

# Buzz [Rev. 20180908]

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

## Shocking Study Reveals 90% of Global Plastic Waste Comes From Just Ten Rivers in Asia and Africa

As governments around the world rush to address the global problem of plastic pollution in the oceans, researchers have now pinpointed the river systems that carry the majority of it out to sea.

About five trillion pounds is floating in the sea, and targeting the major sources—such as the Yangtze and the Ganges—could almost halve it, scientists claim.

Carried out by Germany's Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, it suggests that the most effective way of reducing the amount of plastic in the world's oceans is by addressing the sources of pollution along such waterways as these.

The researchers, who first released their paper in 2017, issued a chilling warning for the future.

'One thing is certain: this situation cannot continue,' Dr. Christian Schmidt, a hydrogeologist at the Germany's Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research said when the study was first published.

'But as it is impossible to clean up the plastic debris that is already in the oceans, we must take precautions and reduce the input of plastic quickly and efficiently.'

His team analysed data on debris from 79 sampling sites along 57 rivers—both microplastic particles measuring less than 5 mm and macroplastic above this size.

China's Yangtze River was the worst polluter, and ferries some 1.5 million tonnes of plastic into the Yellow Sea every year, the study found.

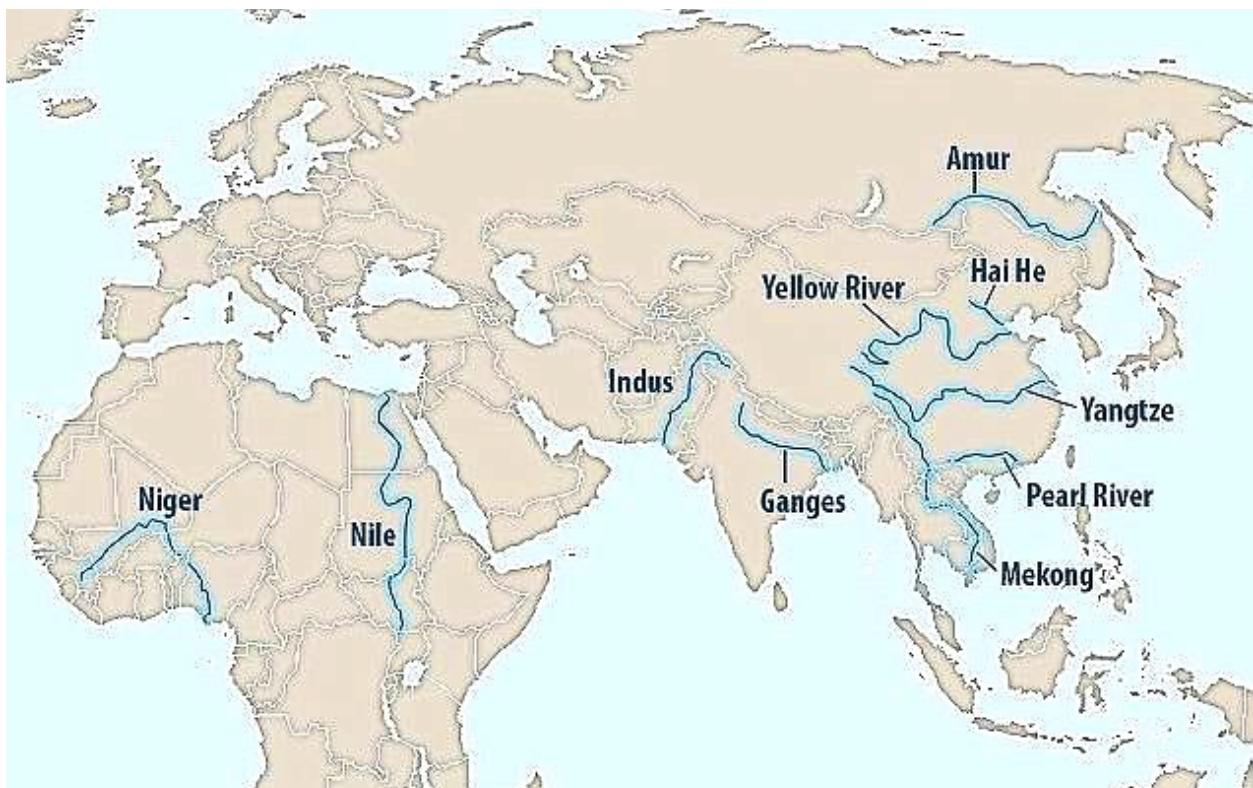
They said microplastics in particular can damage the health of marine life but cleaning it all up would be impossible...

The results show large rivers play a critical role.

'The rivers with the highest estimated plastic loads are characterised by high population—for instance the Yangtze with over half a billion people.'

'These rivers are also in countries with a high rate of mismanaged plastic waste (MMPW) production per capita as a result of a not fully implemented municipal waste management including waste collection, dumping and recycling.'

