

Effort [Rev. 20180923]

By J — Latest revision: <http://allis.foundation/Effort.pdf>

The Cheap Drive

I wrote the other day about stepping off the debt escalator. About the freedom that comes with not having to make payments. Car payments in particular. For every dollar you pay, you acquire perhaps (optimistically) 50 cents in fungible value—i.e., what the car will be worth to someone else once you’ve paid it off.

This is not a good deal.

There are better deals available. But you have to be willing to do some unusual things—which is why most people do not usually do them. And so end up getting 50 cents on the dollar for their “investment” . . . if they’re lucky.

So what can you do to get that better deal?

Buy a car at auction

These are cars up for bid, often with a reserve—a minimum price—but sometimes not. If not—an absolute sale—you might be able to buy a car for next to nothing, literally. Either way, you should be able to get a car for much less than you’d have paid retail, either at a used car lot or via an individual private seller.

The cars being auctioned typically range from trade-ins and just-off-lease cars (dealers often run these cars through auctions to clear inventory quickly) to “repos”—cars repossessed by a bank after the person stopped making payments—cars seized by the government during drug raids and also ex-government vehicles (usually trucks and SUVs but also sometimes passenger cars, including ex cop cars).

Some auctions do motorcycles and equipment as well.

The company will typically publicize a list of the vehicles scheduled to go up for bidding a couple of weeks prior to the auction itself. To *find* these auctions, just Google search for them in your area; they are usually easy to find.

The auction process can be a little intimidating if you’re new to it, in particular the pig in a poke aspect of it. Meaning, you’ll have to make a relatively split-second decision about the bid—what you’ll pay for the car—and will probably not be the only person bidding.

But the good news is—contrary to what you might think—you don’t have to make a split-second decision about the car. At most auctions, you will have the opportunity to physically inspect the vehicle prior to the auction or on the day of the auction. Most of the time, you’ll be allowed to start the engine and while you probably won’t be allowed to take the car for a test drive, many auctioned cars will be “green lighted” as to their mechanical condition—that is, the auction company will attest that the car has been inspected and no major mechanical issues were found. Some auction houses will agree to cancel the sale or refund your money if the car turns out to have a major problem discovered immediately after the auction.

Other times, the car will be sold “as is/where is”—meaning, it’s all on you if the car isn’t what you hoped it would be. But the same is true when you buy a used car from a private seller—and often, when you buy a used car from a dealer. Just be aware of all this before you dive in.

Some auctions require a dealer license to bid—or to bid on certain cars (in my state, Virginia, the law requires that cars lacking a current/valid state safety inspection be sold only to dealers who are licensed by the state to perform inspections) but you can end run this by finding a friend who has the dealer license.

Also, there is usually a “processing fee” (of course) that you’ll pay the auction company on top of the price you agree to pay for the car itself. And you will usually have to make that payment—in full—within a few days or so of your winning bid. This usually means cash or bank check, fyi.

You should only bid on a vehicle knowing in your head exactly what you’re willing to pay—and what a given car is worth “on the street” (retail) *before* you start bidding. Research retail values prior to the auction and factor in such things as miles and condition.

Those caveats aside, auctions are a great place to get a car on the cheap. And once you’re hip to the way they work, they’re no more scary—or risky—than buying from a used car lot or private seller.

In some ways, less so.

Buy an old car

As distinct from a merely used car.

Ideally, an ugly one that most people aren’t interested in.

And by “old,” I mean one that qualifies for antique vehicle registration—which will save you a lot of money by eliminating annual registration fees (these add up) and also the hassle of having to take your vehicle in for an annual or semi-annual “safety” inspection. In most states, an antique vehicle—defined as 21 years old or older, usually—is exempt from both of these things.

Now, technically, a vehicle registered as an antique is not supposed to be used as a daily/regular-use vehicle. But you can usually “get away” (the verbiage is ridiculous; you are simply avoiding obnoxious government edicts designed to separate you from your money—and your liberty) with driving the car regularly. Just be discreet about it.

Even better is even older.

A car built before they began to outfit cars with air bags and computers—which would be mid-early ’90s for the former (air bags) and pre-1980s for the latter (computers). An older car with a carburetor and without a computer may need minor adjustment more often, but these adjustments are typically performed with a screwdriver and other such basic hand tools and can be done by almost anyone with a little patience and the ability to read a basic shop/repair manual.

This (self-service) can save you a lot of money. It is also empowering to be able to keep up your car *yourself*.

Another plus—old or older—is that insurance and property taxes (if you have to deal with those) will be rock bottom. An ancient—and paid for—“beater” that has a book value of next-to-nothing can be insured for next-to-nothing (liability-only, the bare minimum) and the rapacious paw of government can’t steal much in property taxes on a car that’s worth next-to-nothing.

Buy a motorcycle

This is a hard-core option, but it’s definitely a way to save coin. New—or used.

Or *old*.

You can buy a new bike for less than \$10,000. About half that, actually, will buy something like a Kawasaki KLR650—which will also give you better fuel economy than just about any new car. And more fun, too.

About \$3,000 should be enough to buy a very nice used bike. Much less for one that may not look nice but which is nonetheless mechanically sound.

Bikes are also cheaper to maintain and (unless it’s a new sport bike and you are a young guy) cheaper to insure. They fit places cars don’t—including inside your house or apartment.

The only (and obvious) downsides being zero protection from the elements and not much protection from the idiocies of other drivers.

But, a great way to save money on getting around. *¹

The End of Obamaworld

In denouncing Republicans as “scared of widows and orphans” and castigating those who prefer Christian refugees to Muslims coming to America, Barack Obama has come off as petulant and unpresidential.

Clearly, he is upset. And with good reason.

He grossly, transparently underestimated the ability of ISIS, the JV team, to strike outside the caliphate into the heart of the West, and has egg all over his face. More critically, the liberal world order he has been preaching and predicting is receding before our eyes.

Suddenly, his rhetoric is discordantly out of touch with reality. And, for his time on the global stage, the phrase “failed president” comes to mind.

What happened in Paris, said President Obama, “was an attack on all of humanity and the universal values that we share.”

And just what might those “universal values” be?

At a soccer game between Turkey and Greece in Istanbul, Turks booed during the moment of silence for the Paris dead and chanted "Allahu Akbar." Among 1.6 billion Muslims, hundreds of millions do not share our values regarding women's rights, abortion, homosexuality, free speech, or the equality of all religious faiths.

Set aside the fanatics of ISIS. Does Saudi Arabia share Obama's views and values regarding sexual freedom and the equality of Christianity, Judaism and Islam? Is anything like the First Amendment operative across the Sunni or Shiite world, or in China?

In their belief in the innate superiority of their Islamic faith and the culture and civilization it created, Muslims have more in common with our confident Christian ancestors who conquered them than with gauzy global egalitarians like Barack Obama.

"Liberté, égalité, fraternité," the values of secular France, are no more shared by the Islamic world than is France's affection for Charlie Hebdo.

Across both Europe and the United States, the lurch away from liberalism, on immigration, borders and security, fairly astonishes.

But again, understandably so.

Many of the Muslim immigrants in Britain, France and Germany have never assimilated. Within these countries are huge enclaves of the alienated and their militant offspring.

Consider the Belgium capital of Brussels. Belgium's home affairs minister, Jan Jambon, said his government does not "have control of the situation in Molenbeek."

Brice De Ruyver, a security adviser to a former Belgian prime minister says, "We don't officially have no-go zones in Brussels, but in reality, there are, and they are in Molenbeek."

According to the Wall Street Journal, after the Paris attacks, "French security forces ... conducted hundreds of anti-terror raids and placed more than 100 suspects under arrest. ... France has some 11,500 names on government watch lists."

How many of those 11,500 are of Arab descent or the Muslim faith?

The nations of the EU are beginning to look again at their borders, and who is crossing them, who is coming in, and who is already there.

And the world is reawakening to truths long suppressed. Race and religion matter. To some they are life-and-death matters. Not all creeds, cultures and tribes are equally or easily assimilated into a Western nation. And First World nations have a right to preserve their own unique identity and character.

When Obama says that to prefer Christian to Muslim refugees is "un-American," he is saying that all the U.S. immigration laws enacted before 1965 were un-American. And, so, too, were presidents like Calvin Coolidge who signed laws that virtually restricted immigration to Europeans.

Barack Obama may be our president, but who is this man of the left to dictate to us what is “un-American”?

Were presidents Harry Truman and Woodrow Wilson, who called ours a “Christian nation,” un-American? Did the Supreme Court uphold our “universal values” with *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 and the *Obergefell* decision on same-sex marriage last June?

The race issue, too, has returned to divide us.

Half a century after Selma bridge, we have “Black Lives Matter!” on college campuses claiming that universities like Missouri, Princeton, Yale and Dartmouth are riddled with institutional racism.

Attention must be paid, and reparations made, by white America. And a new generation of academic appeasers advances to grovel and ask how the university might make amends.

In Europe, tribalism and nationalism are on the march. Peoples and nations wish to preserve who they are. Some have begun to establish checkpoints and ignore the Schengen Agreement mandating open borders. Eastern Europeans have had all the diversity they can stand.

With Syrian passports missing, with ISIS besieged in its Syria-Iraq laager and urging suicide attacks in New York and Washington, we may be witness to more terrorist massacres and murders in the States.

The time may be at hand for a moratorium on all immigration and a rewriting of the immigration laws to reflect the views and values of Middle Americans, rather than those of a morally arrogant multicultural elite.

Obamaworld is gone. We live again in an us-versus-them country in an us-versus-them world. And we shall likely never know another. ”²

Why Cops Stop Blacks

Why cops stop blacks with greater frequency is a question that has been discussed for decades, and with greater frequency since our first black president took office and introduced the concept of injecting presidential opinions and influence into local police/citizen incidents. Obama’s elevating local interest issues to the level of national crises proves that you just can’t take the community out of a former community organizer.

This legitimate question has become a burning and even lethal issue with some in the liberal and black community, and it is worthy of investigation. The obvious first response is that blacks commit a disproportionate amount of crime in this country, but should one have the temerity to offer that suggestion, one is quickly branded a *racist*. And we all know that liberals and race-baiters consider that charge a surefire argument-stopper, one that trumps whatever amount of statistical evidence one may produce to substantiate that blacks do indeed commit significantly more crime, proportionately, than whites, particularly crimes of violence.

A commenter on a piece I posted on another website gave a very succinct response to the question that substantiates the original claim while offering the sensible explanation that stopping blacks makes perfectly good sense from a cop’s point of view, because it results in higher productivity in apprehending criminals and solving crimes. And just like most folks in the work force, law enforcement officers are measured by and rewarded for higher

productivity. Increased work production often leads to promotion and higher pay—not unreasonable goals for cops, just like the rest of us, to have.

