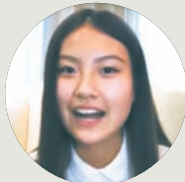


In the NEWS

As
ALL EYES

were glued on allegations of Trump-Russia collusion, Joe Biden and the Obama administration were involved in a series of events that led to the ousting of a Ukrainian president.

US | A8



A sum of
\$6.5 MILLION

in bribe money was paid by a Chinese billionaire with links to the Chinese Communist Party to gain admission for his daughter into Stanford University.

CHINA | A5

After
FACEBOOK ANNOUNCED

a ban on “dangerous individuals and organisations,” President Trump blasted a warning at the social media giant for its censorship of conservative commentators.

US | A7

CHRISTIANS

are being persecuted at ‘near genocide’ levels according to a U.K. Government report and are now facing ‘extinction’ in parts of the Middle East.

WORLD | A3



U.S. President

DONALD TRUMP'S

pick for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Stephen Moore, reveals to The Epoch Times why he withdrew from the candidacy.

US | A6

LIES

are used to conceal decades of intellectual property theft and unfair trade practices Beijing has used against the West, and some Western media are playing along.

OPINION | A10

INSIDE

AU.....A2
World.....A3
China.....A4
US.....A6
Opinion.....A10

SPECIAL EDITION

Mind & body.....B1
Home.....B9

Don't delay. Subscribe today.
Tel: 02 8988 5600



An investor looks at stock price movements on a screen at a securities company in Beijing on May 6, 2019.

TRADE WAR

Chinese Stock Market Tumbles After Trump Tariff Announcement

While state media is mostly silent, some Chinese ‘netizens’ celebrate the news of increased pressure on the regime

JENNIFER ZENG

Two tweets by President Donald Trump about raising tariffs on Chinese goods caused Chinese stock markets to tumble and media to speculate that the trade negotiations with China wouldn't go forward.

And while Chinese official media have been silent on Trump's decision to raise tariffs, Chinese netizens are celebrating and calling Trump the “Great Savior” of the Chinese people.

On the morning of May 5, Trump wrote in a tweet that he would raise tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods from 10 percent to

Chinese netizens are celebrating and calling Trump the “Great Saviour” of the Chinese people.

25 percent on May 10, and tax the currently untaxed \$325 billion of Chinese goods at a rate of 25 percent “shortly.”

In a second tweet, Trump said: “The Trade Deal with China continues, but too slowly, as they attempt to renegotiate. No!”

Trump's new stance apparently has taken Chinese officials by surprise, who were hoping that a deal would be reached soon.

Markets Drop

Although the Chinese official media failed to report the story, Chinese stock markets

reacted quickly on May 6, with the Shanghai Composite index closing down about 5.6 percent, which marked its worst one-day slump since a 6.4 percent slump in February 2016.

The smaller-cap Shenzhen Composite index plunged 7.4 percent, also its worst one-day percentage fall since February 2016. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell 2.8 percent. The combined losses of the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets reached 2.8 trillion yuan (\$420 billion), with a net outflow of foreign capital of 8.19 billion yuan (\$1.22 billion).

Continued on A4

ODD ANDERSEN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A 92-year-old man holds the hand of his carer at an elderly home.

ELECTION

Pro-Euthanasia Brian Owler Could Become Health Minister Under Labor Government

MELANIE SUN

Brian Owler, a respected neurosurgeon who was instrumental in helping pass assisted suicide legislation in Victoria in November 2017, is believed to be a top Labor candidate for health minister if elected in Bennelong along with a Shorten government on May 18. There has been speculation that the former Australian Medical

Association (AMA) president and face of the “Don't Rush” road safety campaign in NSW could be tapped by Bill Shorten for the position of Australia's health minister.

“Mr. Medicare [Owler] is coming to Canberra to ensure we put Medicare and health care right up the top,” Shorten told the media in October last year after flying in to announce his new

Continued on A2

WORLD

US Carrier Strike Group Deployment a Response to ‘Credible Threat’ by Iran, Pentagon Chief Says

PETR SVAB

The Trump administration's deployment of an aircraft carrier strike group and bombers to the Middle East is a response to a “credible threat” by Iran, said acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan.

He wrote on Twitter on May 6 that he approved the deployment on May 5, calling it “a prudent repositioning of assets in response to indications of a credible threat by Iranian regime forces.”

“We call on the Iranian regime to cease all provocation,” he added in a following tweet. “We will hold the Iranian regime accountable for any attack on US forces or our interests.”

The administration declined to specify what prompted the deployment, but tensions between the two countries have been rising as the United States applies pressure on other countries to

Continued on A3

OPINION

The Muslim Brotherhood Is a Terrorist Organisation With Socialist Roots

JOSHUA PHILIPP

Commentary

As the Trump administration moves to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization, it's important to know its roots and what it's really about. The reason that the Muslim Brotherhood and its international model enjoy support from socialist movements—des-

This allows the socialist tyrants to kill critics and political opponents, under the guise of defending religion.

spite the fact that the Brotherhood opposes every “progressive” trend those movements claim to believe in—is that they all believe in the same basic theories of totalitarian governance. The Muslim Brotherhood is not a form of traditional Islam. The organization started in 1928 as a “modernization” movement that merged Islam with the ideas of socialism. It promotes

a system of theocratic socialism, and has from the get-go pushed for “offensive jihad” to spread this system of totalitarian governance.

A main model of socialist theocracy was the invention of Sayyid Qutb, who is considered to be the founding father of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. Continued on A12



A pro-testor in Cairo, Aug. 30, 2013.



Australian Opposition Leader Bill Shorten (left) and local Labor candidate for the seat of Bennelong Brian Owler arrive for a visit to PRP Diagnostic Imaging at the Ryde Medical Centre in Sydney, on April 12, 2019.

Pro-Euthanasia Brian Owler Could Become Health Minister Under Labor Government

CONTINUED FROM A1

Bennelong candidate.

The announcement meant that Owler was replacing the locally-endorsed candidate Lyndal Howison, which drew some criticism from Bennelong residents as the surgeon lives in Wahroonga in the neighbouring electorate of Bradfield, according to SMH.

Margaret Tighe, president of the pro-life advocacy group Right to Life Australia, told The Epoch Times that Bennelong voters should be informed of Owler's views on euthanasia.

"A vote for Owler and Labor may mean a health minister who believes in physician-assisted suicide," she said. "Labor now is the party of social engineering."

Owler was the lead architect in drafting Victoria's framework for voluntary euthanasia—the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act—that will grant eligible Victorians permission from the state to end their lives using a lethal drug from June 19.

Under the new laws, Victorians over 18 years old deemed to be "suffering" in a way that "cannot be relieved in a manner that the person considers tolerable" by two independent doctors will be able to register to receive a dose of lethal drugs. The applicant must be terminally ill, within 6 months of death, and of sound mind.

The legislation, which includes 68 safeguards as recommended by Owler's report, was narrowly passed after the government rushed the bill through Parliament in two marathon all-night debates.

Before the Andrews Labor government in Victoria appointed Owler to lead the ministerial advisory panel to develop the above Act, Owler had told The Age in 2016: "I think it's important that we do get legislation that is both safe but also compassionate, and allows people in particular circumstances to access assisted dying."

One Case is Too Much

But British comedian, actress, and disabled rights advocate Liz Carr had told the Victorian Parliament in an address in 2017 that any safeguards were "an acknowledgement of risk in the first place" and that "the risk of getting it wrong in one case is too much."

Carr warned lawmakers that although the legislation always starts off being targeted for use by a specific group of people, extension laws always follow, as has been seen in other jurisdictions like Belgium, the Netherlands, and Canada, where euthanasia has also been legalised in different ways.

"It's done in the name of equality," she said. "So if you introduce a law in this state for those with only terminal illness, I'll tell you what will happen next is people with other conditions will want to be included in that definition.

"And that's already happening. The law hasn't even been enacted to its full extent in Canada yet, but already people with dementia or impending

Legislation doesn't get rid of bad deaths, and assisted suicide isn't also necessarily a good death. They can be ugly.

dementia are calling for that extension. Some disabled people are calling for it, 'You've excluded us.'

"By an incremental creep, it will extend. As I say, it's discriminatory for it not to. It's either a right for no one or a right for everyone, and that's where it goes.

"Laws should be about protecting the majority and safeguards are difficult," she said.

Rachel Carling-Jenkins, who was a Victorian Senator at the time the Victorian bill was being debated, told The Epoch Times that she was alarmed that her colleagues in the Greens party had not been allowed a conscience vote on the Victorian bill.

"The Greens do not have a free vote on so-called social issues like abortion and euthanasia," Carling-Jenkins said. "They must vote the party line which is anti-life, at least anti-human life."

She said that she did not support the government's bill and would never support a bill to introduce euthanasia under any circumstance. She outlined a number of concerns with the bill, including that there had been no definition of suffering in the legislation. "There is absolutely no requirement for the person to be experiencing pain or other physical symptoms."

There is "nothing to exclude forms of existential suffering such as loss of autonomy, lack of capacity to enjoy former hobbies, feeling a burden on family or financial concerns to be the only suffering experienced," she said.

Quality Palliative Care

Palliative care experts also voiced their opposition to the Victorian legislation. They say those ready to turn to assisted suicide had likely been scarred by experiences where their loved one did not get quality palliative care, but that the profession has "advanced tremendously in recent decades."

Dr. Mark Yates, a geriatrician and clinical associate professor at Deakin University who was AMA Victoria president from 2005 to 2007, told The Australian that "expert palliative care" can almost always meet the pain and psychosocial needs of those nearing the end of their lives.

"Lots of patients express the wish to die at the very end of their life, which is symptomatic of the fact that their needs aren't being met," Yates said, referring to the psychosocial needs of patients.

"If we had appropriate palliative care, then all of those needs could be met ... expert palliative care can almost always remedy that."

Dr. Karen Hitchcock, a physician at Victoria's Alfred Hospital, wrote in The Monthly: "Over the 12 years that I have worked as a doctor in large public hospitals, I have cared for hundreds of dying patients. No one has ever died screaming or begging for me to kill them. Patients have told me they want to die. My response to this is 'Tell me why.'

"It is rarely because of pain, but it is often because of despair, loneliness, grief, the feeling of worthlessness, meaninglessness or being a burden.

I have never seen a dying patient whose physical suffering was untreatable."

But Owler told the National Press Club in 2017 that while he is a "passionate supporter" of palliative care, he believes that it "is not the answer for everyone," give the 5 percent of people for whom suffering at the end of life cannot be relieved. "This is acknowledged within the palliative care community. It is for these people this legislation provides a choice," Owler said.

Owler revealed in June 2017 that it was the "terrible death" of his father who suffered dementia that factored into his support for "assisted dying," The Guardian reported.

Carr said that while she can empathise with those on the other side of the debate, she believes that introducing assisted suicide legislation won't successfully eliminate all the suffering either.

"It's tough," she said. "The people who were driven to pass these laws have seen some horrific things, they've seen the people that they love die."

But legislation won't change that, she said. "Legislation doesn't get rid of bad deaths, and assisted suicide isn't also necessarily a good death. They can be ugly. They're not always, but they can be. They can take hours—it's not quick necessarily.

"In the Oregon model, it's lauded that people get prescriptions. It's 100 capsules and they can make you sick.

"Death is always going to be messy whether we have assisted suicide laws or not."

Carr said that given the tough reality that both palliative care and euthanasia will fail for some people, a useful question for her has been, "What is worse? Killing someone who does not want to be killed, or killing someone who does want to be killed."

Warning to Other States

Legal experts warn that the passing of "assisted dying" legislation in Victoria sets the precedent for similar legislation to be adopted in other states across the nation.

Queensland and Western Australia are already considering their own "assisted dying" legislation, but not only for the terminally ill. Those states are also open to considering the needs of those with chronic illness or neurological conditions.

After his role in Victoria, Owler had actively lobbied for the federal government to allow Australian territories to revisit their euthanasia laws, The Australian reported.

"What Victoria has may well be a blueprint for other pieces of legislation, but it's still a matter for each jurisdiction to make up their own mind and so it shouldn't be a matter of just copying the legislation from Victoria, because everyone needs to look at it," Owler told The Australian.

The Victorian government has allocated A\$6.5 million over four years to implement the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act. Doctors in palliative care argue that this money is better-spent on funding greater access to palliative care services.

Shootout Causes Panic at Colombia–Venezuela Border Crossing

LUKE TAYLOR

CUCUTA, Colombia—Armed groups warring for control of Colombia’s busiest border crossing with Venezuela opened fire on one another on May 3, leaving a woman hospitalized and hundreds fearing for their lives.

The woman caught in the crossfire wasn’t affiliated with the two rival gangs, officials from Colombia’s migration authority said.

Members of the Colombian military and police forces told The Epoch Times that paramilitaries loyal to Venezuelan regime leader Nicolás Maduro, known as colectivos, were involved in the shootouts, although this wasn’t confirmed by Colombian migration officials.

The illegal pedestrian bridges connecting the two countries are dangerous but increasingly popular, due to Venezuelan border restrictions recently becoming more stringent for the 25,000 who are estimated to make the trip into Colombia each day.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 Venezuelans now take illegal routes run by armed groups into Colombia each day, fleeing their crisis-stricken country or seeking basic goods either unavailable or unaffordable in Venezuela, according to Colombian officials.

On May 3, hundreds queuing at Simón Bolívar bridge in Cúcuta, to re-enter Venezuela ducked for cover and screamed as automatic gunfire was rapidly exchanged in the illegal crossings below, video footage showed. The skirmishes lasted more than half an hour, according to eyewitnesses.

“This was not just a few bullets, these were heavy machine gun bursts,” said Jerse Montoya, who was returning to Venezuela via the “trocha” after taking his daughter to school in neighboring Colombia when the groups clashed. “We haven’t seen this in years, how can they do that with so many people around?”

Some 1,500 children now travel to Colombia each day to study as their own education system has collapsed. Many of those take the illegal crossings to save time, or for fear of not being permitted entry by the Venezuelan National Guard,

who have clamped down on migration flows since the Venezuelan opposition’s Feb. 23 attempt to push humanitarian aid into Venezuela against Maduro’s orders.

Following the incident, queues of frustrated families snaked back down the bridge as migration officials limited migration flows, and many who usually take the illegal dirt tracks decided to take the bridge’s official migration route out of fear.

“You can run, but what about the children?” said Maryluz, who was waiting with her son and daughter under the beating sun.

Armed Groups Strengthen

The Colombian–Venezuelan border is a hotspot for drug-trafficking, contraband, and extortion, and thus a hotbed for conflict between armed gangs, including Colombian paramilitary groups such as the Gulf Clan, and guerrillas such as the National Liberation Army.

Colombia’s director for migration, Christian Kruger, made an impromptu visit to the bridge following the shootout. He admitted that policing over 2,200 kilometers (1367 miles) of porous border was impossible, but said that such incidents are increasingly common since Venezuela began suffering its economic, social, and political collapse.

“It has nothing to do with the efforts to control the crossings ... this owes to the corruption and disorder in that country (Venezuela),” the official said, adding that this was the fourteenth incident of gunfire in the illegal crossings recorded this year.

Kruger said it was too early to identify the “criminal groups” responsible, but a number of Colombian police and military members alleged that colectivos, dressed in all black and masked in balaclavas were involved. Colectivos are backed by the Maduro regime and granted impunity and funding while they pledge allegiance to the socialist revolution and to violently quash growing opposition-led protests which have rocked Venezuela.

Members of Venezuela’s National Guard controlling the border blamed the incident on guerrillas and paramilitaries.



Colombian military forces arrive at the Simón Bolívar Bridge in Cucuta to restore order on May 3, 2019.

As security conditions continue to decline and illegal crossings become more lucrative, it is hard to pinpoint who is responsible for violence at the border.

A high-ranking military official told The Epoch Times on condition of anonymity that the National Guard couldn’t admit any involvement of pro-Maduro groups as those very groups had infiltrated the National Guard and were surveilling them.

As security conditions continue to decline and illegal crossings become more lucrative, it is hard to pinpoint who is responsible for violence at the border, security analysts say. There is also a tendency for local gangs to regularly switch allegiances to national organizations without any real significant change on the ground.

The area is “up for grabs and there may be Venezuelan and other smaller Colombian gangs popping up all the time,” said

Adam Isaacson, director at the Washington Office on Latin America.

A historic peace agreement signed in 2016 between the Colombian government and the country’s largest guerrilla-insurgency, known as the FARC, was supposed to usher in a new chapter of peace in the country. But homicide and displacement are currently growing in remote areas of Colombia.

Along with the difficulty in implementing the peace accord, the continuous operation of the guerrillas is also blamed on the rapid deterioration of neighboring Venezuela, which has become a safe haven for the rebels who exploit illicit economies in tandem with Maduro’s military.

Persecution of Christians Worldwide Near ‘Genocide’ Levels, Says Report for British Government

SIMON VEAZEY

The persecution of Christians around the world is a near “genocide” levels, according to a report for the British government.

Christians are now the most persecuted religious group in the world, according to the report for the British Foreign Office, with acts of violence and intimidation becoming more widespread.

The British foreign secretary said he was “shocked” by the findings, and that a culture of political correctness in Western nations had left them “asleep on the watch.”

Christianity faces extinction in parts of the Middle East where it first blossomed, according to the report findings.

“Evidence shows not only the geographic spread of anti-Christian persecution but also its increasing severity,” said the report, which was commissioned before the suicide bombings targeting Christians in Sri Lanka that left more than 250 dead last month.

The report author, Bishop Philip Mounstephen, said in a statement, “Through my previous experience of the global church in Asia and Africa I was aware of the terrible reality of persecution, but to be honest in preparing this report I’ve been truly shocked by the severity, scale, and scope of the problem. It forces us in the West to ask ourselves some hard questions, not the least of which is this: Why have we been so blind to this situation for so long?”

“It is also ironic that many Western secularists, Islamic extremists, and authoritarian regimes share a common erroneous assumption—that the Christian faith is primarily an expression of white Western privilege. In fact, Christianity is primarily a phenomenon of the global south and the global poor.”

The report notes that in some regions, the level and nature of the persecution is close to meeting the United Nations definition of genocide.

The main impact of those “genocidal” acts is an exodus, according to the report.

“Christianity now faces the possibility of being wiped-out in parts of the Middle East where its roots go back furthest. In Palestine, Christian numbers are below 1.5 percent; in Syria, the Christian population has declined from



Sri Lankan local people pray near to St. Anthony Church on the evening of April 23, 2019, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

1.7 million in 2011 to below 450,000 and in Iraq, Christian numbers have slumped from 1.5 million before 2003 to below 120,000 today. Christianity is at risk of disappearing, representing a massive setback for plurality in the region.”

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt noted that the persecution of Christians happens for different reasons in various parts of the world, but said that they had gone unchallenged due to a broader culture of “political correctness.”

“I think we’ve all been asleep on the watch when it comes to the persecution of Christians,” he told reporters in Addis Ababa, reported ITV. “I think there is a misplaced worry that it is somehow colonialist to talk about a religion that was associated with colonial powers rather than the countries that we marched into to as colonizers.”

“That has perhaps created an awkwardness in talking about this issue—the role of missionaries was always a controversial one and that has, I think, also led some people to shy away from this topic,” continued Hunt. “What we have forgotten in that atmosphere of political correctness is actually the Christians that are being persecuted are some of the poorest people on the planet.”

The report states that Christian women are more likely to suffer persecution.

The full findings of the report will be published in the summer.

“It forces us in the West to ask ourselves some hard questions, not the least of which is this: Why have we been so blind to this situation for so long?”

BISHOP PHILIP MOUNSTEPHEN, AUTHOR OF BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE REPORT

CONTINUED FROM A1

comply with sanctions on the Islamic regime.

The deployment was first announced on May 5 by national security adviser John Bolton, who said the intention was “to send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force.”

“The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces,” he said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told media on May 6 that “it is absolutely the case that we’ve seen escalatory action from the Iranians,” but he also said he couldn’t be more explicit.

“I don’t want to talk about what underlays it, but make no mistake. We have good reason to want to communicate clearly about how the Iranians should understand how we will respond to actions that they may take,” he said.

He did clarify, though, that the reason is separate from the recent rocket attack on Israel from the Gaza strip.

The strike group, headed by the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, departed on April 1 from Norfolk, Virginia, and was on its way to transition from the Atlantic to the Pacific fleet, which means it would have eventually ended up passing through the Middle East anyway. Pentagon spokesperson declined to comment on timing of the strike group deployment. It’s not clear whether the administration hastened or modified the planned deployment.

Last year, the administration dropped the previously permanent carrier deployment to the Persian Gulf, only sending a strike group intermittently, the Military Times reported. The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group just left the Middle Eastern region in April, joining the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group for operations in the Mediterranean Sea. Stennis is on its way to Norfolk, switching home ports with Lincoln, which heads for San Diego.

Bolton also spoke of “a bomber task force” deployment “which suggested the Pentagon is deploying land-based bomber aircraft somewhere in the region, perhaps on the Arabian Peninsula,” said the Military Times.

US Carrier Strike Group Deployment a Response to ‘Credible Threat’ by Iran, Pentagon Chief Says

Pressure Up

President Donald Trump has been increasing pressure on Iran’s leaders, especially since he quit the Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and gradually reimposed sanctions on the country in an effort force the Islamic regime to change a plethora of activities the administration finds unacceptable.

The administration demands that Iran halts not only its nuclear technology development, which the Obama administration’s nuclear deal attempted to delay, but also its ballistic missile program, support for terrorists and militias in the region, and other destabilizing activities.

In April, Trump announced he would designate Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization—the first time the United States has marked a branch of a foreign country’s military as such.

Trump also announced in April that the government won’t renew waivers from the sanctions for countries importing Iranian oil in an effort to completely shut down Iranian oil exports, which are a lifeline of the regime.

Threats

Iran says its missile program is only defensive, but has repeatedly threatened to disrupt oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz if the United States tries to throttle Iranian oil exports. The strait is a major choke point between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman through which about a fifth of the world’s oil shipments passes.

In November 2018, an IRGC commander threatened that U.S. bases in Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, and U.S. aircraft carriers in the Gulf were within range of Iranian missiles.

In July 2018, Saudi state oil company Aramco stated that two of its tankers had been attacked by Yemen-based Houthi militia, who are backed by Iran and suppressed by the Saudi military.

Pompeo made clear that the United States will hold “Iranian leadership directly accountable” for “attacks on American interests” by Iranian proxies, be it the Houthis, a Shia militia group, or the Lebanese Hezbollah.

Update: The article has been updated with additional information about the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group deployment.

Chinese Stock Market Tumbles After Trump Tariff Announcement

CONTINUED FROM A1

Over 1,000 stocks dropped 10 percent in value, the point at which trading is automatically stopped.

Just ahead of Shanghai's open, China's central bank moved to stimulate the economy by cutting reserve requirement ratios for 1,000 rural commercial banks, which will make it easier for small and micro companies to borrow. This amounts to making available for borrowing about 280 billion yuan (\$41.57 billion) in funds.

Negotiations

Although there have been media reports about Beijing considering pulling out of trade negotiations after Trump's announcement, the regime's official news agency, Xinhua, reported on May 6 that "the Chinese delegation is preparing to go to the United States to negotiate."

According to Xinhua, foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang responded to a question related to Trump's tariff hike announcement at a regular press conference on May 6.

"Similar situations in which the U.S. threatened to pose tariffs on Chinese goods have occurred multiple times before ... We still hope that the U.S. and China can work together, walk towards each other, and try to reach a mutually beneficial agreement based on mutual respect," Geng was quoted as saying. "What I can tell you here is, that the Chinese delegation is preparing to go

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES



President Donald Trump at the White House on May 6, 2019.

to the United States to negotiate."

According to South China Morning Post, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He could still lead the 100-person delegation that planned to travel to Washington on May 8.

Media Silent: Netizens React

According to Chinese political and economic analyst Qin Peng, after Trump's surprising tweets, the first two Chinese departments that reacted were the Chinese Propaganda Ministry and Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission. They sent out emergency notifications in the middle of the night, Beijing time, that forbade coverage and discussion of the tariff increases on official media and social networks.

That's why on websites inside China, virtually nothing about the latest twist in the trade war has been discussed, and some have been making off-track speculations about why the central bank suddenly decided to cut the reserve requirement ratios.

On Twitter and Facebook, which are banned in mainland China, savvy Chinese netizens who know how to "jump over the Great Firewall" that censors the Chinese internet are getting uncensored information. Many of the Chinese on these platforms are celebrating and praising Trump's decision.