The team wrote in the journal 'Environmental Science & Technology' that the problem has now become a global issue... <sup>\*1</sup>



ABOVE: 'THE WORLD'S TEN MOST POLLUTING RIVERS ARE IN AFRICA, INDIA AND CHINA, WITH THE YANGTZE PRODUCING MOST WASTE' \*1



© VCG via Getty Images

ABOVE: 'CHINA'S YANGTZE RIVER... FERRIES SOME 1.5 MILLION TONNES OF PLASTIC INTO THE YELLOW SEA EVERY YEAR' \*1

## Disruption Ahead—and Regulation

... Apple [a \$1 Trillion company] epitomizes the reality that digital companies are no longer scrappy entrepreneurs poised to bring down “the man,” as Apple famously styled itself in an epoch-setting Super Bowl commercial in 1984. Now, powerful Silicon Valley rules the roost. Perhaps symbolic of today’s digital gilded age is the fact that Apple’s leviathan new headquarters cost five times more to build than the Pentagon (in real dollars). The history of technology revolutions suggests that Apple’s trillion-dollar milestone—and similar valuations soon to be reached by a half-dozen other digital companies—signals that our new era is far from maturing; it’s just starting to roll. This means that the social, economic, and political disruptions caused by digital technologies have only begun.

History also provides some lessons on what to expect. Comparisons are often made to the electric utility industry, but the granddaddy of tech revolutions, the railroads, provides the best analogy. In 1878, Cornelius Vanderbilt sat in the New York City headquarters of the company he headed, the New York Central Railroad, when it reached the first \$100 million valuation on the New York Stock Exchange. That single railroad company—known for its technological sophistication and the speed of its locomotives—accounted for a 7 percent share of the value of all companies then on the exchange; Apple’s current valuation is less than half as significant, relative to today’s market. The New York Central’s 1878 benchmark didn’t signal the end of rail, but rather the mid-point of an era in which the railways would be a central driving force in the economy for another 30 years. Only then did the automobile capture more per capita travel. Meantime, the New York Central continued operations for 90 years after its 1878 milestone. As one gauge of how much our unfolding digital era still stands to grow, consider that the collective revenues of today’s tech companies equal about 30 percent of the federal budget. In 1878, railroad revenues equaled 150 percent of federal government revenues.

But the analogies go beyond money. Pre-rail society was agrarian, and commerce could only be transacted at the speed of a horse or boat. The railroad created the America we live in today, an industrialized society where commerce is conducted at the speed of light. Rail systems “collapsed distance,” transforming the social and economic landscape. Rail dictated where towns were located and how they were laid out, where people lived, and how they traveled. As one historian wrote, rail brought “everybody . . . within the reach of the market [and] ended generations of economic isolation.” The geographic reach and velocity of rail operations also required a radical change in the way business was organized and managed, thus giving birth to a new corporate structure that remains the standard today. And railroads, not Congress, created the time zones, critical to the then-new velocity of commerce. Entrepreneurs used rail infrastructure to build massive new businesses, notably Montgomery Ward and Sears, the Alibaba and Amazon of their day.

It was the fortuitous invention of telegraphy that made the rail system possible, because railways could not operate without the ability to exchange safety and scheduling information at speeds faster than the rail cars could move; before then, information traveled by Pony Express. Thus, as telegraph wires followed the new rail corridors, the new *physical* infrastructure literally dragged along and accelerated the productive use of a new *information* infrastructure. The atoms dragged the bits.

And it was the fortuitous invention of the wireless Internet that made smartphones and the cloud possible, because none of what has since changed the world could happen from isolated desktop PCs or cloistered mainframes. Now, in the era of the cloud and e-commerce, the symbiosis between bits and atoms is reversed. The cloud’s information infrastructure is forcing a revolution in the location and nature of physical industries from “bricks-and-mortar” commerce and warehousing to manufacturing. Today the bits drag the atoms along.

The digital revolution is still unfolding. The amount of venture capital invested each year to fund tech startups (tomorrow's Apples) exceeds the individual GDP of 120 countries; many tech marvels have yet to emerge, from bioelectronics to true cognitive computing. For a prescient articulation of the digital age yet to come, I recommend a short lecture (appropriately immortalized on YouTube) that Steve Jobs gave in 1985 at Sweden's Lund University—a school founded in 1666, in the era of Isaac Newton.

Historians have noted that even the most farsighted rail executives failed to anticipate the profound and broadly beneficial social transformations that the rail era would bring about. We are similarly myopic about the future implications of the digital era. But promises of economic growth and new conveniences do not diminish anxieties about the leaders and the companies that invent and promulgate the new technologies. Consider an *Atlantic* magazine exposé of the railroad industry around the time of Vanderbilt's 1878 stock market record. "In less than the ordinary span of a life-time," wrote H.D. Lloyd in 1881, "our railroads have brought upon us the worst labor disturbance, the greatest of monopolies, and the most formidable combination of money and brains that ever overshadowed a state. The time has come to face the fact that the forces of capital and industry have outgrown the forces of our government."