The law enforcement commenter gave an example: in just three vehicle stops of blacks in the first three hours of a shift, he found fifteen violations and sixteen outstanding warrants. That's the kind of job production that gets your shift commander's attention. Do that often enough, and the chief is going to recognize your name and give you a longer handshake while he fixes you with a thoughtful gaze. And most likely, while he's pondering your future in his department, he's giving absolutely no thought to the race of the perps you have busted—simply the numbers you have added to his look-good statistics, which in turn will appease his masters and perhaps increase his own pay. It's called getting noticed, and it's a very good thing for ambitious persons in a very large number of professions. Why should it be any different with police officers?

I know, I know—it's profiling in the worst kind of way. But you have to admit, for cops, it makes very good business sense if your business is enforcing the law and apprehending lawbreakers. And by extension, it makes good sense for our communities, because it removes their most frequent offenders. Whom do you want your police pulling over: citizens with clean records, or perps with a long list of priors and outstanding warrants? And is that racism, or the application of common sense to controlling crime in your community? It's just one more example of common sense colliding with liberal dogma. *3

... The Sun Has Gone Wrong and Scientists Don't Know Why



ABOVE: IMAGE BY NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER/SDO "A CORONAL MASS EJECTION. THE SUN JUST PRODUCED ITS BIGGEST SOLAR FLARE FOR 12 YEARS—DESPITE SUPPOSEDLY BEING IN ONE OF ITS QUIETEST PHASES."

If you still have your solar viewing glasses from the eclipse, now is a good time to slap them on and look up at the sun. You'll see two big dark areas visible on our star. These massive sunspots are regions of intense and complicated magnetic fields that can produce solar flares—bursts of high-energy radiation. You can just make them out with solar viewing glasses, but they're better viewed through a solar telescope.

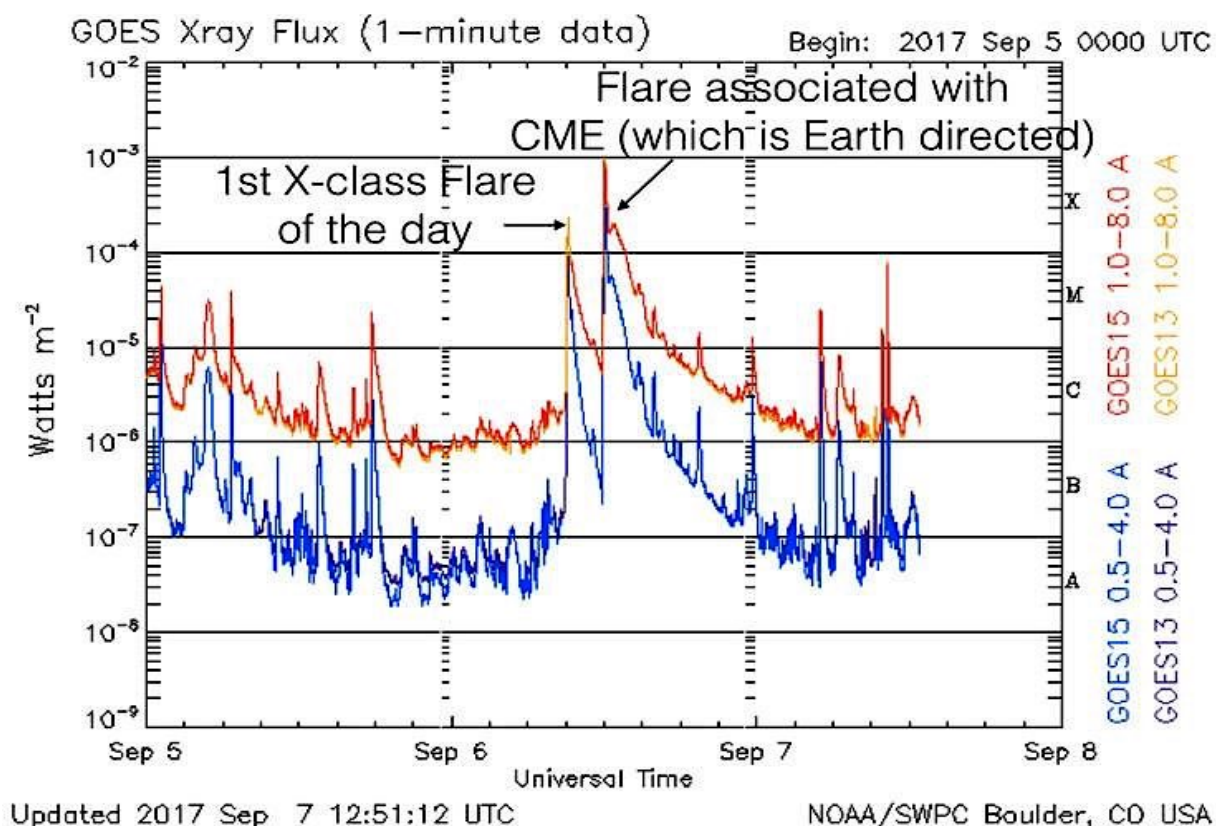
These two huge sunspots are currently causing quite a bit of consternation and interest. The solar storms they've sent toward Earth may affect communications and other technologies like GPS and radio signals. They're causing amazing displays of the northern and southern lights. And space weather scientists like us are excited because we wouldn't normally expect this much activity from the sun at the moment.

The sun goes through 11-year cycles of solar activity. What scientists call a solar maximum is the time in the cycle when the sun is putting out the most energy. That's when we tend to see the most sunspots, solar flares and associated solar storms. Some solar maxima are larger or more active than others—such as the 1990 to 1991 solar max. But this last cycle, which peaked in 2014, was quite small, and there were few large geomagnetic storms.

We're heading into the bottom of solar minimum, when the sun tends to have fewer sunspots, solar flares and coronal mass ejections—large expulsions of plasma, electrons and ions, and magnetic fields. But despite where we are in the sun's cycle, activity on the sun has dramatically picked up over the past few days. On and off, these two sunspots have been flaring and shooting out coronal mass ejections, directed toward Earth.

So what's going on with the sun? And should we be concerned about this somewhat out-of-character solar behavior?

Here's what's happened so far

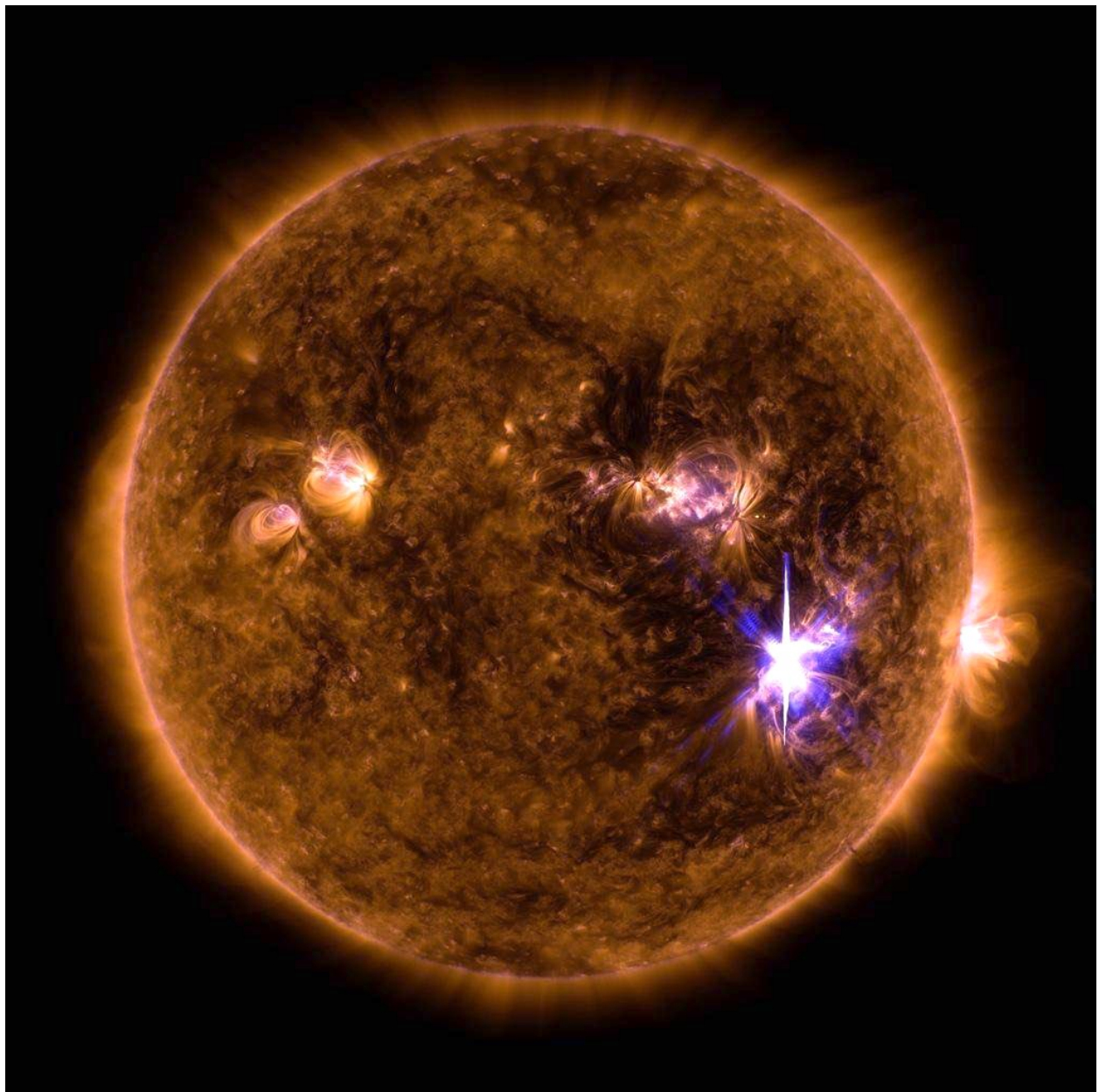


On September 4, the sun started sputtering. A moderately large flare (classified as an M5.5) erupted at approximately 18:30 Coordinated Universal time (UTC). It produced a coronal mass ejection aimed at Earth.

The sun continued to flare on September 5. A solar energetic particle event from the previous day's activity arrived at the Earth, where it likely affected radio communications as well as the health of satellite systems.

On September 6, the sun produced two massive X-Class flares. This is the category for the strongest of all solar flares. NASA announced one was the most powerful since at least 2008. It produced another coronal mass ejection.

The second and strongest of the two X-class solar flares on September 6 produced a coronal mass ejection directed at Earth.



ABOVE: IMAGE BY NASA/GSFC/SDO "A HUGE SOLAR FLARE, RECORDED BY NASA ON SEPTEMBER 6."

Over the next day, the same sunspots continued to spit out more solar flares. It took about an hour for the solar energetic particles they emitted to arrive at Earth. These protons are incredibly fast-moving. They can affect communication systems, typically in the polar regions, where they are more likely to enter into the Earth's atmosphere. As with all increases of radiation in space, they can also affect satellite systems and the health of astronauts.

Early in the morning hours of September 7 in the U.S., that first coronal mass ejection that erupted from the sun three days earlier arrived at Earth. Because of the way its magnetic field aligned with Earth's, it generated only a small geomagnetic storm.

