortunate my loss was replaceable as I imagine the next faraway place to collect grit and grime in these new, used boots of mine.

Giannella M. Garrett writes about travel and culture. Follow her on Twitter @giannella\_nyc

GIANNELLA M. GARRETT



Our machete-wielding trackers cut down four saplings and joined them together over the ravine, creating an impromptu bridge for us to get across and reach the dense rainforest canopy.

GIANNELLA M. GARRETT



Soaring 197 feet above the forest floor and spanning 523 feet in length, the treetop canopy walk in Nyungwe National Park provides a thrilling promenade over Africa’s largest protected mountain rainforest, home to 13 species of primates and over 310 species of birds.



# Tips for Planning a Multi-Generational Trip

JANNA GRABER

Growing up as one of eight kids, I learned a few things about traveling with family. Trips for us meant piling into our 12-passenger van for cross-country road trips. It took a lot of coordination, patience, and planning to travel with that many people.

Fortunately, my parents found adventures and places that we all enjoyed and could afford—and our family still likes to travel together today. These days, there are three generations involved, so travel still requires coordination. We need to find places and activities that work for the littlest grandkids on up to my 78-year-old parents.

That's not always as easy as it sounds, but with a little planning, you can create memorable vacations for everyone. Here are a few things I've learned along the way:

**Getting Started**

It's easy to sit around and talk about traveling together, but someone must put your plan into motion. It helps if there are at least two people to take the lead. It's easier to get motivated when planning is a team effort.

Start by gathering ideas from your family, and then put together a list of options. Then, send out the list of options for family feedback. It's important to consider any geographical, budget, or physical limitations your family members might have.

**Choosing Your Destination**

Budget is the first big consideration. You don't want anyone to be left out because the price point is out of reach. Money can be a sticky subject, but if you discuss a vacation budget ahead of time and determine how it will be paid for, you can avoid hard feelings.

When my siblings and I were young adults with babies, my parents would rent a few big cabins for our group one week a year at the YMCA of the Rockies in Colorado. My parents covered the cabin rental, but each of us was responsible to get our families there.

For meals, each family was assigned to make a meal or two for everyone. We also took turns with the cleanup. That way, our meals were inexpensive, and no one had to shoulder all the work. Sure, one of my brothers can't cook at all, but he can make chili—and he's made that for our family vacations for the last 15 years.

Now that my siblings and I are older, we take care of our own travel expenses on family get-togethers. We've found that it's best to consider accommodations and vacations with different price points. For example, we still visit the YMCA of the Rockies, which offers everything from budget lodge rooms to large cabins. Everyone books the room they can afford, and then we cook all the meals together at one main cabin.

Renting cabins, condos, or houses works well for



ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

▲ To maximize time together, choose a few activities throughout your trip that all age groups can enjoy.



▲ Cruises are a good idea for multi-family vacation. ►

With a little planning, you can create memorable vacations for everyone.



multi-generational travel. It's often less expensive than booking hotel rooms for everyone and offers a kitchen and living room to talk or play games together. Vacation Rental By Owner and VRBO have many options.

Cruises are another good idea for a multi-family vacation. Dining is included, as well as onboard activities. Alcohol and excursions are additional, but each family can do what works for them.

Those on a tight budget can book a cheaper inside stateroom, while others might want to pay a little more for a balcony. (Best of all, kids are often cheaper and sometimes even free when staying in their parents' room.) Regardless, your family can spend time together onboard at a price that each family can afford.

All-inclusive resorts are another excellent option. Dining and many activities are included in the room cost at all-inclusive resorts. Each family member can book their own room, and then dine and play together without having to worry about additional costs.

If you can plan your trip way ahead of time, it gives family members time to plan and set aside money for travel.

**Activities**

What you do together is almost as important as where you go, so take time to consider the activities you'll share. Most destinations offer a wide range of options, from family-friendly attractions for kids to arts and cultural activities for the adults.

To maximize time together, choose a few activities throughout your trip that all age groups can enjoy. We've rented pontoon boats on Lake Ozark for a day on the lake, gone to the San Diego Zoo, and taken easy hikes together at Rocky Mountain National Park—all with fun results.

There are also times when family members may want to skip out on group activities. My mom and dad skipped the days at Walt Disney World but met up with us later for meals and putt-putt golf.

One important thing we've learned is that you don't have to do every activity together. It's okay if my parents need some "kid-free" time at a museum, or if my sister-in-law just needs some alone time to re-energize. Giving each other some space will ensure your time together goes well.

It's tempting to try and cram in as many activities together on your trip as possible, but we've found that one big activity a day is good. That gives the vacation a leisurely pace that doesn't leave us tired at the end.

**Create Memories**

Travel removes us from our everyday duties and stresses. For families, this time is crucial to allowing our relationships to grow deeper. Some of my children's best memories of their grandparents are of times we've traveled together, and I've learned to enjoy my parents in new ways. Experiencing new places and activities together can help create memories that will last a lifetime.

*Janna Graber has covered travel in more than 45 countries. She is the editor of three travel anthologies, including "A Pink Suitcase: 22 Tales of Women's Travel," and is the managing editor of Go World Travel Magazine.*

## Eurail Introduces Changes to Its Passes in 2019

CHANNALY PHILIPP

Eurail, the train pass that has shuttled many a traveler between European countries, is turning 60 this year. Starting this month, Eurail is introducing a number of significant changes.

New countries include Great Britain, Macedonia, and Lithuania, bringing the total of countries covered to 31. The inclusion of Great Britain means that travelers can use a pass on the Eurostar, making for easy connections between London and cities such as Amsterdam, Lille, Lyon, Paris, Rotterdam, Marseille, and Avignon.

**No More Multi-Country Passes**

In addition, Eurail is retiring multi-country passes, which covered two to four countries, and instead focusing on two kinds of passes: the Global pass, which lets travelers travel between all 31 countries and 40,000 destinations; and the One Country pass, for travelers wishing to spend their time in one country.

"We anticipate the streamlining of our Pass offerings to be a welcome change by both consumers and travel agents alike," said Clarissa Mattos,



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Eurail's market manager for the Americas and Pacific.

Prices have also decreased up to 37 percent for Global passes. For adults, the Global pass now starts at \$257, covering three days of travel within

▲ Eurail passes now cover 31 countries.

one month. Depending on the frequency of travel, options vary, including seven days in one month (\$395), unlimited travel within 15 days (\$521), and unlimited travel within one month (\$788).

A new senior category, for those age 60 and older, has also been added.

**Other Changes**

A new senior category, for those age 60 and older, has also been added.

A new Greek Islands Pass has also been introduced, with ferry trips covering 53 islands, including the Cyclades, Dodecanese, Sporades, Saronic Islands, Northeast Aegean Islands, and Crete (starting at \$107 for five trips within one month).



# What Are the Chances You'll Live to 90?

## Height, Exercise Are Factors

Researchers say men and women different in terms of factors contributing to longevity

ANN PIETRANGELO

Physical activity, weight, and even your height may affect your chances of living to a ripe old age. Just how much each of those factors influence your longevity depends on if you're male or female, according to a study published in the Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health.

The researchers found that for women, about 60 minutes of physical activity a day was associated with the best chance of living a longer life. Exercising for more than an hour a day didn't add to that benefit, though.

For men, however, the more time added to daily exercise, the better the chances of reaching old age.

Body size was found to influence women's chances of reaching age 90 much more so than men's.

For men, the more time added to daily exercise, the better the chances of reaching old age.

Who's More Likely to Live to 90

The researchers used information from the Netherlands Cohort Study, which began in 1986.

They analyzed data from people between the ages of 68 and 70 who had given their height and weight at age 20 and their current weight.

Study participants reported on their current level of physical activity, which

included such things as walking, biking, or gardening.

All were monitored until they reached age 90 or died. Behaviors such as alcohol use and smoking were considered.