The phrase, and enduring mythology about, "robber barons" was itself created in the rail era, notably by Vanderbilt's competitors, and then eagerly embraced by the media; it continues to have salience today. Echoing the media of 150 years ago, a recent *New Yorker* essay typifies today's techno-alarmism: "American democracy is struggling to withstand the rampant, profit-based manipulation [by Silicon Valley] of the public's emotions and hatreds." Given the power of Big Tech companies, others have similarly written, "our culture, economy, and politics are all at stake." And when tech titans defend themselves by claiming that "we're making the world a better place," their protests have the same hollow ring to the proverbial man on the street as the apocryphal assertion 65 years ago of General Motors' chairman that "What's good for GM is good for America."

It was public anxiety over the social and political disruptions emanating from the power of the railroads, eagerly amplified by the media, that caused Congress in 1887 to create the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), the progenitor of all subsequent economic regulatory agencies in the long march toward today's Administrative State. The rail barons learned, as today's tech titans are now (finally) learning, that the federal government holds the trump cards when it comes to reining in both real and perceived abuses of the public trust.

With other tech companies set to follow Apple to the \$1 trillion milestone, we should expect a lot more media and political heat yet. To deflect public opprobrium and government overreach, companies have stepped up their lobbying and public relations efforts. But if history is any gauge, there's a political law of nature wherein foundational technological revolutions breed new regulatory entities. It began with the ICC's attempt to throttle the rail magnates and continued with every one of modern history's other iconic revolutions. Chemistry, electricity, telephony, radio/TV, automobiles, aircraft, pharmaceuticals, and nuclear fission all inspired Congress to create technology-specific regulatory entities: the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Aviation Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to name but a few.

Vanderbilt's stock market record of 1878 happened contemporaneously with the enactment of the ICC. So far, Apple has managed to reach a stock market record of its own without the emergence of a fledgling Interstate Data Commission. But had Benjamin Franklin lived in the age of the Administrative State, he might have modified his iconic aphorism to suggest that there are three inevitable things in life: death, taxes, and regulation. <sup>\*2</sup>

## Progressive Delusions

When I was in college, a liberal professor drew a diagram on the blackboard. It was a scale, with the right side more heavily weighted than the left. He claimed this was a representation of how money and power are on the side of the right in the United States. I was astonished. How could someone say something so obviously untrue? And yet my former professor isn't alone. Millions of Americans agree with him despite all evidence to the contrary. Progressives really do believe that the right has more money and power than the left. To justify their claim that the right has more power in the United States, many progressives point to the fact that the presidency and both houses of Congress are currently controlled by the Republican Party. However, these are only the elected positions in government. The bureaucracy is heavily left-wing. Washington, D.C. is heavily Democratic, as are the surrounding counties in Maryland and Northern Virginia. Many residents of the Washington metropolitan area are government employees. Besides, political power is less important than institutional power. The corporations, media, entertainment, and academia in the United States and the rest of the Western world have been dominated by the left for decades.

Big corporations are strongly liberal, frequently singing the praises of progressive values such as "diversity" and "inclusion." Many progressives who rail against corporations would be surprised to find that both the CEOs and employees of the big corporations they protested against in Occupy Wall Street have the much same political views as they do. Most of the people who both run and work for big corporations are left-wing, and those who claim to be conservative often have liberal views on everything except economics. This is especially true of tech companies such as Google, Twitter, Facebook, and Apple, which are based in Silicon Valley in the heavily left-wing Bay area. Many billionaires are left-wing, such as Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Warren Buffett, and of course George Soros. These people contribute millions and in some cases billions of dollars to progressive causes. Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City, plans to spend \$80 million to try to flip control of the House of Representatives to the Democrats this November. He also spoke to the Democratic National Convention in 2016, as did fellow billionaire Tom Steyer in 2012. In response, progressives often point to conservative billionaires such as the Koch brothers and Donald Trump. But these are very much the exception to the rule, and the Koch brothers aren't all that conservative. They support same-sex marriage, mass immigration, amnesty, free trade, and are #NeverTrumpers. The only things that make them conservative are their support of low taxes and opposition to unions.

The mainstream media also has a strong left-wing bias, which is most prominent in networks such as CNN and MSNBC. In the 2016 election, 96% of political donations made by journalists went to Hillary Clinton, and a 2014 study found that four times as many journalists identified as Democrats than Republicans. Progressives will of course respond, "but what about Fox News?" It is true that Fox News is biased to the right, but all the other networks are biased in the other direction. Many progressives claim that the media is a check on the power of government and corporations, holding the powerful accountable for their actions. This is just ridiculous. In the United States, 90% of the media is controlled by six big corporations. The *Washington Post* is owned by Jeff Bezos, the richest man in the world; and the largest shareholder in the *New York Times* is Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim. Do progressives not realize that the "free and independent press" they crow about is bought and paid for by the very same big corporations they have deluded themselves into thinking are controlled by the right? Do they really expect journalists employed by these publications to cover the news objectively?

To see media bias, look no further than how they cover stories differently based on politics. Eric Schneiderman, the former Democratic attorney general of New York, physically abused his Sri Lankan American girlfriend and called her his "brown slave." If he had been a Republican, there would have been countless op-eds and news segments about how this was proof that racism was rampant on the right, and that his behavior was inspired by Trump's rhetoric. But Schneiderman was a Democrat, and the incident just faded away. And the bias doesn't stop with mere

liberalism or progressivism. Recently there has been a rise in pro-communist and pro-Marxist articles from publications such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and even “The Week.” Many important publications praised Karl Marx on his 200th birthday this May 5. Michael Moore, one of the most influential liberals in the United States, wished Marx a happy birthday. All these people and publications are considered mainstream. Meanwhile, any right-wing publication that opposes mass immigration is branded “far right.” It is not an exaggeration to say that the media is less critical of communism than it is of conservatism.