After being detected by spacecraft upstream from Earth in the solar wind, the massive coronal mass ejection from September 6 also hit Earth on the evening of September 7 EDT. Its arrival was a few hours earlier than space weather forecasting agencies around the world predicted.

What other effects will Earth see?

All this solar activity has already caused a couple of radiation storms in Earth's high latitude regions that blacked out radio communication at certain frequencies. The impacts extended toward the equator and have affected high-frequency communications, including ham radios, which are used in emergency and disaster relief management. Radio fade-out maps from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology show that high-frequency radio communication disruptions have likely occurred in the same areas being pummeled by Hurricane Irma.



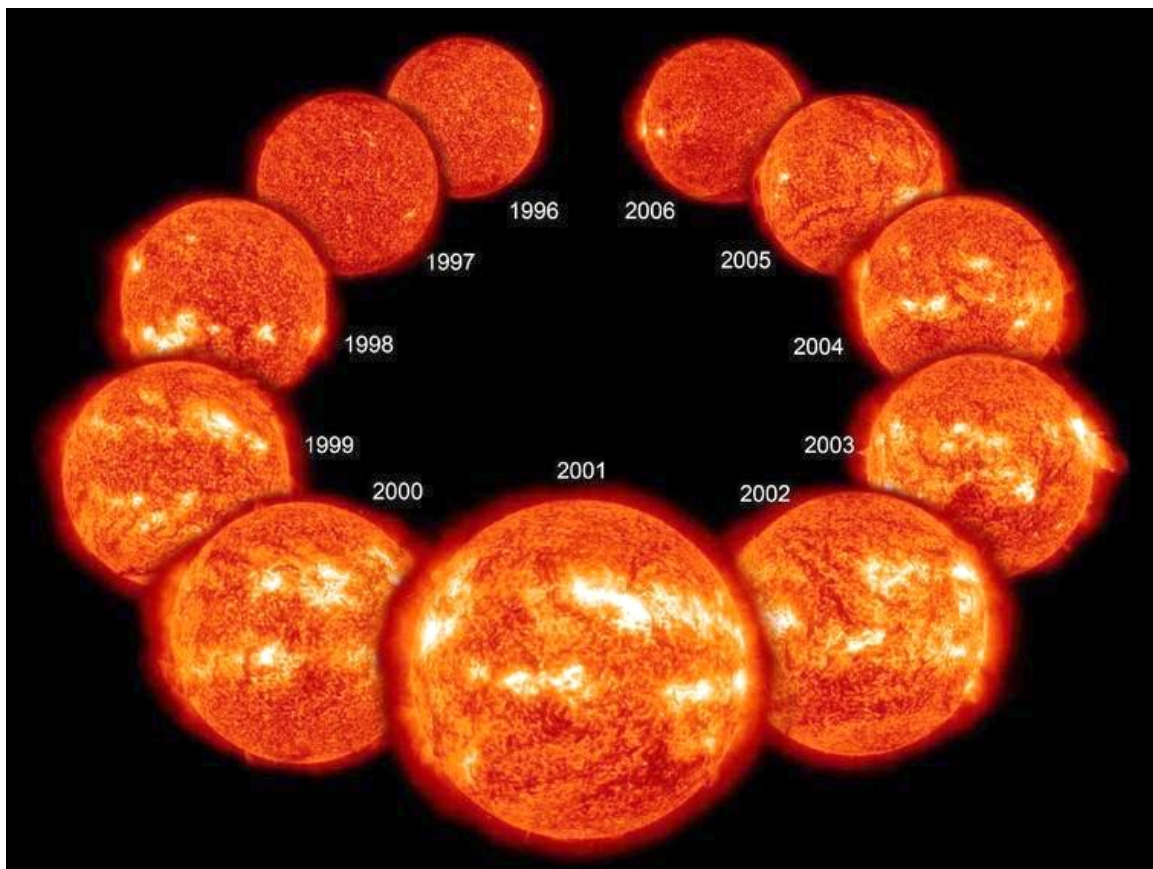
ABOVE: PHOTO BY JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES "NORTHERN LIGHTS IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE, ON SEPTEMBER 5."

There has likely been a loss of global navigation system satellite communications in those same areas, but it will take time for the data to be analyzed and for us to gain a full understanding of how this space weather activity has affected those on the ground. The radiation storms may also force flights over the polar regions to reroute to avoid increased radiation exposures for people on board, and potential loss of communication and navigation systems for aircraft on these paths.

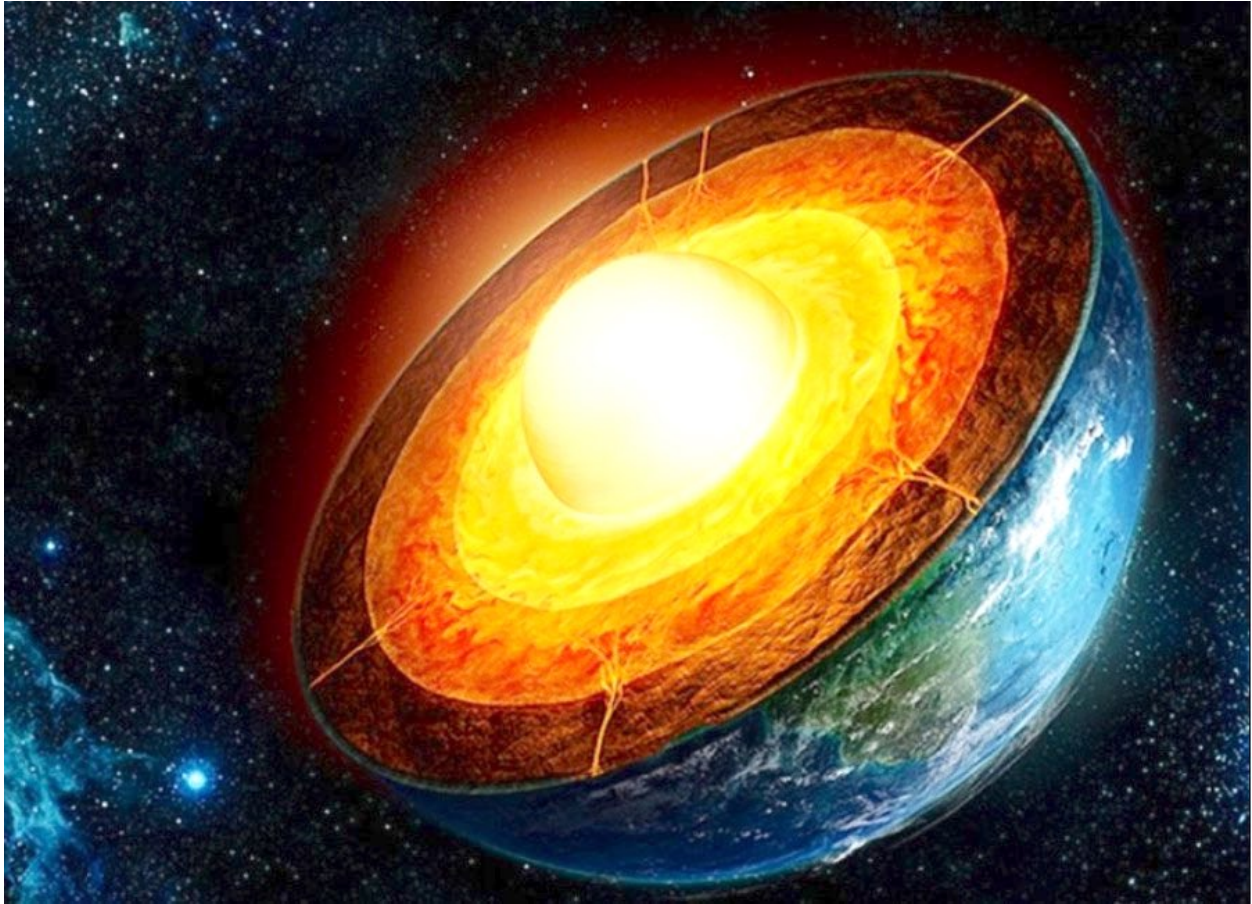
With the collision of the coronal mass ejection from this X-Class flare with Earth come other impacts for the near-Earth space environment. Geomagnetic storms, like the one currently in progress, are known to wreak havoc on a range of satellite and ground-based communication technologies, as well as power grids, GPS/GNSS, and orbit predictions of satellites and space debris. It is also very likely to produce dazzling aurora activity as far south as the northern U.S. and Europe in the Northern Hemisphere, and as far north as southern Australia and New Zealand in the Southern Hemisphere.

While scientists and aurora-hunting enthusiasts closely watch the storm's ongoing effects, others will be bracing for problems and disruptions to the many technological services that will be affected.

We don't need to worry about this coronal mass ejection being "the big one"—a solar storm direct hit that could cause widespread power blackouts and trigger as much as \$2 trillion worth of damage, according to a National Academy of Sciences study. But this storm, on the back of this month's abnormally active space weather, may wind up on the larger end of the scale, and will be the subject of lots of analysis and research...^{*4}



ABOVE: IMAGES BY ESA&NASA/SOHO "OF THE SUN DURING SOLAR CYCLE 23. YOU TYPICALLY SEE MORE ACTIVITY DURING A SOLAR MAXIMUM (2001) THAN DURING A MINIMUM (1996 OR 2006)." *4



ABOVE: ILLUSTRATION BY UNKNOWN — 'VISUALIZING THE EARTH'S CORE, A "MINI-SUN" EXPENDING LIGHT ENERGY FORMS ITS CRUST' *5

Someone Finally Partied Too Hard for the Infamous Hollywood Hills Party Mansion

... The tenant, a Saudi prince named Aziz al Saud, seems to have been staying at the house while he wrapped up his studies at Pepperdine University in Malibu. (The excessive bash was his graduation party.) A worker for the prince signed a one-month lease in August, and Fitzgerald says the two parties agreed that the prince could throw just one big, fun event.

Unfortunately, Fitzgerald claims, the prince really made the most of his month in the mansion, trashing the place, regularly disrupting the neighborhood, and throwing parties that went long into the night.

The final straw was the prince's graduation party, which was attended by over 800 people, and featured "guests doing drugs ... and strippers dancing on kitchen countertops." Spilled drinks caused some hardwood floors in the house to buckle, and revelers caused damage to furniture and walls in the house that amounted to \$86,379, Fitzgerald claims.

The whole incident seems to have opened Fitzgerald up. The guy who has referred to the neighbors who complain about his parties as "f—ing assholes" seems to be newly penitent, acknowledging that his houses were a problem... *6

Life in the Slammer

One reason I haven't commented on it in detail up until now is that one of my former cellmates was the gay serial killer Stephen Port. He was very properly sentenced on Friday to life without parole for four murders and four male rapes.

The slow-witted police reportedly have now reopened their files on over fifty deaths of young men in London. Stephen was entitled to a fair trial and I didn't want to publish anything which might have prejudiced it.

It wasn't a case of not being willing to talk about my time inside, because, e.g., I had to play 'hide the sausage', as Jeremy Clarkson so charmingly puts it! On the whole, I was pretty well treated.