Of the 7,807 participants, 433 men and 994 women lived to age 90.

Women over 5 feet, 9 inches tall were 31 percent more likely to live to age 90 than women who were less than 5 feet, 3 inches.

You don't want to overdo it and injure yourself, which can discourage you from exercising at all.

Dr. Mir Ali, general and bariatric surgeon, Memorial Care Orange Coast Medical Center

They also weighed less at the start of the study and had put on less weight since they were 20 than women who were shorter and heavier.

Height did not seem to be a factor among the surviving men.

Men who were physically active for more than 90 minutes a day were 39 percent more likely to reach age 90 than men who were active less than 30 minutes.

What's more, every additional 30 minutes of exercise was associated with a 5 percent increase in the chances of turning 90.

Women were 21 percent more likely

to reach age 90 with 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity a day than those who were active 30 minutes or less. The optimal threshold for women was about 60 minutes a day.

Dr. Mir Ali is a general and bariatric surgeon at MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center in California.

He noted the study had a large number of participants and used a national health system for accurate tracking.

When it comes to weight loss, 90 percent or more comes from diet.

Dr. Mir Ali, general and bariatric surgeon, Memorial Care Orange Coast Medical Center

"The study confirmed some things we already knew about exercise and longevity," he told Healthline.

Dr. Ali also noted some limitations.

"A retrospective study can't control for all variables. There's not a good explanation for everything. Some things I found interesting can't be explained. They can only report what they observed," he said

The Value of Exercise

The big takeaway, according to Ali, is the importance of exercise.

"The relationship between body mass index (BMI) and lifespan is well-studied. A higher BMI means you're less likely to obtain old age. There's a lot of data showing that when a person gets to a BMI of 40, which is morbidly obese, it takes 10 years off your life," he said.

And exercise doesn't have to be strenuous.

"Even walking 15 minutes, then increasing to 20 minutes, with a goal of at least 30 minutes a day at least five days a week has been shown in many studies to be beneficial," Ali said. "That's easier to work into

The optimal threshold for women was about 60 minutes of exercise a day.

your lifestyle than going to the gym."

He advises seeing your doctor before starting a new exercise routine.

"Even people of a healthy weight may have heart or lung disease and not realize it until they exercise," he said.

It's also important to increase exercise gradually.

"You don't want to overdo it and injure yourself, which can discourage you from exercising at all," he said.

Ali explained that a number of things, such as genetics and environment, are factors in BMI.

"One person may be fine with 30 minutes and another may need more to maintain a healthy BMI. It's tough to predict," he said.

"When it comes to weight loss, 90 percent or more comes from diet. If you exercise but aren't eating correctly, you still may not lose weight. And it's not just the amount of food, but the type of food you eat," Ali said.

"Everybody has a different formula. What's helpful for one person may not be as helpful for another," he said. "But both diet and exercise are important to reach and maintain a normal BMI, general health, and longevity."

How to Get Started With Exercise

No matter your age or body size, there's incentive to make changes.

"If you're obese in early adulthood and then get your BMI back to the normal range, you're more likely to have a normal life expectancy," Ali said.

Emily Reynolds is a certified fitness nutrition specialist and personal trainer in Oceanside, California.

"As a fitness professional, I have a different take on BMI," she told Healthline.

"When I was taught how to use BMI, I was working with professional

athletes and bodybuilders. According to BMI guidelines, all of these athletes were obese because it doesn't take into consideration body mass versus muscle mass," Reynolds said.

So she doesn't automatically tell exercise beginners to join a gym or get a personal trainer.

Your body will always tell on you. Every bit, including happiness, matters.

Emily Reynolds, certified fitness nutrition specialist

"For most people, that's intimidating. I ask what their favorite exercise is and what they love to do outdoors. Fresh air and a beautiful view are better than a gym or an intimidating environment," she said. "Go with something you love. Having energized passion behind something will help you stick with it."

Reynolds notices differences in the way men and women approach exercise.

"If you give direction, men will follow the road map. Sometimes they'll hire a trainer because they want someone to tell them what to do," she said.

"With women, if you evoke emotion and let them guide the process, they're usually more successful," she said. "They're more likely to join a class or find support in a group. Almost all women gravitate toward that."

Young or old, male or female, Reynolds wants people to understand that it's not just what you eat and how many times a week you exercise. You have to feel good about yourself, too.

"Your body will always tell on you. Every bit, including happiness, matters," she said.

Ann Pietrangelo is an author, writer, and health care blogger. This article was originally published on Healthline.com



If you are going to exercise and stick with it, best to do something you love.

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To relieve urinary frequency. This product is suited to the treatment of non-inflammatory conditions of the bladder that result in excessive urination. This becomes more common as people age, but can also be caused by emotional issues such as anxiety. Normally patients will see improvement after the first night. One box is enough to evaluate if it will treat the patient's condition. **DO NOT** use if the patient is also experiencing pain during urination.

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THE EPOCH TIMES



# HOW TO BE the Most Beautiful You This Year

American model Christy Turlington once said that “When you are balanced and when you listen and attend to the needs of your body, mind, and spirit, your natural beauty comes out.” As you begin this year, it’s a good time to evaluate what you can do to be the most beautiful you, for the coming year and beyond!

Your task is to address this trinity of factors (body, mind, and spirit), all of which work together for true beauty to emerge, energize you, and carry you through your life with enthusiasm and purpose. With that in mind, here are 11 ways to help you embrace your inner and outer beauty.

## 11 Ways to More Beauty

**Meditate.** The practice of meditation, even if you do it for only 10 to 15 minutes a day, is one of the most physical, emotional, and spiritual enhancing activities you can choose. Meditation has been shown to significantly reduce stress and anxiety, lower blood pressure, enhance compassion, improve mood, and help individuals connect with their higher self.

**Visit nature.** The physical, emotional, and spiritual toll our hectic, tech-heavy lives takes on us is becoming increasingly apparent. According to Florence Williams, author of *The Nature Fix*, “We don’t experience natural environments enough to realize how restored they can make us feel, nor are we aware that stud-

ies also show they make us healthier, more creative, more empathetic and more apt to engage with the world and with each other. Nature, it turns out, is good for civilization.” Make a point to immerse yourself in nature as much as possible, even if it is only to take a walk through a park during your lunch break.

**Dry brush.** For smooth, glowing, vital skin, use a bristled brush and stroke your dry skin several times a week before you shower or bathe. Dry brushing removes dead skin cells and boosts circulation of blood and lymph throughout the body.

**Exercise.** When you engage in movement, you not only tone your body, you also boost endorphin levels, which enhances your mood. Be sure to choose an exercise that you enjoy; perhaps Zumba, tennis, yoga, Pilates, swimming, or a team sport.

**Journal.** Taking time to write down your thoughts, creative ideas, feelings, spiritual yearnings, and dreams is a great way to stay in touch with your emotional and spiritual self. Spending some time each day to share yourself—with yourself—can be incredibly uplifting, motivating, and fulfilling and fuel your inner beauty.



**Go (more) natural.** The number of ways to go more natural are considerable. For example, include more natural foods and beverages in your diet, select natural cleaning products, drink pure water, buy clothes made from natural materials, use natural cosmetics and health products, purchase recycled items, patronize stores that sell organic, natural foods, and frequent restaurants that use natural, organic ingredients.

Natural products are kinder to your body, which in turn contributes to a healthier, more beautiful you inside and out.

**Consider collagen.** Skin, bones, and connective tissue are composed of various elements, including collagen. Levels of this fibrous protein decline as we age, contributing to sagging skin, wrinkles, and weakening joints. That’s why it’s important to replenish our collagen stores as much as possible. Collagen supplements are one way to help your skin maintain its vitality and beauty. Another approach is to eat foods that restore, replenish, and repair damaged collagen, including fish, red vegetables, dark green vegetables, berries, soy, white tea, and orange vegetables.