Once upon a time the elites in most Western countries were staunchly conservative. But that is no longer the case and hasn't been for a very long time. And yet progressives claim to be the underdogs when the entire power structure is on their side. It is like a man being evicted from a house, and the squatter acting as though the original owner still lives there years later. Progressives like to think of themselves as plucky activists going up against the powers that be, who are evil racist backward conservatives. In reality, the powers that be fully support the changes they seek to implement. They view themselves as critical thinkers when all their beliefs have been spoon-fed to them by the media, academia and popular culture since the day they were born. It has always struck me as odd when Marxist and other Leftist professors claim to be fighting the system when they are in fact in a crucial position of power in that system, influencing what the young think. Doesn't it occur to them that if the system really saw them as a threat they wouldn't be allowed to hold such a key position of power? Black Lives Matter supporters believe they are fighting against the allegedly white supremacist power structure. And yet Barack Obama, once the powerful man in the world, spoke positively of BLM and met with some of their leaders when he was president. Hillary Clinton has had ties to national politics since she became First Lady in 1993, but still considered herself an outsider when running for president because she was a woman. Progressives still go about their lives believing that they are rebels, and that their beliefs and values are not shared by the power structure. After all, that is what teachers, professors, and news anchors have always told them.\*3



ABOVE: POLITICAL CARTOON BY GLENN MCCOY — ‘APPLY CAPTURES A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS’ ANGER’ \*4



ABOVE: POLITICAL CARTOON BY GLENN MCCOY — ‘ANGER BEING USED AS A POLITICAL WEAPON TO CLAIM POWER FROM THE RIGHT’ \*4

On the Left, the 1932 flag of the paramilitary wing of the Communist Party of Germany. On the Right, the 2017 flag of the paramilitary wing of the Democratic Party of America.



Everything these Alt-Left thugs use today is exactly the same as back then. Their logo, weaponized words, double standards and lack of logic. Its all from Germany 85 years ago. They call everyone Nazis because that is who their opposition in Germany was. Antifa prefaced The National Socialist German Workers’ Party and empowered them. Without Antifa’s violence the Nazi party would have never won anything.

ABOVE: ‘... MODELED AFTER THE ANTIFASCHISTISCHE FLAG OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF NAZI GERMANY’ \*5

## 10 Most Violent Cities in US

There were 1.2 million violent crimes committed in the US in 2016, the FBI reported Monday. It was a 4.1% increase from 2015 and the second year in a row crime rates have risen. On average, there were 386 violent crimes for every 100,000 US residents. But in the few cities that caused the overall crime-rate increase, it was well over 1,000... Here are the top 10:

1. **Detroit**, Michigan: 2,047 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 303 murders
2. **St. Louis**, Missouri: 1,913 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 188 murders
3. **Memphis**, Tennessee: 1,820 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 196 murders
4. **Baltimore**, Maryland: 1,780 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 318 murders
5. **Rockford**, Illinois: 1,659 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 26 murders
6. **Kansas City**, Missouri: 1,655 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 129 murders
7. **Cleveland**, Ohio: 1,631 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 135 murders
8. **Milwaukee**, Wisconsin: 1,533 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 141 murders
9. **Little Rock**, Arkansas: 1,531 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 42 murders
10. **Oakland**, California: 1,426 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, 85 murders. <sup>\*6</sup>

## Weathering the Punches

As the nation continues to debate the critical, constitutional question of who can be punched and who cannot be punched (I vote for permitting the punching of slow drivers in the left lane and anyone who drinks Riesling), it appears the “peaceful” Left has a much more expansive list of acceptable human-punching bags. Liberals encourage their mob to assault not only Nazis, white supremacists and conservative speakers on college campuses, they are now advocating violence against people who dare to challenge the reigning dogma on manmade climate change.

Two destructive hurricanes in the span of one week have emboldened the climate bullies. One of the most unhinged is actor Mark Ruffalo, best known for his role as Bruce Banner/the Hulk in Marvel's multi-billion-dollar-earning *Avengers* movie series. Ruffalo must think that playing a scientist on the silver screen imbues him with some special scientific powers and moral authority, much like Martin Sheen started to think he was the president because he played one on *The West Wing*. Ruffalo is an outspoken—albeit ignorant and misinformed—climate activist who continues to cling to the thoroughly debunked idea that the country can be fully powered by renewable energy sources. He is also a Trump-hater and progressive rabble-rouser.

On Wednesday morning, as Hurricane Irma began pounding Caribbean islands on its alarming path towards Florida, Ruffalo was less Bruce Banner and more Hulk:



**Mark Ruffalo**   
@MarkRuffalo



If you see the deceit of Climate Change deniers like Scott Pruitt, it may be time to direct some of your rage and loss at them.