One tweet by user "Swedenhermit," translated from the original Chinese, reads: "After Trump tweeted about raising tariffs (on Chinese goods), Chinese netizens on Twitter are all celebrating and praising this. I also sincerely hope that this negotiation will fail and tariffs will be raised (as announced by Trump). I also hope that more tariffs will be imposed on all remaining untaxed goods. Thus, the Chinese Communist Party will run out of money soon. Even if these things really happen, regarding Trump, I still want to say, 'Tactically, he is very smart; but strategically, he is not as great as people expect him to be.' He is an 'America First' president. All his attacks are for the purpose of defense. However, as long as he perseveres to the end, that's enough!"

Some other Chinese netizens are posting memes about Trump on Facebook.

One meme was created based on a famous CCP propaganda image depicting Chair-



▲ An image by an unknown Chinese netizen depicting President Donald Trump as "The Great Savior" of Chinese people.

man Mao as the "great savior" of Chinese people. But Mao's photo is replaced with Trump's, with a Chinese slogan saying, "Trump Is the Great Savior of the Chinese People." With a careful look, one can see in the image a very typical "revolutionary peasant" woman, holding a sign that says "We Love Trump."

Another meme shows Trump in the White House proudly signing a document that says, "It is I who knocked down the Chinese stock markets." Chinese leader Xi Jinping appears looking somewhat helpless and lost.

Analysis

According to Cao Ji, a former professor at a university in Shanghai who currently lives in Taiwan, Trump suddenly decided to accelerate the trade war for the following reasons:

1. U.S. stock markets have gone too high and need to be corrected so that the Fed can decide to cut rates and restart quantitative easing in June.
2. The United States will soon roll out a \$2 trillion infrastructure plan. By accelerating the trade war with China, Trump can effectively prevent the CCP from participating in this plan.
3. Bothered with the difficulties caused by an outbreak of African swine fever and economic downturn, the CCP is eager to make concessions to prevent further in-

“ I do applaud this president. Like I said, he's gone further than any in modern history regarding China.

REP. SCOTT PERRY

flation.

4. The CCP is eager to make peace with the United States to prevent foreign funds from escaping China.

Qin Peng said he agrees with Cao Ji's views and that the CCP has no way to fight back.

At a recent "Committee of Present Danger: China" event in Washington, Rep. Scott Perry (R-Pa.) said he believes that Trump should go beyond trade itself.

"I do applaud this president. Like I said, he's gone further than any in modern history regarding China," Perry said, "However, we also should be mindful of the time that this president has. ... We expect immediate results. We can't even wait for this trade deal."

Perry said with the CCP's "you might have the watch, but we've got the time" mentality, the United States needs to adopt very robust and more significant actions to force China into good behavior.

Pakistan Busts Prostitution Ring That Sent Young Christian Women to China

LAHORE, Pakistan—Pakistani authorities have arrested 12 suspected members of prostitution ring taking young Pakistani women to China, part of a growing human trafficking problem often based on fake marriages, officials said on May 6.

Those arrested included eight Chinese nationals and four Pakistanis, said Jameel Ahmad, a top official at Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), which deals with human trafficking.

"We busted the gang after the FIA received information about increasing smuggling of Pakistani woman to China where they are thrown into prostitution," Ahmad told Reuters.

He said several gangs were believed to be operating, mainly targeting members of Pakistan's Christian minority.

The arrests came a week after Human Rights Watch said Pakistan should be alarmed by recent reports of trafficking of women and girls to China. It said the

K.M. CHAUDARY/AP PHOTO



Muqadas Ashraf who was married off by her parents to a Chinese man when she was 16 speaks to The Associated Press in Gujranwala, Pakistan, on April 14, 2019.

He said several gangs were believed to be operating, mainly targeting members of Pakistan's Christian minority.

allegations were disturbingly similar to the pattern of trafficking of "brides" to China from at least five other Asian countries.

The Chinese embassy in Islamabad has also raised the alarm over illegal, cross-border matchmaking services that

are often a front for human trafficking. Last month the embassy said China was cooperating with Pakistani law enforcement agencies to crack down on illegal matchmaking. It denied reports that the women were being trafficked for the sale of their organs.

Ahmad said a police raid he led on a wedding ceremony last week in the eastern city of Faisalabad was a major breakthrough in the investigation.

He said a man and a woman from China and a fake priest were arrested at the ceremony where a Christian girl was to be married.

"The gang members confessed that they have sent at least 36 Pakistani girls to China where they are being used for prostitution," he said. The majority were Christians from different districts in eastern Punjab province, he said.

By Mubasher Bukhari
From Reuters

THE
EPOCH
TIMES

TRUTH and TRADITION

COVERING IMPORTANT NEWS
OTHER MEDIA IGNORE

SUBSCRIBE TODAY02 8988 5600

Images Show Construction on China’s Third and Largest Aircraft Carrier: Analysts

HONG KONG/BEIJING—Construction of China’s first full-sized aircraft carrier is well underway, according to satellite images obtained and analyzed by a U.S. think tank.

The images from April, provided to Reuters by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, reveal considerable recent activity during the past six months on a large vessel at the Jiangnan shipyard outside Shanghai.

China has not formally confirmed it is building a third carrier, despite recent hints in state media, and the timing and extent of its carrier program remain state secrets.

The Pentagon said last week that work had begun, but no images have emerged until now.

Both Asian and Western militaries and regional security analysts are seeking information on the carrier, which is expected to be China’s first large, modern platform capable of leading a full range of strike group operations.

The effort to build a large, locally designed carrier is seen as a core part of China’s extensive military modernization drive.

The CSIS images show a bow section that appears to end with a flat 98-foot front and a separate hull section 41 meters (134.5 feet) wide, with gantry cranes looming overhead.

That suggests a vessel, which China has dubbed Type 002, somewhat smaller than 110,000-ton U.S. carriers but larger than France’s 46,800-ton Charles de Gaulle, analysts say.

Fabrication halls the size of several soccer pitches have been built nearby, and work appears to be continuing on a floodable basin, possibly to float the finished hull into the nearby Yangtze River estuary.

“While details regarding the Type 002 are limited, what is observable at Jiangnan

is consistent with what is expected for the People’s Liberation Army Navy’s third aircraft carrier,” said CSIS’s ChinaPower analysis, published to its website on May 7.

CSIS analyst Matthew Funaiole told Reuters that images taken in late 2018 were inconclusive, but now the work underway is clear.

“From what we can see there has been a lot of activity in the last six months or so,” he said. “It would appear that it is the third carrier, and if it is not, it’s hard to envisage what other large vessel it would be.”

The Pentagon’s annual report on China’s military modernization, issued last May 3, noted that the third carrier would probably be larger than the first two and fitted with a catapult launch system to accelerate aircraft during takeoff.

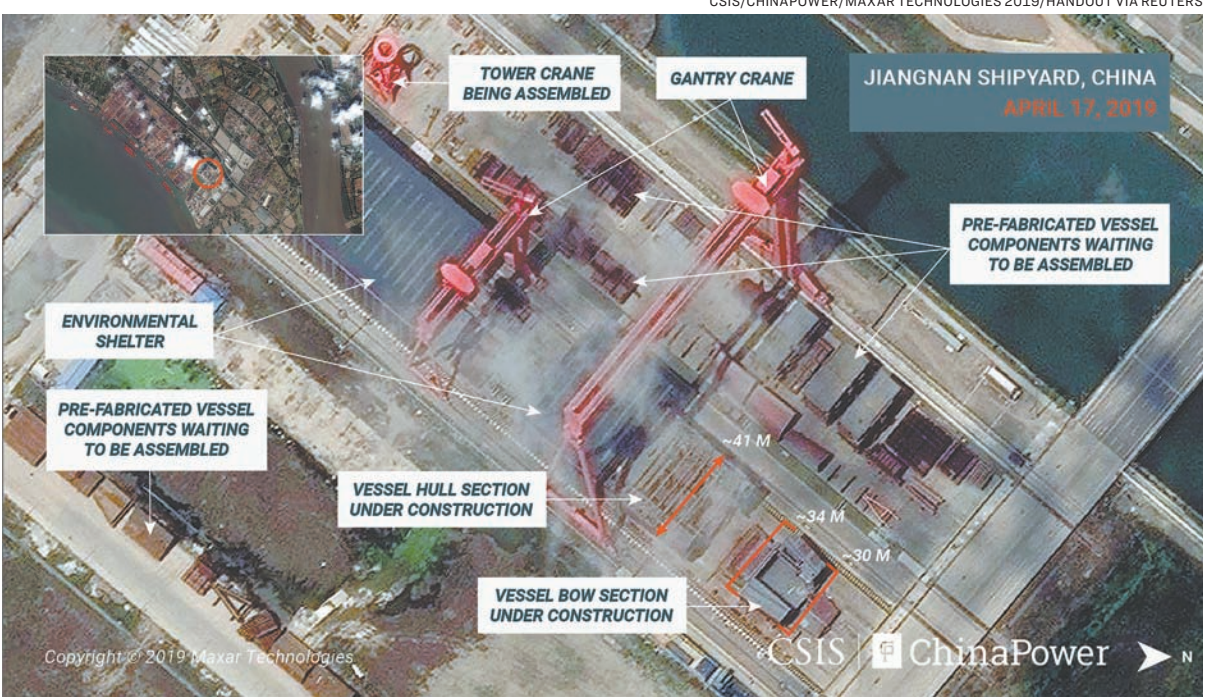
“This design will enable it to support additional fighter aircraft, fixed-wing early-warning aircraft, and more rapid flight operations,” the report said.

Funaiole and other analysts said it was unclear what kind of catapult—traditional steam-powered or a more cutting-edge electromagnetic system—would be used.

It also remains unclear whether the Type 002 would be nuclear-powered. China has 10 nuclear-powered submarines, but so far no surface ships with nuclear propulsion; some analysts think China is not ready to make that step.

Singapore-based regional security analyst Ian Storey said a full-sized carrier would make some of China’s neighbors nervous and highlight the importance of their strategic relationship with the United States.

“Once completed, it will outclass any warship from any Asian country, including India and Japan,” said Storey, of the ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute. “It is yet another indication that China has emerged as Asia’s paramount naval power.”



A satellite image shows what appears to be the construction of a third Chinese aircraft carrier at the Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai, China on April 17, 2019.

“Once completed, it will outclass any warship from any Asian country, including India and Japan.”

IAN STOREY
ISEAS YUSOF ISHAK INSTITUTE
REGIONAL SECURITY ANALYST

China’s first two carriers are relatively small, with space for only up to 25 aircraft, less than half the number aboard U.S. carriers, and have jump ramps built into their bows. That configuration limits not just the types of aircraft that can fly off them, but how much weaponry and fuel they can carry.

Its first carrier, the Liaoning, was a Soviet-era Ukrainian ship bought secondhand in 1998 and refitted in China. A still-unnamed second carrier based on that design, launched in 2017, was built locally.

The Liaoning had been seen as more of a training platform for teaching personnel the tricky art of carrier operations. But last

month, Chinese state media said the ship “is starting to play a combat role following recent modifications and intensive training exercises.”

The second carrier has been undergoing sea trials from its base in northern Dalian and is not expected to enter service until 2020.

China’s state media have quoted experts as saying China needs at least six carriers. The United States operates 11 carriers.

China’s Ministry of Defense did not respond to a request for comment.

*By Greg Torode & Ben Blanchard
From Reuters*

Father Behind \$6.5 Million Payment to Get Daughter Into Stanford Has Close Ties to Chinese Regime

NICOLE HAO

The father of a Chinese student who was recently revealed to have gained admission to Stanford University in California through a reported bribery payment of \$6.5 million is a billionaire who has close ties to the Beijing regime.

The student’s father, Zhao Tao, one of China’s entrepreneur billionaires, works closely with the Chinese Communist Party’s United Front Work Department, an agency that rallies Chinese abroad to promote Beijing’s interests. Meanwhile, his business or former employees have been convicted at least seven times of bribing local Chinese officials.

Statements From Parents

Zhao Yusi, 19, also known as Molly, began studying at Stanford University in 2017. She was expelled on April 2 after revelations emerged that college consultant William “Rick” Singer—the central figure in the U.S. college admissions scandal—after receiving bribes from her parents, arranged for Zhao to be accepted by claiming that she was a competitive sailor fit for the school’s sailing program.

Singer was charged in federal court in Massachusetts, pleaded guilty, and has cooperated with authorities in gathering incriminating evidence against co-conspirators, consisting of parents, school coaches, and testing instructors.

Zhao’s father, Zhao Tao, is the richest man in Shandong Province. He currently lives in Beijing. After the revelations about his daughter, he published a statement on his company’s website on May 3: “I’m the actual controller of Buchang Pharma, and I hereby state that my daughter studying in the United States is only a private action of my family, and the funding has no relation with Buchang Pharma.”

The company didn’t respond to a request for comment at press time.

On May 2, the student’s mother, Zhao Xiaohong, sent a statement in both English and Chinese via her Hong Kong lawyer Vincent W.C. Law to the state-run newspaper Beijing Youth Daily, in which Mrs. Zhao claimed that her daughter entered Stanford through ordinary channels, and that she donated \$6.5 million to Singer in order to support his charity. Prosecutors have said Singer used his Key Worldwide Foundation to run the scheme.

“Mrs. Zhao has come to realize she has been misled, her generosity has been taken advantage of, and her daughter has fallen victim to the scam,” the statement said.

A Regime-Friendly Company

According to Buchang Pharma’s annual report, its revenue was 13.66 billion yuan (\$2.03 billion) in 2018, with profit of 1.9 billion yuan (\$280 million). The company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange in 2016.

Zhao Tao, 53, is chairman of Buchang Pharma. After the college admissions scandal emerged, photos began circulating on the Chinese internet of Zhao Tao meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

According to multiple Chinese media re-



The Stanford logo is displayed on a track on the Stanford University campus in California on March 12, 2019.

ports, Buchang Pharma has participated in Beijing’s One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative since at least 2015 by donating medicine and medical care to participant countries. The initiative is the Chinese regime’s flagship project for building geopolitical clout through investments in countries throughout Southeast Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

Zhao Tao is also vice chairman of the China Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs Association (COCEA), a group that on its surface promotes ethnic Chinese entrepreneurs operating outside China.

In fact, the group’s website clearly states that COCEA is led by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council—which is, in turn, an agency of the United Front Work Department. The United Front uses front organizations such as COCEA to promote Beijing’s interests and execute its orders.

In June 2017, Buchang Pharma posted a photo of Zhao Tao with U.S. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump.

The company wrote in the post that Zhao Tao was there to promote the OBOR initiative in the United States.

Shady Business

Zhao’s company has also engaged in bribery. According to information on an online court docket database run by China’s supreme court, Buchang Pharma was involved in bribery at least seven times from 2015 to 2018. Five of the cases involve sales representatives of Buchang Pharma bribing hospital presidents or doctors to sell its medicines. Buchang’s representatives paid sums ranging from 60,000 to 110,000 yuan (\$13,000 to \$23,000) each time.

In a court verdict by the Beijing First Intermediate People’s Court, Zheng Xiaoyou, a former director at China’s Food and Drug Administration from 1998 to 2006, was found guilty of accepting bribes from Buchang Pharma. In exchange, Zheng would help the company get its “Brain and Heart Vessel Cleaning” medicine approved.

Zheng was sentenced to death in May 2007. But the company and Zhao haven’t received any penalties.

Zhao Tao is vice chairman of the China Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs Association, a Chinese regime front group.

NICOLE HAO

A surveillance app used by Chinese authorities in the northwestern province of Xinjiang designates 36 types of people who may be tagged for investigation and sent to internment camps as part of the regime’s suppression of Turkic Muslims in the region, according to a Human Rights Watch report.

In a report published May 1, Human Rights Watch analyzed a mobile app used by Xinjiang authorities to collect personal information from Uyghur Muslims and other Muslim minorities, file reports on activities they find suspicious, and carry out investigations on people the system flags as problematic.

The app is linked to the Integrated Joint Operations Platform (IJOP), one of the main systems the regime uses for mass surveillance in the region. According to the report, the IJOP system surveils and collects data on the millions of Xinjiang residents through CCTV cameras, some of which have facial recognition or night-vision capabilities, a vast network of checkpoints, and through “Wi-Fi sniffers,” which collect unique identifying addresses of computers, and smartphones.

With data mined in this system, the IJOP can then identify “problematic” people for investigation and detention in the region’s sprawling network of internment camps, the report said.

The U.S. State Department and rights groups estimate that more than 1 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities are being detained in such camps, where they are forced to undergo political indoctrination and renounce their faith. Former detainees have recounted torture, abuse, and rape in the facilities.

The Chinese regime has justified the detention and mass surveillance using the pretext of combating terrorism.

IJOP App

The rights organization said it was able to reverse-engineer the IJOP app to allow it to examine the type of personal information it collects, and identify the kinds of behavior and people the authorities target.

The app collects a wide range of personal information, including a person’s blood type, height “down to the precise centimeter,” and the color and make of their car, the report said. The information then is fed into the IJOP system and linked to the person’s national identification card number.

The report also found that the app identifies 36 types of people considered “suspicious.” These include seemingly innocuous behavior such as “returned from abroad,” “does not socialize with neighbors,” “seldom uses front door,” “collected money or materials for mosques with enthusiasm,” or “household uses an abnormal amount of electricity.”

The app also alerts authorities to carry out “investigative missions” into people flagged as problematic, which involves gathering even more personal information.

During one such mission, an official may be required, for example, to check the person’s phone and log whether they use any of the 51 “suspicious” internet tools, including Virtual

“Authorities have created a system that considers individuals suspicious based on broad and dubious criteria, and then generates lists of people to be evaluated by officials for detention.”

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Private Networks, and foreign messaging apps such as Viber, WhatsApp, and Telegram.

“In Xinjiang, authorities have created a system that considers individuals suspicious based on broad and dubious criteria, and then generates lists of people to be evaluated by officials for detention,” the report said.

Cases

Human Rights Watch interviewed several Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities who shared their experience being monitored by the IJOP platform.

A former detainee identified only as Ehmet was released in 2017, but soon found out that he was banned from leaving his local area. “When I tried going out of the region, my ID would [make a sound] at police checkpoints....I was blacklisted.”

Alim was released from a police detention center after spending several weeks there on charges of “disturbing social order.” Alim told Human Rights Watch that while visiting a mall, a nearby alarm went off. The police escorted him to the local police station right away. “The police told me: ‘Just don’t go to any public places.’”

For Nur, his status as a foreign national upon fleeing Xinjiang means his family members back home are also implicated: “[My family] said their ID cards have been making noise when going through the checkpoints ever since I was taken away [by police].”

The IJOP platform is itself against the Chinese constitution and laws. The constitution guarantees people’s “privacy of correspondence,” while laws stipulate that only criminal investigators can collect suspects’ DNA samples and phone numbers upon obtaining a “search warrant.”



A policeman gesturing as Muslims arrive at the Id Kah Mosque in the old town of Kashgar, in the Xinjiang region of China, on June 26, 2017.

Grey’s Anatomy Star Isaiah Washington Calls for Los Angelenos to #WalkAway

SARAH LE

LOS ANGELES—Almost one year after the launch of a social media campaign to encourage people to leave the Democratic Party, #WalkAway founder Brandon Straka hosted a town hall targeting black Americans in downtown Los Angeles on May 1.

“It’s really up to us I think to reclaim the narrative, which has been hijacked by the left that anybody’s who’s not a liberal and anyone who’s not a Democrat is a racist, a bigot, a homophobe, a sexist, a monster, and supports the second coming of Hitler,” said Straka at the event.

Actor Isaiah Washington joined the panel discussion at the event, which also included singer Joy Villa, rapper Anomaly, author Angela Stanton-King, radio host Jesse Lee Peterson, and Pasadena mayoral candidate Major Williams. They discussed their own stories of walking away after a screening of the movement’s short film, “The Great Awakening: Breaking the Chains of the Democratic Party.”

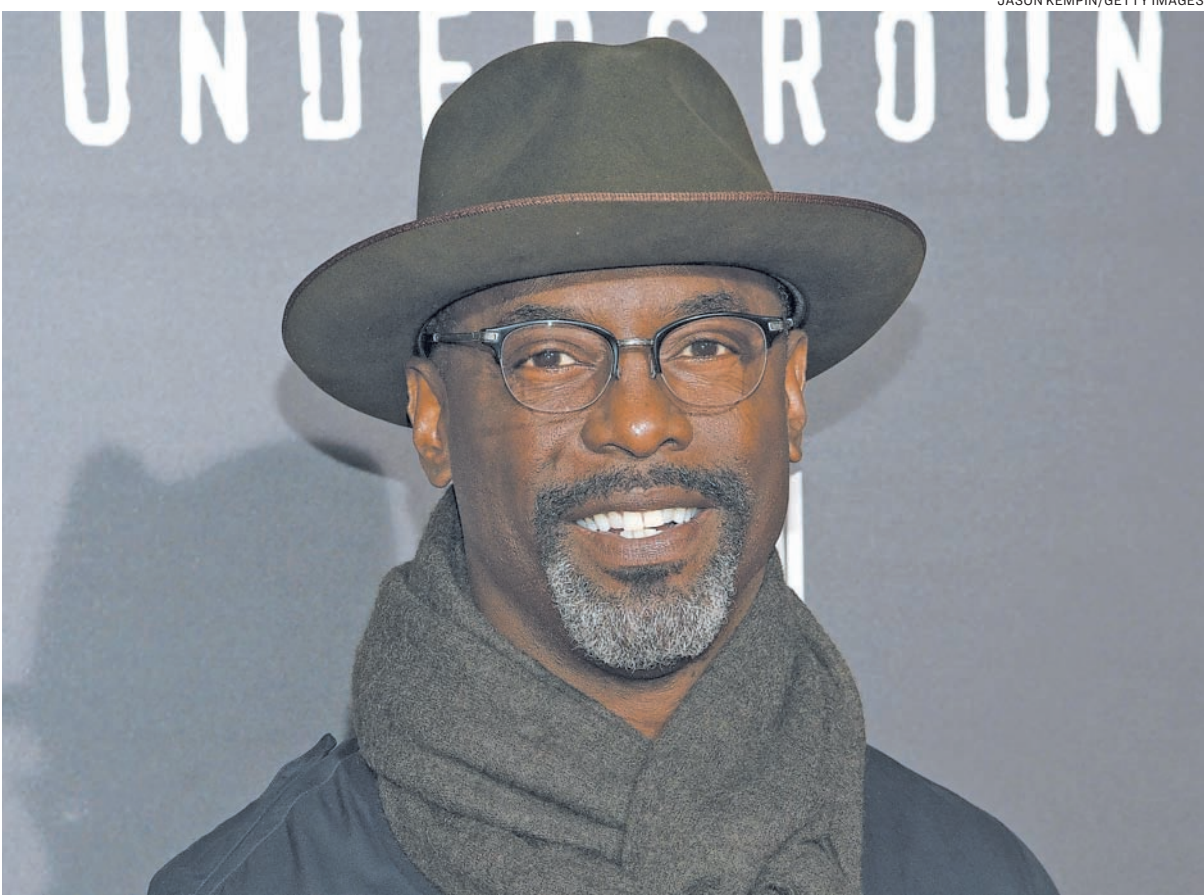
The former “Grey’s Anatomy” star said he walked away from the liberal establishment in 1980. But he said he’s always been a little rebellious.

“I like being contrarian,” he said. “I love it. I like going left when everybody wants me to go right, I like going right when everybody’s going left.”

Washington said his political views and verbal support of President Donald Trump have had an impact on his acting work in Hollywood.

“I just was given a wonderful job recently,” he said, “[but] they were concerned about my politics. I wasn’t sure if I was just going to be bought out of my contract and they’d tell me to stay home.”

Washington told Fox Business at the event that he originally decided to join the #WalkAway campaign because Democrats have become “a bit over-the-top, mean



▲ Isaiah Washington in Los Angeles on March 2, 2016.

spirited, and a bit toxic.”

“I’m not really sure where the animus is coming from,” he told Fox. “Especially when you have someone like myself and Brandon who are only trying to help people.”

Villa said she walked away from the liberal establishment more recently than Washington but just in time to vote for Trump in 2016. She said she didn’t even tell her family she was a Trump supporter until she wore her famous Make America Great Again dress to the 2017 Grammys.

“I said I have to go 100 percent, because once I commit, I commit,” she said during the event. “This man, what he’s saying is truth and he’s fighting for all Americans. And it’s unfair what they say to him and unfair what they say about him.”