Professional Hazard

Getting slammed in the slammer is a professional hazard of intelligence work. It is much better for the Bad Guys if they can get your own side to do the dirty work and discredit you.

Good Guy assets facing trumped-up intelligence-related charges typically encounter five phenomena:

- (1) The White Hat agencies they've been dealing with run for cover, leaving them swinging in the wind. This is a combination of the strong sense of self-preservation of agency bureaucrats and Black Hat penetration.
- (2) They find themselves dealing with dopey policemen and prosecutors, with a cynical disregard for any suggestion that the charges may be intelligence-linked.
- (3) The dopey policemen and prosecutors are too egotistical to suppose that the defendant might be smarter than they are, and are very quick to allege insanity, not least if the defendant has grasped concepts too complex for their more limited intellects to master.
- (4) They find that the deck has been stacked against them. Typically this will involve the buying-up or blackmailing of police, prosecutors, judges or jurors, or all four, and
- (5) Media hostility. The media will publish anything drip-fed to them from the prosecution and ignore anything said by the defense.

Most of these phenomena can be countered easily, if there's the will to do so. White Hat agencies are slowly coming to realise that leaving their people swinging in the wind suits the Black Hats just fine and damages the White Hats. If other folk see White Hat assets being hung out to dry, they will be reluctant to come forward.

The Intelligence Community (INTELCOM) needs to learn from the US Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps: leave no man behind. Cutting and running is a disreputable tactic at the best of times.

There is not much that can be done about recruiting smarter rozzers. Law Enforcement will always be dumber than INTELCOM. However, just as even the dumbest pooch can be trained to perform a few tricks with some gentle taps on the nose (all y'all will understand that this is a family website and we don't promote animal cruelty), so can rozzers be trained to be more attentive in intelligence cases.

INTELCOM could run training sessions on how to differentiate genuine claims of intelligence involvement from fake. Non-violently smacking about a few rozzers who foul up in intelligence cases would help. In my case, e.g., hopefully there'll be some police corruption trials, pour encourager les autres.

It should be possible to recruit smarter prosecutors. In the UK this could most easily be done by breaking up the bureaucratic Crown Prosecution Service and depriving salaried state prosecutors of their rights of audience in the higher courts. It ought to be possible to raise the status of American prosecutors, which in turn is linked irretrievably to raising their ethical standards.

Stacked decks can always be leveled, in this context most easily by good counter-intelligence work, coupled with a willingness to actually assist the defense, and not just sit back and watch courtroom disasters unfold. If the judge has a mistress or a boyfriend Mrs Judge doesn't know about, e.g. then slip his or her name to the defense. If a juror has been leant on, tell the defense, so they can challenge the juror.

Whilst the MSM are largely a lost cause, it is now possible to get the truth out via the alternative media. The Russians are leading the way on this, and we should follow their example. In the long-term we need to clean up the MSM, and that means taking the DVD's efficient Propaganda Section head-on. If the Hun is coming at you head-on in his Albatros you don't turn your Camel away. (VT readers being well-informed, I need hardly explain that I am not referring to big birds and dromedaries.)

Being Taken Down to the Cells

As a barrister I am used to going down to the cells, but not in handcuffs. Being cuffed was a new experience for me, and not one I would care to repeat. On the other hand the journey was shorter than usual, and the 'screws' offered me a cup of tea, which never happened when I was seeing clients!

Prison officers are called 'screws' in England, BTW, as in the old days prisoners doing hard labor would be made to perform pointless tasks, one of which was turning the handle of a crank machine. A screw in the device could be turned to make it easier or harder, usually harder. The crank-machines have gone, thankfully. Prisoners are still made to perform pointless tasks, however.

Wandsworth

My arrival at HMP Wandsworth (known affectionately to those incarcerated there as 'Wanno') was a bit of a hoot. They weren't expecting a barrister to turn up in the van from Southwark, let alone one dressed in a black jacket and stripes! I wasn't expecting to be sent to prison, so to say that I was unprepared is to put it mildly.

The first issue to be addressed was my security. They are a fair number of Islamic radicals in British prisons these days, and I'm just about the only barrister, suspended or otherwise, who has annoyed Al Qaeda. The idea of mixing up a real, live counter-terrorism expert with a bunch of Islamic radicals didn't seem to appeal to the authorities at Wandsworth. At any rate, I was assigned to the isolation wing, C Wing.

I was rather delighted to learn that this was Oscar Wilde's old wing! His cell is still there on the ground floor (the 'ones'), although disappointingly he didn't scratch 'OFOWW' on the walls. If he did, it's been painted over, although that's not at all likely, since he was only incarcerated in Wandsworth as recently as 1895. (Oscar was moved to Reading Gaol later that year).

Having had accusations of insanity flung at me by the CPS (a bit of a cheek, with respect, since they are barely sane themselves) it was rather ironic that I was banged up with one of the most unstable prisoners in the wing, a South Korean who was off his meds, had little English and was on suicide watch. I am not giving out his name—aside from Stephen Port, whose name is on the front pages following his conviction—I take the view that fellow-prisoners and prison officers are entitled to anonymity and privacy. The officers, in particular, looked after me whilst I was there. I intend to return the favor now I'm out.

He was a deeply-troubled man, who should have been in a mental hospital, not prison. So far as I can tell, I was put in his cell to keep an eye on him. 'Wanno' was—and still is—desperately understaffed. The prison authorities seemed to have a policy of matching up older, more stable prisoners with those likely to take their own lives. I was told we had lost no fewer than six prisoners on C Wing in the previous year, all to suicide.

If that was the policy, it was probably a good one. At any rate, I was able to cut down my cell-mate when he put a noose around his neck when I wasn't looking and was in the process of strangling himself. It took some time for help to arrive—there were hardly any officers on the wing. Of course as soon as the first officer entered the cell, in response to my ringing the emergency alarm and shouting repeatedly for help, he was quickly yelling 'Code Blue' or some-such into his radio. Officers then appeared as if by magic!

We were locked up 22-23 hours a day, so it was rather nice to be allowed out of my cell for a few hours. When my cell-mate returned from the hospital wing, which was full, he glared at me. If you intervene to stop a suicide, don't expect the person you are saving to thank you. He did later, however—when he was finally transferred to a hospital, where he should have been all along, he gave me all his biscuits. We had become friends by then.

For what it is worth, I think he was entirely innocent of the crimes of which he was accused, by fellow-nationals bearing a grudge. I wasn't overly impressed at having to explain letters from his lawyers written in English—did they seriously think we had South Korean legal translators on C Wing?

The response of fellow prisoners was heart-warming. A number were most attentive. Word quickly went around the wing about what I had done. For the remainder of my time at Wandsworth I was paired with prisoners on suicide watch or who had real difficulty coping with the frustrations of prison life.

Having a cell-mate on suicide watch didn't make for a good night's sleep however, as the light kept being switched on all night! Normally a close watch wasn't kept on the cells. We had a murder on my last day there, in another wing, after a row about 'Match of the Day' got out of hand. It was hours before the crime was discovered. If you're ever banged up in prison take a tip from me—don't argue with your cellmates about what to watch on telly!

Sleep was hard to come by anyway. One of the things I quickly learnt was that Category B prisons are noisy. Hollesley Bay was peaceful by comparison. It wasn't just our wing—for some odd reason the blokes on D Wing seemed to think that they could best communicate with the boys on B Wing by shouting.

The chaplaincy staff at Wandsworth were excellent. They had been helping my South Korean cellmate, which probably helped. The church services were more Baptist Revival than Anglican, with many of the congregation more interested in swapping drugs than singing hymns. It was the only time I've ever seen a brawl when leaving church! It was a proper brawl too, with truncheons drawn by the officers who bravely contained it. As I remarked to the chaplain it was probably a mistake to have had Anglicans and Methodists at the same service.

Being the only barrister on the wing I found my services much in demand. I soon found myself drafting bail applications, advising informally on grounds of appeal and so on. I got my revenge on the Court of Appeal anyway for refusing me leave to appeal! The poor level of legal advice given to some prisoners shocked me.

There was TV in the cells—the Department of Justice had done a job—lot some years before on cheap Asian 14" color, cathode-ray tube, tellies. However there was no Sky TV! This meant no live coverage of last summer's Ashes series, which as a cricket-lover I regarded as cruel and unusual punishment.

We weren't allowed pets in the cells, either. Being a trained lawyer, I quickly picked up on the anomaly of allowing rats in the cells on the 'ones' and no pets on the 'threes' (third landing). My request to adopt a rat went unanswered.

After a staggering seven weeks, I was finally categorised as a 'Cat D', i.e. the lowest level of security risk, qualifying me for an open prison. I should have thought, with respect, that the Prison Service could have worked out that a 58 year old barrister and former immigration judge, not sentenced for a crime of dishonesty or violence, with no previous apart from the dodgy images conviction, was a good candidate for Cat D inside seven weeks!

Getting your Cat D is one thing. Finding a berth in an open prison is quite another—it took just as long to be transferred. Even then it wasn't to a proper open prison, but to Brixton, which has an 'open wing'. Yeah, an open wing surrounded by high walls and barbed wire. At least they had enough doctors at Brixton to look after me—my South Korean cellmate at 'Wanno' had suspected TB and the medical officer at Brixton had me tested for TB asap...

I may have caught bronchitis, but the fairly harsh conditions at Wandsworth were beneficial to my health in one way. The food was so bad I lost several stone! We weren't always sure what type of meat we were eating—a large dead rat in front of the education block one morning seemed to disappear suspiciously quickly! The wine-list wasn't much to write home about, either. More about Brixton and prison life next week.

Before anybody asks, Stephen Port, one of my cellmates at Brixton, didn't try to rape or murder me. Thankfully, he was only interested in young, good-looking men. He was a model prisoner, so much so that they let him out early on a tag, allowing him to rape and murder his fourth victim, a whoopsie for which the Probation Service has yet to be held to account. Poor young Jack Taylor joined a tragically long list of victims murdered by prisoners let out on tag.

It was only after Stephen Port was charged with murder that I discovered that the offense of perverting the course of justice he was in Brixton for related to concealing the body of one of his victims. I had understood it was a motoring matter! The second thing you learn in prison is that you don't probe fellow inmates about their offenses. If they want to tell you, they will. Most are in fact guilty, and don't want to talk about what landed them in prison. Being entirely innocent and the victim of the biggest stitch-up since 'Tango and Cash', I was more than happy to talk about the trumped-up charges against me.