One could write this off as just another emotional rant from an uneducated Hollywood celebrity. But Ruffalo has quite a following, including 3.4 million Twitter followers and the media's admiration. So it is not without consequence when the actor invites his minions to attack a Trump Administration cabinet official and anyone deemed a climate change denier. Considering one of Ruffalo's fellow Bernie Bros tried to assassinate several Republican congressmen earlier this summer, nearly killing one of them, it's outrageous for a top celebrity activist to fan the flames in this kind of political environment.

It's also a bit ironic, since he routinely tweets about love, compassion, and tolerance. But Ruffalo's hypocrisies don't stop there. Ruffalo claims to be a feminist champion except for conservative women... He regularly protests the use of fossil fuels, blasts corporations like Exxon, and demands states such as New York stop fracking, but he works in the entertainment business, one of the most energy-intensive industries. He is also an ardent foe of genetically engineered crops, which have numerous environmental benefits including retaining carbon in the soil and withstanding climate impacts.

His movie character isn't the only thing about him with a split personality.

In a subsequent tweet, Ruffalo also blamed Republicans for future storms:



**Mark Ruffalo**

@MarkRuffalo



I know not all people in the GOP are deniers. But their leadership is and they are in part responsible for these disasters going forward.

Now, it would be an utter waste of time to ask Ruffalo to explain the 12-year hurricane drought the United States has just experienced. Or to ask him why global temperatures have not risen anywhere close to what climate models projected over the past few decades. Or to ask him if he knows how ocean temperatures were measured in the past (by lifting buckets of seawater onto ships and sticking a thermometer in them. Sounds accurate, right?) Or to ask him to offer the data and evidence proving any anthropogenic influence in the frequency or severity of these storms.

Why bother with science when you can promote your progressive—and now, violent—agenda?

In a post Wednesday afternoon, Mark Hertsgaard, writer for the *Nation*, insisted climate deniers should be treated like murderers for "crimes against humanity." He called for climate deniers to be punished, blaming them for the deaths of Hurricane Harvey victims and even exploiting the loss of a Texas toddler's mother. Hertgaard wrote:

*With Hurricane Irma churning toward Florida, the horrors and heartbreaks will only get worse until we change the game for their perpetrators. The first step toward justice is to call things by their true names. Murder is murder, whether the murderers admit it or not. Punish it as such, or we encourage more of the same.*

It's not just hurricanes that are making climate activists brutish; the election of Donald Trump and appointment of Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA have brought out the pitchforks from the pointy-heads. In a July interview, Bill Nye "the Science Guy" said the climate tribe just needs a little help from the Grim Reaper to make more progress: "Climate

change deniers, by way of example, are older. It's generational. So we're just going to have to wait for those people to 'age out,' as they say. 'Age out' is a euphemism for 'die.'

After the March for Science earlier this year, bullet holes were discovered near the office of Dr. John Christy, a leading climatologist at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Christy refutes much of the government-generated data on global temperatures and is a target of climate activists.

Democrats are imposing a climate change litmus test for Trump appointees, including Sam Clovis, Trump's pick for a top post in the Department of Agriculture. Senate leaders are demanding the president "withdraw the Clovis nomination immediately—not only because he is a proud 'skeptic' of climate change and wildly unqualified for the position of USDA chief scientist—but also as a gesture to the American people that this administration is serious about rooting out the most hateful voices in our society." (Clovis has said disparaging things about former Attorney General Eric Holder, so of course that means he's a racist.)

But it's not just Trump appointees who should be judged. One activist wants all Americans to go *on record* with their position on climate change. Charles Wheelan, a writer and economist, recently suggested this:

*I have a modest proposal: a climate change "registry." This would be a simple petition, albeit with a twist: Each of us would be asked to sign our name to one of two statements:*

- Yes, I believe that the risk of climate change is significant enough that we ought to take action now to reduce the possibility of future harm.
- No, I do not believe that we should take any action now to prevent climate change.

*Why do I want to circulate this petition? Because I believe history is a powerful judge. Those who are standing in the way of sensible climate action ought to be held to account, if only in the eyes of their grandchildren who are at risk of paying the price for our inaction.*

Wheelan then wondered "what some petitions might have looked like in the past," including declarations on civil rights and the Vietnam War.

These are not the signs of a vigorous, science-based movement. They are the nervous spasms of a malevolent crusade that has less to do with ecology and more to do with ideology, beating into submission anyone who dissents. Now, its leading voices are aligned with the same folks who wear black masks and tell you it is OK to punch Nazis. Wonder who is next? <sup>7</sup>

"When we allow science to become political then we are lost. We will enter the internet version of the Dark Ages, an era of stifling fears and wild prejudices, transmitted to people who don't know any better." —Michael Crichton

"Because one believes in oneself, one doesn't try to convince others. Because one is content with oneself, one doesn't need others' approval. Because one accepts oneself, the whole world accepts him or her." —Lao Tzu

"The bigger the lie, the easier it will be believed." —Adolf Hitler

"Condemnation without investigation is the highest form of ignorance." —Albert Einstein

# The New No. 1 National Crisis

*"Infowars is the tip of a giant iceberg of hate and lies that uses sites like Facebook and YouTube to tear our nation apart. These companies must do more than take down one website. The survival of our democracy depends on it." —Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut*

Democrats think the survival of America's democracy depends on widespread censorship by the most vital communications distribution platform in the world.