“If they say that about the president, who’s a billionaire, who they loved just a few short years ago, right, what are they going to say about me? What are they going to say about you? What are they really saying about Americans and the over 65

Washington said his political views and verbal support of President Donald Trump have had an impact on his acting work in Hollywood.

million people who are Republicans, who did vote for the president?”

Villa said that, fortunately, she has been blessed for her bravery at the Grammys and that her music quickly hit No. 1 on the charts.

While she does experience other hassles because of her views, she said it’s been completely worthwhile.

“Every time I step out, every time I tweet, I do get death threats. That’s the reality,” she said. “But the freedom I feel is unreal. I would never go back to being closeted anything. You’re never free if you’re holding yourself back.”

Straka said more events will come up soon, including the anniversary of the #WalkAway campaign at Trump International Hotel in Washington from May 17 to 19.

The hairdresser and actor from New York City emphasized that the events were not only for people planning to abandon the liberal ideology.

“I don’t want to do an echo chamber,” he said at the event. “I want to actually engage in open dialogue. I want to hear from Democrats and liberals, and I want to have a conversation and have a chance to say our piece and listen to people say their piece and have an open and respectful dialogue, because I think that’s really missing in America right now.”

Nunes Seeks Documents on Maltese Professor at Genesis of Russia Probe

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

House Intelligence Committee ranking member Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) is looking to learn more about Joseph Mifsud, the mysterious Maltese professor whose statements reportedly trace back to the origin of the FBI’s Russia-collusion investigation.

Nunes wrote a letter on May 3 to the heads of the FBI, CIA, the State Department, and the National Security Agency requesting all documents related to Mifsud.

In the indictment against Trump campaign aide George Papadopoulos, special counsel Robert Mueller portrayed Mifsud as a Russian asset. In the letter, Nunes points to evidence of Mifsud’s extensive ties to Western governments and intelligence, including the U.S. Department of State and the FBI. Nunes argues that Mifsud’s true allegiance should be ascertained.

“If Mifsud has extensive, suspicious contacts among Russian officials as portrayed in the Special Counsel’s report, then an incredibly wide range of Western institutions and individuals may have been compromised by him, including our own State Department,” Nunes wrote.

“Alternately, if Mifsud is not, in fact, a counterintelligence threat, then that would cast doubt on the Special Counsel’s fundamental depiction of him and his activities, and raise questions about the veracity of the Special Counsel’s statements and affirmations.”

In April 2016, Mifsud told Papadopoulos that Russia had dirt on rival presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in the form of thousands of emails. Weeks later, Papadopoulos repeated that claim to Australian diplomat Alexander Downer, who then passed the information to U.S. authorities. The FBI, in turn, used this conversation between Downer and Papadopoulos as the reason to start the Russia investigation, according to the final report by the special counsel.

The special counsel finished his investigation in March, concluding that there is no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. The final report shows that Mueller’s team did not find any evidence that Papadopoulos informed the campaign about what he learned from Mifsud.

Nunes points out that Mueller’s final report includes many details on Mifsud’s ties to Russia but omits entirely the trove of evidence on Mifsud’s extensive ties to Western governments and intelligence. For example, the special counsel’s report cites an article by The Guardian to establish that Papadopoulos met Mifsud at Link Campus University in Rome. The report quotes the Guardian to describe the university as “a for-profit institution headed by a former government official,” but omits reporting from the same article suggesting that the university “had a reputation for being



House Select Committee on Intelligence ranking member Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) confers with Rep. John Ratcliffe (R-Texas) (back to camera) during a hearing concerning 2016 Russian interference tactics in the U.S. elections, on Capitol Hill, on March 28, 2019.

closely connected to some elements within the Italian intelligence services.”

Nunes also points to open-source evidence showing Mifsud’s ties to government officials and organizations in Malta, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, Qatar, and the United States.

The special counsel interviewed Mifsud in February 2017, more than six months after starting an investigation for which he served as the origin. Mueller’s report alleges that Mifsud lied to the investigators during that interview. Unlike Papadopoulos—who served time in prison for lying to the FBI about his contacts with Mifsud—the special counsel never charged Mifsud with a crime for lying to the bureau about his contacts with Papadopoulos.

Nunes points to the relatively late date of the FBI’s interview with Mifsud to ask how the FBI knew to question Papadopoulos about Clinton’s emails repeatedly in 2016 and 2017. Papadopoulos vehemently denies having told Downer anything about Clinton’s emails, claiming he had only mentioned to the Australian diplomat that Russians had “dirt” on the former secretary of state.

Nunes suggests the FBI could only be posing questions about emails if the bureau “already somehow received the information directly or indirectly from Mifsud himself.”

On May 2, The New York Times identified a second spy who approached the Trump campaign in 2016. The woman, whose pseudonym is Azra Turk, asked Papadopoulos in London whether the Trump campaign was working with Russia. Turk pretended to be an aide to Stefan Halper, the professor identified last year as an FBI spy.

The letter by Nunes is part of several inquiries looking at the origins of the FBI’s investigation of the Trump campaign. Attorney General William Barr, Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz, and the Senate Judiciary Committee are conducting related inquiries.

Alternately, if Mifsud is not, in fact, a counterintelligence threat, then that would cast doubt on the Special Counsel’s fundamental depiction of him and his activities, and raise questions about the veracity of the Special Counsel’s statements and affirmations.

REP. DEVIN NUNES

Moore Explains Why He Withdrew From Consideration for Federal Reserve

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV & JAN JEKIELEK

Economist Stephen Moore said on May 6 that he withdrew from consideration for the Federal Reserve because his voluminous controversial comments over the years would make him an easy target for Senate Democrats.

“I withdrew because it was going to be death by a thousand cuts,” Moore told The Epoch Times. “I have a 2000–page paper trail and 500 speeches. I’ve given hundreds and hundreds of media appearances and it was just too easy. I was too easy a target for the left to pick out things that I had said.”

President Donald Trump announced on May 2 that Moore had withdrawn his confirmation. At the time of the withdrawal, none of the Republican senators explicitly opposed his nomination, but a handful expressed concern. Less than two weeks prior to Moore’s withdrawal, Herman Cain, another Trump loyalist, also withdrew from consideration.

Moore said he was surprised by the opposition he triggered from the Democrats and establishment media.

“I was surprised that the left was so stirred up by this. It actually is a little bit flattering really,” Moore said.

“I think they were worried that I would be able to persuade the folks that govern over there of the fact that we need a new model and a way they could really promote free enterprise and stable prices,” he added. “I do feel a little bit sad about that because I think the Fed has made a lot of mistakes and those are unforgotten errors that do damage to the economy.”

The White House was considering additional candidates for the Federal Reserve before Cain and Moore withdrew. Moore believes Trump can still successfully nominate a loyalist and critic of the Fed.

“It wasn’t so much my criticism of the Fed,” Moore said. “It was controversial things I said about my divorce and things like that.”

Trump is considering “excellent people” for the post who have similar “philosophical grounding” to himself, Moore said. He suggested that Judy Shelton, an economic adviser to Trump, is an ideal nominee.

“I think she’s just fantastic. She’d be better than me on the Fed, frankly. She’s an expert on monetary policy,” Moore said. “Judy would be an excellent choice.”

Similar to Trump, Moore, and Cain, Shelton is a critic of the Federal Reserve’s current monetary policy. She wrote an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal on April 21 arguing for a system in which the value of the dollar is pegged to gold or another reliable commodity. Trump believes the gold standard is superior to the current fiat currency system maintained by the Fed.

Congress established the Fed to keep inflation in check and prevent economic

I was surprised that the left was so stirred up by this.

STEPHEN MOORE
ECONOMIST

booms and busts. The central bank has failed to prevent several major booms and busts since its creation. Critics of the Fed suggest its policies may have resulted in the booms and busts it was created to prevent.

In 2018, Trump repeatedly criticized the Federal Reserve for raising interest rates. The president has said that the central bank is a bigger problem than China and the biggest problem facing the United States economy. Moore called on the chair of the Federal Reserve to resign after the central bank raised interest rates again in December.

In late April, Trump called on the Fed to cut interest rates by 1 percent. Moore believes a 0.25 percent cut to reverse the hike in October 2018 is appropriate.

While he regrets to not be able to “change the world” through his service on the Fed, Moore said he is still happy where he is.

“I thought maybe I could, but I’m going to continue to fight like hell to make sure that Donald Trump gets reelected because I think it really is the most important thing for our country right now,” he said.

Moore believes the opposition to his nomination was fueled by opponents of Trump who don’t want the president to succeed.

“I’ve been more right than I had been wrong on the economy and they don’t want Trump to be successful,” Moore said. “They’re threatened by these ideas of letting the Fed adopt the policy of stable prices. And if you put that on top of tax cuts and less regulation and a pro-business atmosphere in Washington, the sky is the limit in terms of how much this economy can grow.”



Author Stephen Moore at a fundraiser in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Oct. 1, 2016.

Trump Denounces Facebook, Twitter Censorship

PETR SVAB

President Donald Trump came to the defense of popular conservative commentators who have been censored by tech companies in a series of 13 tweets and retweets between May 3 and May 4 after Facebook banned several influential figures from its social media platforms the previous day.

Trump warned that he is monitoring “the censorship of AMERICAN CITIZENS on social media platforms.”

“This is the United States of America—and we have what’s known as FREEDOM OF SPEECH!” he said. “We are monitoring and watching, closely!!”

He also reposted commentary on the alleged censorship from several prominent right-wing figures, including The Daily Wire Executive Producer Jeremy Boreing, journalist and activist Lauren Southern, and commentator Paul Joseph Watson—who were among those purged by Facebook.

“So surprised to see Conservative thinkers like James Woods banned from Twitter, and Paul Watson banned from Facebook!” Trump said in another tweet.

Woods, a Hollywood actor and producer who is politically vocal on Twitter, discovered his account was suspended over a tweet of his that advocated for the death penalty for those who commit treason.

“If you try to kill the King, you better not miss.” #HangThemAll,” he said, adopting a quote from 19th-century U.S. poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It appears Woods was referring to those who are allegedly trying to remove Trump from office using unsubstantiated allegations that the president colluded with Russia.

“How can it be possible that James Woods (and many others), a strong but responsible Conservative Voice, is banned from Twitter?” Trump said in another tweet. “Social Media & Fake News Media, together with their partner, the Democrat Party, have no idea the problems they are causing for themselves. VERY UNFAIR!”

Trump repeatedly has accused social media companies of having a bias against conservatives. While Silicon Valley’s workforce is known to lean overwhelmingly left, the companies have denied the workers’ political biases seep into their content policing.

However, there is mounting evidence to the contrary. The

Social Media & Fake News Media, together with their partner, the Democrat Party, have no idea the problems they are causing for themselves.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

companies’ intensifying focus on banning “hate speech” is itself a partisan position, based on the 2017 Cato survey, which showed that Democrats were much more likely to call a variety of statements “hateful,” while Republicans were more likely to call them “offensive, but not hateful.”

Lumping Conservatives With Terrorists

Facebook said on May 2 that it was banning InfoWars founder Alex Jones, right-wing speaker Milo Yiannopoulos, conservative journalist and activist Laura Loomer, InfoWars contributor Watson, and a few others for violating the social media company’s policies on “dangerous individuals and organizations.”

Facebook said it will remove any accounts, pages, groups and



President Donald Trump speaks at the CPAC convention in National Harbor, Md., on March 2, 2019.



Facebook’s “War Room” in Menlo Park, Calif., on Oct. 17, 2018.

events associated with the banned individuals, both on its core social network and its photo-sharing app, Instagram. It says it bans any users who it deems are promoting “violence” or “hate.”

In a video response, which was shared by Trump, Watson took issue with being labeled “dangerous,” pointing out that Facebook has been using this

label to describe individuals and groups involved in terrorism, mass or serial murder, organized crime, human trafficking, and “organized hate.”

“They put me on a list with terrorists, human traffickers, and serial killers,” he said. “Because I criticize modern art and modern architecture. Because I dare criticize mass immigration.

Because I dare criticize a belief system.”

Watson is a chief reporter at InfoWars who, in recent years, has focused on critiquing postmodernist culture. Videos on his YouTube channel have been viewed more than 380 million times.

“The support for me has been incredible,” he said in a May 4 tweet shared by the president. “This could actually lead to some genuine change. Keep up the pressure. Don’t let it rest.”

Alex Jones’s InfoWars news and commentary channel were kicked off Facebook, Twitter, iTunes, YouTube, and other platforms last year. Facebook has now also removed his personal profile, and is apparently removing any InfoWars content, even posted by other users.

Jones, a longtime radio host, has faced frequent criticism for making controversial, sometimes unverified, claims and for his hot-tempered outbursts.

On May 4, Trump reposted one of InfoWars’s videos showing its reporter, Millie Weaver,

interviewing several black Trump supporters.

“So great to watch this!” Trump said.

Who’s ‘Dangerous’?

A Facebook spokesperson explained that part of the reason Jones, Yiannopoulos, Loomer, and Watson were banned was that they interviewed or publicly praised Gavin McInnes, Tommy Robinson, and/or Faith Goldy—all previously labeled as “dangerous” by Facebook.

Facebook Community Standards prohibit content that “supports” individuals and groups marked “dangerous,” but there seems to be no written policy to ban accounts of people who express such support.

The spokesperson also indicated that even people who don’t call for violence or engage in “organized hate” can be labeled “dangerous” by Facebook, but didn’t explain what part of the Community Standards informs users of such a risk or how to avoid it. Facebook looks at different indicators, the spokesperson said, including activity on Facebook and in real life, to make the determinations.

McInnes, co-founder of Vice magazine, is a comedian and the founder of the somewhat satirical Proud Boys men’s club that describes itself as “Western chauvinists,” a term coined by McInnes to mean “a proud and unabashed proponent of Western Civilization.”

Some of its members go to right-wing rallies and events to “do free security for conservative speakers,” its website says. Some members have been involved in fights with members of violent leftist groups such as Antifa.

Robinson is a British activist advocating for UK sovereignty, lower immigration, and against Islam. Last year, he was jailed for 13 months over alleged contempt of court for live-streaming outside an ongoing court case involving accused Muslim child-rape gangs. He was released on bail after an appeal judge decided the original judgment was “flawed.” Authorities then ordered a new trial.

Goldy is a Canadian activist and journalist advocating for nationalism (as opposed to globalism) and lower immigration.

Jurlique

Gifts from South Australia

For the iconic women who transform our world

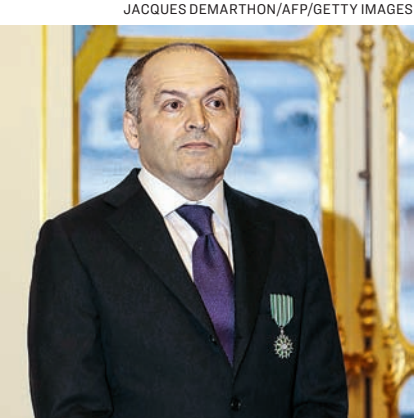


ROSE TREATS \$98
NORMALLY VALUED AT \$123

Biden, Obama Officials Stood to Gain From Ukraine Influence

JEFF CARLSON

As Ukraine underwent dramatic changes in 2014, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden played a critical role in the Obama administration’s involvement in the revolution that ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. Following the revolution, Biden would use his influence to help force the creation of the troubled National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU). Notably, during the 2016 election campaign, information leaked from NABU about Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort that helped to create the false narrative that Trump colluded with Russia to win the election. Biden also would use the threat of withholding \$1 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to pressure Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to fire the prosecutor general. At the time, the prosecutor had been investigating Burisma, a Ukrainian natural gas giant that had appointed Biden’s son, Hunter, as a board member. President Donald Trump’s personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, recently said, “Keep your eye on Ukraine.” In his comments to the Washington Examiner, Giuliani highlighted the “plot to create an investigation of President Trump, based on a false charge of conspiracy with the Russians to affect the 2016 elections.”



Ukrainian businessman Victor Pinchuk in Paris on March 27, 2013.

Obama Administration’s 2014 Involvement

On or shortly before Feb. 4, 2014, Victoria Nuland, the assistant secretary for European and Eurasian affairs in the Obama State Department, had a conversation with the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Geoffrey Pyatt, which was intercepted and leaked. In the call, Nuland and Pyatt appeared to be discussing the ouster of Yanukovich and the installation of opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk as prime minister. Nuland favored opposition leader Yatsenyuk over his main rivals Vitali Klitschko and Oleh Tyahnybok, telling Pyatt: “I think Yats is the guy who’s got the economic experience, the governing experience. He’s the ... what he needs is Klitschko and Tyahnybok on the outside.” Toward the end of the conversation, then-Vice President Biden was discussed as being willing to help cement the changeover in Ukraine:

Geoffrey Pyatt: “We want to try to get somebody with an international personality to come out here and help to midwife this thing. The other issue is some kind of outreach to Yanukovich, but we probably regroup on that tomorrow as we see how things start to fall into place.”

Victoria Nuland: “So, on that piece Geoff, when I wrote the note [Biden’s national security adviser Jake] Sullivan’s come back to me VFR [direct to me], saying you need Biden, and I said probably tomorrow for an attabooy and to get the deets [details] to stick. So Biden’s willing.”

Nuland and Pyatt met with Ukrainian opposition leaders Klitschko and Yatsenyuk, along with then-President Yanukovich, just days later on Feb. 7, 2014. Events then moved swiftly. On Feb. 22, 2014, Yanukovich was removed as president of Ukraine and fled to Russia. On Feb. 27, 2014, Yatsenyuk, the candidate favored by Nuland, was installed as prime minister of Ukraine. Klitschko was left out. Notably, Yatsenyuk would later resign in April 2016 amid corruption accusations.

Biden’s Involvement in Ukraine

In April, Biden would get personally involved, as would his son, Hunter. On April 18, 2014, Hunter Biden was appointed to the board of directors for Burisma—one of the largest natural gas companies in Ukraine. Four days later, on April 22, 2014, Vice President Biden traveled to Ukraine, offering his political support and \$50 million in aid for Yatsenyuk’s shaky new government. Poroshenko, a billionaire politician, was elected as president of Ukraine on May 25, 2014. Biden became close to both men and helped Ukraine obtain a four-year, \$17.5 billion IMF package in March 2015. In October 2016, Foreign Policy wrote a lengthy article, “What Will Ukraine Do Without Uncle Joe,” which described Biden’s role in the removal of Ukraine’s general prosecutor, Viktor Shokin. Shokin, the choice of Poroshenko, was portrayed

as fumbling a major corruption case and “hindering an investigation into two high-ranking state prosecutors arrested on corruption charges.” The United States pushed for Shokin’s removal, and Biden led the effort by personally threatening to withhold \$1 billion in loan guarantees. In an interview with The Atlantic, Biden recalled telling Poroshenko: “Petro, you’re not getting your billion dollars. It’s OK, you can keep the [prosecutor] general. Just understand—we’re not paying if you do.” Shokin was removed by Poroshenko shortly thereafter, in early 2016. But according to reporting by The Hill, at the time of his firing, Shokin had been investigating Burisma. Shokin’s investigation into Burisma had previously been disclosed in June 2017, by Front News International. Burisma is owned by Nikolai Zlochevsky (also known as Mykola Zlochevsky), the former minister of ecology for Ukraine. According to Front News, Zlochevsky issued a “special permit for the extraction of a third of the gas produced in Ukraine” to his own company, Burisma. According to the Ukrainian nonprofit Anti Corruption Action Center, Zlochevsky owns 38 permits held by 14 different companies—with Burisma accounting for the majority with 33 of the permits. Zlochevsky left Ukraine after Yanukovich fled to Russia during the Ukrainian Revolution known as Euromaidan.

Investigation Into Burisma

In the spring of 2014, the Ukrainian Prosecutor General’s Office opened an investigation at the behest of the UK prosecutors office, which was investigating money laundering allegations against Zlochevsky and had just frozen \$23.5 million in assets allegedly belonging to him in early April 2014. Shokin, who wasn’t appointed as general prosecutor until February 2015, wasn’t yet involved in the case. Ukrainian prosecutors refused to provide the UK with needed documents, and in January 2015, a British court ordered the assets unfrozen. This action was pointedly called out in a speech by Pyatt, who stated, “In the case of former Ecology Minister Mykola Zlochevsky, the UK authorities had seized \$23 million in illicit assets that belonged to the Ukrainian people.” Instead of receiving cooperation from Ukrainian prosecutors, they “sent letters to Zlochevsky’s attorneys attesting that there was no case against him. As a result, the money was freed by the UK court, and shortly thereafter the money was moved to Cyprus.”



On Feb. 10, 2015, Shokin was appointed prosecutor general of Ukraine, and he picked up the investigation into Burisma, which reportedly continued until his formal resignation in February 2016. Around the same time that Zlochevsky’s assets were being frozen in the UK, Burisma appointed Hunter Biden to its board on April 18, 2014. Hunter’s compensation had never been disclosed by Burisma, which is a private company, but Ryan Toohey, a Burisma spokesman, told The New York Times that Biden’s compensation was “not out of the ordinary” for similar board positions. However, according to The Hill’s reporting, Hunter Biden’s firm, Rosemont Seneca Partners, was receiving regular payments—“usually more than \$166,000 a month”—from Burisma. The payments ran from the spring of 2014 through the fall of 2015 and reportedly totaled more than \$3 million. The Hill article included a written answer from Shokin, who told Solomon that his investigation into Burisma had included plans for “interrogations and other crime-investigation procedures into all members of the executive board, including Hunter Biden.” According to Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, following Shokin’s forced dismissal, the Burisma investigation was transferred to Sytnyk’s NABU, which then reportedly closed the investigation sometime in 2016. The Kyiv Post on March 27 published an editorial written by three members of the Anti-Corruption Action Center in Kyiv that disputed Lutsenko’s interview with The Hill. They claim that two cases relating to Burisma are still being investigated by NABU:



Then-Vice President Joe Biden (L) and Ukrainian then-Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk following talks in Kyiv, on Dec. 7, 2015.

WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

Paul Manafort, then-campaign manager for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland on July 17, 2016.



Ukrainian politician Serhiy Leshchenko holds pages showing allegedly signings of payments to Paul Manafort from a shadow accounting book of the party of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in Kyiv, on Aug. 19, 2016.

“Two cases regarding the extraction of licenses by Zlochevsky’s companies and embezzlement of public funds at the ministry’s procurements during Zlochevsky’s Ministerial tenure remain active and are investigated by NABU.” They also claim that “none of the criminal proceedings against Burisma were closed by NABU.” They acknowledged that the case concerning illegal issuance of licenses to extract natural resources were transferred to NABU in December 2015, but claim that SAP missed procedural deadlines for a lawsuit on canceling those licenses. The politics within Ukraine are extremely complicated, and corruption is endemic, often leading to conflicting accounts of events.

US Pressure to Investigate Manafort

In January 2016, top Ukrainian corruption prosecutors and officials from Obama’s National Security Council (NSC), FBI, State Department and Department of Justice (DOJ) met in Washington, according to an April 26 article by The Hill. The meeting, which was reportedly billed as “training,” apparently also touched on two other matters—the revival of a closed investigation into payments to U.S. figures from Ukraine’s Russia-backed Party of Regions and the closure of an ongoing Ukrainian investigation into Burisma. According to The Hill’s reporting, the Ukrainian Embassy confirmed that meetings were held, but said it “had no record that the Party of Regions or Burisma cases came up in the meetings.” A Jan. 22, 2016, NABU press release confirmed that NABU Director Artem Sytnyk was in Washington from Jan. 19 to 21. At the same time as the NABU meeting with Obama officials, Vice President Biden also met with senior Ukrainian officials. On Jan. 21, 2016, Biden met with Poroshenko, the president of Ukraine. According to the White House release, the two leaders agreed “to continue to move forward on Ukraine’s anti-corruption agenda.” Just six days earlier, on Jan 15, 2016, Biden had met with Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, promising to commit \$220 million in new assistance to Ukraine that year. Notably, several months later, Sytnyk and Ukrainian Member of Parliament Serhiy Leshchenko would publicly disclose the contents of the Ukrainian “black ledger” to the media, which implicated Trump’s campaign manager, Paul Manafort. The revelation would force Manafort from the campaign.