For the avoidance of doubt, my sympathies lie entirely with Stephen Port's young victims and their grieving families. I strongly support capital punishment for murder and therefore would not have quarreled with a death sentence...^{*7}

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. The only way they can inherit the freedom we have known is if we fight for it, protect it, defend it and then hand it to them with the well-taught lessons of how they, in their lifetime, must do the same. And if you and I don't do this, then you and I may well spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it once was like in America when men were free." —*Ronald Reagan*



ABOVE: CHRISTOPHER MCCANDLESS / APRIL 30, 1992, ALEX'S LOG NOTES: ... ALEX WITNESSES A RARE SIGHT. MT. MCKINLEY OR DENALI, ITS ATHABASCA NAME, IS SELDOM SEEN THIS CLEARLY. OVERWHELMED BY ITS SPLENDOR, HE TAKES THIS JUBILANT SELF-PORTRAIT DEMONSTRATING THE STRENGTH HE GAINS FROM THE MAJESTY HE BEHOLDS. DURING HIS TIME ON THE STAMPEDE TRAIL, ALEX WRITES THIS PASSAGE INSPIRED BY HENRY DAVID THOREAU. IT IS SIMILAR TO THE WORDS HE PENNED IN SOUTH DAKOTA DURING TREK # 8 BEARING THE TITLE "AESTHETIC CREED." "I AM REBORN. THIS IS MY DAWN. REAL LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN. DELIBERATE LIVING. CONSCIOUS ATTENTION TO YOUR IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS CONCERNS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE: A JOB, A TASK, A BOOK, ANYTHING REQUIRING EFFICIENT CONCENTRATION. CIRCUMSTANCE HAS NO VALUE. IT IS HOW ONE RELATES TO A SITUATION THAT HAS VALUE. ALL TRUE MEANING RESIDES IN THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO A PHENOMENON....WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU." *8

Facts Trump the Left's National Tantrum

The left's national tantrum over the Trump victory, evidenced by freeway blockages, street riots, internet rants, harassment of members of the Electoral College, and tasteless displays of moral superiority from the Hollywood elite, is appalling. In traditional America, such petulant conduct does not find itself bleeding out so profusely among grown people because it is trained out of youngsters by parents who discipline their kids for throwing fits in the candy store after Mommy hasn't bought them an extra gumball. Unfortunately, the modern left is populated with legions of adult brats who were raised without such disciplinary boundaries while concurrently having been coddled with participation trophies, self-esteem awards, and Ritalin. These man-children are behaving like schoolyard hooligans, bullying other students whom they dislike, irrespective of whether their prey has committed any genuine offense against them. The communist rent-a-mobs, mainstream media mandarins, and preening self-righteous entertainers who are crybabying their way through post-election America are acting out in an effort to assert their authority over the political landscape without having acquired it by means of thoughtful persuasion or a win at the ballot box.

The left has bellowed nonstop since November 8 that safety for ethnic and religious minorities, women, and LGBTQ people is now at risk, that the alt-right has been legitimized (with the KKK waiting in the wings to place a conical white hood on the 45th president), and that Donald Trump is among the spawn of "The Boys from Brazil." These regressive progressives are making an Olympic sport out of mean-spiritedness, attacking Trump supporters with insults and fisticuffs, and libeling the president-elect and his team with the epithets of the Dennis Prager acronym SIXHIRB: sexist, intolerant, xenophobic, homophobic, Islamophobic, racist, and bigoted. Impolite as it was for the cast of *Hamilton* to call out Mike Pence after he had just spent money on their show, the offensiveness of this leftist *Sturm und Drang* is not only in its puerile aggressiveness, but because it is rooted in calumny, lies, and distortion.

Though full of braggadocio and equipped with a sharp tongue, Donald J. Trump is not a Hitlerian villain as perceived by his opponents. Hitler had a recorded history of Jew-hatred and a desire to implement totalitarianism dating at least as far back as 1923, when he published *Mein Kampf*, ten years before he was elected Germany's chancellor. Were he a reincarnation of Der Führer with the vile qualities attributed to him by our liberal neighbors, one would expect there to be a preponderance of evidence of The Donald promoting hardened statism, hating minorities, abusing women wholesale, and persecuting non-heterosexuals over the past three or so decades during which he has been a public figure.

What exactly is the public record of Donald Trump?

Going back to the 1980s, Trump has been a celebrity mogul, who has routinely preached and practiced capitalism (albeit the crony capitalist type of greasing the skids of the political machines in the places where he has worked). Though he has a Hooveresque streak of protectionism, and his proposed tariff policy can be construed as an intimidation of businesses that are offshoring, there is nothing in his history to indicate that Trump has fascist designs to control the means of production of any industry through presidential power. He has always been enamored of comely women, as one can see in his multiple marriages and his forays into beauty pageantry. His crass put-downs of women whom he finds unattractive have always been a part of his native lexicon, yet despite this saucy banter, Trump has ample female acolytes, most notably his campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway. His ex-wives have had nothing negative to say about him, and even the scorned Ivana, whom the New York billionaire ditched for a younger blond bombshell (Marla Maples) in the late '80s, expressed her full support for his candidacy.

Surf the internet, and you will find a plethora of photos featuring prominent black Americans, including Shaquille O'Neal; Mike Tyson; Don King; and even race hustlers Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, and Spike Lee mugging with our president-elect. In spite of the mainstream media blackout (pun intended) on the subject of Trump's support in the black community, he has enjoyed the vocal backing of black Americans including Pastor Darrell Scott, Herman Cain, and Omarosa Manigault. During the transition, Trump has sat down with self-professed Democrat Bob Johnson, founder of Black Entertainment Television (no bastion of Confederate sentiments), to discuss the economic needs of black Americans. Would a man who detests people of diverse sexual orientations actually go on record as saying that the person formerly known as Bruce Jenner should be able to use the bathroom of his choosing? When an Islamic radical murdered 49 people in a gay nightclub in the name of Allah in June 2016, Hillary Clinton claimed her solidarity with gays by blaming guns. Trump composed a statement containing this conclusion:

We need to protect all Americans, of all backgrounds and all beliefs, from Radical Islamic Terrorism—which has no place in an open and tolerant society. Radical Islam advocates hate for women, gays, Jews, Christians and all Americans. I am going to be a President for all Americans, and I am going to protect and defend all Americans. We are going to make America safe again and great again for everyone.

Why would a man whom the left declares an opponent of gay rights openly express his willingness to protect that community? Even if standing up for gays were only political theater, would it not be a dangerous gambit to cause an affront to his supporters on the religious right who are no fans of same-sex attraction? Is it Islamophobic to suggest that we ought to vet immigrants from the Muslim world, which is well known for its unfriendly stance toward homosexuality? The left's panic attack over Trump's alleged alignment with Nazis and Klansmen has scarce empirical data to confirm the claim. Frankly, this assertion is rooted in three elements, the first being his clumsy statement on illegal immigration during his campaign announcement speech:

The U.S. has become a dumping ground for everybody else's problems[.] ... When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. ... They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people. But I speak to border guards and they tell us what we're getting. And it only makes common sense[.] ... They're sending us not the right people.

The second fear-inducer is the twofold October surprise of the Billy Bush tape and the gaggle of women emerging from nowhere to accuse Trump of sexual assault. The third has to do with his suggestion that we cease immigration from Muslim countries. Outside these relatively recent and few-in-number items, can someone please point out where in Donald Trump's long public career there is clear evidence that he has actively mistreated various interest groups such that he can be properly labeled a bigot of epic proportions?

I know that you can't, because it's not there. But hey, why ruin a perfectly good protest movement to trash our Republic just because there are no facts to support it? ⁹



Hawaii and California's Huge Second Amendment Victory

Tuesday's decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals means that people in the western U.S. will now be able to openly carry a handgun in public. The decision only applies to districts under the 9th Circuit's jurisdiction, but it will likely soon affect the rest of the country. It is a huge ruling that strikes down existing state prohibitions in Hawaii and California.

The case involved George Young, who wanted to publicly carry a firearm in the State of Hawaii for personal self-defense. Young applied twice for a handgun permit to carry either openly or concealed, but they denied his application each time. Hawaii's laws require demonstration of "reason to fear injury to the applicant's person or property." Similar rules apply to open carry. But, in fact, Hawaii refuses to acknowledge that anyone has good reason to fear for their safety and is not issuing a single permit.

The Second Amendment was clear when it enshrined the "right of the people to keep and bear Arms." The Supreme Court has stated: "Keep arms' was simply a common way of referring to possessing arms. . . . At the time of the founding, as now, to 'bear' meant to 'carry.'" As with a previous decision by the 7th and DC Circuits, people have the right to carry. The government can't stop otherwise law-abiding Americans from any ability to protect themselves outside their home.

Even states that never (Hawaii) or virtually never (California) issue concealed handgun permits will now have to allow people to openly carry handguns in a holster.

Gun control advocates could appeal the three 9th Circuit judges' decision to the entire 9th Circuit (an en banc decision). The court as a whole is very liberal, and may very well reverse Tuesday's decision. But such a ruling would definitely be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which would presumably overturn it. This would make open carry legal nationwide.

Or gun control advocates could appeal directly to the Supreme Court, with the same result. President Trump's election has made all the difference here.

To try to avoid a loss at the Supreme Court, the other option for gun control advocates is to accept their loss in the 9th Circuit and not appeal. Given the likely uproar in liberal Hawaii and California over people openly carrying guns on their hips, these liberal states will likely have to allow people to carry in some way and may revisit their extremely restrictive concealed handgun laws.

Outside of California, Hawaii, and New York, about 8.5 percent of adults nationwide have concealed handgun permits. In California, the percentage is about 0.4%, and in Hawaii it is 0%. This will have to change.

Even if Hawaii doesn't appeal, the decision will still have ramifications for the rest of the country. The Supreme Court tends to limit itself to cases in which different circuit courts have made contradictory rulings. If other circuit courts rule against open carry, those decisions will be appealed and one will in all probability be accepted by the Supreme Court.

Gun control advocates thought that they had won in 2016, when the entire 9th Circuit ruled in *Peruta v. County of San Diego* that the Second Amendment does not protect the right to concealed carry. Then the court ignored Supreme Court precedent, probably in the expectation that Hillary Clinton would be elected president...^{*10}



With Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez [*on television, above*], sometimes you just can't tell what's real and what's satire...

So up pops this story circulating last week on the interwebs, headlined, "Ocasio-Cortez Praises Venezuela For Making Everyone A Millionaire Through Hyperinflation." Funny, sure, but could it be real?

The piece says Ocasio-Cortez appeared on "Meet the Press" and "scolded American leaders for not setting the minimum wage as high as Venezuela, whose hyper-inflated currency is forcing minimum wage increases all year long." Venezuela has been in full meltdown, with inflation running so high that a 100,000-bolivar note is now worth less than 3 cents.

Ocasio-Cortez then pointed out that if we would just raise the minimum wage to somewhere in the millions like the socialist South American country did, everyone will be a millionaire.

"Venezuela's minimum wage is, like, millions per month, and ours isn't even close to that," she said. "Our minimum wage is, like, seven bucks or something. We call ourselves a developed country, but we don't even just like print nearly as much money as Venezuela and give it out for free, because of businesses and corporations and things like that."

The piece continues:

She also called Venezuela's leaders "really smart" for overloading the economy with more currency, and called on America's leadership to do the same. "It just goes to show that socialism is better because you can inflate the currency to a lot more, and more is better than less, obviously."

"It's just common sense, and you know, like, human rights and stuff," she added.