**Think positively.** You will let your natural spiritual and emotional beauty shine

through if you think positively and turn negative thoughts into positive ones. Negativity promotes tension, anxiety, physical health problems (e.g., gastrointestinal issues), and a sense of feeling spiritually disconnected. Finding the positive angle in situations and transforming negative statements into positive ones will allow your inner beauty to emerge.

**Reduce sugar.** Although sugar is sweet, it isn’t when it comes to your body, and especially your skin. Sugar causes inflammation, which is associated with lines and wrinkles, acne, and aging more quickly. Focus on natural sweetness, such as found in fresh organic fruits, honey, and sweet veggies or natural sweeteners like stevia and monk fruit.

**Step away from technology.** Spending lots of time with your computer, tablet, smartphone, and intelligent/virtual assistants typically means less time communicating face-to-face, interacting with nature, exercising, and developing social skills. These activities result in virtual rather than actual experiences with others and your environment. Your physical, emotional, and spiritual essence and beauty can suffer when you depend on these devices to fulfill your needs. Research has shown that the use of social media can result in loneliness, anxiety, and feelings of adequacy. Step away from technology at least a little bit this year and discover the beauty of personal interaction and growth.

*This article was first published on NaturallySavvy.com*

# How Joking Around With Sibling Shapes Your Sense of Humor

Researchers explore complex process of developing a sense of humor

AMY PAINE

Two siblings are playing on the living room floor. The girl, age 6, looks at her brother, and smiling, sings: “A, B, C, D, E, F – R!” Her older brother, age 7, grins and joins in with: “H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, PEE! Get it? Pee! Pee-pee!” Both fall about laughing.

You may remember similar silly exchanges with your own brother or sister when you were growing up. Research has shown that sibling relationships play an important role in child development. It is one of the most enduring relationships and is characterized by closeness, cooperation, conflict, and play. Now our research has taken us a step closer to finding out just how important sharing humor with a sibling may be.

Humor is a universal part of the human experience. But although it has long been of interest to philosophers and psychologists, relatively few studies have explored the types of humor young children produce in their close relationships.

From the research that has been done, we know that from a young age, children take delight in unexpected or surprising events. In infancy, they are amused by peekaboo and clowning around with their caregivers. As toddlers, children demonstrate an increasingly advanced and varied repertoire of humorous incongruities (a conflict between what is expected and an absurd reality). They misuse and mislabel objects, play with sound, push the rules, and playfully tease others. Beyond the preschool years, children begin to play with words in more complex ways. They make up and tell riddles and jokes—with punchlines of varying success.

Researchers have proposed that the production of humor involves considerable cognitive and social skill. Telling a successful joke requires language skills and timing, the ability to understand the minds and emotions of others (or, having a theory of mind), being able to think in creative and fast-paced ways.

But we don’t tell jokes and do funny things just to make people smile—the production of humor is thought to serve many important functions. Not only does it make us laugh, but it also promotes friendships, relieves tension, and helps us cope with stress and anxiety. So it is surprising that so little work has focused on humor within one of the most important childhood relationships, between siblings.

### Oh Brother!

Moments of comedy and absurdity are a part of day-to-day life for many families. In psychologist Judy Dunn’s observations of early sibling interactions, children particularly enjoyed humorous play with forbidden and disgusting themes (or “bathroom humor”). Just as the sibling relationship can be thought of as a training ground for crucial social skills such as negotiating and managing play and conflict, its permanency enables children to explore the boundaries of what each other may (and may not) find funny without jeopardizing the relationship.

## Humor promotes friendships, relieves tension, and helps us cope with stress and anxiety.

In our recent observational study, published in the *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, we identified different types of humor produced by a group of 7-year-olds as they played with their older or younger sibling. We found that spontaneous humor was very common in the children’s play with their siblings. It was often good-natured, repetitive and well-rehearsed, reflecting their shared experiences and sibling bonds.

The siblings produced a wide variety of different types of humor. Children most often played with words (such as nonsense speech, riddles, and making up absurd stories) and sounds (chanting, over-exaggerated singing, and silly voices). They also performed and described incongruities (deliberately making objects perform wrong actions), shared taboo themes (blowing raspberries and making rude noises), engaged in banter (light-hearted and playful teasing and rough and tumble), and clowning around (silly poses, body movements, and pulling faces) to make their siblings laugh.

We also found that when the 7-year-olds with a younger sibling played together, as a pair they produced more humorous sound play (such as shouting in high-pitched voices: “Eww! I’ve been slimed!”) than the 7-year-olds with an older sibling.

According to other researchers, as soon as children learn about new rules, they have fun exaggerating and distorting them. It is possible that the younger sibling pairs were enjoying playing around with newly learned rules and conventions about sound in conversation.

Male sibling pairs produced more humor than female sibling pairs overall, performing more incongruities than mixed gender and female pairs (“I’ll let you in on a little secret. I have cheese in my pocket!”). Pairs of brothers used more taboo humor (“Fart? Does it fart?”) and clowning around—we saw a lot of silly dancing—more often than sister pairs too.

By identifying these differences in humor between siblings, we are one step closer to understanding the role and function of shared humor in children’s closest relationships. That said, much more work is needed to discover exactly what humor production means for the development of social and cognitive skills, learning, and psychological well-being in childhood.

*Amy Paine is a postdoctoral researcher in developmental psychology at Cardiff University in the UK. This article was first published on The Conversation.*

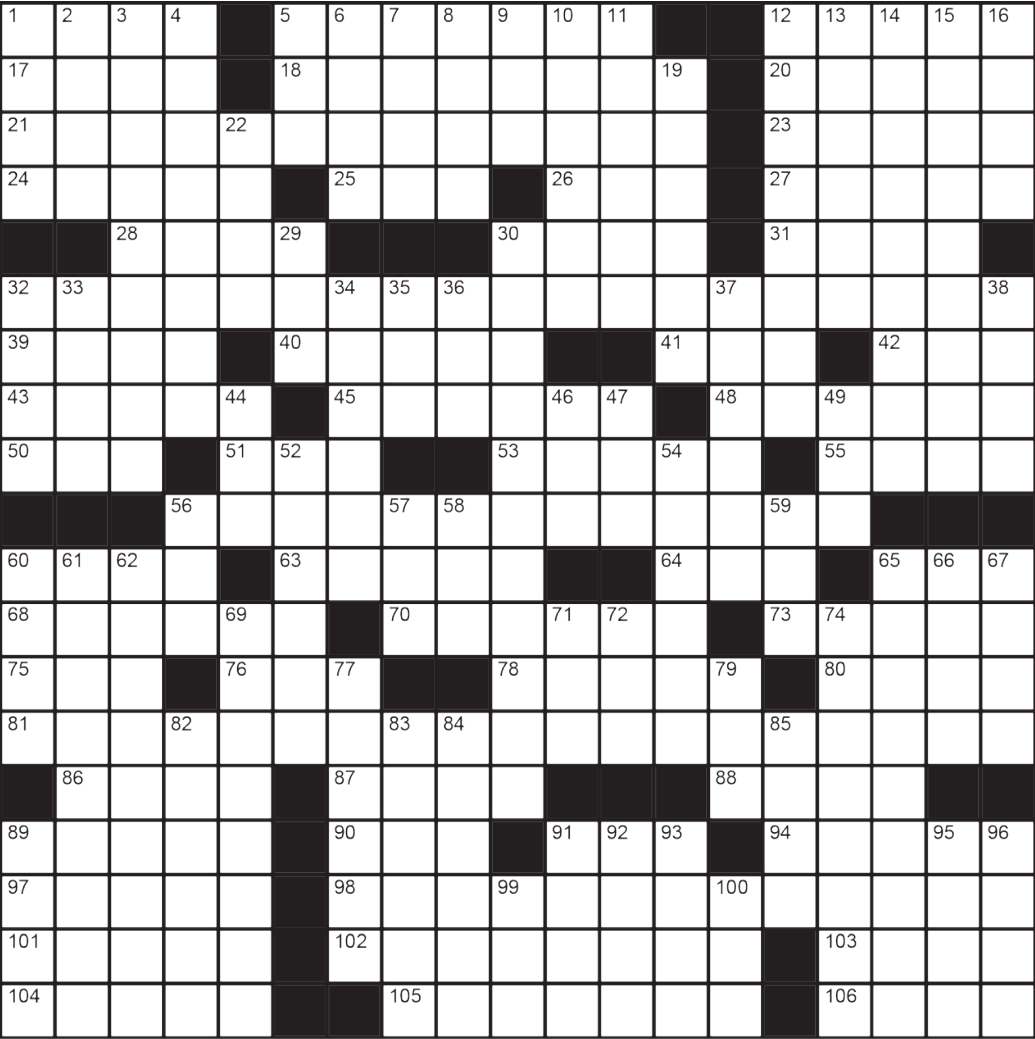


Researchers observed pairs of siblings to gain insight into how humor develops during childhood.