That's scary, for a few reasons:

1. We know what's coming when Democrats inevitably—whether it's this fall or 2020 or 10 years from now—take control of the White House and Congress.
2. The Internet Cartel, now brazen in its censorship of Alex Jones, is eager to repeal, effectively, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion as way of subverting President Trump and his agenda. What would happen if Google, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Apple and Amazon were unleashed by a future administration and Congress?
3. Recent polls show there's no longer a consensus among the dumbed-down American public regarding the precious right to freedom of expression.

I look at this combination of toxic developments and see this threat to our most cherished liberties as America's No. 1 national crisis.

The censorship actions and catcalls for more are so overt, so abundant and so open, that it prompted Nadine Strossen, the president of the American Civil Liberties Union for 17 years, to say: "Everybody uses the epithet 'hate speech' for any idea that they hate. If that becomes the standard for what we're going to hear and what we're not going to hear, we're not going to hear anything at all. Given the wonderful diversity of ideas in this society, one person's hate speech is another person's beloved speech."

Add to this mix the fact that the Google, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Apple and Amazon cabal all share such a strident leftist ideology that every one of them has chosen the crypto-fascist Southern Poverty Law Center as their go-to source for defining "hate speech," individual "haters" and "hate groups." There's zero neutrality at work within this cartel. There is no non-partisanship. No objectivity. No fairness. No respect for the views of others. No love for ideological diversity. No tolerance for dissent from its worldview.

What does this mean for me, for WND, for the independent media, for conservatives, for Christians, for anyone who deviates from the most powerful communications cartel ever developed? It's a recipe for virulent persecution.

I've seen this coming for a long time.

Way back in 2007—11 years ago—I took the fight to Google. I wrote a book called "Stop the Presses! The Inside Story of the New Media Revolution," in which I called out the danger from what I saw as a new Tower of Babel in the works. I frankly called Google "evil," which was then getting cozy with Communist China, selling out to the government and agreeing to self-censor any references to political opposition, human rights abuses and dissidents...

It was a shameful big black eye for Google. And, for a while, they backed off from their agreement with the tyrants. But today, coinciding with Google's embrace of censorship in the U.S., it is back in talks with China about a new pact with the devil.

By the way, Google didn't let me off the hook for calling the company out. That's when I began noticing that WND, the first independent online news-gathering enterprise, stopped getting any traffic referrals from Google. Believe it or not, before 2007, it was not unusual to see WND breaking news getting featured search coverage. But it stopped cold after that. Today it can be difficult to find WND stories on the vaunted search engine, even if you know the precise keywords to use. Meanwhile, the unrestrained far leftist Huffington Posts and Daily Beasts of the world get preferential puffery from Google.

But it has gotten much, much worse since the 2016 presidential election—and I cannot emphasize strongly enough that point.

It wasn't just Hillary Clinton who was shocked by the voting results. It wasn't just CNN, MSNBC, the New York Times and Washington Post. So were the Big Six digital mega-corporations that now control the flow of news, ideas, opinions and information on the Internet. That's when they got serious about using their clout, effectively declaring war on the independent media, conservatives and Republicans and anyone else they blamed for the 2016 election results. For WND and other independent media, it has meant staggering attacks on traffic and advertising revenue. It's worth noting that Google and Facebook alone control 75 percent of the digital advertising marketplace.

It's clear they are trying to kill us just as overtly and systematically as they are attempting to destroy Alex Jones.

I've been calling attention to all this openly since January 2018 – having no other place to turn for help but to our most loyal audience developed over the last 21 years.

We need to stop this cabal dead in its tracks. We need to preserve our nation's precious First Amendment freedoms. But it won't be easy. We're fighting right now for our very survival—like never before. And we need your help as we push for congressional hearings, work on class-action lawsuits, and solicit the attention of President Trump and his big bully pulpit.

I have no choice but to keep soliciting help from the only source I have left—people who appreciate the truth.<sup>\*8</sup>

## **Who needs democracy when you have data?**

In 1955, science fiction writer Isaac Asimov published a short story about an experiment in "electronic democracy," in which a single citizen, selected to represent an entire population, responded to questions generated by a computer named Multivac. The machine took this data and calculated the results of an election that therefore never needed to happen. Asimov's story was set in Bloomington, Indiana, but today an approximation of Multivac is being built in China.

For any authoritarian regime, "there is a basic problem for the center of figuring out what's going on at lower levels and across society," says Deborah Seligsohn, a political scientist and China expert at Villanova University in Philadelphia. How do you effectively govern a country that's home to one in five people on the planet, with an increasingly complex economy and society, if you don't allow public debate, civil activism, and electoral feedback?

How do you gather enough information to actually make decisions? And how does a government that doesn't invite its citizens to participate still engender trust and bend public behavior without putting police on every doorstep?