Leshchenko also served as a source for various individuals, including journalist Michael Isikoff and Democratic National Committee (DNC) operative Alexandra Chalupa. In addition, Leshchenko served as a direct source of information for Fusion GPS—and its researcher, former CIA contractor Nellie Ohr. Another Ukrainian-related meeting also took place in January 2016 when Chalupa, a Ukrainian-American, informed an unknown senior DNC official that she believed there was a Russian connection with the Trump campaign. Notably, this theme would be picked up by the Clinton campaign in the summer of 2016. Chalupa also told the official to expect Manafort’s involvement in the Trump campaign. How Chalupa knew to expect Manafort’s involvement with the Trump campaign in January remains unknown, but her forecast proved prescient, as Manafort reached out to the Trump campaign shortly after, on Feb. 29, 2016, through a mutual acquaintance, Thomas J. Barrack Jr. According to Manafort, he and Trump hadn’t been in communication for years until the Trump campaign responded to Manafort’s offer. As The Epoch Times previously reported, on May 30, 2016, Fusion GPS contractor Nellie Ohr sent an email to her husband, high-ranking DOJ official Bruce Ohr, and three other DOJ officials to alert them of the discovery of the “Reported Trove of Documents on Ukrainian Party of Regions’ ‘Black Cashbox.’” It was this discovery that led to Manafort’s resignation from the Trump campaign in August 2016. On Aug. 14, 2016, The New York Times published an article alleging that payments to Manafort had been uncovered from the Party of Regents’ “black box”—the 400-page handwritten ledger released by Leshchenko. The article proved to be a fatal blow for Manafort, who resigned from the Trump campaign just days later. **NABU Ties to FBI** Following the successful overthrow of Yanukovich, Joe Biden had a direct hand in the formation of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU), as he personally “pushed for the creation of an independent anti-corruption bureau to combat graft,” according to an Oct. 30, 2016, article by Foreign Policy. NABU was formally established in October 2014 in response to pressure from not only the U.S. State Department and Biden, but also by the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission. Despite the international push, the fledgling anti-corruption unit took more than a year to actually become a functioning unit. During this time, NABU officials began establishing a relationship with the FBI. In early 2016, NABU Director Sytnyk announced that his bureau was very close to signing a memorandum of cooperation with the FBI and by February 2016, the FBI had had a permanent representative onsite at the NABU offices. On June 5, 2016, Sytnyk met with U.S. Ambassador Pyatt to discuss a more formalized relationship with the FBI and, on June 30, 2016, NABU and the FBI entered into a memorandum of understanding that allowed for an FBI office onsite at NABU offices to focus on international money laundering cases. The relationship was renewed for an additional two years in June 2017. NABU has repeatedly refused to make the memorandum of understanding with the FBI public and went to court in 2018 to prevent its release. After receiving an unfavorable opinion from the Kyiv District Administrative Court, NABU appealed the ruling, which was overturned in its

favor by the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal.

Sytynyk, along with parliamentarian Leshchenko, became the subject of an investigation in Ukraine and in December 2018, a Kyiv court ruled that both men “acted illegally when they revealed that Manafort’s surname and signature were found in the so-called black ledger of ousted President Viktor Yanukovich’s Party of Regions,” the Kyiv Post reported on Dec. 12, 2018.

The court noted the material was part of a pre-trial investigation and its release “led to interference in the electoral processes of the United States in 2016 and harmed the interests of Ukraine as a state.”

Leschenko had publicly adopted a strong anti-Trump stance, telling the *Financial Times* in August 2016 that “a Trump presidency would change the pro-Ukrainian agenda in American foreign policy” and that it was “important to show not only the corruption aspect, but that he is [a] pro-Russian candidate who can break the geopolitical balance in the world.” Leschenko noted that the majority of Ukrainian politicians were “on Hillary Clinton’s side.”

In December 2017, Ukrainian Prosecutor General Lutsenko accused Sytnyk of allowing the FBI to conduct illegal operations in Ukraine, claiming that the “U.S. law enforcers were allegedly invited without the permission required and in breach of the necessary procedures.” Lutsenko continued by asking, “Who actually let the foreign special service act in Ukraine?”

Taras Chornovil, a Ukrainian political analyst, also questioned the FBI's activities, writing that "some kind of undercover operations are being conducted in Ukraine with direct participation (or even under control) of the FBI. This means the FBI operatives could have access to classified data or confidential information."

Lutsenko called for an audit of NABU, claiming to “possess information of interest to the auditors” and was pushing for Sytnyk’s resignation, along with that of Nazar Kholodnitskiy, the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office (SAP). According to reporting by Euromaidan Press, Lutsenko’s efforts failed “thanks to the reaction from Ukraine’s American partners.”

Michael Carpenter, an adviser to Joe Biden, personally issued a public warning to Lutsenko and others pushing for Sytnyk's removal, stating, "If the Rada votes to dismiss the head of the Anticorruption Committee and the head of the NABU, I will recommend cutting all U.S. government



Then-President Barack Obama and Ukraine's then-President Petro Poroshenko during a U.N. Climate Change Conference in Le Bourget, outside Paris, on Nov. 30, 2015.



Then-Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland.

assistance to #Ukraine, including security assistance”

Sytnyk remains in his position as NABU's director.

Pinchuk's Ties to Leshchenko, Clintons

On April 11, 2019, Greg Craig, Obama's former White House counsel and a partner at law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, was indicted for lying about and concealing his work in Ukraine. Craig, who reportedly worked closely with Manafort, was paid more than \$4 million to produce an "independent" report justifying Ukraine's trial and conviction of the former prime minister, Yulia Tymoshenko. Notably, Craig's name was

not included in the “Black Ledger” leak from Leshchenko and Sytnyk.

The indictment notes that “a wealthy private Ukrainian” was fully funding the report. In a recent YouTube video, Craig publicly stated that “it was Doug Schoen who brought this project to me, and he told me he was acting on behalf of Victor Pinchuk, who was a pro-western, Ukrainian businessman who helped to fund the project.”

“The Firm understood that its work was to be largely funded by Victor Pinchuk,” Skadden wrote in recent FARA filings.

Pinchuk put out a statement on Jan. 21, denying any financial involvement:

"Mr. Pinchuk was not the source of any

*Celebrating May 13
World Falun Dafa Day
2019*



Hosted by Falun Dafa Association of Australia

2019 World Falun Dafa Day Celebrations in Sydney



May 13 marks World Falun Dafa Day which commemorates the introduction of Falun Dafa to the public in May 1992. World Falun Dafa Day is celebrated in over 100 countries by millions of Falun Dafa practitioners of different races, cultures, professions and ages. As part of our yearly tradition, we will celebrate the occasion with festivities to share the goodness and beauty of Falun Dafa, the peaceful practice founded on:

真 善 忍

Truthfulness – Compassion – Forbearance

To learn more about Falun Dafa, please visit: www.FalunDafa.org

THURSDAY 09 MAY 2019 | IN FRONT OF CUSTOM HOUSE

MEDITATION EXERCISES: 7:55AM - 10:10AM

STREET PARADE: 12:00PM - 2:00PM

FROM CIRCULAR QUAY TO BELMORE PARK, VIA CASTLEREAGH STREET

SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2019 | SYDNEY HYDE PARK

MEDITATION EXERCISES: 8:00AM - 10:00AM

PERFORMANCES: 12:00PM - 3:00PM

SUNDAY 12TH MAY 2019 | HURSTVILLE PLAZA

MEDITATION EXERCISES: 9:30AM - 11:30AM

PERFORMANCES: 12:00PM - 2:00PM

You are cordially invited to the following nights of great performances,
inspiring personal stories & delicious Chinese food.

SUNDAY 12TH MAY 2019 | 5:00 PM FOR 5:30PM START

ASHFIELD TOWN HALL, 260 LIVERPOOL ROAD, ASHFIELD
RSVP VIA EVENTBRITE: <https://bit.ly/2VcO1Ap> or TXT: 0406 659 588



The CCP Uses Lies to Conceal Its Trade Wars

JOSHUA PHILIPP

Commentary

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has used intellectual property theft, currency manipulation, state subsidies, tariffs, and manipulations of the legal system for decades to give Chinese companies an unfair edge over foreign companies. Behind this is its publicly stated goal to “catch up fast” and “surpass” the United States.

Now that the Trump administration is meeting the challenge head-on to stop the CCP’s unfair trade practices, legacy news outlets have portrayed the idea of the “trade war” with China like it’s a new phenomenon. In reality, it’s a war that has been taking place for decades, but the United States has only now begun doing something about it.

This historical amnesia has strategic value. For the CCP, it can use the public’s forgetfulness or lack of a clear understanding of its past to frame itself as the victim of a “Trump trade war.” And some of the legacy news outlets, which have a policy of absolute opposition to anything done by Trump, have been willing to play along with China’s charade to eliminate historical context.

On April 28, the CCP pulled out a tactic to capitalize on the lack of clarity on its history of trade war: It simply denied it ever happened.

Shen Changyu, head of China’s National Intellectual Property Administration, said that critics of the CCP’s intellectual property policies “lack evidence.”

“Some countries’ criticisms of China’s IP protection lack evidence and are nonspecific,” he said, according to South China Morning Post.

Of course, there is plenty of evidence. Estimates of the cost of China’s intellectual property theft against the United States range from \$13 billion to \$400 billion a year. Some estimates place the loss of economic value in the trillions.

The CCP has used a massive system—including military hackers, spies, researchers, students, and businesses—to steal intellectual property from U.S. companies. This includes the infamous CCP military hackers in Unit 61398, who were indicted during the Obama administration for stealing U.S. intellectual property.

While the CCP has since reorganized the military operations under its new Strategic Support Force, at the time, Unit 61398 was just one of 22 known operational bureaus dedicated to similar operations. It was under the Third Department under the CCP’s warfighting department, the General Staff Department. The Third Department, which focused on cyber operations, worked with the Second Department that ran human spy networks.

Since 1986, the CCP’s Project 863 has directed its policies for economic theft. Additional programs, such as its Torch Program, its 211 Program, and its 973 Program, directed similar operations. According to the book “China’s Industrial Espionage” by William C. Hannas et al., “Each of these programs



Chinese police officers watch a cargo ship at a port in Qingdao, China, on March 8, 2018.

looks to foreign collaboration and technologies to cover key gaps.”

The CCP has since added to the mix its China 2025 policy, which builds on Project 863. The program outlines 10 tech-related sectors for the CCP to dominate—by hook or by crook.

After intellectual property is stolen, the CCP reverse engineers it through its National Demonstration Organizations, also known as China’s National Technology Transfer Centers. According to Hannas et al., the CCP launched these operations in 2001 and directed them more heavily in 2007 through its National Technology Transfer Promotion Implementation Plan.

The CCP runs 202 of these transfer centers as “models for emulation by other transfer facilities.” These include the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs under the State Council, the Science and Technology Office under the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office, and the National Technology Transfer Center under the East China University of Science and Technology.

“Their charters explicitly name ‘domestic and foreign technology’ as targets for ‘commercialization,’” the authors state in “China’s Industrial Espionage.”

The CCP has used a massive system—including military hackers, spies, researchers, students, and businesses—to steal intellectual property from U.S. companies.

In addition to these operations, the CCP also runs large-scale networks for overt espionage under its United Front Department, which includes tapping networks for economic theft. It runs student groups, such as the Chinese Student and Scholar Associations, to strategically place Chinese students in targeted positions and industries.

And the CCP has used state subsidies, legal punishments of foreign firms, and industrial espionage to undercut and disable foreign competition. An example of this is the CCP’s “Operation Night Dragon” cyberattacks, uncovered in 2013, which the CCP was using to spy on competitors in the energy industry, enabling it to under-bid them on contracts.

The CCP’s strategy to alter perceptions of the scope and impact of its aggressive intellectual property theft is simple yet effective. Its operations for economic theft use a “death by 1,000 cuts” approach and have a massive state system behind it. It’s a crime that has been perpetrated against the United States for decades.

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

Trump’s Risky Iran Strategy

JAMES GORRIE

As the Trump administration seeks to achieve its goals on Mideast peace, nuclear security and other objectives involving Iran and beyond, some policy objectives may actually be working at cross purposes with one another. The sanctions against Iran are only a small part of a very complex ballet of power and diplomacy between the United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and China.

Trump’s Iran Policy: Risky But Necessary

Iran’s intention is to become the dominant player in the Middle East. To the mullahs in Tehran, that means acquiring nuclear weapons. It also means eliminating Iran’s two main adversaries in the region—Israel and Saudi Arabia—both of which are allies of the U.S. Of course, neither of these outcomes are even thinkable, much less acceptable, to the United States or the targeted nations.

Therefore, the Trump policy is to contain Iran is a very necessary one to stop a wider Middle East war from erupting. This involves reducing Iran’s influence through its proxy fighters Hezbollah and Hamas as well as thwarting Iran’s nuclear ambitions. It also involves heavy sanctions. It’s no secret that civil unrest in Iran is rising. The people are fed up living in a pariah state with no future for the younger generation. Economic sanctions, painful for the masses, only add to that unrest.

You may recall that the Obama administration dropped the sanctions against Iran as a bargaining chip in the Iranian nuclear deal. Supposedly, this was Barack Obama’s top foreign policy achievement. But in light of Iran’s repeated violations of the conditions of the agreement, the Trump administration



withdrew from it and re-applied the trade sanctions in November of 2018.

However, certain waivers to the sanctions were granted to specific countries that relied on Iranian oil. Those waivers expired this week. Trump’s decision not to renew them will make it more difficult for Iran to sell its oil and for its customers to buy it from them. Violators could face punitive consequences against their dollar-based assets and banking transactions. China is one of those countries, as well as the European Union.

China, Saudi Arabia, and the Petro Dollar

That’s where things get complicated. Iran’s biggest oil customer is China. And, with U.S. tariffs against China already in place, U.S. oil exports to China have all but dried up. What’s more, with China’s oil imports from Iran falling 25 percent from March of 2018 to March of 2019, China must find oil from other suppliers.

Enter Saudi Arabia. The top importer of Saudi Arabian oil

President Donald Trump signs a document reinstating sanctions against Iran after announcing the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear deal at the White House in Washington, D.C. on May 8, 2018.

is also China. At the same time, the United States has become the world’s top producer of oil equivalents, outpacing even Saudi Arabia’s production. In fact, the recent explosion in U.S. oil and gas production has led to a substantial challenge to OPEC, the energy cartel that has dominated the world fossil energy market since the 1970s. As a result, Saudi Arabia’s economy is on a much weaker footing than it was even a few years ago.

But it’s not only a decline in U.S. imports of Saudi oil that’s posing a direct threat to Saudi Arabia’s economy. The growing support in the U.S. Congress for NOPEC (No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act) legislation that would apply U.S. anti-cartel laws to the OPEC cartel has led Saudi policy makers and their OPEC partners to consider abandoning the petrodollar.

That’s a very big deal. For the first time since the mid-1970s, OPEC is considering accepting other currencies in place of the U.S. dollar for their oil sales. If that happened – though not yet

likely – the U.S. dollar could lose its status as the world’s reserve currency. That could potentially lead to the devaluation of dollar-denominated assets around the world and a crisis in the American economy. That may well explain Trump sticking by Saudi Arabia in the wake of the brutal and notorious killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Trump’s “Deal of the Century” Mideast Peace Plan

With all the focus on the Russia collusion hearings, Trump’s peace plan for Israel and the Palestinians has been developing for the past two years. Reports are that the so-called, “deal of the century” involves some very creative ideas and is expected to be announced in June after the Islamic observance of Ramadan.

Saudi Arabia has reportedly offered Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas \$10 billion to accept Trump’s plan, which may call for the Arabs living in the Palestinian territory to return to their original home countries.

But there will also be a security and military component for Israel that will potentially involve cooperation with Saudi Arabia. This triangulation seems sensible and beneficial for all sides. Saudi Arabia wants Israeli intelligence, military, and technological support in addition to that of the United States to counter Iran’s efforts against them. As for Israel, it would welcome the Saudis as an ally in the region.

Saudi Arabia Pivots to China

This set up leaves China in a very strategic position. Last year saw a 32 percent rise in trade between China and Saudi Arabia in areas such as commerce, security, and defense. And earlier this year, President Xi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed 12 new agreements for cooperation. In other words,

both countries see that a big part of both their futures involves deepening their relationship on both a commercial and a strategic level.

Therefore, as the United States continues its trade war with China, as well as its Iranian containment policy, its key ally in the Arab world for both of those objectives, as well as a major factor in Trump’s Mideast peace plan, is turning eastward to China. China, therefore, will seek to leverage its growing relationship with Saudi Arabia to its own advantage against the United States to serve their greater objective of supplanting America as the global hegemonic power.

There are several opportunities and areas in which to do so. For example, would China encourage and support the Saudis in abandoning the petrodollar? At some point, most certainly. Would Saudi Arabia be vulnerable to China buying oil from another provider? Absolutely.

But does China have an interest in seeing Trump’s peace plan fail? If it meant further chaos, a defeat for American prestige and influence in the region, as well as the potential for access to Israel’s newly discovered oil and natural gas reserves, the answer is “yes.”

History shows the rise of competing powers leads to the rise of multi-polarity and its inherent instability. Our times are no exception and one can imagine some very negative outcomes. As President Trump is finding out, containing Iran is just the beginning of a long chain or possible scenarios.

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.

Lillian Fan, Publisher
Jasper Fakkert, Editor-in-Chief
Melanie Sun, Regional Editor
Gigi Fu, Layout Artist

ABOUT US

The Epoch Times is a media organisation 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.

CONTACT US

Australian Epoch Times Ltd.
49A Treacy St,
Hurstville NSW 2220
02 8988 5600

Advertising
ad@epochtimes.com.au

Subscriptions
subscribe@epochtimes.com.au

General Inquiries
info@epochtimes.com.au

Send Us Your News
press@epochtimes.com.au



SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Get the independent news you won't find anywhere else.

Subscribe and get the insights only The Epoch Times can provide, delivered to your door every week.

02 8988 5600

SPECIAL SERIES

How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World

Mass Killing in the East

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.”

Chapter Three (Cont.)

2. The Slaughter of the Working Class

From Karl Marx’s theories to the rhetoric of the totalitarian communist regimes, all were replete with the principle of reliance on the proletarian workers and peasants, and promises to represent their interests. But in practice, it was the working class that sustained the greatest abuses under the communist system.

a. Suppressing the Soviet Workers and Peasants

In 1918, after Vladimir Lenin illegally disbanded the Constituent Assembly, it was the workers who were the first to resist the communist dictatorship. Protesting the dissolution of the assembly, tens of thousands of workers from Petrograd and Moscow held parades and demonstrations. Bolshevik soldiers cracked down on the unrest with lethal force, gunning down demonstrators and filling the streets of Petrograd and Moscow with the workers’ blood.

The country’s largest labor union, the All-Russian Union of Railwaymen, announced a strike to protest the Bolshevik coup and gained the broad support of many other labor organizations. As it did with the workers of Petrograd and Moscow, the CPSU put down the strikers with its armed forces, and the All-Russian Union and other independent unions were banned.

Remaining labor organizations were gradually forced under the control of the CPSU. In the spring of 1919, starving workers in cities across Russia went on strike several times to demand the same rations as Red Army soldiers, the rights to free speech and democratic elections, and the abolition of political privileges afforded to the communists. All these movements were handled by the Cheka secret police, who jailed or shot the strikers.

In the summer of 1918, Russia faced a massive food shortage due to the ongoing civil war. In June, with the country on the verge of famine, Lenin dispatched Josef Stalin to Tsaritsyn to seize grain from the Volga basin, traditionally a breadbasket of Russian agriculture.

The tyranny of the CPSU invited resistance from the peasants. In August 1918, peasants in the Penza region rose up in an armed revolt, and the uprising quickly spread to the surrounding areas. The CPSU sent troops to suppress the uprisings, and Lenin sent a telegram to the Penza Bolsheviks. Here is British historian Robert Service’s translation of the original Russian telegram:

1. Hang (and make sure that the hanging takes place in full view of the people) no fewer than 100 known landlords, rich men, bloodsuckers.
2. Publish their names.
3. Seize all their grain from them.
4. Designate hostages in accordance with yesterday’s telegram.

Do it in such a fashion that for hundreds of kilometers around, the people might see, tremble, know, shout ...!

Before the October Revolution, Tambov was one of the richest provinces in Russia. In order to seize its grain, the Soviet Union organized many “grain-requisitioning teams” and sent them to the region. Over 50,000 Tambov farmers formed local militias to fight the CPSU’s requisitioning teams.

In June 1921, faced with the task of suppressing the Tambov Rebellion, the Soviet regime suggested

that military commander Mikhail Tukhachevsky fight the “hooligans” with poison gas. Tukhachevsky’s use of chemical weapons, combined with fires that burned across the region, rendered much of Tambov completely desolate. An estimated 100,000 Tambov peasants who took part in the resistance and their relatives were imprisoned or exiled. Around 15,000 people died in the insurgency.

The widespread slaughter in the Soviet Union served as a comprehensive model for the CCP’s coming persecution of the Chinese workers and peasants.

b. Following the Soviet Model

China has a broad and profound culture with a history of 5,000 years. Its people are steeped in the tradition of worshipping gods and revering the divine. The specter of communism, incapable of conquering 5,000 years of tradition using conspiracy alone, dealt with traditional Chinese culture using systematic violence.

The CCP targeted the elites of society who served as the bearers of traditional culture, destroyed the physical artifacts of Chinese civilization, and severed the connections between the Chinese people and their gods. China’s traditional heritage was replaced with a “Party culture” to be spread among the survivors of the CCP’s mass killings, turning the young into treacherous “wolf cubs” who serve as the specter’s pawns in the continued destruction of humanity.

Immediately after taking power, the CCP began to invent enemies, beginning with the murder of elites. In the countryside, it slaughtered landlords and gentry. In the cities, it killed businessmen, creating an atmosphere of terror and looting the wealth of civil society.

To rouse the peasants to kill landlords and “rich farmers,” and support the new communist regime, the CCP implemented a so-called land reform that promised the peasantry their own land. But after murdering the landowners, the CCP claimed the land was to be turned over to the peasants in the form of “cooperatives.” In practice, this meant the land still did not belong to the peasants.

In March 1950, the CCP issued the Directive on the Strict Suppression of Counter-Revolutionary Elements, also known as the Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries, which focused on killing the landlords and rich peasants in the countryside. The CCP announced that by the end of 1952, more than 2.4 million “counterrevolutionaries” had been eliminated. In fact, more than 5 million people, accounting for nearly 1 percent of the total Chinese population, had been murdered.

After killing the landlords and rich peasants in the countryside, the CCP launched the Three-Anti and Five-Anti campaigns to slaughter wealthy urbanites. In Shanghai alone, 876 people committed suicide during the movement from January to April 1951, according to incomplete statistics. Among them, many capitalists committed suicide with all of their family members.

The CCP did not stop with the extermination of landlords and capitalists; it also robbed the wealth of peasants, small merchants, and craftsmen. After the mass slaughter, the vast majority of the working class remained impoverished.

3. The Absolute Brutality of the Communist Party

a. Atrocities of Soviet Communism

The Gulag: Inspiration for Hitler’s Death Camps

On Sept. 5, 1918, Lenin ordered the establishment of the first Soviet concentration camp on the Solovetsky Islands for the incarceration, torture, and slaughter of political prisoners and dissidents who opposed the October Revolution. The CPSU followed this up with a constellation of concentration camps across the Soviet Union—the notorious gulag labor camps of the Stalinist era.

The gulag system (the term “gulag” being an abbreviation in Russian for the Main Administration of Corrective Labor Camps and Settlements) grew to a monstrous scale under the leadership of Stalin as the CPSU intensified its political terror and carried out ever greater purges. By the time of Stalin’s death in 1953, there were 170 gulag administrations containing over 30,000 individual camps scattered across the Soviet Union, in what Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn would famously describe as “the Gulag Archipelago” in his book by the same name.

In his documentary work, Solzhenitsyn listed 31 different methods that the Soviet secret police used to exhaust their prisoners’ strength and force them to confess to any crime.¹

Those sent to the gulag suffered from a constant shortage of food and clothing while being forced to perform heavy labor 12 to 16 hours a day in the freezing cold of the Russian winter. The death toll was enormous. Many people were imprisoned along with their entire families, with husbands incarcerated and wives exiled. Even the elderly, some already in their 80s, were not spared. The condemned ranged from high-ranking Party elites, state leaders, and military commanders, down to completely ordinary citizens from every walk of life, including religious believers, engineers, technicians, doctors, students, professors, factory workers, and peasants.

It is common for people to believe that concentration camps were a Nazi creation, but in reality, the Soviet gulag was the precursor to similar forms of repression around the world, in both communist and non-communist regimes. According to former Soviet military intelligence officer and popular historian Viktor Suvorov, before World War II, Hitler sent Gestapo officers to Russia to tour and study the experiences accumulated by the Soviets in building the gulag.