CROSSWORD

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON  
EPOCH TIMES STAFF



Across

1. Dunderheads
5. Chile successfully fought Bolivia for it
12. Massenet opera
17. “Step \_\_\_\_!”
18. Hot spot for shells
20. 100 kopecks
21. How some wasps reproduce
23. Whack-\_\_\_\_\_ (carnival game)
24. Was out
25. “Patriot Games” grp.
26. Actor Arnold
27. Office papers
28. Tolerate
30. Ascend
31. Proper partner
32. Interpret subtlety
39. Make eyes at
40. Native New Zealander
41. A couple when wed
42. “Saturday Night Live” star Gasteyer
43. Latin dance
45. Wingdings
48. Crests
50. Annoying online pop-ups
51. Clock std.
53. Raise
55. Roulette bets
56. Deep introspection?

60. Branch headquarters?
63. Giving the once-over
64. Frigid
65. “Pygmalion” opens with it
68. Odd-numbered leaves
70. Check
73. Raven’s call
75. Union agreement?
76. Bug out
78. Bob Marley fan
80. “If all \_\_\_\_ fails...”
81. A little fish in your strawberries
86. Mouselike animal

87. Pastoral expanses
88. Auricular
89. Macho types
90. Biblical verb ending
91. \_\_\_\_ seul (dance solo)
94. Hostile force
97. Shade of green
98. Reaction related to light
101. Drops off
102. Ancient Hebrew household gods
103. “First-tier” brand
104. Drained
105. Cashes in
106. Unit of fat

Down

1. “My bad”
2. Beyond fussy
3. Meteors
4. Ear bones
5. Frazier foe
6. A marmoset
7. Mideast chief: Var.
8. Intestinal parts
9. Rap sheet abbr.
10. “Paradise Lost” poet
11. Exhaustive
12. Careless one, perhaps
13. Arm bones
14. Loathe
15. Unlucky
16. Inquires (about)
19. Deviant
22. Pierce
29. Sleep stage
30. Some Japanese entertainers
32. Santa \_\_\_\_, CA
33. “Good grief!”
34. With a bite
35. Seek the affection of

36. Significant period
37. Matrilineal
38. Back talk
44. Back, in a way
46. Crag
47. [not my error]
49. Bit of work
52. Breakfast cereal
54. Literally, “way of the gods”
56. Sink
57. \_\_\_\_ Laurence Olivier
58. 67.5 degrees, to mariners
59. Big Apple inits.
60. Kind of function
61. Go from blighted to gentrified
62. Be frugal
65. Black and white with a cherry on top
66. Peace
67. Scraped (out)
69. Most frequently
71. Roll-call call
72. Belief system
74. Purifying
77. “Called” 1,000 years ago
79. Tumult
82. One after another?
83. Son of Erebus and Nyx in Greek mythology
84. Pakistani city
85. Twosome
89. Bricklayers’ equipment
91. Bishop of Rome
92. Have a hankering
93. Level
95. Cry from a crib
96. Primordial substance
99. Modicum
100. Printers’ widths

4NUMBERS

CONSTRUCTED BY C. CHANG  
AT 4NUMS.COM

Use the four numbers in the corners, and the operands (+, -, X, and ÷) to **build an equation** to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one “unique” solution but, there may also be “equivalent” solutions. For example: 6 + (7X3) +1 = 28 and 1+ (7X3) +6 = 28

16

31

20

3

30

+

−

×

÷

Hard 1 - 1 Solution

26

33

12

11

30

+

−

×

÷

Hard 2 - 2 Solutions

7

10

50

3

10

+

−

×

÷

Easy 1 - 1 Solution

5

9

42

3

7

+

−

×

÷

Easy 2 - 1 Solution

WORDSEARCH

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON  
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Help with Today’s Crossword Puzzle?

S P E N T E F T R A M P L E R  
L B T A R T L Y D O Z E S Y H  
E R M O L S H I N T O F M U O  
P O H A E L E V E N W I Y O I  
T A E C O N O M I Z E R C H S  
L S B U G R R U B L E E L O T  
N T H A I S I Y T A K B E M O  
O S A R Ê T E S C A W A P X V  
T F H U M E R I R M I L T O N  
A E T H E R T X O O E L A M I  
I M N E R A S T A L O S H U E  
R E F I N I N G K E L H E E Y  
R E D E V E L O P A I C M S I  
I E N E M Y S G S J V C E L N  
A T A C A M A T R F E Z N I G

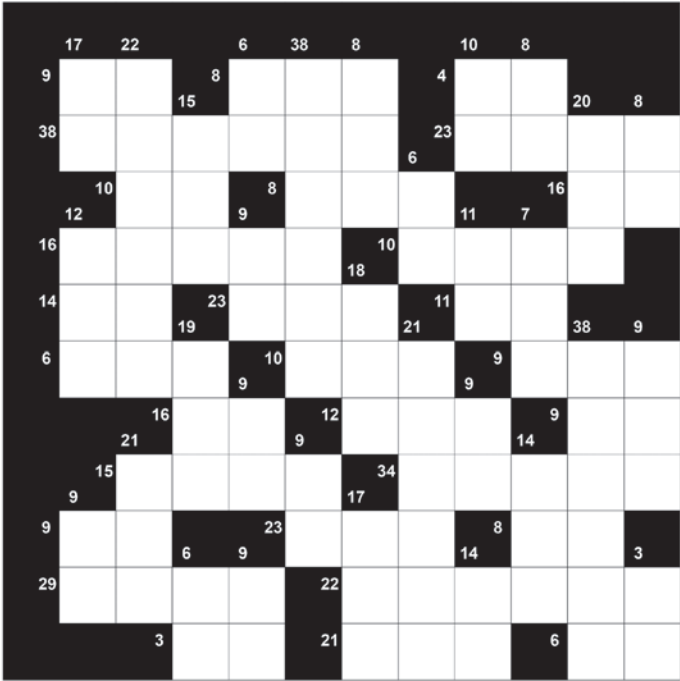
- ALL-OUT
- ARÊTES
- CROAK
- DOZES
- ECONOMIZE
- ELEVEN
- ENATIC
- ENEMY
- EYING
- FIREBALLS
- HE-MEN
- HOIST
- HUMERI
- LAHORE
- MAORI
- MEMOS
- MILTON
- MUESLI
- OFTENEST
- OLIVE
- RASTA
- REFINING
- ROASTS
- RUBLE
- SALSA
- SHINTO
- SLEPT
- SPENT
- TARTLY
- THAIS
- TRAMPLER
- YCLEFT
- AETHER
- AMOLE
- ATACAMA
- REDEVELOP