Hu Jintao, China's leader from 2002 to 2012, had attempted to solve these problems by permitting a modest democratic thaw, allowing avenues for grievances to reach the ruling class. His successor, Xi Jinping, has reversed that trend. Instead, his strategy for understanding and responding to what is going on in a nation of 1.4 billion relies on a combination of surveillance, AI, and big data to monitor people's lives and behavior in minute detail.

It helps that a tumultuous couple of years in the world's democracies have made the Chinese political elite feel increasingly justified in shutting out voters. Developments such as Donald Trump's election, Brexit, the rise of far-right parties across Europe, and Rodrigo Duterte's reign of terror in the Philippines underscore what many critics see as the problems inherent in democracy, especially populism, instability, and precariously personalized leadership.

Since becoming general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party in 2012, Xi has laid out a raft of ambitious plans for the country, many of them rooted in technology—including a goal to become the world leader in artificial intelligence by 2030. Xi has called for "cyber sovereignty" to enhance censorship and assert full control over the domestic internet. In May, he told a meeting of the Chinese Academy of Sciences that technology was the key to achieving "the great goal of building a socialist and modernized nation." In January, when he addressed the nation on television, the bookshelves on either side of him contained both classic titles such as *Das Kapital* and a few new additions, including two books about artificial intelligence: Pedro Domingos's *The Master Algorithm* and Brett King's *Augmented: Life in the Smart Lane*.

"No government has a more ambitious and far-reaching plan to harness the power of data to change the way it governs than the Chinese government," says Martin Chorzempa of the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, DC. Even some foreign observers, watching from afar, may be tempted to wonder if such data-driven governance offers a viable alternative to the increasingly dysfunctional looking electoral model. But over-relying on the wisdom of technology and data carries its own risks.

### **Data instead of dialogue**

Chinese leaders have long wanted to tap public sentiment without opening the door to heated debate and criticism of the authorities. For most of imperial and modern Chinese history, there has been a tradition of disgruntled people from the countryside traveling to Beijing and staging small demonstrations as public "petitioners." The thinking was that if local authorities didn't understand or care about their grievances, the emperor might show better judgment. Under Hu Jintao, some members of the Communist Party saw a limited openness as a possible way to expose and fix certain kinds of problems. Blogs, anticorruption journalists, human-rights lawyers, and online critics spotlighting local corruption drove public debate toward the end of Hu's reign. Early in his term, Xi received a daily briefing of public concerns and disturbances scraped from social media, according to a former US official with knowledge of the matter. In recent years, petitioners have come to the capital to draw attention to scandals such as illegal land seizures by local authorities and contaminated milk powder.

But police are increasingly stopping petitioners from ever reaching Beijing. "Now trains require national IDs to purchase tickets, which makes it easy for the authorities to identify potential 'troublemakers' such as those who have protested against the government in the past," says Maya Wang, senior China researcher for Human Rights Watch. "Several petitioners told us they have been stopped at train platforms." The bloggers, activists, and lawyers are also

being systematically silenced or imprisoned, as if data can give the government the same information without any of the fiddly problems of freedom.

The idea of using networked technology as a tool of governance in China goes back to at least the mid-1980s. As Harvard historian Julian Gewirtz explains, “When the Chinese government saw that information technology was becoming a part of daily life, it realized it would have a powerful new tool for both gathering information and controlling culture, for making Chinese people more ‘modern’ and more ‘governable’—which have been perennial obsessions of the leadership.” Subsequent advances, including progress in AI and faster processors, have brought that vision closer.

As far as we know, there is no single master blueprint linking technology and governance in China. But there are several initiatives that share a common strategy of harvesting data about people and companies to inform decision-making and create systems of incentives and punishments to influence behavior. These initiatives include the State Council’s 2014 “Social Credit System,” the 2016 Cybersecurity Law, various local-level and private-enterprise experiments in “social credit,” “smart city” plans, and technology-driven policing in the western region of Xinjiang. Often they involve partnerships between the government and China’s tech companies.

The most far-reaching is the Social Credit System, though a better translation in English might be the “trust” or “reputation” system. The government plan, which covers both people and businesses, lists among its goals the “construction of sincerity in government affairs, commercial sincerity, and judicial credibility.” (“Everybody in China has an auntie who’s been swindled. There is a legitimate need to address a breakdown in public trust,” says Paul Triolo, head of the geotechnology practice at the consultancy Eurasia Group.) To date, it’s a work in progress, though various pilots preview how it might work in 2020, when it is supposed to be fully implemented.

The algorithm is thought to highlight suspicious behaviors such as visiting a mosque or owning too many books. Blacklists are the system’s first tool. For the past five years, China’s court system has published the names of people who haven’t paid fines or complied with judgments. Under new social-credit regulations, this list is shared with various businesses and government agencies. People on the list have found themselves blocked from borrowing money, booking flights, and staying at luxury hotels. China’s national transport companies have created additional blacklists, to punish riders for behavior like blocking train doors or picking fights during a journey; offenders are barred from future ticket purchases for six or 12 months. Earlier this year, Beijing debuted a series of blacklists to prohibit “dishonest” enterprises from being awarded future government contracts or land grants.