The piece was published by The Babylon Bee, described on Wikipedia as a "satirical evangelical Christian website" that is "famous for over-the-top satirical stories focusing on well known pastors, celebrities, and politicians."

Funny, sure, but this one really doesn't seem that over the top. ^{*11}

“EU Imposing Migration on Hungary is... Violence”

Sometimes, politics can get quite... personal. The latest exchange in the clash of the EU and Hungary seems to have reached the point where the players in the drama are involved to the maximum. Neither President of the European Commission (unelected) Jean-Claude Juncker, nor Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán (elected) are backing down on the issue of immigration.

Juncker seems to have accepted immigration as inevitable, and seems to have taken the position that sharing the burden of immigration through means of quota is the way forward. This he calls 'solidarity' in a letter to Orbán. In it, Juncker writes that:

"Indeed, the protection of the external borders of the Union is a matter of common concern, identified as a priority in our Migration Agenda since 2015, and the Commission is assisting all Member States in the protection of the Union's external borders and the management of migratory flows."

So far, so good. To have a European Union without borders, the outer borders of the Schengen-Area have to be protected—and it would be logical for all the Schengen countries to help pay the countries on those outer borders for border protection. Because in exchange they don't need to protect their own borders, and obviously the free travel has many (economic) benefits. But when Junckers uses words like 'solidarity' and 'management of migratory flows', what does he mean? Well, in the very next sentence he writes:

"In fact, in 2015, when Hungary was affected by the refugee crisis, the Commission proposed that an emergency relocation scheme would apply to Hungary, alongside Italy and Greece. Hungary, however, decided to reject this offer of concrete solidarity, declining the possibility to benefit from relocation of up to 54.000 persons and decided to return nearly 4 million Euro of EU funds pre-paid by the Commission to Hungary. Subsequently, Hungary has challenged the validity of the Council decisions on relocation before the Court of Justice."

That's not protecting the borders. The only 'management of migratory flows' accomplished by this plan is giving 'refugees' a free pass into Europe. And never mind that the relocation plan is failing and failing hard. The EU, in the shape of Juncker, is just completely unwilling to help countries that receive immigrants separate the wheat from the chaff. It loses billions of Euros on a deal with Turkey, but when Hungary ask it to pay half of its expenses for what is a very effective means of dealing with unasked, unwanted immigration, Juncker gets all high and mighty.

"I would also like to note that, in addressing the refugee crisis, Hungary has been able to rely on other forms of operational and financial support from the Commission and EU Agencies. In 2014-2015, Hungary received three emergency grants amounting to 6.26 million euro. I regret that, given the modest implementation rate by Hungary of these three grants, only around 33% of the funds were used and the unused funds were lost. To support the protection of external borders, Hungary should also rely on the EU funding already allocated under the national envelope of the Internal Security Fund "Borders", amounting to more than 40 million euro for the period 2014-2020."

To put this into perspective:

"Between 2007 and this year, Turkey was allocated roughly €4.8 billion, which is more than 40 percent of the EU's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance fund's (IPA) allocations. Of that, €2.68 billion was committed and €2.19 billion paid out. A further €1.65 billion has been allocated since 2014 but has not yet been paid out. Because the country is somehow still a candidate-member, it seems quite possible they will receive even more money in the future."

Adding insult to injury, Juncker mentions "other forms of assistance", namely the fact that

"the European Border and Coast Guard provides active operational support to Hungary with the deployment of currently 20 European border guards at the border sections with Serbia. At this stage, to the Commission's knowledge, the European Border and Coast Guard has not received any request from Hungary to increase this contingent."

Of course, Orbán wrote back:

"First of all, I am pleased to note that you also recognise Hungary's effort in border protection. In the past two years, Hungary has defended our common borders by mobilising budget resources, by building a protective fence, and by placing thousands of border-hunters into active duty."

Compare that to Brussel's measly 20 border guards. Orbán continues by reiterating Hungary's view on its responsibilities with regards to its position on the Schengen border:

"Hungary should always behave as a country where there are Schengen borders, but for geographical reasons, migrants can only enter the country if they have crossed the borders of the EU in other member states; mainly in Greece. For this reason, Hungary has not taken part and does not want to take part in projects that do not make this issue evident."

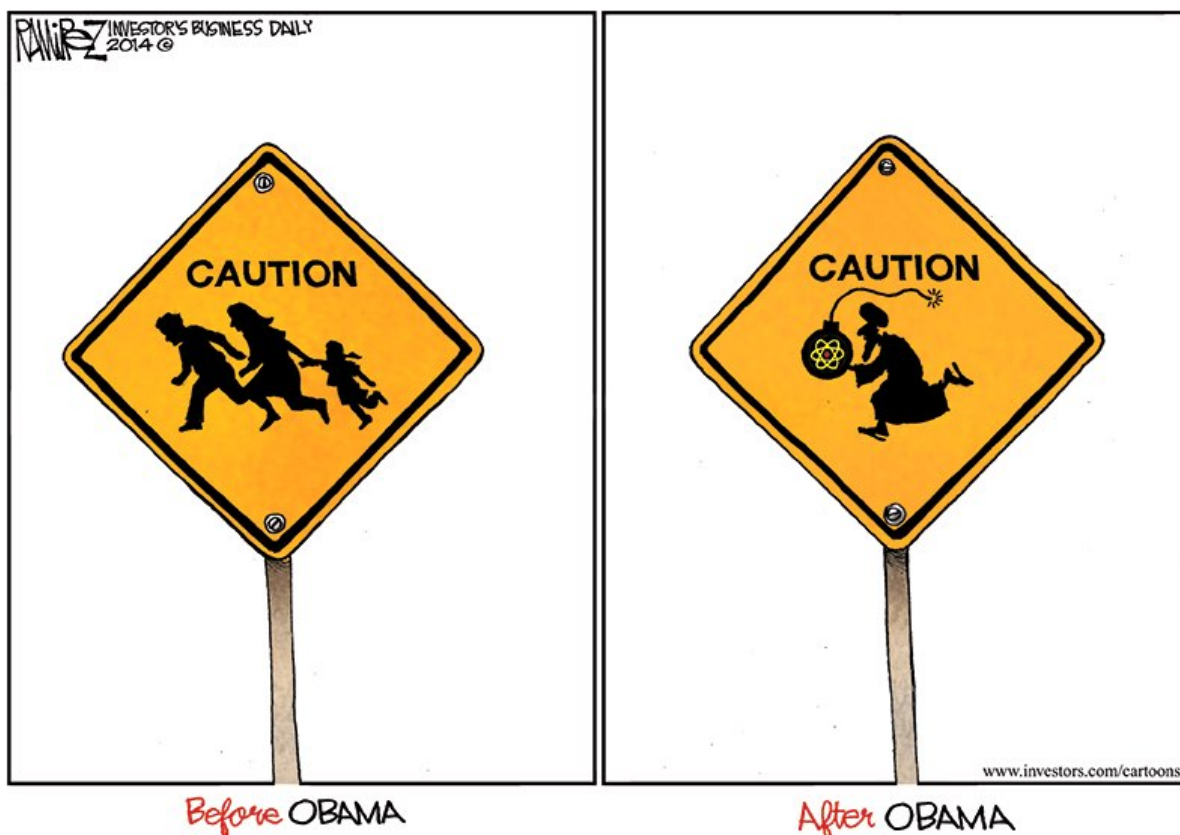
This paragraph points out something Juncker does not address: the fact that, in contradiction to EU Law, some migrants have taken it upon themselves to start the relocation process. Apparently, taking "management of

migratory flows” isn’t really that high on the agenda. A point Orbán hammers home later on in the letter, when he says that he was:

“... stunned and puzzled to read that you and the European Commission refuse to provide funds for the fence. I am convinced that those who do not support the fence cannot and do not want to protect the citizens of the European Union. It is impossible to defend ourselves against the numerous illegal border crossing attempts without setting up physical obstacles. If instead of defending our borders, the European Commission is willing to finance solely measures and organisations that aim to facilitate the admission of migrants, then we will only give new incentives to hundreds of thousands of migrants who wish to move to Europe, instead of curbing migration.”

This seems to be a valid point: in order to control migration, it is necessary to distinguish between those who, according to the law, can claim asylum and those who cannot. If there is no effective way to deport those that cannot claim asylum, the only solution is to effectively keep them out of the Schengen Area. This is exactly what Hungary is attempting to do—and with some success. By doing this, Hungary is protecting not just—or maybe more accurately, not mainly—Hungary itself, but Austrian, German and other European citizens as well. For all his talk about ‘solidarity’, Junckers shows with this letter, and not for the first time, that his brand of solidarity is not with European citizens. It is not with refugees. If Brussels keeps leaning on the Visegrád countries, we might see more than just a Brexit in the near future. To close it off, Orbán bluntly states that:

*“The interpretation of the principle of solidarity described in your letter is in essence the transformation of Hungary into an immigrant country, against the will of the Hungarian citizens. In my view, this is not solidarity, this is violence.” *12*



LBJ'S Democratic Plantation

The transformation of the Democratic Party from the party of racism and segregation to the party of civil rights is, according to historian Eric Rauchway, the central political arc of the 20th century. Rauchway is a left-wing historian, and what he means is that it is the central theme of *progressive* history about the twentieth century. Yet progressive history has become conventional wisdom, and it is that conventional wisdom I challenge in this article, excerpted from my new book...

The progressive narrative begins by crediting President Lyndon Johnson almost single-handedly for passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This focus on LBJ is critical because progressives don't want to admit that proportionately, more Republicans in Congress voted for those laws than Democrats. The main opposition to the civil rights movement didn't come from the Republican Party; it came from the Democratic Party. These inconvenient truths are skipped through a singular focus on LBJ.

Progressives know that LBJ, in his early career, was a bigot and a segregationist. He was part of the most racist wing of the Democratic Party. Yet progressives like Rauchway and his sidekick Kevin Kruse have turned LBJ into one of their great icons. In some respects, this is understandable. The Left, in recent decades, has distanced itself from Andrew Jackson and Woodrow Wilson, who respectively were the founder of the Democratic Party and the first progressive Democratic president. The progressives need LBJ, just as they need FDR, if they are to have any heroes at all.

And, boy, has LBJ become a progressive cult hero! Antifa and Black Lives Matter activists wouldn't dream of yanking down LBJ statues. That's because the progressive narrative for LBJ is even more positive than it is for FDR, at least as far as race is concerned. LBJ was the "flawed giant," in the title of a biography by historian Robert Dallek. Marshall Frady in the *New York Review of Books* affectionately calls him "the big guy" and revels in his "brawling, uncontrollable aliveness," his "galumphing conviviality."

The story that Rauchway, Kruse, Dallek and other progressives tell about LBJ is a triumphant account of how a redneck white country boy underwent a moral transformation. To paraphrase Obama, the arc of his life bent toward justice. When he got the power, he used it for good.