According to conservative estimates, over 500,000 prisoners perished in the gulag system between 1930 and 1940, during the years of Stalin’s prewar terror. The gulag was disbanded in 1960. In 2013, a website of the Russian state media reported that more than 15 million people had been sentenced and imprisoned in the gulag labor camps, and more than 1.5 million died.

Killing by Famine

Communist regimes often killed people through famine. Between 1932 and 1933, the Ukrainian region suffered from a genocidal mass starvation, known as the Holodomor, caused by the Soviet regime.

After the civil war, the CPSU’s imposition of collective farming met with widespread resistance from the Ukrainian peasantry. To deal with this, the Soviet regime classified a majority of skilled farmers as “kulaks” and exiled them to Western Siberia and the republics of Central Asia. The removal of the kulaks was a huge loss to Ukrainian agriculture, and in 1932, production plummeted.

In the winter of 1932–1933, the Soviet government cut off food supplies to Ukraine and set up security fences along the borders of the republic. At first, Ukrainians survived on the stored vegetables and potatoes in their homes, but these were soon requisitioned by Party authorities. A large number of farmers starved to death. In desperation, people turned to cannibalism and eating the dug-up carcasses of cats, dogs, and livestock.

The authorities prevented villagers from traveling to the cities in search of food. Many people starved to death as they walked along the railways.

The Holodomor famine turned more than 1 million Ukrainian children into orphans. Many of them became homeless and had no choice but to beg for food in the cities. To eliminate this embarrassment, Stalin signed orders authorizing police to shoot children as young as 12.

Estimates of the death toll during the Holodomor range from about 2.5 million to 4.8 million. During the famine, bodies of the victims could be seen all over the streets of Kharkov, the Ukrainian capital.

The Great Terror Turns on the Soviet Elite

The purpose of the communist specter is to destroy all mankind, including eventually its own followers. This was played out during the Stalinist era, as the CPSU carried out bloody purges across its own ranks. Beginning in 1928, Stalin targeted the upper echelons of the communist leadership.

Out of the 1,966 delegates to the 17th Congress of the CPSU in 1934, 1,108 were arrested on charges of counter-revolutionary activity. Of the 139 members of the Central Committee elected at the 17th Congress, four out of every five were shot.

The Soviet Politburo had elected 31 members between 1919 and 1935, of whom 20 were killed in Stalin’s purges. Lavrentiy Beria, Stalin’s secret police chief, once said, “Show me the man and I’ll find you the crime.” Except for Stalin, all of the Politburo members remaining at the time of Lenin’s death in 1924—Lev Kamenev, Grigory Zinoviev, Alexei Rykov, Mikhail Tomsky, and Leon Trotsky—were executed or assassinated by 1940.

No section of society was spared in the Great Terror—repression in the religious, scientific, educational, academic, and artistic fields preceded the purges that gutted the military and political elite. The main victims of Stalin’s terror were ordinary Soviet citizens.

How many were arrested, killed, imprisoned, or exiled by Stalin in the Great Terror? Even today there are no complete records or answers. On the eve of the dissolution of the Soviet Union in June 1991, KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov said that between 1920 and 1953, about 4.2 million people were “suppressed,” 2 million of whom during the Great Terror.

Alexander Yakovlev, a reformist politician in the Soviet and Yeltsin eras, said in a 2000 interview that the victims of the Stalinist repression numbered at least 20 million.

See next week’s edition for the next installment.

- I. Robert Service, translation of “the hanging order,” from “Lenin, a Biography.” 2000.
- II. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, “The Gulag Archipelago: 1918–1956.” 1973.

The Muslim Brotherhood Is a Terrorist Organisation With Socialist Roots

CONTINUED FROM A1

His books, “Milestones” (1964) and “In the Shade of the Quran” (written 1951–1965), played a large role in creating the new Islamic regimes that have swept the Arab world.

Qutb also was an advocate for “offensive jihad,” which helped spur the creation of tyrannical regimes under this new form of “Islamism.”

According to Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, president of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy, Qutb’s revisions to Islam warped the concept of sharia (Islamic law) to merge socialist politics into a system of theocratic government. He explained in a previous interview that Qutb “evokes a lot of Islamic ideology to push for theocracy.”

Jasser explained that, under this model, criticisms of the government become synonymous with attacks on the religion. This allows the socialist tyrants to kill critics and political opponents, under the guise of defending religion.

It’s likely because of its political roots that socialist tyrants in the West push for the Muslim Brotherhood’s acceptance, despite its almost blanket contradiction to their talking points. Beneath the surface is the same drive for social control and political power.

This new brand of Islam “concerns itself with communism, socialism, nationalism, liberalism, and all the currents from the West,” according to the 2005 book “The Saudi Enigma: A History” by Pascal Ménoret, which cites leftist Islamic scholar Ali al-Umaym.

Meanwhile, this blend of socialism and Islam was a key factor behind modern Islamist terrorism. Part of this was from the Soviet Union’s “liberation front” movements, such as Yasser Arafat’s Palestinian Liberation Front. Another key part was from the Muslim Brotherhood’s influence behind the terrorist group al-Qaeda.

Qutb’s brother mentored Osama bin Laden, and Qutb’s ideas helped inspire al-Qaeda. The New York Times reported



Jordanian supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood set fire to a mock Israeli tank during a protest to celebrate the “Gaza victory” in the war against Israel, in the capital Amman on Aug. 8, 2014.

Founding father Sayyid Qutb’s brother mentored Osama bin Laden, and Qutb’s ideas helped inspire the terrorist group al-Qaeda.

in 2003 that, “at the heart of that single school of thought stood, until his execution in 1966, a philosopher named Sayyid Qutb—the intellectual hero of every one of the groups that eventually went into Al Qaeda, their Karl Marx (to put it that way), their guide.”

If you look at countries such as Iran and Afghanistan before this new form of socialist theocracy took root, you may notice something interesting: The cities looked like those in Western countries. Women there dressed similarly to women in the United States in the 1970s. They

have since become victims of this tyrannical system of religious socialism.

And have you noticed that, despite the fact that socialists in the West support international Islam, those same socialists seem to oppose the Saudi Arabia model? This is likely because the Saudi model never fully adopted socialist Islam—it adopted some parts of it, but mostly kept the older conservative model.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Muslim Brotherhood’s “Egyptian model” for Islamism came to the doorstep of Saudi Arabia under the banner of “moderniza-

tion.”

Socialist and communist movements were spreading in Saudi Arabia, with calls for “Egyptian reforms” to replace the traditional form of conservative monarchy. Among those movements were the Central Committee of Arabian Workers, the Organization of Saudi Communists, and the National Liberation Front, which later became the Communist Party of Saudi Arabia.

A group of Saudi princes joined these movements, which led to the “Free Princes” movement. The head of it was the father of modern Saudi progressivism, Al-Waleed bin Talal, who was known as “The Red Prince.” They were labeled as a form of veiled communism, and their attempted coup was thwarted. Despite this, however, individuals such as bin Talal were still pushing for its agenda.

Saudi Arabia has since designated the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization, as has Bahrain, Egypt, Russia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates.

The United States soon may do the same, despite heavy pushback from legacy news outlets and socialist politicians.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement, “The president has consulted with his national security team and leaders in the region who share his concern, and this designation is working its way through the internal process.”

Muslims who oppose the Muslim Brotherhood theocratic model have backed the decision. Mohamad Tawhidi, a reformist imam and peace advocate, wrote on Twitter: “If President Trump designates the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist org, it will be the biggest hit to the global Islamist movement. [Muslim Brotherhood] has the most organized network of institutions, politicians & banks. This will shake their empire. Do it. Asap.”

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

How Media Narratives Became More Important Than Facts

SHARYL ATTKISSON



Commentary
The day that I told CBS News I wished to leave my job as investigative correspondent ahead of my contract, I didn’t give a reason. I didn’t see the point because the problem wasn’t fixable.

Nor was it isolated to CBS News. My own take is that—as our industry has changed in ways that have become undeniable to most—I was a bit of the canary in the coal mine. By that, I mean I believe I was among the first to really pay attention to the increasingly effective operations to shape and censor news—the movements to establish narratives rather than follow facts—and to see the growing influence of smear operations, political interests, and corporate interests on the news.

It’s not that I’m smarter than my peers, and I’m surely far less smart than many, but my particular brand of off-narrative reporting happened to draw the intense attention of the smear operators and propagandists, so I began to study it.

A case in point: the smear that was promulgated when I left CBS. It was often incorrectly reported that I told CBS management I was quitting due to liberal media bias. That false story turned out to be convenient for both political sides, and largely survives today. It simply wasn’t rooted in fact. And I don’t recall reporters even asking me whether it was true. Once a few articles reported that it was, others simply copied the claim and adopted it as if established fact, eventually without attribution. Now there would be no point in trying to clarify it. After all, Wikipedia says it’s true. No going back from that.

Powerful smear groups and certain interests—including some within CBS at the time—started the narrative that I was “conservative,” not because they necessarily believed it, but as a tool to “controversialize” the reporting I was doing that was contrary to powerful interests. The idea is that if I can be portrayed as a partisan, then my reporting can be more easily dismissed.

The Narrative Requires

In fact, prior to the operation to push the narrative that I was “conservative,” my reporting had been lauded by a diverse group of observers, including the likes of Rachel Maddow, who once delivered an entire monologue on an investigative expose I did on the “charity” of then-Rep. Stephen Buyer (R- Ind.). My most recent Emmy award was for an



The CBS logo at the CBS Building in New York on Aug. 6, 2018.

National media has also largely become co-opted by powerful interests who understand how to direct the news landscape in a way that services certain narratives and agendas.

undercover investigation into Republican fundraising.

But the narrative requests—nay, requires—that we forget all that. We must focus on the supposed miraculous metamorphosis. Depending on who’s spinning, they may insist I was a rational journalist who went crazy one day and flew to the dark side of conservatism. Or they may say I used to be a devoted liberal, but decided the big money was in pandering to Republicans, so I sold out. The details aren’t important. You are simply to come away with the notion that my reporting is now politically conflicted.

Another example of this narrative: Many news reports comment that I work for the “conservative” Sinclair Broadcast Group. Fair enough—Sinclair is run by a family that’s made no secret of their conservative political leanings. But the reporters who note this political connection apparently fail to recognize the inherent conflict in the fact that they eagerly label the conservative group; yet I don’t think they reported that I worked for the “liberal” CNN, the “liberal” PBS, or the “liberal” CBS.

Some reporters lack the self-awareness and objectivity to understand they

are revealing themselves when they selectively apply labels in a one-sided fashion. They are servicing a narrative, even if unintentionally.

When I worked at CNN, it was owned by a billionaire Democrat donor (Ted Turner)—a good boss, by the way. When I worked for CBS, the management (Sumner Redstone, Les Moonves) were rich Democrat donors—also, a great company to work for during most of my 20 years there.

Sinclair has likewise been a terrific employer to date. They haven’t forced editorial biases in the reporting on my program. The program is mostly apolitical, addressing topics such as the underreported dangers of MRI dye or how American farmers are suffering under the current trade war with China. When we address politics, you are as likely to see an interview with Rep. Eric Swalwell, a Democrat, as you are to see Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican.

Improvements

But there’s the narrative ... When a national print media reporter wrote about my program a couple of years ago, he incorrectly referred to it

as “conservative.” Later, when asked if he’d ever actually seen the program, he admitted he hadn’t. It’s not that it would be difficult to—well—actually do a little bit of reporting rather than repeat a narrative: My weekly program is on at least a half-dozen times each week in the city where this reporter is based, and it’s posted online.

As easy as it was for him to do some first-hand reporting, he chose to repeat the narrative.

Lara Logan, who recently left CBS News, has also been speaking out about her observations regarding the decline of fair and objective journalism. She’s likewise been attacking the narratives. As such, she has been subjected to them. That’s how it works. Obviously (says the narrative), she is a disgruntled conservative who is not to be believed. Or (says the narrative), she’s perhaps a little unbalanced. (You know, all that war reporting and stress. Poor Lara.)

The truth is, Lara is extremely clear-eyed on these issues. And she and I are far from alone in our views on the state of the media. We agree there is terrific journalism being committed on a daily basis at organizations from The New York Times to local news stations. However, we agree that national media has also largely become co-opted by powerful interests who understand how to direct the news landscape in a way that services certain narratives and agendas.

I have heard support from hundreds of journalists, college professors, and media observers during the last several years. I have been reached out to by reporters in print and on TV, by national and local news, by students and a Pulitzer Prize winner.

The effort to expose flaws and conflicts in media reporting is growing stronger, not weaker, despite the narratives. The desire to affect improvements is building. Make no mistake: Not all of us are free to speak publicly, but there are a lot of us. And we aren’t going away.

Sharyl Attkisson is The New York Times bestselling author of “Stonewalled,” a five-time Emmy Award winner, and the host of Sinclair’s national investigative television program “Full Measure with Sharyl Attkisson.” She is a recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award for investigative reporting and has reported nationally for CBS News, PBS, and CNN.

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

Why I'm A Reluctant Meditator

When I meditate regularly, my health improves, stress drops, and problems seem smaller.

See B4



Finding the True Self

This week, in this multipart series, we follow Odysseus as he battles the sin of sloth on his challenging journey to return home.

See B5

MAY 9-15, 2019

LIFE

THE EPOCH TIMES

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK



The Dividends of Practicing Patience

Learning to wait can ease your mind, improve your options, and uplift your outlook

CONAN MILNER

Patience is the ability to wait. If that sounds easy, then you're fortunate. When you're in a hurry, waiting can be especially frustrating. Unexpected wait time can feel as if the universe refuses to cooperate with your schedule, wasting resources you don't have with hassles you don't need. But patience teaches a valuable lesson: when circumstances are beyond your control, it's time to shift your focus to what you can control. A patient mindset can give you the power to address obstacles and setbacks in the calmest, kindest, and most effective way possible. If you lack patience, the wait seems even longer and more annoying. You may even say or do things

Taking that moment to hold back can be trying, but it can also be the best thing you do—or don't do—all day.

you later regret. What makes practicing patience such a pain is that we must put our agenda on hold to do so. And when we're focused on a goal, that's the last thing we want to do. Patient Achievements According to Dr. Rob Bell, a sports psychologist and author of several books on cultivating mental toughness, to understand patience you have to put your goals in proper perspective. A goal is just a motivator, says Bell. It gives you something to aim for, but obsessing over it won't lead you to success. "A focus on winning doesn't lead to winning," Bell said. "You have to focus on the process, not the results. There are going to be setbacks along the

way, but if we use our strengths and approach the problems that allow us to get better, the results will take care of themselves." In other words, if you want to win, focus on the process of training and practice that will allow you to overcome the problems or shortcomings in your performance. Yet so often we have it flipped. We're so driven by getting what we want when we want it, that we become intolerant of anything that gets in our way. We fail to use problems to elevate. Bell says that, unlike our desire for a particular outcome, the process is something we can control. In the end, the process is all we have. That includes our mental reaction to each setback.

Continued on B2

The Dividends of Practicing Patience

Learning to wait can ease your mind, improve your options, and uplift your outlook

Continued from B1

And focusing on the process is also more rewarding. A worker who does the job simply for the paycheck will not be as fulfilled as the one who tries to complete their duties well and finds meaning in the service they delivered to their company and clients.

That's because achieving the goal we've been striving for doesn't give us lasting satisfaction. So we need to find satisfaction in the effort to get there as well.

"Even though what we want is the results, it's not fulfilling. How we go about it, the passion we have for it, that's what's fulfilling, because that's what lasts," Bell said. "Even with sports, it's really about the relationships we build along the way. That's what matters."

Gaining Patience Through Practice

Some people seem to have boundless patience, while others lose their cool at the slightest inconvenience. Luckily, practice can make patience.

According to Nickia Lowery, a licensed professional counselor and certified anger management specialist, nobody is born with patience.

Our base instinct is to get our needs met. The ability to wait is a learned behavior.

"You have to be taught to be considerate of others and delay gratification," Lowery said. "If you are raised to always get everything you want, you likely will not be as patient as someone who has had to wait on getting their needs and wants met."

But patience doesn't just come from going without. You also need to embrace setbacks with the right attitude—calm, relaxed (or at least restrained), and kind. Responding to loss with jealousy and spite won't lead to patience, but manipulative and coercive means to even the score.

"If you never received what you want, this may lead to feelings of resentment and rebellion, where you learn to take what you want or lash out in order to get what you want," Lowery said.

Lowery believes it's best to teach patience to children when they're young, but she says practicing patience

at any age is bound to play a positive role.

"Imagine if you were able to just walk away with no negative feelings when someone does something to slight you," she said. "Imagine going through life just being happy and accepting of others."

Age of Instant Gratification

Unfortunately, the opportunities for daily patience practice are getting harder to come by. According to Dr. Russell Thackeray, a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in patience, people become "hard-wired for immediate gratification" as a result of our convenience culture.

Thackeray describes how the modern world caters to our needs like never before. In the past, before we could order virtually anything we wanted over the Internet on a credit card, every aspect of life took more time. People were used to waiting because they had to. Today, a webpage that takes longer than five seconds to load seems like a small eternity. Even getting up to grab your credit card for an online order can seem like a hassle.

"I think we find it so hard to delay gratification because of the societal norms that are created," Thackeray said. "It reinforces this idea that we do not need to wait for anything."

Nobody wants to wait, but there can be value in being forced to do so. Obstacles may impede our plans for the moment, but they can also give us a chance to pause, reconsider, and reassess, leading us down roads we otherwise wouldn't have taken, and granting us ideas we never would have considered.

"We gain perspective and insight with patience," Thackeray said. "Building a product line, growing a company, building relationships—all require time to work and mature."

With enough patience, you can see every unpleasant moment as an opportunity to calmly observe, and consider your next move. In some cases, the best response may be no move at all.

"Sometimes things just need time to play out," Thackeray said. "However, patience

should never be confused with procrastination or idleness—all of which have a lack of action within them but the intention and execution is different."

Meditation is a tried and true method of developing patience, but any opportunity we take to slow down and focus on the moment can contribute to this strength.

However, if we fail to practice, our patience won't grow. Whipping out your phone during tedious moments means you never have to wait—you always have a distraction to pass the time. But Bell believes our devices can rob of the lessons we need to cope with life.

"The way we improve our mental health

The modern world caters to our needs like never before.

is by learning how to handle adversity," Bell said. "If I never have to deal with it because I can distract myself all the time, then I'm not getting mentally healthy. I'm actually getting sicker."

Patience Is Confidence

Patience is often compared to mindfulness. Both concepts ask you to focus on life in the moment rather than the agenda in your head.

But patience shares similarities with another concept: confidence.

According to Bell, people become impatient because they fear things won't work out.

"They believe that in order to be successful they need everything to go their way," he said. "But you show me any competent athlete and I'll show you someone who is patient. Because they are confident that success is still going to be there, they just don't know when it's going to happen."

But for many of us, it's hard to have confidence and trust the process when we don't see results right away. Trainer and fitness expert Kyle Hoffman says his clients often get upset when his diet and workout programs don't create changes fast enough.

"When this happens, they're quick to point fingers at me or give up altogether," Hoffman said.

If we lack patience, we

may even be blind to the progress we've made, because it's not the dramatic change we envision. But according to Hoffman, the quickest way to help a frustrated client develop patience is to show them some evidence, no matter how small, that they are indeed on the right track.

"By giving them a small win that they can experience or see, it reminds them that every step of the process is necessary and better times are just around the corner," he said.

When you realize that a little outside encouragement can help with your own confidence, be sure to share this gift with others as they learn new skills.

Growth Time

According to Donna Cameron, author of "A Year of Living Kindly: Choices That Will Change Your Life and the World Around You," we often get impatient when someone does something slowly or awkwardly. It's especially frustrating when they're doing something that seems ridiculously easy to us. Think of trying to teach your grandmother how to use the internet.

"It's human nature that once we learn something, we often forget how hard it was to learn," Cameron said. "Once something becomes routine (driving a stick-shift or using new technology), we forget that it wasn't always ingrained in our brains or muscle memory, and we lose patience for those who are struggling to learn."

Sometimes we reason that it's easier to do things ourselves than to wait for a newbie to get it right. While that may be true, Cameron says the kind and helpful reaction is to stand by patiently, offer help if asked, and encourage the learning process.

She says that instead of getting impatient with a beginner, we should hold a space for them to grow. A few moments of our patience could soon reward us with more free time.

"If our work colleague, spouse, or child masters a new skill, they may be able to lighten our own load at some time in the future," Cameron said. "There are gifts in patience if we take the time to look for them."

Patience is the ability to wait, but it doesn't take much waiting to harness this power. Cameron's tip to bolster our patience is to learn to pause. Giving yourself a little moment to consider your actions when you feel irritated can help you make better, more patient decisions.

"Think about what expressing impatience will gain you," she said. "Think about whether you are likely to regret uttering sharp words, and think about who you want to be and how you'd like this interaction to advance."



ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Spinal Manipulation Can Help Ease Low Back Pain

Spinal manipulation therapy isn't routinely recommended as the initial treatment for low back pain, but a research review suggests this approach may work as well as interventions that doctors typically prescribe first.

Based on data from 47 previously conducted trials involving a total of 9,211 mostly middle-aged adults, spinal manipulation eased lower back pain as much as exercise, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and painkillers. Spinal manipulation also appeared better for improving short-term function.

"At the moment, spinal manipulation is considered a second-line or adjunctive treatment option in international guidelines," said lead study author Sidney Rubinstein of the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

"These results would suggest that spinal manipulation is certainly on-par with these other recommended therapies, and can be considered an option," Rubinstein said by email.

Lower-back pain is one of the leading causes of disability and doctor visits for adults worldwide. It often goes away within a few weeks. But when it persists, lower-back pain might be treated with spinal manipulation, medications such as painkillers or muscle relaxers, heat, exercise, or physical therapy.

Spinal manipulation is often done by chiropractors but may also be offered by physical therapists or physicians. It can include manu-



Lower-back pain is one of the leading causes of disability and doctor visits for adults worldwide.

ally moving joints, massage, and exercise. This type of treatment is designed to relieve pressure on joints and curb inflammation and it's often used for back, neck or shoulder pain, as well as for headaches.

For the current study, researchers focused on the gold standard for determining the effectiveness and safety of medical treatments: random-

ized controlled trials that compare outcomes for patients who are randomly assigned to a specific treatment or to a dummy treatment or no treatment at all.

Spinal manipulation worked better for pain relief than non-recommended interventions like light tissue massage, the current analysis found.

It also worked better than sham manipu-

lation treatments, but the evidence was low-quality, Rubinstein's team notes in The BMJ.

About half of the studies looked at side effects of spinal manipulation and found little evidence to conclude whether or not this is safer than other approaches. In one study, researchers found one serious adverse event that could potentially have been associated with spinal manipulation.

One limitation of the analysis is that the studies of spinal manipulation were done in different settings, tested different techniques and measured the effectiveness of this intervention in different ways, the study authors note.

"Spinal manipulation may decrease pain from muscle strain, inflammation and spasm in your back muscles and/or impact the way that your body perceives pain through either the brain or the spinal cord," said Christine Goertz, chief executive officer of the Spine Institute for Quality in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

"The most common side effects resulting from spinal manipulation are mild to moderate joint or muscle pain and/or stiffness," Goertz, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. "These symptoms generally go away on their own within a day or two."

By Lisa Rapaport

From Reuters

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AUDREY ACUNA

SVETLANAFDOSEYEVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

For Busy Mums

Self-Care in 5 Minutes a Day

CHANNALY PHILIPP

Time-pressed moms can find inspiration in a new book from mental skills coach Sara Robinson. She packs more than 150 ideas in “Self-Care for Moms” (Adams Media, \$15.99) for mothers looking to incorporate ways to take care of themselves into their routine.

The activities are organized by how much time you need, from 5 minutes all the way to a whole day. They range from gentle, quick mental resets like lighting candles or listening to a favorite song (5 minutes each) to longer activities such as giving yourself a facial or planning a date night (30 minutes each).

Here are three helpful ideas excerpted from Robinson’s book. The first takes five minutes, the second 15 minutes, and the last 30 minutes.

Add Flowers to Your Home

For moms, flowers often come for special occasions, but why not give every day a burst of color and happiness? Get in the habit of picking up an inexpensive bouquet on your weekly shopping trip (many stores have \$5 bouquets), or cut flowers from your backyard. Arrange the flowers in a vase or in multiple vases if you prefer, and place them in spaces where you’ll see them often but also are out of the way of your kids. Remember, toddlers can usually reach further than you think they can, and older kids still throw balls in the house even when you remind them not to. Put the flowers on your bedside table to help make your room more of a personal sanctuary, or set them in a family space for all to enjoy.