KAKURO

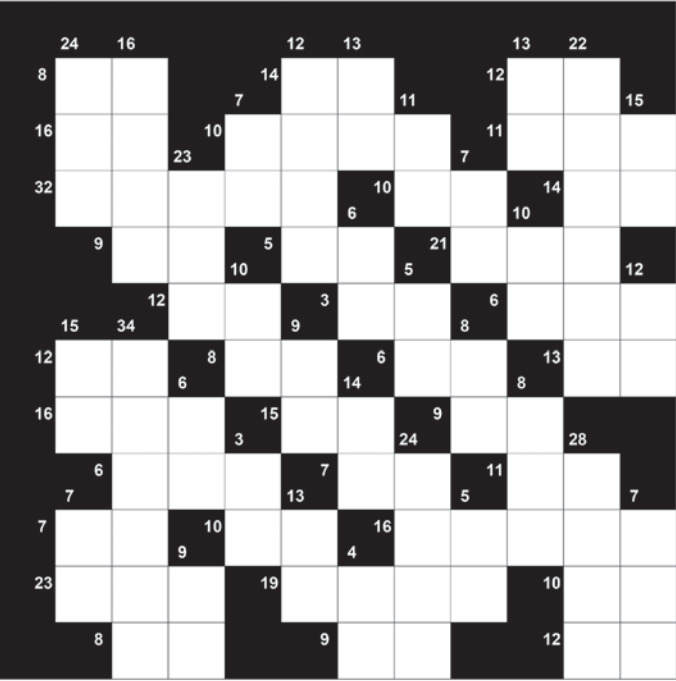
CONSTRUCTED BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Kakuro puzzles are like crosswords that use numbers instead of words. The goal is to fill the blank squares associated with a clue (called a “run”) with the numbers 1-9 so that the numbers add up to the corresponding clues. Like Sudoku, digits in a run cannot repeat. When the grid is filled, the puzzle is complete.

Large: Hard



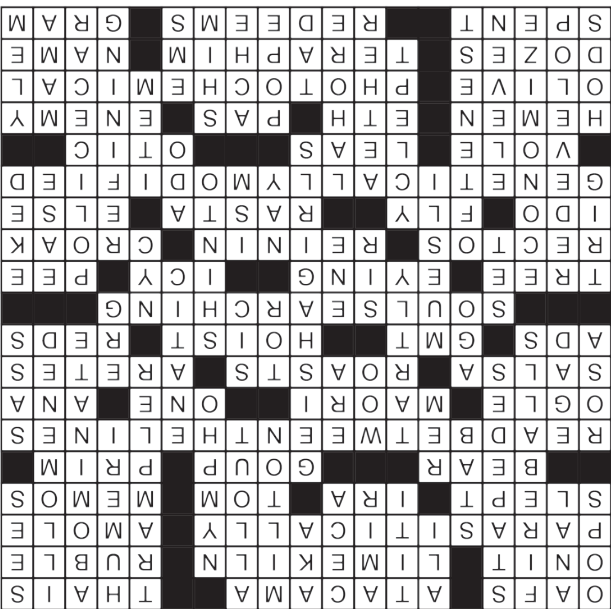
Large: Easy



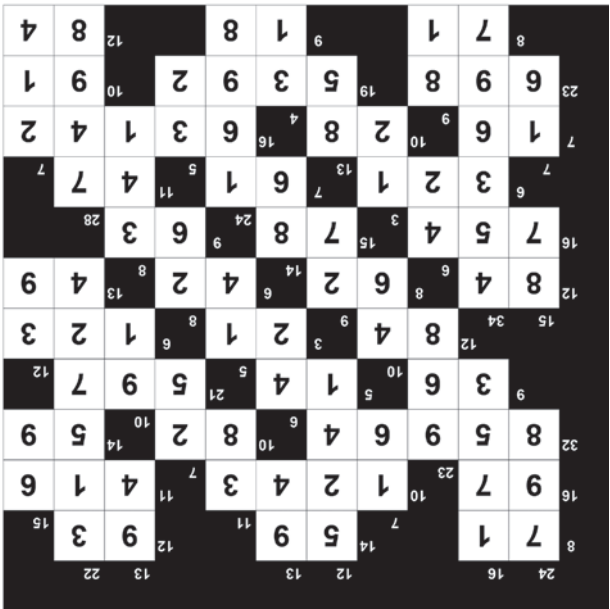
WORK SPACE

SOLUTIONS

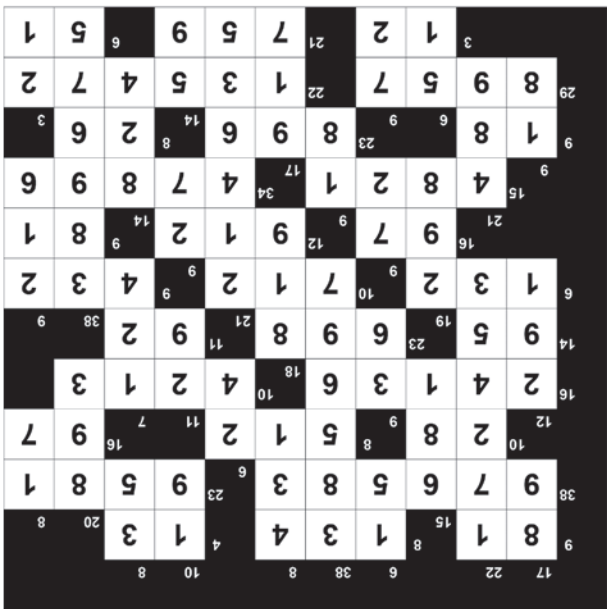
CROSSWORD



KAKURO LARGE: EASY



KAKURO LARGE: HARD



4 NUMBERS

- HARD 1
- 03 − 3 + 3 + 16 = 33
- HARD 2
- 11 − − 33 − 26 + 26 = 03
- 11 ÷ 33 ÷ × × 33 ÷ 30 = 30
- EASY 1
- 01 ÷ 10 + 10 × (3 − − 7) = 10
- EASY 2
- 7 × (9 − 3 × × 5) = 28







FILM INSIGHTS  
WITH MARK JACKSON



**Mark Jackson** grew up in Spring Valley, N.Y., where he attended a Waldorf school. At Williams College, his professors all suggested he write professionally. He acted professionally for 20 years instead. Now he writes professionally about acting. In the movies.

# ‘Fighting With My Family’: Dwayne Johnson Knows WWE Wrestling, Does America?

MARK JACKSON

My first job out of college was as a counselor in a group home for “emotionally disturbed” teens. Not sure of the politically correct term now, but basically kids from broken homes. Actually, the kids were popular in school: good-looking mean girls and bullies who terrorized teachers, and terrorized the counselors the minute we picked them up in the group-home van that they would rather die than get caught being seen in. Police were at the group home regularly; one counselor rolled all the way down the hill from the home into the street, with one kid, fighting off a knife attack. Anyway, I’m not here to talk about angry, depressed teens but about World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)—professional wrestling. We had one kid, Patrick, who came from a mountain-people family. When we

**‘Fighting With My Family’**  
**Director**  
Stephen Merchant  
**Starring**  
Dwayne Johnson, Vince Vaughn, Florence Pugh, Jack Lowden, Lena Headey, Nick Frost  
**Running Time**  
1 hour, 48 minutes  
**Rated**  
PG  
**Release Date**  
Mar. 21  
★★★★☆

picked him up the first time, one of his nine big brothers was throwing an ax into a tree from 20 paces, in the front yard. Straight out of Southern Appalachia, except in Sloatsburg, New York. Huge wrestling fans, Patrick’s kin. I made the mistake one day of saying, “You know that’s all fake, right?” Oh my goodness—the invective shower. It went on for days. I had violated Patrick’s religious belief system. He was only 13, but his brothers ranged up into their mid-30s, and they were all true believers in the WWE. And so this particular experience afforded me a deep insight into American culture: A giant portion of the American population—and, indeed, the rest of the world—believes professional wrestling is very real indeed. And I used to have no respect for it, but I’ve learned over the years that while a large portion of professional wrestling is showbiz, and (as here described by former superstar, pro-wrestler Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson) “soap opera in spandex,” it is, nonetheless, incredibly dangerous. It calls for a high degree of skill-in-mayhem and a particular high-octane, head-banging personality with a wild streak bordering on insanity. The stunts: jumping off 30-foot cages and landing on chairs and destroying them (and possibly your rotator cuff) and such.