According to the left-wing journalist Bill Moyers, LBJ once told him that as a consequence of supporting civil rights laws, "we just delivered the South to the Republican Party for a long time to come." This seems so altruistic on the part of a famously cynical man as to almost inspire wonder. And as progressives tell it, the political transformation of the Democratic Party was no less altruistic and wondrous.

That's because in miniature the progressive narrative about LBJ mirrors the progressive narrative of the Democratic Party. As the narrative goes, civil rights was no less of a political risk for a party previously wedded to white supremacy than it was for LBJ. Yet the Democrats were up to the challenge, and came out better for it. For LBJ as for the Democrats, a faulty start led to a happy ending. The party of bad guys became the party of good guys.

This account of LBJ is unbelievable and fantastic, by which I mean it cannot be believed and is the product of fantasy. Is it really plausible that a man obsessed with politics, whom historian Doris Kearns Goodwin termed "the greatest political bargainer of them all," a man who once said he thinks about the subject of politics for 18 hours a day, would bargain away his party's interests without recompense to the other side "for a long time to come"?

If such strange behavior was indeed the result of a wrenching transformation there is no plausible evidence for it, not from Dallek, not from Goodwin, not even from biographer Robert Caro, who seems to have followed LBJ's life virtually day by day for decades and is working on the fifth massive volume of his LBJ biography. LBJ told no one of his great conversion, he never wrote about it or made a speech about it, so if it happened he kept it entirely to himself.

Here is a man who, according to a memo filed by FBI agent William Branigan, seems to have been in the Ku Klux Klan. This memo was only revealed in recent months, with the release of the JFK Files. Progressive media—even progressive historians—largely have ignored it, trying to pretend it does not exist. Branigan cites a source with direct knowledge, even though he does not name his source. As one blogger notes, no one with even a cursory knowledge of LBJ's background could regard his involvement with the KKK as a shock or a surprise.

So how does a Klansman change his spots and become a moral idealist without telling anyone? Moreover, it seems difficult to credit moral idealism to a manifestly dishonest man. Here my exhibit is LBJ's 1965 address at Howard University, which progressives celebrate because in it LBJ makes a bold defense of affirmative action. "You do not take a man who, for years, has been hobbled by chains, liberate him, bring him to the starting line of a race saying 'You are free to compete with all the others' and still believe you have been fair . . . We seek not just freedom but opportunity; not just legal equity but human ability; not just equality as a right and a theory, but equality as a fact and result."

Impressive stuff, as far as it goes. But how far does it really go? The merits of LBJ's argument have been debated ever since by the Left and the Right. But what typically goes unnoticed is that LBJ's telling silence on why blacks were for so long hobbled by chains and also on who it was that hobbled them. Let's recall that here we have a longtime Southern segregationist giving an account of the sins of segregation in the third person as if he were a mere observer, not a participant.

Even so, Dallek's only comment about LBJ's Howard address is that, in retrospect, it seems "excessively hopeful," as if LBJ's only problem is an excess of moral idealism. The progressive historian Ira Katznelson, one of the few to notice LBJ's complete omission of his own role in the events he is describing, nevertheless downplays its significance by noting of LBJ, "His personal record and sense of pride were at odds with the quality of his history." In short, he lied.

Katznelson adds that LBJ "missed the chance to come to terms with the most dismal, even exploitative, aspects of the New Deal." This, he frets, must have been "particularly agonizing" for him. I don't know whether to regard this as naïve or sneaky on Katznelson's part. Surely Katznelson is smart enough to know LBJ had not the slightest intention of fessing up that he was a member of the racist group that hobbled blacks. If he had, his audience immediately would have recognized that the very man who poisoned the waters was now hypocritically pretending to show up as the water commissioner.

Third, by every account, LBJ was a nasty, bullying, crude, selfish, mean-spirited, and abusive individual. These are not qualities that we associate with a moral exemplar undergoing a crisis of conscience. There was the time he gave dictation to a female secretary while urinating in a corner washbasin. In the account of a Senate aide, on another occasion, while sitting next to a woman in his car with his wife Lady Bird on the other side, "Johnson made a point of placing one of his hands under the woman's skirt and was having a big time, right there in front of Lady Bird." There is much, much more in this vein in Caro's biography. I don't need to go into LBJ's serial infidelities, even in the Oval Office, his chronic boasting about the women he had conquered, the name that he gave to his penis, his

boasting about its size, and so on. Suffice to say that Johnson would not survive five minutes of scrutiny by the #MeToo movement. LBJ, like JFK and Bill Clinton, reflects the priapic aggression of the prototypical plantation boss.

Yet even more than the other two, he liked to lord it over people, not just women but everyone. As Caro shows on page after page, he derived pleasure from degrading and humiliating others. He was known to converse with aides in his office bathroom while emptying his bowels, which Marshall Frady interprets as a sign of his “Rabelasian earthiness” but which less charitably reveals an ugly demonstration of his power over subordinates.

LBJ was a pervert in every sense of the word; if I can pursue the excremental theme, he was into this shit. As LBJ himself put it, he wanted the type of person working for him “who will kiss my ass in the Macy’s window and stand up and say, ‘Boy, wasn’t that sweet!’” Surely many Democratic plantation bosses of the 19th century could have said pretty much the same thing.

A Lifelong Bigot

These traits do not describe the “old” LBJ, prior to some moral transformation. This is who LBJ was the whole time. And the same is true of LBJ’s racism. We can see this in LBJ’s use of the term “nigger” or “uppity nigger.” LBJ didn’t just use these terms in the early days, when under the tutelage of his segregationist mentor Richard Russell he upheld segregation, upheld the poll tax, and fought to undermine anti-lynching laws. No, LBJ showed a special fondness for them when he was Senate leader, vice president and president—in other words, the very time when, supposedly, he was undergoing his moral transformation.

In the mid-1960s, LBJ nominated African-American lawyer Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court. When an aide suggested to LBJ that there were other qualified black jurists he could have chosen, suggesting as an alternative possibility Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, LBJ responded, “The only two people who ever heard of Judge Higginbotham are you and his momma. When I appoint a nigger to the court, I want everyone to know he’s a nigger.”

This was in 1965, one year after LBJ helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act. The man he called a “nigger” was the nation’s most prominent African-American attorney who had argued the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case. Yet progressive historian Robert Dallek, who recounts this episode, interprets it in a way to minimize LBJ’s culpability. “Johnson’s pejorative language was partly his way of intimidating a new staff member or of showing how tough and demanding he was.”

Yet for LBJ this kind of talk was a consistent pattern. The same year, LBJ told his aide Joseph Califano that the black riots in the Watts area of Los Angeles showed how blacks could not control their emotions. Pretty soon, Johnson warned, “Negroes will end up pissing in the aisles of the Senate and making fools of themselves, the way . . . they had after the Civil War and during Reconstruction.” The very fact that LBJ continued to embrace this view of Reconstruction—once promoted by the progressive racists of the Dunning School and popularized by Thomas Dixon in *The Clansman and Birth of a Nation*—suggests that contrary to progressive rumor, LBJ’s racism was never rehabilitated.

Robert Caro describes an incident involving Robert Parker, LBJ’s chauffeur. Parker recalled the occasion when Senator Johnson asked him whether he would prefer to be called “boy,” “nigger” or “chief.” Parker asked to be called by his name. Johnson erupted, “As long as you’re black, and you’re going to be black till the day you die, no one’s gonna call you by your goddamn name. So no matter what you are called, nigger, you just let it roll off your back like water and you’ll make it. Just pretend you’re a goddamn piece of furniture.”

Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, in an otherwise positive biography *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*, cites LBJ telling Senator Richard Russell during the debate over the Civil Rights Act of 1957, “These Negroes, they’re getting pretty uppity these days and that’s a problem for us since they’ve got something they never had before, the political pull to back up their uppityness. Now we’ve got to do something about this, we’ve got to give them a little something, just enough to quiet them down, not enough to make a difference.”

This admission is telling not merely because of its use of the insulting reference to the “uppityness” of blacks, but also because it shows that LBJ’s support for civil rights legislation wasn’t the result of some moral awakening on his part; rather, it was part of a strategy. This notion is confirmed by what LBJ allegedly told two governors regarding the Civil Rights Act of 1964. “I’ll have them niggers voting Democratic for 200 years.”

Some progressives—notably the “fact checking” site Snopes—have questioned this quotation, which appears in Ronald Kessler’s *Inside the White House* but not in any other source. Kessler attributes it to Air Force One steward Robert MacMillan, who claims to have heard LBJ say this. And as we can see the quotation is consistent with several others whose veracity is undoubted. My conclusion is that LBJ remained the vile bigoted Democrat he always was, and the notion that he underwent some sort of enlightened conversion is pure humbug.

How Declining Racism Became a Problem

It is time to reinterpret LBJ’s “conversion,” and to do this, we must try to imagine the political landscape that LBJ saw before him, a landscape very different from the one that FDR encountered a generation earlier. Two big things were changing and fast. First, white racism was declining precipitously all over the country, but especially in the South. Second, blacks were getting up and moving out of the rural South, and many of them were voting for the first time. Both these things were a big problem for the Democratic Party.

Let’s take them in sequence. As innumerable surveys confirm, white racism—at least white racism of the old sort, which is to say old-fashioned hatred of blacks, holding them to be inferior beings, and sanctioning violence and degrading treatment of them—this type of racism plummeted through the late 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. So sweeping was the change that many survey questions routinely asked prior to World War II—are blacks entitled to the same legal rights as whites? Would you consider voting for a black candidate for political office?—are no longer even asked because white support for these things is nearly universal.

Political leaders across the spectrum noticed the change, some earlier than others. Harry Truman saw it even in the late 1940s, and this—not some moral evolution to a higher state of being—is the sea change in American public opinion that pressured him to desegregate the military. LBJ also knew this because he could see it, even in the Texas backcountry.

Now it is tempting to believe that racism declined in America because of the moral suasion of the civil rights movement, but to believe this is to put the cart before the horse, as most progressive accounts predictably do. The reason they do this is so that they can credit LBJ and progressive activism with the civil rights laws, and then credit those laws not only with creating legal equality but also with combating racism. In reality, however, the steep decline in racism preceded the civil rights movement. The civil rights movement didn’t facilitate it; it facilitated the civil rights movement.

Think about why Martin Luther King, Jr., encountered so little intellectual resistance to his challenges to segregation. Fifty years earlier, he would have. This is not to deny that local officials, like Birmingham Sheriff Bull Connor, unleashed dogs and hoses on civil rights protesters. King himself served time as a political prisoner in the Birmingham jail, an experience that strikes a chord with me. But by this time the intellectual fight had been won. The local segregationist establishment, not King, was on the defensive. That's because popular opinion in America had shifted dramatically between the time FDR died in 1945 and the 1960s.

So what caused the shift? The obvious answer is: Adolf Hitler. In the end, the horrific crimes of Hitler overthrew the doctrine of white supremacy. Once American troops entered the concentration camps, once people saw those ghostly emaciated figures emerge out of the camps, they could not longer subscribe to theories of Nordic superiority they might once have held. Those doctrines were now permanently discredited.