This is easy self-care because you’re already out shopping. It only takes an extra minute or so to walk to the floral section and pick out the bouquet, and only a couple minutes more at home to put them in a vase. But the emotional self-care benefits can last for days ... hopefully until your next trip to the store, when you can pick up another bouquet. If finances are tight but you like the idea of fresh flowers, ask the florist for a small bouquet of carnations and baby’s breath, or replace one unnecessary grocery item with some flowers.

For example, don’t let your kids throw in two boxes of sugary cereal; they can have one, and you can have your self-care!

Get Up 15 Minutes Early

Mornings can be chaotic when you have kids, even if you’re organized and have routines in place. Once everyone is up, especially on weekdays, it’s usually about checking things off the list so you can get out the door. Instead of starting your day with everyone else, consider getting a head start. Waking up even 15 minutes before your family can make a huge difference in how the morning activities go, and that can influence the rest of your day. (That said, if you have a kid who is a super-early riser and keeps busy in the morning, you don’t need to get up 15 minutes before that kid; get up 15 minutes before the day really starts at your house.)

Use your extra 15 minutes in whatever way is best for you. Do a self-care activity with this time: sit in silence, do some breathing exercises, or pray, and start your day feeling grounded. Another option is to check a practical task off your list, like balancing your checkbook or getting things situated around the house so that the morning flows better. Basically, your goal is to start your day off in the way you want, rather than being influenced by the amped-up (sometimes moody) energy that can happen once kids are awake and everyone is trying to get out of the house.

Get Out of the House

If you’re one of the many moms who work from home (either with a paid job or as a stay-at-home mom), you’re home a lot. Sometimes you just need to get away. Even if you work out of the house, you might sometimes feel like you’re spending a lot of time at home. And when you do go out, it’s typically with your kids and you’re on a mission to accomplish something. Plan 30 minutes in your schedule, when your partner is home or when a neighbor can watch the kids, or even when you might be home without the kids but normally would be doing chores, and just leave the house. Take a walk, drive to get coffee, or simply get a chore done, like grabbing some milk.



A few simple flowers can make a noticeable difference.

When we spend too much time at home, even when things are pleasant and running well, being indoors, in the same space all day, can begin to feel suffocating. Changing up your scenery allows for mental and emotional self-care. When you go out, it can be helpful to get some social interaction, even if it means interacting with people you don’t know. Whether or not you interact with others, it’s useful to remove yourself physically and mentally from your house from time to time. If your kids are young and you have no

one to watch them, try to find ways to spend some time outside alone. For example, sit in your backyard or on the front steps while your kids nap. This may not be truly getting away from the house, but this self-care doesn’t have to be an all-or-nothing activity.

Excerpted from “Self-Care for Moms” by Sara Robinson, MA. Copyright 2019 by Simum & Schuster Inc. Used with permission of the publisher, Adams Media, a division of Simum & Schuster. All rights reserved.



Screen-based devices consume our attention while distancing us from the bodily sense of being with others.

The Dying Art of Conversation—

Has Technology Killed Our Ability to Talk Face-to-Face?

Devices and apps can help us communicate around the globe, but they are blocking our direct connection to those nearby

MELANIE CHAN

Facetime, Skype, Whatsapp, and Snapchat, have replaced significant amounts of face-to-face conversation for many people.

These apps allow us to converse with each other quickly and easily—overcoming distances, time zones, and countries. We can even talk to virtual assistants such as Alexa, Cortana, or Siri—commanding them to play our favorite songs, films, or tell us the weather forecast.

These ways of communicating reduce the need to speak to another human being. This has led to some of the conversational snippets of our daily lives now taking place mainly via technological devices. So no longer do we need to talk with shop assistants, receptionists, bus drivers, or even coworkers, we simply engage with a screen to communicate whatever it is we want to say.

In fact, in these scenarios, we tend to only speak to other people when digital technology doesn’t operate successfully. For instance, human contact occurs when we call for an assistant to help us when an item is not recognized at the self-service checkout.

And when we have the ability to connect so quickly and easily with others using devices and applications, it is easy to start to overlook the value of face-to-face conversation. It seems easier to text someone rather than meet with them.

Bodily Cues

My research into digital technologies indicates that phrases such as “word of mouth” or “keeping in touch” point to the importance of face-to-face conversation. Indeed, face-to-face conversation can strengthen social ties: with our neighbors, friends, work colleagues, and other people we encounter during our day. It acknowledges their existence, their humanness, in ways that instant messaging and texting do not.

Face-to-face conversation is a rich experience that involves drawing on memories, making connections, making mental images, associations and choosing a response. Face-to-face conversation is also multisensory: it’s not just about sending or receiving pre-programmed trinkets such as likes, cartoon love hearts, and grinning yellow emojis.

When having a conversation using video you mainly see another person’s face only as a flat image on a screen. But when we have a face-to-face conversation in real life, we can look into someone’s eyes, reach out and touch them. We can also observe the other person’s body posture and the gestures they use when speaking—and interpret these accordingly. All these factors, contribute to the sensory intensity and depth of the face-to-face conversations we have in daily life.

Speaking to Machines

Sherry Turkle, professor of social studies of science and technology, warns that when we first “speak through machines, [we] forget how

“**[We] forget how essential face-to-face conversation is to our relationships, our creativity, and our capacity for empathy.**”

Sherry Turkle, professor of social studies of science and technology

essential face-to-face conversation is to our relationships, our creativity, and our capacity for empathy.” But then “we take a further step and speak not just through machines but to machines.”

In many ways, our everyday lives now involve a blend of face-to-face and technologically mediated forms of communication. But in my teaching and research, I explain how digital forms of communication can supplement, rather than replace face-to-face conversation.

At the same time though, it is also important to acknowledge that some people value on-line communication because they can express themselves in ways they might find difficult through face-to-face conversation.

Look Up From Your Phone

Gary Turk is a spoken word poet whose poem “Look Up” illustrates what is at stake by becoming entranced by technological ways of communicating at the expense of connecting with others face-to-face.

Turk’s poem draws attention to the rich, sensory aspects of face-to-face communication, valuing bodily presence in relation to friendship, companionship, and intimacy. The central idea running through Turk’s evocative poem is that screen-based devices consume our attention while distancing us from the bodily sense of being with others.

Ultimately the sound, touch, smell, and observation of bodily cues we experience when having a face-to-face conversation cannot be fully replaced by our technological devices. Communicating and connecting with others through face-to-face discussion is valuable because it is not something that can be edited, paused or replayed.

So next time you’re deciding between human or machine at the supermarket checkout or whether to get up from your desk and walk to another office to talk to a colleague—rather than sending them an email—it might be worth following Turk’s advice and engaging with the human rather than the screen.

Melanie Chan is a senior lecturer in media, communication, and culture at Leeds Beckett University in the UK. This article was first published on The Conversation.

I Don't Like Meditating. Here's Why I Do It Anyway

When I meditate regularly, my health improves, stress drops, and problems seem smaller

JASON BRICK

As much as I loathe to admit it, I'm not a fan of meditation. It comes unnaturally to me, despite my 36 years of martial arts study and interest in self-improvement, health-hacking, and general enlightenment.

I realize this speaks poorly of me as a person, kind of like my opinions on aikido, jazz music, pumpkin pie, and "A Prairie Home Companion." That I'm not fond of them doesn't mean they're bad, it means I'm not as good as I could be.

Worse yet, when I do regularly meditate, I find my life is better. Stress is lower, my health improves. I can focus more on my work, and am less likely to say things I regret to my friends, colleagues, and loved ones. Problems seem smaller. I seem bigger.

And I'm not alone. Over the past few decades, a host of research has supported the conclusion that meditation is good for us, and that we should all meditate a few minutes each day.

- Meditation has been found again, and again (and again) to reduce stress, with all the physical, social, and emotional benefits that it provides.
- Multiple studies have found meditation can reduce feelings of depression and anxiety.
- In 2003, researchers learned that regular meditation helped to boost immune function.
- Meditation can help control pain, according to several studies, including studies in 2016 and 2017.

That's just the tip of that particular iceberg. Bottom line: meditation is good for me, and for you, no matter how much we may or may not want to do it. Kind of like eating a vegetarian meal once or twice a week.

So, from one resistant but learning meditator to others, here's what I've learned about meditation and how to make it part of improving your life.

You Don't Have to Just Sit Around

Non-practitioners sometimes imagine meditation to be boring—and perhaps if not done a certain way, it can be. But there's more than one kind of meditation available, so you can easily find one that suits you. Here are just a few alternatives:

- Walking meditation calms your mind when you focus on your strides rather than, say, focusing on your breath. Walking in a labyrinth is a centuries-old practice of contemplation common among many spiritual faiths, including Catholicism.
- Kata is the formal practice of martial arts, including tai chi. The motions of tai chi are so complex it becomes impossible to think of other things, allowing for profound meditative focus.



Meditating isn't just for hippies anymore, and it doesn't have to look like something from a Buddhist statue.

- Yoga offers similar benefits.
- Listening mindfully to music, especially music without lyrics, can produce the impacts of meditation by allowing you to be transported by the sounds, away from stray and extraneous thoughts.
 - Daily task meditation is where you take the process of a task—like doing dishes, cooking a meal, or getting dressed—and focus on it the way a kung fu master might focus on forms.

Those are just a few examples, there are countless others from zazen to Falun Gong, Kundalini, breathing meditation and so on.

The point is there's a kind of meditation that works well with your needs, tastes, and general outlook. It's just a matter of finding the right match.

Your Brain Might Mess With You

Meditating is supposed to be a quieting of the mind, where you think about nothing in particular (or nothing other than the ac-

There's a kind of meditation that works well with your needs, tastes, and general outlook.

tions of the meditation). Then you can allow that background noise to filter out and let you rest. That's why exercise can be meditative: at a certain point, you're only able to think about the exercise.

But along the way, throughout each session of meditation, your thoughts are going to keep zooming in and trying to distract you. This happens all the time in the beginning, but here's a secret: It happens all the time to the masters, too.

The trick with meditation isn't to totally eliminate those stray thoughts. It's to let them pass through your mind without you grabbing hold of them.

In the first stages of learning, you'll fail a lot of the time. You'll be meditating for a while and suddenly realize you stopped somewhere along the way to think about your to-do list and what you're making for dinner that night.

Eventually, that will happen less and less, and you'll start distracting yourself by getting frustrated that the thoughts intrude at all. You will ultimately be able to let them pass

through and over you without taking root, so you can continue your meditation for as long as you wish. Speaking of "as long as you wish..."

It Doesn't Have to Be for Very Long

Yes, I read the stories about Gichin Funakoshi (aka the father of modern day karate) meditating for an entire day while standing under a waterfall, and about retreats where people spend the entire weekend in some kind of a trance. And probably, some of those stories are true.

No, they don't mean you have to meditate for hours to get anything out of meditation.

The studies mentioned above had subjects meditate for less than an hour, in most cases less than 15 minutes, and even those sessions resulted in significant improvements to physical, emotional, and psychological health.

Some of the masters go one further, advising us to start with just one minute of meditation per day. That won't be enough to reap huge, long-lasting benefits, but it has two advantages:

1. You will succeed. Anybody can meditate for a minute, no matter how busy or distractible they are.
2. You'll be pleasantly surprised how much of a difference it makes for the next 10 minutes of your life.

I personally found those two factors combined to be an excellent motivator. Under the powerful motivation of immediate success and feeling the short-term impact of that minute, I committed more fully to learning how to meditate.

Any 'Type' of Person Can Meditate

Meditation has shed the new age or 'hippie' reputation it once had. Anyone can do it. Here's an incomplete list of groups that actively practice meditation or encourage their people to meditate regularly:

- professional athletes in the NFL, NHL, and UFC
- actors including Hugh Jackman, Clint Eastwood, and Arnold Schwarzenegger
- SEAL Team Six and other special forces branches of U.S. and worldwide militaries
- an impossibly long list of CEOs and entrepreneurs like Richard Branson and Elon Musk

If Randy Couture and the guy who plays Wolverine meditate, you can do it too. It only takes a minute—literally—and you can start today.

Jason Brick is a freelance writer and journalist who came to that career after over a decade in the health and wellness industry. This article was first published on Healthline.

THE EPOCH TIMES

YOUR
ADVERTISE-
MENT
HERE

Call 02 8988 5600
or email
ad@epochtimes.com.au

Theo's Cafe & Buffet
Asia & Greek Food

Lunch special
only \$13

Mon - Sat 11am-3pm
100-112 Bartier St, Fyshwick, ACT
TEL: 6239 2274

Sumherb TCM Urinary Function Formula

New and Innovative Chinese Herbal Products to the Australian Market

SUMHERB

TCM Urinary Function Formula

To Relieve Urinary Frequency

3x 10g Sachets
Net 30g
AUST L 302683

SUMHERB

TCM Urinary Function Formula

10g Oral Powder Sachet

To Relieve Urinary Frequency

Directions for use:
Take ½-1 sachet/day
Dissolve in hot water.
Drink warm 1 hour after dinner & before sleep.

AUST L 302683
11888EXP06-2020

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.

Sumherb was established in Canberra in 2018. Our mission is to bring new and innovative Chinese herbal products to the Australian market. Our formulas come from experienced practitioners, and are made on contract by a manufacturer in Sydney. They are sold exclusively via Amazon.com.au.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have and more information available at www.sumherb.com.au.

Sumherb Pty Ltd. Bruce ACT 2617
Po Box 880 Belconnen ACT 2616
fei@sumherb.com.au

ALL PHOTOS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN



“Land of the Lotos Eaters,” 1861, by Robert Seldon Duncanson.

ODYSSEUS AND THE ENNEAGRAM

Finding the True Self

Part 2

The Sin of Sloth

JAMES SALE

In this multipart series, “Finding the True Self,” we will discuss nine types of personalities and their flaws, and show how Odysseus, through his adventures, overcame them to find his way back home.

In Part 1 of this series of articles, we introduced the nine types of personality that constitute the Enneagram and invited you to consider what your own number type is. But we also said that the “Odyssey,” through its narrative, reveals the Enneagram numbers as challenges to Odysseus and that in each case he had to overcome it. How he overcomes each number is indicative of how each of us, perhaps, might also overcome our own besetting “deadly sin.”

Odysseus encounters the sins in reverse order, so starting at type Nine, we travel round with Odysseus until at last we encounter the sin of type One.

Thus, in this Part 2, we start at the end and look at type Nine. As a reminder, Nines on the Enneagram’s wheel of types see themselves as “I am content.” They wish to experience wholeness and be peaceful people. At their best, Nines are empathetic, reliable, and harmonious; at their worst, they are apathetic, listless, and stubborn, because their deadly sin is what the ancients called *acedia*—the inability to take effective action. Part of this inactivity is due to their ability to see both sides of a position, and so to fail to choose either.

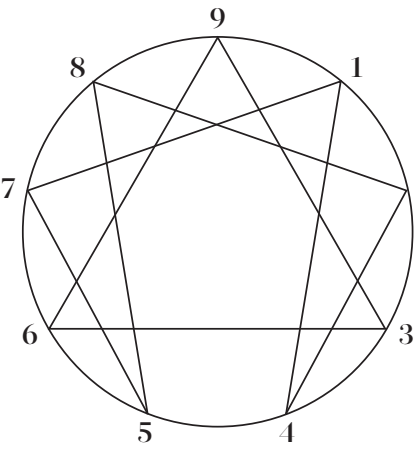
The Nines must overcome the deadly sin of sloth.

The Lotus-Eaters

Odysseus has spent 10 years fighting in Troy and has at last, through his cunning and stratagem of the Trojan Horse, succeeded in overcoming the walls of Troy. What all the direct aggression of Achilles and the other great Greek fighters failed to do, Odysseus managed, because he, as Homer says, is the “man of twists and turns,” and of whom Zeus says, “Great Odysseus excels all men in wisdom.”

It is this sense of resourcefulness, wisdom, and resilience that is the key marker in understanding how Odysseus is able to overcome what appear to be overwhelming odds.

The “Odyssey” itself begins in what is called



The nine-point Enneagram.

in medias res, or in the thick of things, so that we don’t start at the beginning but in the middle. It is only later, in Chapter 9, that we learn that on leaving Troy, one of Odysseus’s and his crew’s earliest encounters is with the Lotus-Eaters.

Unlike the traditional enemies that they have met before—typically, kings and soldiers who wish to kill them—the Lotus-Eaters mean them no harm at all. Rather, they offer them the “honey-sweet fruit”—the Lotus—that they themselves are eating. This fruit immediately banishes all their worries, concerns, fears, and yes, even their desires. Those of his crew who eat the fruit lose all desire to return to Ithaca, to home.

In a way, this temptation is a most brilliant example from the ancient world of what we are almost too familiar with in Western culture: our numbing out.

Instead of being truly alive, we prefer our drug and drink options, or our sex and gambling obsessions, or even more low-key still, our addictions to TV and today’s net surfing or social-media imbibing (really doing nothing at all), or workaholicism (never stopping the doing of something).

In the 1960s, as the West began its long descent into nothingness, Timothy Leary, the American academic, put it this way: “Drop Out—detach yourself from the external social drama which is as dehydrated and ersatz as TV. Turn On—find a sacrament which returns you to the temple of God, your own body. Go out of your mind. Get high. Tune In—be reborn. Drop back in to express it. Start a new sequence of behavior that reflects your vision.” In short,



Odysseus forcing his men off the island of the Lotus-Eaters. An 18th-century French engraving.

ignore reality and act as if illusion or delusion were where it would be better to be.

Apathy rules, and one is resigned to life at a low level of nonachievement.

Overcoming Sloth

The deadly sin here, which all Nines must confront if they are to escape it, is sloth. How easy it is for Odysseus’s men to fall for it and to think they have found paradise!

Odysseus immediately grasps the enormity of the danger he and his crew face and swings into action. Indeed, action here is the key.

He does not “experiment” with the lotus himself; he does not reason, “Well that’s a valid point of view”; and he does not entertain the idea that his men have the right to their own opinions and that he should thereby leave them to it.

For one thing, he fully gets the implication of their behavior on himself and all their families awaiting them back in Ithaca. And instead, he issues decisive commands to those of his crew still unaffected and forces them all back to the ships. There, he lashes them into their seats and demands that they row like mad to get off the island.

The antidote to sloth is willpower: decision-

making driving immediate action—just do it! It is with the clear order to row, even though at this point Odysseus is not even sure to where—only through this expedient—that they can escape the grip of sloth.

What sloth as a deadly sin manifests is the terrible and terrifying idea of a life unlived, a sort of permanent state of being divorced from reality. At perhaps its less extreme level, sloth becomes an acceptance of things as they are: the failure to want to innovate, to improve, whether it be the world or, primarily, oneself.

It is a sort of fatalism that saps the will to do, to achieve, and ultimately to succeed in life. And the ultimate success, of course, is to get “home”—for the mind to find its own true soul and so be enraptured by its own beauty.

This is what Odysseus cannot forget: In Ithaca, his wife, his soulmate and also symbolically his literal soul, awaits him. No sacrifice must be spared to get there, as we shall see.

Keep in mind that Odysseus sets off with 12 ships and full crew complements, but all of his men and his ships are lost on the voyage; he alone makes it home. That is why, to be a hero or heroine, we must adapt, as Odysseus did (remember the man of “twists and turns”?) to each of the deadly sins that besets us.

In our next episode, we find Odysseus at number Eight, encountering a deadlier and much more ferocious enemy than sloth: the Cyclops, Polyphemus, and the sin of lust. Here, “just doing it” would be precisely the wrong strategy to overcome the sin. Read Part 3 to find out how Odysseus twists and turns to overcome its irresistible strength.

Note that I am strongly indebted for many ideas here to Michael J. Goldberg’s wonderful book, “Travels with Odysseus,” and I strongly recommend it for those seeking more detailed information, although, curiously, Goldberg does not directly draw parallels with the Enneagram and only mentions it in the endnotes of his book.

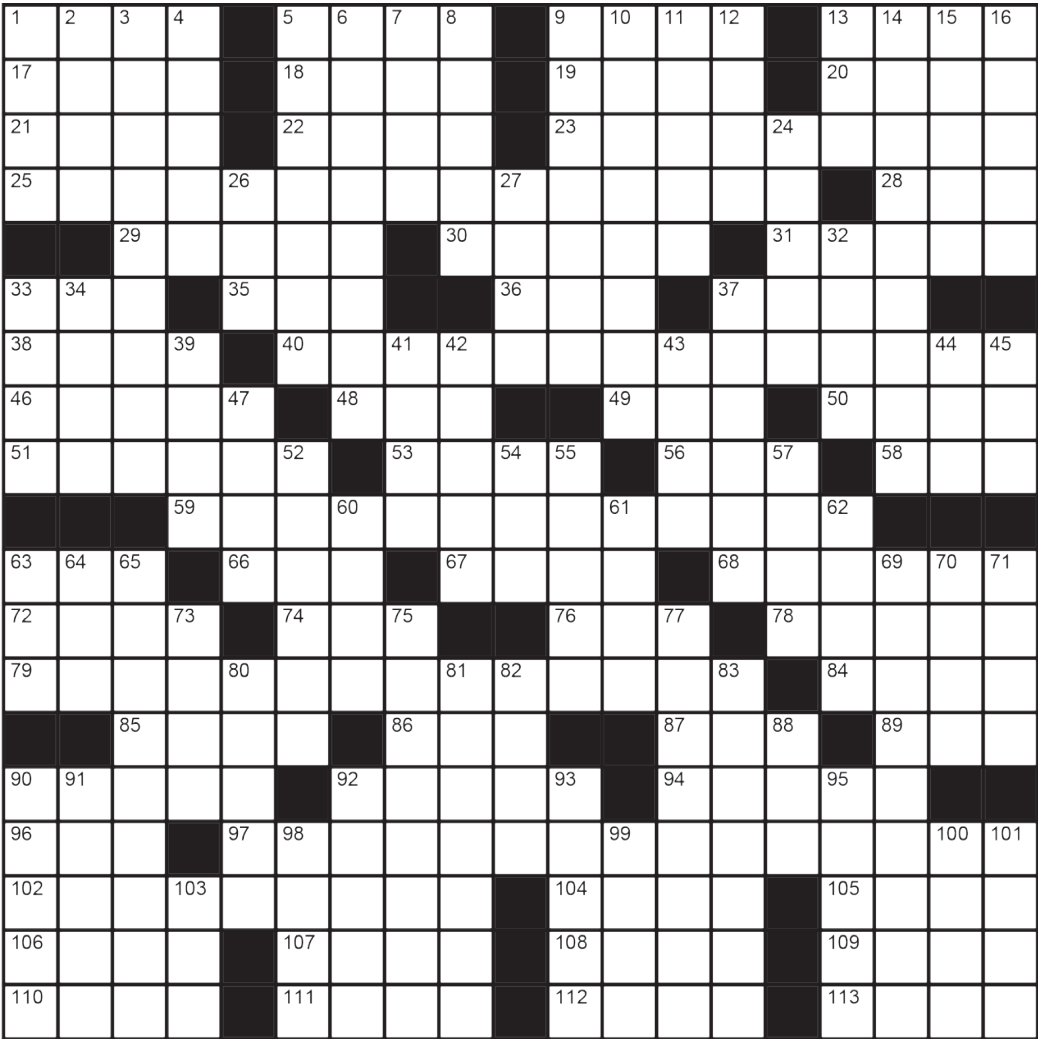
James Sale is an English businessman and the creator of Motivational Maps, which operates in 14 countries. He has authored over 40 books from major international publishers, including Macmillan, Pearson, and Routledge, on management, education, and poetry. As a poet, he won first prize in The Society of Classical Poets’ 2017 competition.



“The Lotos-Eaters,” by W.E.F. Britten. An illustration for “The Early Poems of Alfred, Lord Tennyson.”