**The Stage Is Now Set**  
“Wrestling With My Family” is the true tale (based on a 2012 documentary) of a British family of head-bangers, for whom



wrestling is the family business, and how their little girl has a wrestler’s Hero’s Journey: She goes to America, meets “The Rock.” There, she gets to ply her trade on a world-class stage, and in doing so (per the vocabulary of the Hero’s Journey), brings gold back to the village compound, by beating star AJ Lee and winning the Divas Championship belt. In a particularly funny scene, Ricky conducts an interview and negotiates a contract: Is the wrestler applying for the job willing to take a garbage-can lid to the face? Good! Duly noted. Will he take a bowling ball to his, er, nether region? (All of these “wrestling moves” are applied to the interviewee during the interview.) Long pause ... weak nod of acquiescence. “Excellent! We’ll let you know.” Son Zak later demonstrates being body-slammed onto a thumbtack-strewn mat. That’s actually a thing.

**It’s Like a Family-Run Circus**  
Ricky lives for wrestling, and so does his wife Julia (Lena Headey), son Zak (Jack Lowden), and daughter Saraya (Florence

Pugh). They promote wrestling, wrestle themselves, and Zak runs a gym that provides an outlet for the local goth-clad, death-metal-loving kids in the neighborhood who need an outlet for their prodigious energy. Ricky’s second son is in the slammer. Zak and Saraya made WWE Championship belts out of cardboard when they were little, and eventually they go try out for a shot at the big time. Talent scout and WWE coach Hutch (Vince Vaughn) picks Saraya to relocate to Florida and join his WWE-pipeline training camp. I’d advise not going into this movie thinking that it’s just a comedy. It’s a real-life story, and when Zak, who wanted the WWE-in-the-sky dream more than his sister, doesn’t get to go, his devastation is very real, not to mention his jealousy. Saraya picks the stage name Paige, and while she grew up with wrestling and considers herself the real deal, she’s not prepared for the ultraserious American approach to any venue connected to a world-class platform. Wrestling boot camp is brutal, and her pudgy self is competing





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with fitness models, model-models, and cheerleaders who, while ditzzy in appearance, are anything but when it comes to competing.

Meanwhile Zak’s status as an also-ran dropkicks him straight into deep depression, and he and his girlfriend are pregnant. Luckily, Zak’s got a Hero’s Journey character arc of his own: “Those can’t do—teach.” And while that’s an oft-maligned phrase and not glam, it’s just as necessary.

Vince Vaughn plays his stock-in-trade, funnily acerbic cynic, but underneath, informing his character’s hard-bittedness, is a compassion born of having walked the talk, and lost.

Dwayne Johnson has never been better, giving, maybe for the first time, a real sense of who he is. As they say in most art forms—write, act, etc., what you know. The Rock knows WWE wrestling.

Patrick at the group home didn’t know wrestling, but that was 36 years ago. I wonder how well America knows wrestling now, especially now that the WWE has to compete with MMA and the UFC (mixed martial arts and the Ultimate



(Left) (L-R) Jack Lowden, Florence Pugh, and Dwayne Johnson in “Fighting With My Family.” (Right) Zak Knight (Jack Lowden, L) and sister Paige (Florence Pugh) are both aspiring wrestlers.

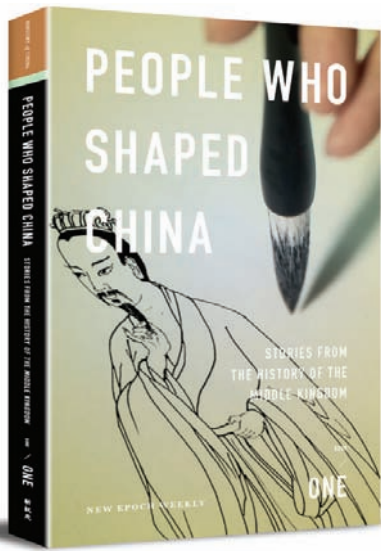
**Dwayne Johnson has never been better, giving, maybe for the first time, a real sense of who he is.**



(Bottom left) Dwayne Johnson (L) as himself and Hutch (Vince Vaughn) in “Fighting With My Family.” (Right) Florence Pugh and Jack Lowden as brother and sister wrestlers who undergo their own heroic journeys.

Fighting Championship)? It’s alive and well and there’s room for everybody, because America still loves itself some soap opera in spandex. And because, as this movie aptly demonstrates—professional wrestling is a way of life.

# Uncover the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom



“**Awesome!!!**

*I’m a history buff, and I’ve been reading a lot of Chinese historical fiction. I originally tried delving into Chinese historical non-fiction, but everything I found was way too dry or political.*

*This book breaks down the most important historical figures of Chinese history into easy to read short stories that tell their historical impact. What’s amazing about Chinese history is that **the stories are gripping, wise, and dramatic.** It’s so fun to read and I highly recommend it to anyone looking to pick something up about Chinese history.*

*It’s the perfect blend of fiction and non-fiction!*

— Yinyin

**Fascinating stories!**

*To my surprise, the book is quite an easy read. It keeps the difficult Chinese names at the minimum and presents interesting stories and characters. Great content for my children to complement their Chinese language studies!*

— Amazon customer



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BEHOLD THE BEAUTY

# Glorious, New Light at One of Rome’s Famous Basilicas

LORRAINE FERRIER

St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome can now be seen in a whole new light, after 100,000 LEDs were recently installed throughout the basilica by the Germany-based high-tech company OSRAM Licht AG.

Before and after photos of one of the domes show the dramatic transformation. If these photos are anything to go by, seeing the newly lit St. Peter’s Basilica must be like rediscovering a lost treasure, or even like regaining sight. Now, previously dark or unlit niches can be seen and truly appreciated by fine arts aficionados and pilgrims alike.

One photo shows the basilica’s main cupola, or rounded dome. Although the main cupola was primarily designed by Michelangelo, he saw only the base of the colossal 65-foot-high drum, or circular walls of the cupola, built before he died. It was Michelangelo’s pupil Giacomo Della Porta who carried out Michelangelo’s design, completing the cupola in 1590.

The diameter of the cupola at its plinth (base) is 139 feet. Below the cupola are four medallions, each 28 feet in diameter, which show the four evangelists: Mark with a lion, Luke with an angel, John with an eagle, and Matthew with an ox. Matthew wrote the first gospel of the New Testament, and the medallion shows him with his pen, all 9 feet of it.