The progressive historian George Fredrickson points out in *Racism: A Short History* that the very word "racism" came into common use only in the 1930s "when a new word was required to describe the theories on which the Nazis based their persecution of the Jews." This shows how closely linked racism and Nazism were in the popular mind, and helps confirm that it was the Nazis who, against their intentions of course, finally put white supremacy into the grave.

We can imagine that LBJ watched with horror the decline of racism in America, not simply because he was a nasty bigot himself—and bigotry loves company—but also because white supremacy had been the central political doctrine of the Democratic Party for at least a century. Once the Republicans ended slavery the Democrats turned swiftly to white supremacy which became the glue, both in the North and the South, holding the party together.

With racism dwindling fast, LBJ knew his party would lose voters whose allegiance to the Democrats had been based on the party's support for racist policies. This was a serious problem. From the Democrats' point of view, it meant that if racism could not be revived—and there was no way after Nazism to revive it—then the party would need new voters, and lots of them, in order to compensate for the losses in white racist voters who were regrettably losing their prejudices.

Where to look? There was only one place: black voters. And blacks in the 1950s and 1960s were voting in greater numbers than ever before. For the first half of the twentieth century, the Democrats had through racial intimidation and other means largely suppressed the black vote in the South, where the vast majority of blacks lived. But starting around World War I, a great migration occurred in which blacks over the next several decades literally got up and moved.

As Isabel Wilkerson writes in *The Warmth of Other Suns*, some 6 million blacks—nearly half of the entire black population of the rural South—left the farms, plantations and cotton fields of that region and moved to cities like New York, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia. Some moved to smaller cities like Milwaukee and Oakland. The great migration was, as Wilkerson puts it, "an unrecognized immigration within this country."

In the cities, blacks could vote and did vote, so for the first time in American politics, the black vote became significant by the late 1940s and 1950s. The black vote was especially important in swing states like Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania. Fully aware of this, Republicans offered the most sweeping and forceful endorsement of civil rights for blacks to appear in any party platform since the nineteenth century. The party of Lincoln was making a bid for these new black voters.

Again, this was as major problem for LBJ and the Democrats. LBJ knew that in order to make up for the racist vote the Democrats must win not just some black votes, not just a majority of black votes, but virtually all the black votes. The Democrats needed blacks to be just as uniformly loyal to the Democratic Party as white racists previously had been. LBJ had to figure a way for blacks to vote for Democratic candidates automatically, habitually, regardless of the qualities or qualifications of the Democrat on the ticket.

Plantation Confessions

But how to achieve this? After all, Democrats had been segregating, degrading and abusing blacks for a long time. LBJ knew this as well as anyone because he had been one of the abusers. How then to convince blacks, who were now voting, to vote *en masse* for a party that had enslaved them, had formulated a “positive good” doctrine of black enslavement, had invented segregation and Jim Crow, racial terrorism and the Ku Klux Klan, and was still the party of bigotry in the 1960s?

LBJ realized that the Democrats could no longer whip the blacks into submission, as in the past. The Democrats needed a new relationship with blacks and on different terms than before. However reluctant LBJ may have been to admit it—we see that reluctance in his statements to fellow Democratic bigots in the Senate—he was also a realist. If he wanted virtually unanimous black support for the Democrats, he knew he couldn’t just beat it out of them; he would for the first time in the party’s history have to woo them.

But how? This is a difficult topic to talk about, and I am about to go into controversial territory. I have to tread carefully. I don’t know a better way, however, than to illustrate the state of mind of a sizable segment of African Americans in the aftermath of slavery—a state of mind that became critical to LBJ as he attempted to solve his political conundrum.

I turn to Eugene Genovese’s great study of slavery, *Roll, Jordan, Roll*, widely considered to be the best work on the subject. Genovese relays the testimonies of several slaves who were interviewed after they became free. We might expect them vividly to describe the horrors of enslavement, and they did. But they also confessed to something else. I quote verbatim from these accounts.

Here’s Andrew Goodman, interviewed at the age of 97: “I was born in slavery and I think them days was better for the niggers than the days we see now. One thing was, I never was cold and hungry when my old master lived, and I has been plenty hungry and cold a lot of times since he is gone. But sometimes I think Marse Goodman was the bestest man God made in a long time. The slaves cried when told we were free ‘cause they don’t know where to go, and they’s always ‘pend on old Marse to look after them.”

Here’s Henri Necaise of Mississippi: “To tell de truth, de fact of de business is, my marster took care of me better’n I can take care of myself now. When us was slaves Marster tell us what to do. He say, ‘Henri, do dis, do dat. And us done it. Den us didn’t have to think where de next meal comin’ from, or de next pair of shoes or pants. De grub and clothes give us was better’n I ever gets now.”

Here’s Ezra Adams: “De slaves on our plantation didn’t stop workin’ for old marster even when dey was told dat dey was free. Us didn’t want no more freedom than us was gittin’ on our planation already. Us knowed too well dat us was well took care of, wid plenty of vittles to eat and tight log and board houses to live in. De slaves, where I lived, knowed after de war dat they had abundance of dat something called freedom, what they could not eat, wear and

sleep in. Yes, sir, they soon found out dat freedom ain't nothin' 'less you got somethin' to live on and a place to call home. Dis living' on liberty is lak young folks livin' on love after they gits married. It just don't work."

As an immigrant who came to America with \$500 in my pocket and no family here, no connections, nothing to fall back on, I know at least a little what it's like to be flung into freedom. I am hardly comparing my experience to that of former slaves but in India I did see the people known as Dalits or "untouchables." Those people have historically been treated worse than slaves; they are so reviled that traditional Hindus would not allow their shadow to cross over them. The untouchables, too, fell into a kind of collective stupor in which they could hardly imagine a route of escape from their degraded lot.

Based on that experience, I have nothing but sympathy for these poor slaves who had been turned into complete dependents during slavery and were then hurled into freedom in a society where, to put it mildly, they were not welcome. Thus I am not criticizing their longing for the security of the old plantation; I am merely recognizing it as a natural and powerful response to their dire situation.

LBJ would have recognized it just as I do. The difference is that I get it from books, reinforced by my own, admittedly quite different, experience. But LBJ grew up in the Texas Hill Country. He was a redneck from the rural backwoods. He knew people like Andrew Goodman, Henri Necaise, and Ezra Adams. He understood their insecurity; he understood their fear, in part because he was helping to create it. And now, years and even decades later, LBJ saw a way to exploit that insecurity and fear to offer blacks a new arrangement. This deal became the essence of LBJ's Great Society.

A Corrupt Bargain

Here's the bargain that LBJ offered African Americans. We Democrats are going to create a new plantation for you, this time in the towns and cities. On these new plantations, unlike on the old ones, you don't have to work. In fact, we would prefer if you didn't work. We are going to support you through an array of so-called poverty programs and race-based programs. Essentially we will provide you with lifetime support, just as in the days of slavery. Your job is simply to keep voting us in power so that we can continue to be your caretakers and providers.

Here's the part LBJ did not say. We are offering you a living, but it's going to be a pretty meager living. Basically you get public housing, food stamps, retirement checks every month, and medical care for the poor. If you have children we will subsidize them, provided they are illegitimate. More than this we cannot offer you, because we have to make sure that you stay on the plantation. This means that we need you to remain dependent on us so that you keep voting for us. Your dependency is our insurance policy to make sure that this an exchange, not a giveaway.

In sum, LBJ modified the progressive plantation so that blacks, for the first time, would be treated as constituents, much as the Irish were in the Tammany days. No longer would Democrats directly rip off the blacks by stealing their labor. Now blacks would become partners with Democrats in a scheme to steal from other Americans. Through a variety of taxes, regulations and mandates, those would be the guys paying for the Democratic plantation.

What made the scheme beautiful, from the Democrats' point of view, is that through the state the Democrats could force even Republicans to pay for their new urban plantation. In fact, the very sufferings that Democrats historically had imposed on blacks would now supply the moral capital for demanding that "America" make blacks whole. Future arguments for reparations and affirmative action would emphasize not what the Democrats did but what

"America" did. Now the American taxpayer would be on the hook for correcting the wrongs perpetrated by the Democrats.

LBJ knew, of course, that not all blacks live in inner cities. Less than half of African Americans today do, and that was also the case in the mid-'60s. It was never LBJ's intention for all blacks actually to inhabit the urban plantation. Rather, he wanted about half to live there, dependent on the government, and for the other half to work for the government, serving the urban plantation. These blacks could now be considered overseers of the Democratic plantation.

LBJ knew that if the government were to employ blacks on a large scale it would draw blacks out of fields like teaching, preaching, and small business. Teachers, pastors and entrepreneurs would now become administrators, service providers, and social workers. In sum, they would lose their skills for succeeding in the private sector and learn only how to administer the agencies of government. They too would become captives of a sort, fatally dependent on the Democratic plantation. They too would have no way to leave.

From the perspective of LBJ's deal, African Americans could now look to the federal government as a new type of Big House. LBJ himself would be Massa, although he could be considered a good master as long as blacks lived up to their end of the deal. And LBJ probably genuinely believed it was a good deal for blacks. After all, who else gets a living from cradle to grave without having to work! Even so, shrewd artificer that he was, LBJ must have known that he was making blacks complicit in their own captivity, a captivity no less real for being voluntary. Few would actually have a chance to escape from the Democrats' urban plantation. Some might even learn to love the plantation.

Blacks took the deal for the following reasons. First, having come out of the haunting experience of slavery and sharecropping, many of them were terrified of what African-American writer Shelby Steele terms the "shock of freedom." Much as we would all feel in a similar situation, to them a meager security seemed preferable to the risk of not being able to survive. Second, some blacks had come to believe—as some do now—that because of past oppression, America owes them a living.

Republicans of course know there is some truth to this, which is why during Reconstruction Republicans attempted to give blacks a fair start but were thwarted in these efforts by racist Democrats. Today's Democrats, however, are all too eager to affirm that blacks require the lifetime support of the U.S. government because this then provides the pathway to political dependency on the Democratic Party.

One consequence of LBJ's deal is that race, which black leaders from Frederick Douglass to Booker T. Washington to Martin Luther King Jr. had been trying to eradicate from public life now took on a new significance. Now blacks wanted to be known as black, and black even became "beautiful." No was one surprised when progressive pundit Cornel West published a book called *Race Matters*. As Shelby Steele wryly noted, race never mattered to such people when there was no profit in it for them...

That's why LBJ "converted" from a racist Democrat who sought to keep blacks down on the old sharecropping plantation to a racist Democrat who sought to create a new type of plantation where blacks would now willingly vote for their Democratic providers. That's why LBJ pushed the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and the Great Society. That's why progressives lionize LBJ even though they know what a vile scumbag he was. He's their guy; he is the creator of their urban plantation in its most modern and most recognizable form. And that's why blacks have become, as a group, the lifetime servile dependents of the Democratic Party. *¹³

DEMOCRATS 1860

SHUT UP N****ER!
I OWN HIM!



DEMOCRATS 2016

SHUT UP UNCLE TOM!
I OWN HIS VOTE!



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God

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