CROSSWORD

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF



Across

1. Took advantage of

5. Williams and Kennedy

9. Strike

13. Fraud

17. Record

18. Suffix with neur-

19. Like fine wine

20. This and that

21. Cashew cover

22. Moon of Saturn

23. Opposite of chic

25. Post-high school

28. Hearty brew

29. Equestrian

30. Couples

31. Beach sights
33. Some ducts carry them

35. Low digit

36. Telepathy and such

37. Beefeater and Bom-bay

38. Set aside

40. Range exercise

46. Physical therapy

48. Island ring?

49. “Cogito, ego ____”

50. ____ probandi

51. Place of refuge

53. ‘Tain’t just any seat

56. “30 Rock” company

58. Catch

59. Military trial

63. Anger, e.g.

66. Voice vote

67. Christmas season

68. “Iliad” warrior

72. “By their fruits ye shall ____ them”

74. Health resort

76. Brink

78. Nobel, for one

79. Obstacle training locations

84. ____-eyed

85. South American monkey

86. ____ Master’s Voice

87. Swindle

89. ‘60’s psychedelic

90. Valuable musical antique

92. Bad-tempered states

94. O. Henry device

96. Rank above maj.

97. Confrontational head-ing

102. Ado

104. Christmas decora-tion

105. Column crossers

106. War of 1812 naval battle site

107. Low digits

108. Cold war initials

109. Mountaineer’s worry

110. Backside

111. Run-in

112. Ring-around-the-rosy flower

113. Abundant in shade trees

Down

1. Its motto is “Industry”

2. Wrapped garment

3. Stone-inscription study

4. Indian metropolis

5. Forceful stream

6. Light

7. Went out, as a fire

8. Diving duck

9. Marcel Duchamp

10. Star treks?

11. Clark’s companion

12. Poi plant

13. “My boy”

14. Fad dieting to “elim-inate toxins”

15. Supermarket section

16. Guided Jews to the promised land

24. Sanskrit or Hindi, e.g.

26. Old Tokyo

27. Superhero accessory

32. “____ Me?” I do not know you” (Emily Dickin-son poem)

33. Creole vegetable

34. Flashed signs

37. Ploy

39. Soft mineral

41. Staff symbol

42. Flamenco band “The ____ Kings”

43. Litter’s littlest

44. Prompt

45. “Ballpark” fig.

47. Channel marker

52. Breakfast cereal

54. Australian runner

55. Australian horse

57. Teslas, e.g.

60. Deep in thought

61. Amps up

62. Stocks have reached 52-week ____

63. Relative of reggae

64. Officeholders

65. Fondness for the past

69. Bakery offering

70. Fusses

71. Have to have

73. Hang around

75. Flower named for hero in Homer’s Iliad

77. Creepy quality

80. City on the Mohawk

81. Most unctuous

82. Employs

83. Activity in which spelling counts?

88. Ghost’s cry

90. “Green ____”

91. Ball-gown fabric

92. Mistake

93. Exercise unit

95. Surgeon’s assistant

98. Scraps

99. Approximately

100. Have a stroke?

101. Cable sports award

103. Joined

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” so-lution but, there may also be “equivalent” solutions. For example: 6 + (7X3) +1 =28 and 1+ (7X3) +6 =28

1226

84

118

+

−

×

÷

Hard 1 - 1 Solution

2730

45

2527

+

−

×

÷

Hard 2 - 1 Solution

210

28

210

+

−

×

÷

Easy 1 - 1 Solution

16

31

14

+

−

×

÷

Easy 2 - 1 Solution

WORDSEARCH

CONSTRUCTED BY TOM HOUSTON
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Help with Today’s Crossword Puzzle?

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

- ACHILLEA

AISLE

AMATI

BILES

BLOOP

DELHI

DUNES

EE RINESS

ETHEREAL

GAMBIT

GIPSY

INDIC
- IRONY

JELLYROLL

LEWIS

MOIRE

MOSES

MUESLI

NURSE

OIL IEST

PAIRS

REHAB

RIDER

RIGMAROLE
- SCAUP

SORCERY

TORRENT

TROJAN

UTICA

WALER

ACRES

CLEANSING

DADAIST

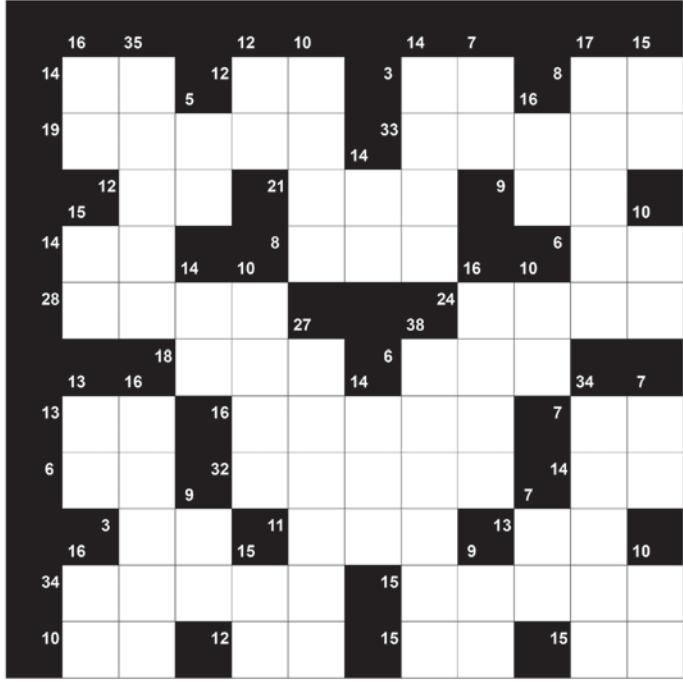
SWEDE

KAKURO

CONSTRUCTED BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

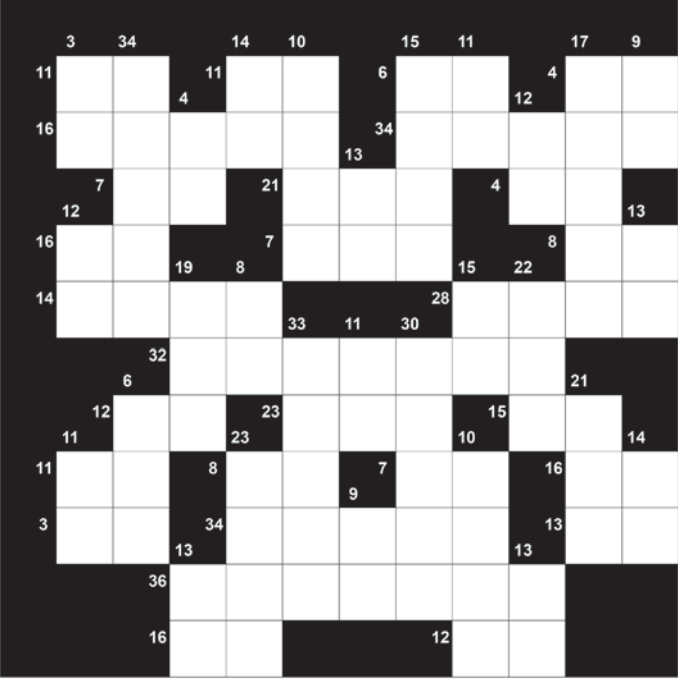
Kakuro puzzles are like crosswords that use numbers instead of words. The goal is to fill the blank squares associated with a clue (called a “run”) with the numbers 1-9 so that the numbers add up to the corresponding clues. Like Sudoku, digits in a run cannot repeat. When the grid is filled, the puzzle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

Large: Hard



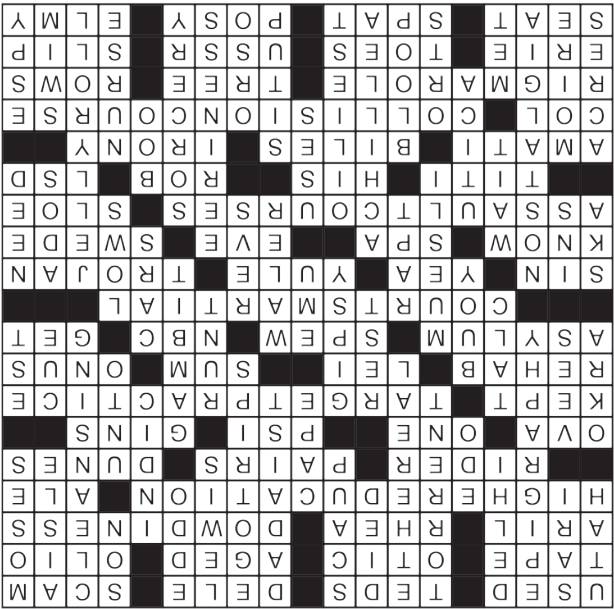
WORK SPACE

Large: Easy

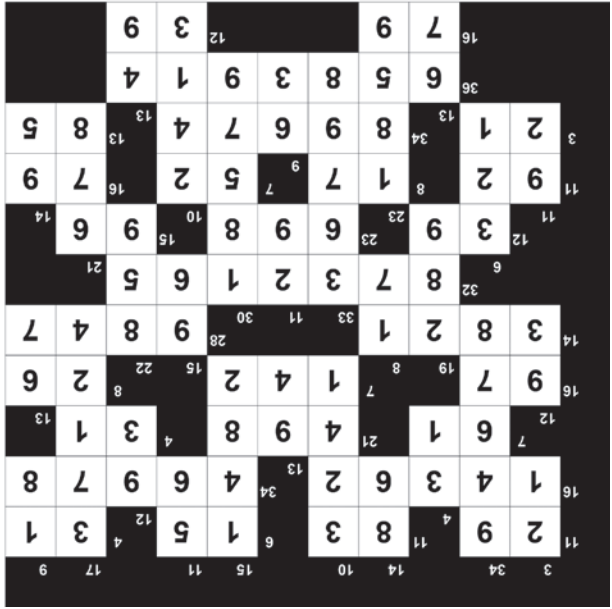


SOLUTIONS

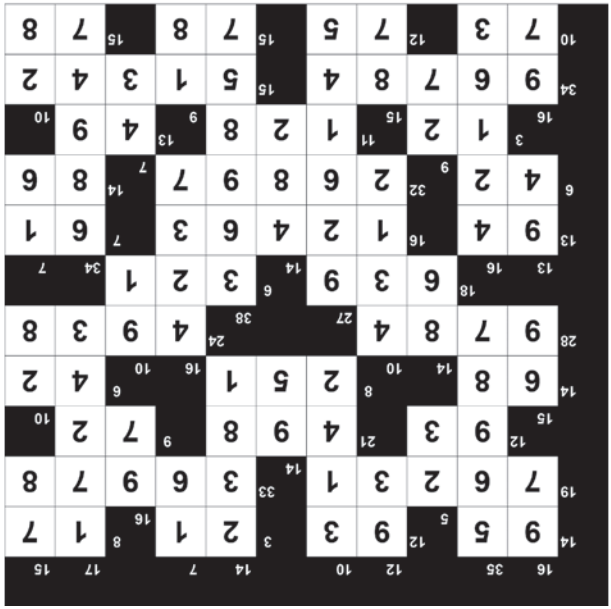
CROSSWORD



KAKURO LARGE: EASY



KAKURO LARGE: HARD



4 NUMBERS

- HARD 1

12 × (1 - 18 - 1) = 92
- HARD 2

27 ÷ 25 × (27 + 27) ÷ 30
- EASY 1

10 × 2 + 2 + 10 = 22
- EASY 2

(4 + 1) × 6 + 1 = 25

CONSTRUCTED
BY KANNAN SANKARAN

Hard

Fill in the boxes using numbers between 1 and 9 so that each column, each row, and each 3x3 square contain all nine numbers only once.

Easy

CONSTRUCTED
BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Hard

SOLUTION BELOW

© Alan Morgan

Presented By



WORK SPACE

CONSTRUCTED
BY EPOCH TIMES STAFF

WORK SPACE

SUPERSUDOKU

SUDOKU: EASY

KENKEN

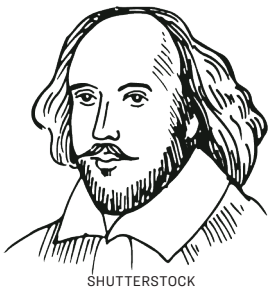
EASY KAKURO

HARD KAKURO

WORK SPACE

LITERATURE

Five Famous Shakespeare Quotes You're Probably Taking Out of Context



PUBLIC DOMAIN

PATIENCE GRISWOLD

Shakespeare is often quoted in a way that makes him sound like his works were incredibly serious and philosophical. While it is true that Shakespeare interacts with deep and compelling themes, and some of his plays do have a very somber tone, it's interesting to see how many of his oft-quoted lines actually appear in moments of comic relief. Perhaps we would be wise to take more of these comic lines to heart ... in their proper context.

1. 'Though she be but little, she is fierce.'

For the sake of full disclosure, I have this quote on a coffee tumbler. Taken from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," it's often used as something of a compliment when it appears on decor. In context, however, this line was certainly intended as an insult.

Thanks to some moonlight madness and fairy juice, four lovers find themselves mixed up and in love with the wrong people. When Hermia realizes that the man she loves is suddenly in love with Helena, things get a little violent between the two ladies. Helena entreats the protection of others, exclaiming, "When she is angry she is keen and shrewd. She was a vixen when she went to school, and though she be but little, she is fierce."

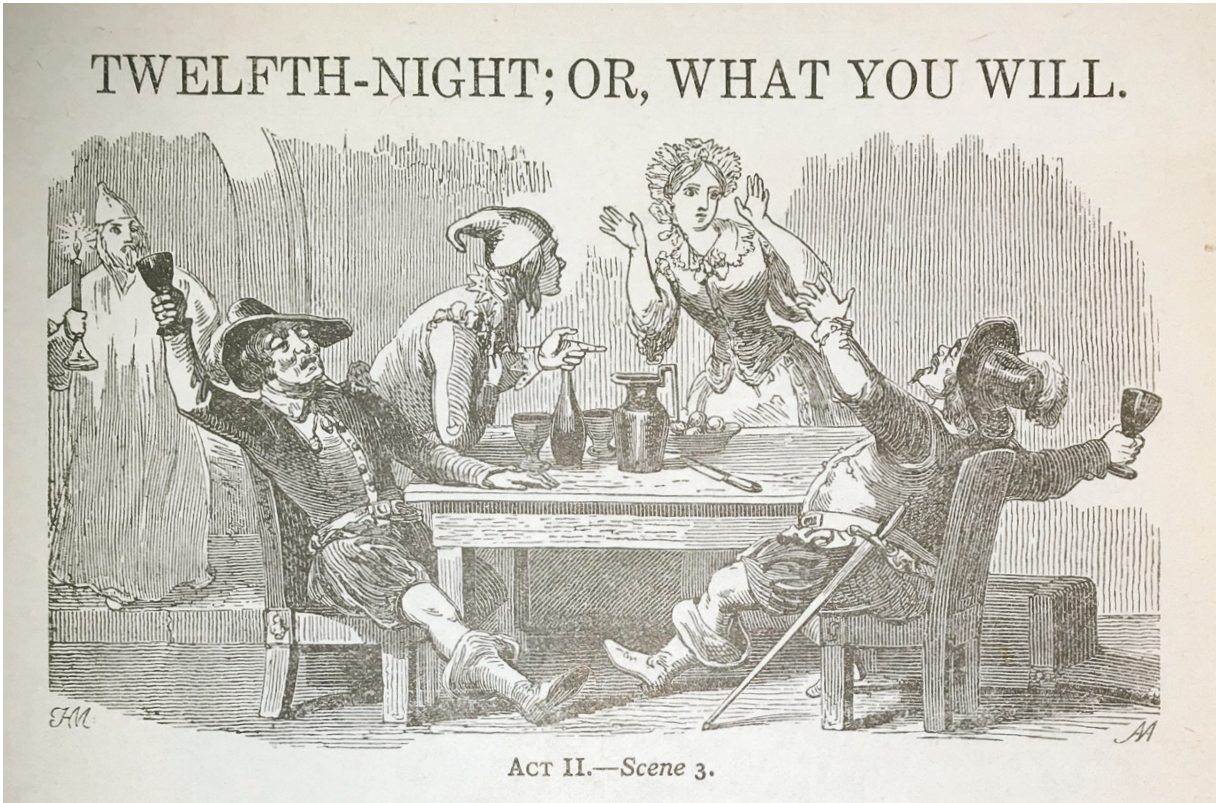
2. 'Be not afraid of greatness.'

This quote comes from "Twelfth Night" and is arguably the funniest moment in any of Shakespeare's plays. Malvolio (whose name literally means "ill will") is a surly, pompous household steward who enjoys bossing the other servants around and reprimanding Sir Toby and Sir Andrew, both of whom outrank him. In retaliation, Toby, Andrew, Maria, and Feste band together to play a prank on Malvolio. The four forge their Lady's handwriting and write him a letter in which "Olivia" professes her undying love for Malvolio, telling him, "In my stars I am above thee, but be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em.'"

And yes, when performed, the eavesdropping characters have fun "acting out" that line. I'll leave it to your imagination.

3. 'Discretion is the better part of valor.'

Taken from Shakespeare's "Henry IV, Part I,"



this quote might be more compelling if it were not uttered from the mouth of Falstaff, one of the most comical (and occasionally crass) characters in Shakespeare's canon. It doesn't help that the reason for Falstaff's observation on valor is that he is attempting to get credit for someone else's act of heroism on the battlefield.

4. 'All the world's a stage.'

This is another line uttered by one of Shakespeare's more comical characters. In "As You Like It," Jaques is a rather pessimistic and unpleasant fellow, often going out of his way to throw cold water on his companions' (sometimes unwarranted) exuberance. When the exiled Duke, who has decided to make the most of his time hiding in the forest, observes that they are not alone in their misfortunes, and the "universal theater presents more woeful pageants than the scene wherein we play," Jaques responds by observing that all the world's a stage, and then details the meaningless trajectory of each life on that stage.

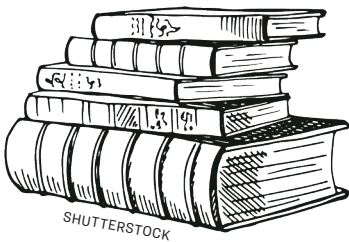
A lithograph image depicting a scene from Twelfth-Night.

5. 'If music be the food of love play on!'

This quote is also from "Twelfth Night" and happens to be from another character who has a thing for Olivia. Or at least, that's what he says. Count Orsino claims to be madly in love with Olivia, but in his "If music be the food of love" speech, he almost completely forgets to mention the woman he claims to be obsessed with. As the story unfolds, Orsino seems to be more in love with the idea of being in love than anything else.

Nearly every high school graduate in America has read at least one Shakespeare play. But even those who have not are quick to quote Shakespeare, since doing so is an easy way to instantly sound credible and cultured. The funny thing is, some of Shakespeare's most famous and quoted lines are completely taken out of context.

This post, "Five Famous Shakespeare Quotes You're Probably Taking Out of Context," was originally published on Intellectual Takeout by Patience Griswold.





2019 NTD 5TH INT'L PIANO COMPETITION

SEPTEMBER 26–28, 2019

\$10,000 GOLD AWARD

SEP. 27–28
LIVE WEB STREAMING
FINALS TICKETS \$30



ENGELMAN RECITAL HALL, BARUCH PAC
55 LEXINGTON AVE, NEW YORK, NY 10010
TEL 1-888-878-6166 | FAX 1-888-567-0906
PIANO@GLOBALCOMPETITIONS.ORG | PIANO.NTDTV.COM



2019 NTD 5TH INT'L FIGURE PAINTING COMPETITION



\$10,000 GOLD AWARD

EXHIBITION
Nov. 24 - 30
AUCTION
Nov. 30

SALMAGUNDI ART CLUB
47 FIFTH AVE, NEW YORK, NY 10003
TEL 888-878-6166 | FAX 888-567-0906
OILPAINTING@GLOBALCOMPETITIONS.ORG
OILPAINTING.NTDTV.COM

Medieval Historian: Low Taxes Work

Ronald Reagan was a fan
of Ibn Khaldun



JOSHUA CHARLES

Ibn Khaldun isn’t exactly a household name—but he should be. Fascinatingly, one great American president was a big fan of Khaldun: Ronald Reagan. “The Gipper” quoted him throughout his Presidency no less than 10 times.

A medieval historian from modern-day Tunisia, Khaldun wrote “The Muqaddimah” in the 14th century. The work was a monumental, “universal” history—an attempt to synthesize all known history from an Islamic perspective and elucidate lessons he hoped would benefit Islamic civilization.

On Low Taxes

What he said about taxes is particularly interesting. In short, Khaldun believed that low taxes helped build civilization, and high taxes helped destroy civilization. Not only that, but he observed that lower taxes tended to bring in more revenue, while higher taxes tended to bring in less revenue.

Khaldun summarized his position on taxes in “The Muqaddimah” as follows: “It should be known that at the beginning of a dynasty, taxation yields a large revenue from small assessments. At the end of the dynasty, taxation yields a small revenue from large assessments.”

For Khaldun, low taxes were the traditional way to help build a society, whereas high taxes destroyed it.

‘Desert Attitude’ Versus ‘Sophistication’

Khaldun makes a fascinating observation: a society with a “desert attitude” is strong, and could get along just fine with lower taxes. The “desert attitude” was a reference to the sort of Bedouin approach to life that was common in the Middle East at that time. This didn’t mean that only Bedouins could build civilizations. Rather, the Bedouin ethic of independence, moderation, and restraint builds civilizations.

However, civilizations who abandoned this traditional approach invariably became overrun by luxury and materialism, which Khaldun called “sophisticated,” by which he meant that their desire for material luxuries increased, and with it their greed and decadence.

First, let’s see how Khaldun describes the “desert attitude,” and why it was more compatible with lower taxes:

“When the dynasty follows the ways of group feeling [Asabiyyah] and (political) superiority [by which Khaldun means something akin to the common good], it necessarily has at first a desert attitude, as has been mentioned before. The desert attitude requires kindness, reverence, humility, respect for the property of other people, and disinclination to appropriate it, except in rare instances. Therefore, the individual imposts and assessments, which together constitute the tax revenue, are low. When tax assessments and imposts upon the subjects are low, the latter have the energy and desire to do things. Cultural enterprises grow and increase, because the low taxes bring satisfaction. When cultural enterprises grow, the number of individual imposts and assessments mounts. In consequence, the tax revenue, which is the sum total of (the individual assessments), increases.”

In other words, the “desert attitude” enables lower taxes, which in turn better enables the “cultural enterprises” that advance civilization. This is all possible because there is a traditional ethic undergirding the “desert attitude,” a shared feeling of solidarity which Khaldun called Asabiyyah.

For him, cultures that had high Asabiyyah flourished—those who had low Asabiyyah decayed and eventually collapsed. Like the great Scottish economist Adam Smith, who wrote “The Theory of Moral Sentiments” before he wrote his famous “Wealth of Nations,” Khaldun understood that a marketplace requires individual initiative, yes, but also a shared ethic, and a sense of solidarity with others. The marketplace is the Golden Rule in action: a place where you do, but “as you would have others do to you.” You do through service to others. Such is the essence of the “cul-

tural enterprises” he speaks of—the fruit of the “desert attitude,” which leads to Asabiyyah.

Let’s now see how Khaldun described the “sophistication” of a decaying civilization, and why it is invariably (partially) caused by, and leads to even higher taxes:

“When the dynasty continues in power and their rulers follow each other in succession, they become sophisticated. The Bedouin attitude and simplicity lose their significance, and the Bedouin qualities of moderation and restraint disappear. Royal authority with its tyranny and sedentary culture that stimulates sophistication, make their appearance ... Their customs and needs become more varied because of the prosperity and luxury in which they are immersed. As a result, the individual impost and assessments upon the subjects, agricultural laborers, farmers, and all the other taxpayers, increase. Every individual impost and assessment is greatly increased, in order to obtain a higher tax revenue ... Then, gradual increases in the amount of the assessments succeed each other regularly, in correspondence with the gradual increase in the luxury, customs, and many needs of the dynasty and the spending required in connection with them. Eventually, the taxes will weigh heavily upon the subjects and overburden them.”



Bust of Ibn Khaldun at the entrance of the Casbah of Bejaia, Algeria.

Khaldun understood that a marketplace requires individual initiative, yes, but also a shared ethic, and a sense of solidarity with others.

The results are catastrophic. The incentives to engage in “cultural enterprises” decrease. With fewer “cultural enterprises” producing revenue, along with an increasing appetite for taxation, the state feels a need for even greater taxation, which only continues the destructive cycle:

“The assessments increase beyond the limits of equity. The result is that the interest of the subjects in cultural enterprises disappears, since when they compare expenditures and taxes with their income and gain and see the little profit they make, they lose all hope. Therefore, many of them refrain from all cultural activity. The result is that the total tax revenue goes down, as individual assessments go down.

Finally, individual imposts and assessments reach their limit. It would be of no avail to increase them further. The costs of all cultural enterprise are now too high, the taxes are too heavy, and the profits anticipated fail to materialize. Finally, civilization is destroyed, because the incentive for cultural activity is gone.”