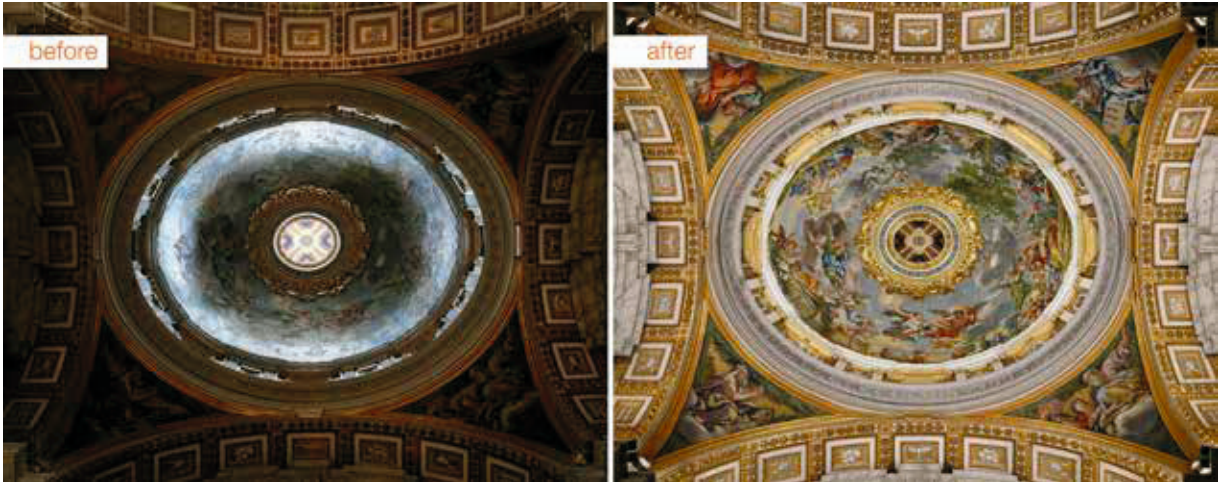
Sunlight enters the dome through its 16 windows. Above the windows, a total of 96 figures decorate the dome from top to bottom on six ascending, concentric levels. The lower levels depict important figures in Christendom from the earthly realm: the busts of the 16 popes buried in the basilica, and Christ, the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. John the Baptist, and some of the apostles. As the dome ascends higher, the figures enter into the ethereal, celestial realms, where angels are contained in rectangular frames holding the instruments of Christ’s passion. And higher still, protective angels act as custodians for St. Peter’s tomb. Next are cherubim and seraphim reflected on circular medallions, and then nearest to the peak are the serene faces of winged angels.

Moving farther up, the dome decor diffuses into a starry blue sky, and then a large Latin inscription is at the base of the lantern (a small cupola-like structure, usually with decorative arcades, mounted on top of a dome.) Each letter is over 4 1/2 feet high. The inscription gives thanks to St. Peter and to Pope Sixtus V, who had promoted the cupola’s construction. Up high, about as tall as a 40-story building, the artwork on the lantern depicts, of course, God.

To find out more about St. Peter’s Basilica, visit [www.VaticanState.va](http://www.VaticanState.va)



New illumination lights up the main dome at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.



A dome in St. Peter’s basilica shows the difference between the old and new lighting.

# Rare Giambologna Statuette Returns to Germany

LORRAINE FERRIER

The small bronze “Mars” first came to Dresden, Germany, in 1587 as a gift from the Late Renaissance sculptor Giambologna (1529–1608) to Elector Christian I of Saxony. (Electors were German princes with the power to elect the Holy Roman Emperor.) The “Dresden Mars” is thought to be the only surviving bronze that Giambologna produced for a royal sovereign. For 300 years, the statuette was part of the Saxon electors’ art collection.

Then, in 1924, the bronze went into private ownership as part of the “Fürstenabfindung,” when the personal property of the dethroned princes was confiscated by the German state.

Now, Giambologna’s “Mars” returns to the region of Saxony, where it has embarked on a regional tour before it is put on permanent display at the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister (Old Masters Picture Gallery) in Dresden’s Sempër Gallery when it reopens in December.

**Giambologna and Mannerism**

Giambologna was considered the greatest sculptor of the Mannerist era (1520–1600), which was a transition stage at the end of the Renaissance, and his reputation was felt for two centuries after his death, second only to Michelangelo’s. His small bronze statuettes continued to be reproduced until the 20th century.

Although definitions of mannerism differ, mannerist art usually shows complex compositions made up of elegant, and sometimes exaggerated, artificial poses, purely to show an artist’s ability.

**Mars as Man**

Giambologna’s “Mars” is the epitome of traditional masculinity. As the archetypal hero, the warrior-god Mars is poised, ready to attack, or to protect in order to secure peace.

This statuette strikes a powerful pose: Mars is captured mid-stride, without his helmet, shield, and spear that are so often shown in antique depictions of him. Giambologna’s “Mars” is nude, perhaps to show fearlessness in the face of danger, a common device used by Renaissance artists. The only indication that this figure is the mythological god of war is the sword hilt that Mars holds in his right hand.

The palpable, primal instinct of the warrior runs throughout the sculpture, alongside an overarching elegance and the sheer beauty of man.



Detail of the “Dresden Mars,” 1587, by Giambologna. Florence, Italy.

**Mars is captured mid-stride, without his helmet, shield, and spear.**

Obviously, a warrior needs strength, but strength here is not merely the physical strength that is seen in Mars’s beautifully defined musculature. Mars’s thoughtful, yet commanding gaze shows a mental strength, a needed skill in battle, and also in time of peace, when wisdom and courage have to come together to discern the right action.

An earlier version of Giambologna’s “Mars” can also be seen at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



# No, Mr. Rogers Isn’t Responsible for the Entitlement Culture

To Mr. Rogers, having inherent value did not mean one would have an easy journey on the road to success

PBS TELEVISION/COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES



American educator and television personality Fred Rogers (1928–2003) of the television series “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” circa 1980s.

**BARRY BROWNSTEIN**

The documentary “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” deservedly made many lists of 10 best movies of 2018. It is a riveting film on the power of love. Years after his death, interest in the work of Fred Rogers grows. Tom Hanks plays Mr. Rogers in the movie “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” which is slated for a 2019 release.

Yet, the late Fred Rogers and his long-running, half-hour educational children’s show “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” had fierce critics.

Finance professor Don Chance, fed up with students begging for extra points, observed, “They felt so entitled and it just hit me. We can blame Mr. Rogers.” Chance hopes students will come to class having learned, “The world owes you nothing. You have to work and compete. If you want to be special, you’ll have to prove it.”

One millennial, Jen Kim, writing in *Psychology Today* complained that Mr. Rogers lied to her. Ms. Kim blamed Rogers for her failure to commit in the workplace: “Thinking of myself as special has lead me to ten different jobs over two years, because I have been and still am searching for that dream job—the one that pays me what I want and lets me do what I want—the one that makes me feel really special.”

The absurdity of blaming a television show you watched as a child for your adult decisions to not understand the realities of building a meaningful career seemed to be lost on Ms. Kim. Failing to take responsibility is not something Ms. Kim would have learned from Mr. Rogers.

On the “Neighborhood,” there were field trips to a bakery and other stores. Adults were shown at work, not complaining the world owed them something.

In his book “The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers,” Maxwell King observes Fred Rogers “never” strayed from living by and demonstrating “basic human values: integrity, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compassion, and of course his signature value, kindness.”

Despite his high standards for the show, he asked his production staff to leave some mistakes unedited: “I want children to know it’s hard to learn something new, and that grown-ups make mistakes.” Modeling his own willingness to be a learner, he taught children to develop their talents instead of adopting the false belief that talent was all they needed for success.

When the show began to broadcast in the late 1960s, black Americans were still being barred from whites-only swimming pools. Mr. Rogers didn’t merely preach equality, he modeled equality by sharing a wading pool foot bath with a black resident of the “Neighborhood,” police officer Clemmons.

**Mr. Rogers’ Message**  
Ms. Kim and Professor Chance are confused. Mr. Rogers taught children that their specialness stems from their “inherent value.” Since inherent value is in all of us, no one at their core is especially different. From that place of inestimable value springs our potential, but not an entitlement. There were no people or groups designated as better than others in Mr. Rogers’ “Neighborhood.”

**Does having inherent value undermine our ability to take responsibility, or does it enhance our freedom to live from our highest purpose and values?**

Does having inherent value undermine our ability to take responsibility, or does it enhance our freedom to live from our highest purpose and values?

Fred Rogers railed against those who thought they had to put on a “funny hat or jump through the hoop to have a relationship with a child.” How could a child develop their gifts in a loud, brash environment? Mr. Rogers saw himself as an adult protector against “the ever-ready molders of [a child’s] world.”

Mr. Rogers would likely have shared the perspective expressed by F. A. Hayek in his essay “Individualism: True and False”: There is an “unlimited variety of human gifts and skills,” and “everybody [should be] allowed to try and see what he can do.” The idea that all are endowed with an entitlement would have been anathema to Mr. Rogers.