Economic Freedom Leads to Prosperity

Khaldun concludes with an enthusiastic endorse-

ment of low taxation, a position he justifies not merely by appealing to historical experience, but the common-sense psychology of allowing people to benefit from their own labor:

“If one understands this, he will realize that the strongest incentive for cultural activity is to lower as much as possible the amounts of individual imposts levied upon persons capable of undertaking cultural enterprises. In this manner, such persons will be psychologically disposed to undertake them, because they can be confident of making a profit from them.”

In other words, low taxes not only help increase the revenue of the state, but the prosperity of society as a whole.

For those of a more traditional bent, this should come as a surprise. In fact, it should serve as a confirmation of the low-tax position, one that is not unique to various modern political factions

but is in fact based on universal truths of the human condition.

Low Taxes Help Build and Preserve Great Civilizations

So the next time someone criticizes the traditional and time-tested position that lower taxes help society prosper and flourish, tell them about Ibn Khaldun. Tell them that this isn’t just an American thing, but a history thing.

Joshua Charles is a bestselling author, historian, researcher, and international speaker. He is a passionate defender of America’s founding principles, Judeo-Christian civilization, and the Catholic faith, to which he converted in 2018. He loves telling, and helping others tell, great stories that communicate great truths. See JoshuaTCharles.com

homemakers

Big Sale \$\$\$



Sorrento 5Pce Dining

\$1399
Save \$376



Princeton 2RR+R+R Reclining Suite

Now \$2699



Loki Scandi Swivel Chair

Now \$999

h

homemakers

furniture

Tel : 02 6280 0068

Address : 17/337 Canberra Ave, DFO Fyshwick ACT 2609

www.hmff.com.au

“...amazing showrooms, a must see!”

“...people in the know”

RIVOLAND

THE REGION’S LARGEST TILE STOCKIST

Builders, Architects, Interior Designers and Renovators –

visit our showroom – Rivoland’s experience, range and expertise make it easy for you to choose the perfect tile.



MASTER BUILDERS MEMBER



Member of Australia's Tile Power Group

Rivoland Showrooms

100 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan

55 Darling Street, Mitchell

Tel: 6297 4510

Tel: 6241 1557

Trade Outlets

24-26 Aurora Avenue, Queanbeyan

55 Darling Street, Mitchell

Tel: 6297 9930

Tel: 6255 0535

www.rivoland.com.au

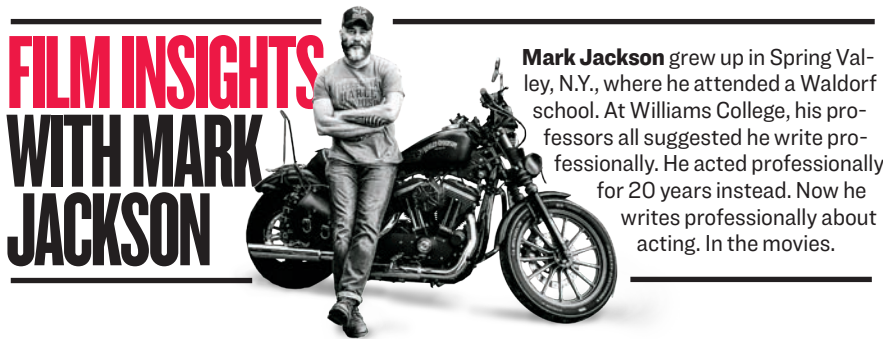


Experience. Range. Service



Rivoland is the ACT and region’s largest tile stockist.

(L-R) Jeremy Renner, Don Cheadle, Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Karen Gillian, the character Rocket Raccoon played by Sean Gunn (via motion capture and voiced by Bradley Cooper), Paul Rudd, and Scarlett Johansson in “Avengers: Endgame.”



AVENGERS ENDGAME

It’s Really a Movie About Deities

MARK JACKSON

I’ve never liked the humungous, aaaaall-the-Marvel-superheroes-in-one-place “Avengers” movies.

To me, they’re the epitome of our crippled attention spans; everybody gets to do a tiny bit of their particular superhero shtick: throw hammer, throw shield, Hulk-smash, sling

web, and so on.

Not to mention the talking tree, and the Brooklyn-accented raccoon. It’s a three-ring circus, and there’s never enough time to drill down on any one character.

Let’s be clear: This is simply a personal preference. It’s the same reason I prefer to do a vision quest: to sit in the same 10-foot circle in the wilderness for four straight days and look,

FILM REVIEW

Charlize Theron and Seth Rogen Have Serious Rom-Com Chemistry

MARK JACKSON

A Jewish, gonzo journalist gets a swastika tattooed on his arm in order to infiltrate a white supremacy group. American History X, Part 2? Nope. It’s the attention-grabbing opening scene of the comedic hoot “Long Shot,” and it’s been years since I laughed this hard at a movie.

It stars Seth Rogen as Fred Flarsky, a fanatical-liberal, Brooklyn journalist (more schlub than hipster) and Charlize Theron as WASP-y U.S. Secretary of State Charlotte Field, who, it turns out, babysat young Fred when he was 12. What kind of story could possibly evolve here?

First Things First

If you’ve seen the trailer, you know O’Shea Jackson (Ice Cube’s son) says to Fred, “It’s ‘Pretty Woman,’ except she (Charlotte) is Richard Gere, and you’re Julia Roberts.” But before we get to the odd-couple romance, the movie sets about establishing each character separately.

Charlotte, the SecState, works for President Chambers (Bob Odenkirk), a former actor, who’s fixing to jettison the presidency, to—make it in the movies. Yeah. He likes to replay his TV roles privately in the Oval Office. (Emoticon with eyes rolled up.)

Charlotte jumps at the opportunity to achieve her childhood dream of becoming the first female POTUS. She’s a hyperdriven, multitasking career woman whose support team constantly reads out her jam-packed itinerary, and who takes mini-naps, standing up, on her private jet, with her eyes open. So far, this is a Theron power-alley role. She can do that in her sleep.

Fred Flarsky is also right smack in Rogen’s power alley; it’s quintessential Rogen, from the unwavering (and loud) confrontational unwillingness to compromise his moral stance, to having to empty his recreational-drug-loaded pockets in front of a White House security officer, to getting caught with his pants down, to taking the most spectacular, down-the-stairs pratfall in movies in the last 20 years.

When Fred finds out that the paper he writes for has been bought by Andy Serkis’s silver-haired Parker Wembley (basically Rupert Murdoch), Fred quits on the spot, more or less cutting off his nose to spite his face; his integrity is intact, but his ability to pay rent will soon not be.

Luckily, Fred and his best-bud Lance (O’Shea Jackson Jr.) have a time-honored ritual of cheering up whichever of them had a bad-life situation occur, and so they drink all day and eventually end up at a party where Boyz II Men are playing, live, and where Fred recognizes his former babysitter.

Cue the aforementioned spectacular pratfall. Charlotte’s reaction? She offers Fred a job as her speechwriter; she needs the personal touch (from someone who really knows her) and some humor to boost her presidential bid.

The two immediately have a ridiculous amount of chemistry, and it starts getting a little too cozy for Charlotte’s advisers’ comfort level (Ravi Patel from “Meet the Patels”; and June Diane Raphael), because they feel this romance will sabotage her chances.

Now, About This Romance

What’s amazing is how perfectly these two seemingly incompatible rom-com puzzle pieces sync up, both romantically and comedically.

Here’s a showbiz truth: The best actors all have serious comedic chops. Theron’s one of our best, but she’s such a spectacular beauty, she rarely gets to let her clown-flag fly.

Her foray into comedy kicked off with Seth MacFarlane’s “A Million Ways to Die in the West,” with the most recent being “Tully.” But the scene in “Long Shot” where she’s under the influence of molly (a “recreational” drug), with party confetti in her hair, crouching under a war-room table, on the phone (as uniformed military types gawk in horror) while handling a tricky international hostage crisis is a new level of funny for her.

While this is clearly a male fantasy of epic proportions (beautiful, brainiac, alpha female power-influencer, who stands squarely on the world stage, falls for a chubby, sartorially challenged, broke-ity-broke, flaming liberal, Brooklyn weed-head), Rogen and Theron make it work to the point where I actually want to see it again.

And the best part is, at some point they just need to get away and be together, so they leave a party, find a deserted room and, to “It Must Have Been Love” (another “Pretty Woman” reference), do a slow dance.

And the adorable, in-their-own-world, little dance that Theron and Rogen come up with makes you immediately sit up in your seat and go, “Awww! Wow! Look at that! They’re soulmates! Totally predestined for each other!”

I’d love to see how they came up with that bit and whether it was rehearsed, and if so, how much. It’s movie magic.

Furthermore, the movie’s a great example of a man who’s probably a female spirit in a man’s physical body, paired with a woman who’s got a male soul. What am I talking about? See, I believe this is a thing that happens. I have a petite, girly-girl female friend, who’s inwardly tough as nails and says of her husband, “Yeah, he’s my wife.”

Not to deal in stereotypes, but when, during an apparent attack on an embassy, Fred gets hysterical and starts running around flapping and hyperventilating, and Charlotte starts doing Navy SEAL breathing exercises to focus and calms him down as effectively as putting a towel over a parakeet cage to calm the squawking, you know they’ve got excellent teamwork.

And, conversely—his yin affect on her yang tendencies—he sees to it that she holds fast to her inner moral compass, the one he saw in her when she was his babysitter. Aww! Traditionally, the wife makes sure the man remains good at heart.

In terms of the rest of the performances, there are a number of excellent political parodies: Hillary Clinton, Rupert Murdoch, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to name a few. And while the cast is jam-packed with top-notch comedic actors, the best example is the normally stud-ly Alexander Skarsgard playing the Trudeau-like character.

Handsome Skarsgard has a blast demonstrating how his character’s publicity team turned his high-pitched, slightly freaky girlish giggle into a tight-lipped, staid, toothy, “heh-heh-heh.” And his character sucks down oysters with such gross, slurping relish that Charlotte, out on a date with him, knows for sure she wouldn’t be missing anything by devoting her life to chubby, not-much-to-look-at Fred.

Romance Over R-Rating

It’s R-rated and rather raunchy. Let’s just say it has a common denominator with “There’s Something About Mary,” and if you don’t get the reference, that’s quite OK. Fortunately, these moments highlight the fact that, as a nation, we need to get over ourselves and focus on what’s important.

Author Tom Wolfe famously equated the American collective subconscious to an “old church lady.” We, the American people, love to get publicly morally outraged at the stuff we all do behind closed doors, and point fingers and blame and shame. “Long Shot” is ultimately about following our hearts and dropping the pretenses. And having quite a few belly laughs while doing it.

‘Long Shot’

Director
Jonathan Levine

Starring
Charlize Theron, Seth Rogen, June Diane Raphael, O’Shea Jackson Jr., Ravi Patel, Bob Odenkirk, Andy Serkis, Randall Park, Alexander Skarsgard

Running Time
2 hours, 5 minutes

Rated
R

Release Date
May 2

★★★★★

The beauty and the schlub: Charlotte Fields (Charlize Theron) and Fred Flarsky (Seth Rogen) in “Long Shot.”





ALL PHOTOS BY MARVEL PICTURES/WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

DAXIAO PRODUCTIONS/SHUTTERSTOCK

‘Avengers: Endgame’

Director
Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring
Angela Bassett, Dave Bautista, Chadwick Boseman, Josh Brolin, Don Cheadle, Bradley Cooper, Benedict Cumberbatch, Vin Diesel, Michael Douglas, Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Jon Favreau, Karen Gillan, Danai Gurira, Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston, Tom Holland, William Hurt, Samuel L. Jackson, Scarlett Johansson, Pom Klementieff, Brie Larson, Evangeline Lilly, Anthony Mackie, Elizabeth Olsen, Gwyneth Paltrow, Michelle Pfeiffer, Natalie Portman, Chris Pratt, Robert Redford, Jeremy Renner, Paul Rudd, Mark Ruffalo, Rene Russo, Zoe Saldana, Cobie Smulders, Tilda Swinton, Tessa Thompson, Marisa Tomei, Benedict Wong, Letitia Wright

Running Time
3 hours, 1 minute

Rated
PG-13

Release Date
April 24



for a lengthy time, at a little bit of wilderness. Rather than hike five miles and see a lot of wilderness for a short amount of time.

I like to keep things simple. I find in movies that it also makes for more engrossing story-telling. It's more compelling to get involved in the character arc of one character.

Most critics despised “Venom.” I'd prefer listening to Tom Hardy's hilarious dialogue with his basso-profundo “Venom” alter ego all day, than watch 50 superheroes mill about frenetically.

I Will Make an Exception
I'll make an exception for “Avengers: Endgame.” I liked it a lot. Maybe because I know it's the last of the “Avengers” circuses. Actually, I'm pretty sure that's not true. As our collective attention span continues to shrink, Hollywood is going to mash-up the Marvel-verse and the DC-verse. Because, can you imagine how much fun Thor and Aquaman could have together?

See, much like splitting the upcoming “Hobbs and Shaw” off from the “Fast and Furious” franchise, I'd actually enjoy a pared-down thing like, Thor and Aquaman. Let those two bozos have an adventure together. It'd be a far richer experience than the whole DC-plus-Marvel kit 'n' kaboodle.

Especially with the Thor that shows up in “Avengers: Endgame.” Much like Aquaman, he's sporting a giant beard and long hair. Unlike Aquaman, he's let himself go—beer belly for days. I appreciate Thor's apparent tribute here to ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons, replete with

“Cheap Sunglasses.” But I'm starting to digress. My attention span is not what it was.

What Goes On
Writing this review is challenging; the movie is 3:01 long, and packed with tons of things that carry spoiler potential. I almost just spoiled Thor's new fun character twist, but it's already been talked about a lot.

The other twist that's been talked about and available for public consumption is the fact that Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo), since we saw him last, appears to have gone on a New Warrior Training Adventure and now refuses to hide, repress, and deny his shadow (his giant green alter ego), and has instead embraced it. The hilarious result is a cardigan-and-glasses-wearing, brainiac Hulk, who takes selfies with kiddie fans and is happy and chill. A chill Hulk! What a dreadful concept. But it works splendidly.

“Avengers: Endgame” is also largely based on the concept of time travel and has lots of fun listing many movies that have handled the subject. I found I wanted to know exactly how many there actually are. I googled the topic. According to one young lady out there on the interwebs, 67 movies have been made about time travel, not to mention 15 that are still in the works, and many, many TV renditions.

Anyway, “Avengers: Infinity War,” as you may remember, left off with the big, bald, rubbery, purple-skinned Thanos finding all of the rainbow-colored infinity stones, putting them in his mighty metal gauntlet, and thereby defeating all the gods.

- 1. Robert Downey Jr. as Ironman.
- 2. Thundergod Thor (Chris Hemsworth) in “Avengers: Endgame.”
- 3. Paul Rudd as Ant-Man.
- 4. Mark Ruffalo as Bruce Banner.

What? Yes, I'm going to start calling Avengers gods, because that's really what they are, with all their superpowers and such. Only Thor and Loki come out of classic Norse mythology and are recognized as gods. But they're all gods.

Maybe not the raccoon from Brooklyn. Or Groot. OK, maybe Groot is a tree god. Actually, there could be a raccoon god. Have you seen that Mesopotamian, winged bull-god with the ZZ Top beard and the turban? Let's go with the raccoon being a furry god of small stature.

Anyway, I'm digressing again. Where were we? In “Infinity War,” Thanos disappears half the beings in the old cosmos. “Endgame” continues the saga, five years later.

The surviving “Avengers” and “Guardians of the Galaxy” characters, plus the recently introduced Captain Marvel (Brie Larson), are trying in various ways to cope. As mentioned, Thor's gone on a mead-drinking binge.

Now, if you remember your “Ant-Man” movies, Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) had been down the ant, er, rabbit hole into the quantum universe. Time is different in those dimensions made up of smaller particles, so he's confused when he gets back here as to where everybody disappeared to.

In classic Buddhist lore, the saying goes, “Only one day in the heavens, but a thousand years on earth.” Yes. According to Buddhist and Taoist teachings, smaller-particle dimensions are where the heavens are actually located, and this is one of the many reasons why “Avengers” movies are tales that by definition have to be about gods.

Here's the key to the whole movie: Ant-Man figures out that if the Avengers can time-travel

via the quantum universe, they can locate all the infinity stones before Thanos gets his big purple paws on them, then time-hop back to the present, and use them to undo all the havoc Thanos previously wreaked.

More About Gods
See, I think this tale of gods, this saga, this “Ragnarok,” is happening right now because we are actually living in the time of Ragnarok (Norse mythology's twilight-of-the-gods story), or as the Chinese call it, “The Time of Last Havoc,” or as the Indians call it, “Kali Yuga,” or as we Westerners call it, “Armageddon.” Everyone's talking about it. All the spiritual paths are talking about it.

Google “the expanding universe.” Scientists know the universe is expanding rapidly. Like an overexpanded balloon, it's about to blow! The prophets foretold it! This old universe and everyone in it is going to disintegrate! Just like in this movie! That is, if they don't get saved by gods first. That's apparently what gods do, among other things—they save humans from disintegration.

“Avengers: Endgame” is going to most definitely become the top-grossing superhero movie of all time. The G.O.A.T. It's a great ending to the long run of 22 Marvel movies. This long tale has concluded.

A new tale will soon begin, though. There's much money to be made. What I'm really waiting for is to see how Jason Momoa manages to reconcile his decades-long campaign to play DC's Lobo, now that he's taken on DC's Aquaman. But I digress again.

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH *and* TRADITION

GET YOUR COPY NOW!

AVAILABLE EVERY WEEK
IN MAJOR NEWSAGENCY
ACROSS NSW

OR CALL US TO SUBSCRIBE ON
02 8988 5600

ESSENCE
OF
CHINA



A Yuan Play

Bao Gong and His Dream of Butterflies

SU LIN

Among the plays of the Yuan Dynasty, one was called “The Dream of Bao Gong Examining the Butterflies Three Times,” written by the famous playwright Guan Hanqing (1225–1320).

In the play, a man surnamed Wang goes to the market to get some paper and brushes for his three sons. While taking a rest, he unwittingly offends Ge Biao, an influential man distantly related to the emperor. Ge Biao beats Wang to death in a fit of pique.

Wang’s three sons, Jinhe, Tiehe, and Shihe, burst into tears when they learn of their father’s death. In ancient China, murderers were put to death, regardless of their status. The sons are determined to make Ge Biao pay for his crime.

Ge Biao is on his way home and completely drunk when he runs into the brothers. The eldest brother pummels him, unwittingly killing him. The brothers meant to capture him and bring him to the authorities. Little did they expect that they would end up being locked up by the magistrate of Zhongmu County.

Caught in a Web

Bao Zheng (999–1062), commonly known as Bao Gong, or Justice Bao, was the prefect of Kaifeng, the capital of the Northern Song Dynasty. In the play, he has just closed a case of horse theft and feels drained. He decides to catch some sleep.

He falls asleep and has a dream. In the dream, he mumbles to himself, “I’m usually busy with work. How can I go to sleep?”

He comes to his garden. It’s spring and the flowers are in full bloom. He walks to the pavilion and sees a spider web in it. A butterfly flies by and gets caught in the web. Bao Gong

laments: “Death comes to all. Even plants and insects are not spared.”

He’s feeling sad when a big butterfly appears and gets the first butterfly out of the web. Shortly thereafter, another butterfly flies by and gets stuck. The big butterfly frees that one, too.

Then a third butterfly gets caught. Bao Gong is certain the big butterfly will come to its rescue, but alas, it does not. It just darts from one flower to another and eventually flies away.

All humans are born with compassion. Bao Gong says: “You’re not going to save it? I will.” At that moment, he wakes up.

It strikes Bao Gong that the dream was a sign from heaven for him to save the third son.

A Dilemma

Constable Zhang Qian reports for work at lunchtime. Bao Gong asks, “Is there a case I must look into?”

Zhang Qian tells him about the case of the Wang brothers killing Ge Biao. Bao Gong summons the three brothers and their mother to the court. Bao Gong is an impartial official and never takes a careless approach to a trial, unlike the magistrate of Zhongmu County.

If the three brothers are convicted, they will be executed. However, they fight to plead guilty in court. Each one claims to be the one who had beaten Ge Biao to death, saying the other two brothers are innocent. Bao Gong is caught in a dilemma.

The mother explains that the brothers studied the classics and were taught good manners and behavior

when they were young. Though the family is not well-to-do, the brothers are dutiful sons, she says.

The mother feels that the eldest son, Jinhe, should not be put to death for the killing. Otherwise, there would be no one to provide for her. She says the second son, Tiehe, is the family’s breadwinner and should also be spared. However, she agrees to putting the youngest son, Shihe, to death.

Virtuous Mother, Dutiful Sons

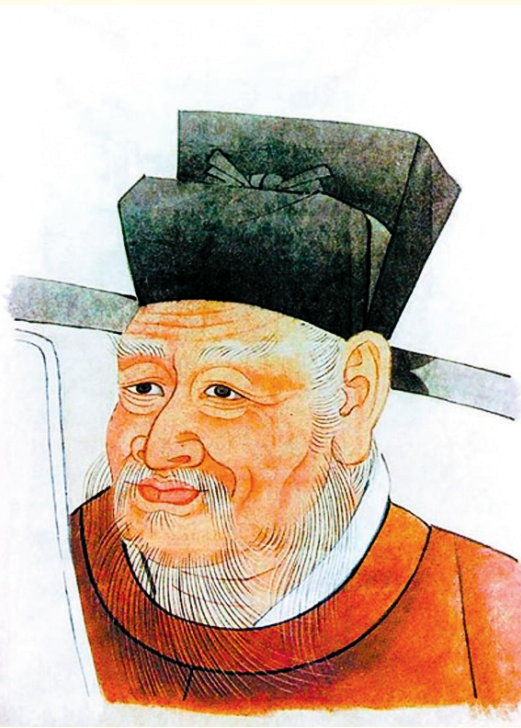
Bao Gong is puzzled. Could the youngest son be her stepson? Is that why she agreed to his execution?

Bao Gong feels sad. When he inquires, the mother explains that the youngest son is actually her biological son. The two elder brothers turn out to be adopted sons. The mother does not want to be a jealous and wicked woman, but a woman of virtue. She pleads for mercy for her adopted sons.

The mother is as virtuous as Tao Kan’s mother and Meng Guang, two women in Chinese history famous for their virtue. Her three sons are as dutiful as Zeng Shen and Min Sun, disciples of Confucius famous for their filial piety.

Bao Gong recalls the dream he just had about the three butterflies. It strikes him that the dream was a sign from heaven for him to save the third son.

He reports the case to the imperial court. The emperor pardons the three Wang brothers and even puts them in important posts. Jinhe is made an official in the imperial court, Tiehe is also given a position, and Shihe is appointed as the magistrate of Zhongmu County. The title “Lady of Virtue” is bestowed on their mother. The imperial court respected virtuous women and dutiful descendants.



Bao Gong, commonly known as Justice Bao, was a legendary Song Dynasty official who consistently demonstrated impartiality, honesty, and uprightness in his court decisions.



THE
EPOCH
TIMES

NO COMMUNISM, NO SOCIALISM

JUST PURE TRADITIONAL
JOURNALISM

Dear Reader,

This newspaper is for you to enjoy. In an age of media bias, we work to bring you independent news coverage.

When reporting on China coverage, our unique network of insiders helps us tell behind-the-scenes stories that can't be found anywhere else.

On social issues, we expose the destructive history of communism and its continued effects on today's society. For arts and lifestyle, **we focus on classical culture and traditional values.**

At The Epoch Times, we believe the media has a responsibility to uphold a moral society.

Subscribe today. Get the independent news you won't find anywhere else, and **get the insights only The Epoch Times can provide**, delivered to your doorstep every week.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EPOCH TIMES

▶ ☐ \$39.99 — 3 months

▶ ☐ \$69.99 — 6 months

▶ ☐ \$119.99 — 12 months

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX

DELIVER TO:

NAME _____ PHONE(____) _____

ADDRESS _____

SUBURB _____ STATE _____ POST CODE _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVC No. _____

Name on Card _____

Authorization Signature _____

MAIL TO: ▼
PO Box 843 Hurstville BC NSW 1481 OR

EMAIL TO: ▼
Subscribe@epochtimes.com.au



The Epoch Times is published by Australian Epoch Times Ltd, registered as a non-for-profit company.

SUBSCRIBE NOW 02 8988 5633