**Important but Not Self-Important**  
Born a slave, Epictetus became a Stoic philosopher. Nearly 2,000 years ago in “The Art of Living,” he advised that being important is not the same as self-importance:

“Humanity has no inherent pecking order, despite outward appearances. Everyone in this world is important. If you really want peace of mind and success in your endeavors, forego self-importance.”

Epictetus warned, “Arrogance is... the most potent impediment to the flourishing life. Clear thinking and self-importance cannot logically coexist.”

“The legitimate glow of satisfaction at accomplishing a hard-won worthy goal” is not arrogance. Arrogance is “self-preoccupation and lack of interest in the feelings or affairs of others.”

Mr. Rogers did not teach arrogant preoccupation with our sense of self; he taught of loving others. In the documentary, Mr. Rogers says, “Love is at the root of everything. All learning, all parenting, all relationships. Love or the lack of it.” Love in Mr. Rogers’ world was not the special love that so often passes for love—I love you because you meet my needs and complete me. Love in Mr. Rogers’ “Neighborhood” is nurtured not by a sense of self-importance but by an understanding of the importance of those we love.

**Mr. Rogers’ Struggles**  
Mr. Rogers was not just a performer; he was the head writer of his show. Like most engaged in a creative process, at times he struggled. Perhaps his inner-voice of self-doubt is familiar to you:

“Am I kidding myself that I’m able to write a script again? Am I really just whistling Dixie? I wonder. Why don’t I trust myself? After all these years, it’s just as bad as ever. The hour cometh, and now is when I’ve got to do it. Get to it, Fred. Get to it. But don’t let anyone tell anyone else it was easy. It wasn’t.”

To Mr. Rogers, having inherent value did not mean one would have an easy journey on the road to success.

There were no superficial Band-Aids applied in the “Neighborhood.” When Lady Aberlin sings to a doubting Daniel Tiger, “You’re not a fake. You’re no mistake. You are my friend,” Daniel’s doubts, like Mr. Rogers’ own doubts, are not easily quieted. Emotional life played out in the “Neighborhood” may be messy, but there is the constant assurance you are still loved.

**Give Up Conceit**  
Not long before his death in 2003, Fred Rogers delivered the 2002 commencement address at Dartmouth College.

He encouraged the graduates to give the “gift of a silent minute to think about those who have helped you become who you are today”:

“Well, what is essential about you? And who are those who have helped you become the person you are? Anyone who has ever graduated from a college, anyone who has ever been able to sustain a good work, has had at least one person, and often many, who have believed in him or her. We just don’t get to be competent human beings without a lot of different investments from others.”

Mr. Rogers offered, “You don’t ever have to do anything sensational for people to love you.” Yet, at the same time, he believed we have a responsibility to pivot towards “the strength and the grace to

make those choices which will allow you and your neighbor to become the best of whoever you are.”

How often do we remember with gratitude the way life supports us?

Ingratitude is born of conceit that exaggerates our own importance. Epictetus warned:

“Conceit is an iron gate that admits no new knowledge, no expansive possibilities, nor constructive ideas. Indulging in excessive pride in your own knowledge, abilities, or experiences and attempting to take on more power or authority than is your due is fatal.”

**In his book ‘The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers,’ Maxwell King observes Fred Rogers ‘never’ strayed from living by and demonstrating ‘basic human values: integrity, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compassion, and of course his signature value, kindness.’**

Ms. Kim wrote, “I have been and still am searching for that dream job.” Since she aired her grievances against Mr. Rogers, she has found success as a writer. Mr. Rogers would cheer for Ms. Kim. More importantly, believing “kindness always makes life better,” he would say to Ms. Kim, “Thank you for whatever you do, wherever you are, to bring joy and light and hope and faith and pardon and love to your neighbor and yourself.”

*Barry Brownstein is professor emeritus of economics and leadership at the University of Baltimore. He is the author of “The Inner-Work of Leadership.” This article was originally published on FEE.org.*



CLASSICAL MUSIC

# Secret Masses, Setting Faith Into Music, and the English Reformation

CATHERINE YANG

When England’s King Henry VIII broke from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century, it was as if overnight an entirely new liturgy had to be created. Composers of the time had to write all new works, in a new language and a new style—even as some continued to practice their faith in secret.

“The program is an exploration of musical responses to the change in religion and also the change in political leanings,” said Phillip Cheah, music director of Central City Chorus. On March 9, the chorus will perform “The Tudors,” a program of music written around the time of the English Reformation, at the Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church in Manhattan.

We will hear from composers Thomas Tallis, Thomas Tomkins, Robert Parsons, John Taverner, and William Byrd. And though many of these composers were contemporaries, and the pieces all sacred music, the style of the programmed works will vary greatly.

“They’re all Tudor composers, but they all have their own specific style, their own approaches to this new liturgy, and this new approach to setting music,” Cheah said.

Instead of Latin, the composers now worked with English text. The liturgy was meant to be simplified, in vernacular, and accessible to the masses, and the music was meant to reflect that. Gone was the thick Latin polyphony, Cheah said. Henry VIII even wrote a letter with instructions that the songs were to set one syllable per note, so that what was sung could be more easily understood.

“I wanted to explore what that meant for composers at the time,” Cheah said.

The earliest of the works is an Easter piece by Taverner, which shows the complex polyphony of the music that preceded the Reformation.

From Tallis, the well-known “If Ye Love Me” motet is “a perfect example of the very simplified style that the Reformation called for,” Cheah said.

Tallis and his student Byrd were both



SEAN SCANLIN

composers for the Royal Chapel—and both were Roman Catholics. Despite that, the composers had very different styles.

“I wanted the various pieces to have a conversation with each other,” Cheah said.

**The history surrounding these pieces may be complex, but first and foremost, Cheah programs music to be enjoyed.**

**Performed in Secret**

From Byrd, the program includes his “Mass for Four Voices,” which is a Catholic Mass that had to be performed in secret.

“These Masses were performed in someone’s home, in a room somewhere,” Cheah said. Even hearing them today, you get that sense, he adds. “There’s a lot of stuff in the music that has harmonic tensions and whatnot, a somewhat secret code for

tensions happening outside, in England.”

Cheah explained that while some composers claimed outwardly to be Protestant and wrote Protestant music, they were still Catholics and “they’re still people who want to practice their faith in secret.”

For example, on the words “grant us peace,” or “dona nobis pacem,” Byrd “unleashes the most dissonant suspensions of the entire Mass,” Cheah said. The listener can feel the tension, waiting for the harmonies to resolve. “It cannot be a coincidence that he’s using that text in reference to what’s happening.”

The Mass will be performed movement by movement, spread throughout the program rather than all at once.

“We want to give a sense of how the Mass would have actually been heard if it were performed in public in a service,” Cheah said.

Byrd’s Mass differs from Catholic Masses written before the Reformation as well. “He is still living in this time,” Cheah said, “so the harmonies are not as angular and rhythmically complex as ... say, John Taverner’s.”

**Layers**

The history surrounding these pieces may be complex, but first and foremost, Cheah programs music to be enjoyed. Even knowing nothing about the music or the history, one can sit in the concert and enjoy the experience.

And sometimes, like Cheah saw during rehearsals, something clicks and you experience a piece of music in a new light because of what you heard right before or after it. He feels this happens for the audience too, but it might be more subliminal than conscious.

“I feel like the concert becomes analogous to peeling away layers of an onion, where as you peel, you find more and more things that connect or are interesting,” he said. “I think if you can give the audience a chance to walk away and think about things, then I think that deepens their lives aesthetically.”

*Central City Chorus performs “The Tudors” on March 9, 2019, 7 p.m. at the Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church in Manhattan.*

Central City Chorus will perform “The Tudors” at the Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church in New York on March 9, 2019.





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