A few local governments have experimented with social-credit “scores,” though it’s not clear if they will be part of the national plan. The northern city of Rongcheng, for example, assigns a score to each of its 740,000 residents, Foreign Policy reported. Everyone begins with 1,000 points. If you donate to a charity or win a government award, you gain points; if you violate a traffic law, such as by driving drunk or speeding through a crosswalk, you lose points. People with good scores can earn discounts on winter heating supplies or get better terms on mortgages; those with bad scores may lose access to bank loans or promotions in government jobs. City Hall showcases posters of local role models, who have exhibited “virtue” and earned high scores.

“The idea of social credit is to monitor and manage how people and institutions behave,” says Samantha Hoffman of the Mercator Institute for China Studies in Berlin. “Once a violation is recorded in one part of the system, it can trigger responses in other parts of the system. It’s a concept designed to support both economic development and social management, and it’s inherently political.” Some parallels to parts of China’s blueprint already exist in the US: a bad credit score can prevent you from taking out a home loan, while a felony conviction suspends or annuls your

right to vote, for example. “But they’re not all connected in the same way—there’s no overarching plan,” Hoffman points out.

One of the biggest concerns is that because China lacks an independent judiciary, citizens have no recourse for disputing false or inaccurate allegations. Some have found their names added to travel blacklists without notification after a court decision. Petitioners and investigative journalists are monitored according to another system, and people who’ve entered drug rehab are watched by yet a different monitoring system. “Theoretically the drug-user databases are supposed to erase names after five or seven years, but I’ve seen lots of cases where that didn’t happen,” says Wang of Human Rights Watch. “It’s immensely difficult to ever take yourself off any of these lists.”

Occasional bursts of rage online point to public resentment. News that a student had been turned down by a college because of her father’s inclusion on a credit blacklist recently lit a wildfire of online anger. The college’s decision hadn’t been officially sanctioned or ordered by the government. Rather, in their enthusiasm to support the new policies, school administrators had simply taken them to what they saw as the logical conclusion.

The opacity of the system makes it difficult to evaluate how effective experiments like Rongcheng’s are. The party has squeezed out almost all critical voices since 2012, and the risks of challenging the system—even in relatively small ways—have grown. What information is available is deeply flawed; systematic falsification of data on everything from GDP growth to hydropower use pervades Chinese government statistics. Australian National University researcher Borge Bakken estimates that official crime figures, which the government has a clear incentive to downplay, may represent as little as 2.5 percent of all criminal behavior.

In theory, data-driven governance could help fix these issues—circumventing distortions to allow the central government to gather information directly. That’s been the idea behind, for instance, introducing air-quality monitors that send data back to central authorities rather than relying on local officials who may be in the pocket of polluting industries. But many aspects of good governance are too complicated to allow that kind of direct monitoring and instead rely on data entered by those same local officials.

However, the Chinese government rarely releases performance data that outsiders might use to evaluate these systems. Take the cameras that are used to identify and shame jaywalkers in some cities by projecting their faces on public billboards, as well as to track the prayer habits of Muslims in western China. Their accuracy remains in question: in particular, how well can facial-recognition software trained on Han Chinese faces recognize members of Eurasian minority groups? Moreover, even if the data collection is accurate, how will the government use such information to direct or thwart future behavior? Police algorithms that predict who is likely to become a criminal are not open to public scrutiny, nor are statistics that would show whether crime or terrorism has grown or diminished. (For example, in the western region of Xinjiang, the available information shows only that the number of people taken into police custody has shot up dramatically, rising 731 percent from 2016 to 2017.)

“It’s not the technology that created the policies, but technology greatly expands the kinds of data that the Chinese government can collect on individuals,” says Richard McGregor, a senior fellow at the Lowy Institute and the author of *The Party: The Secret World of China’s Communist Rulers*. “The internet in China acts as a real-time, privately run digital intelligence service.”

## Algorithmic policing

Writing in the *Washington Post* earlier this year, Xiao Qiang, a professor of communications at the University of California, Berkeley, dubbed China's data-enhanced governance "a digital totalitarian state." The dystopian aspects are most obviously on display in western China.

Xinjiang ("New Territory") is the traditional home of a Chinese Muslim minority known as Uighurs. As large numbers of Han Chinese migrants have settled in—some say "colonized"—the region, the work and religious opportunities afforded to the local Uighur population have diminished. One result has been an uptick in violence in which both Han and Uighur have been targeted, including a 2009 riot in the capital city of Urumqi, when a reported 200 people died. The government's response to rising tensions has not been to hold public forums to solicit views or policy advice. Instead, the state is using data collection and algorithms to determine who is "likely" to commit future acts of violence or defiance.

The Xinjiang government employed a private company to design the predictive algorithms that assess various data streams. There's no public record or accountability for how these calculations are built or weighted. "The people living under this system generally don't even know what the rules are," says Rian Thum, an anthropologist at Loyola University who studies Xinjiang and who has seen government procurement notices that were issued in building the system.

In the western city of Kashgar, many of the family homes and shops on main streets are now boarded up, and the public squares are empty. When I visited in 2013, it was clear that Kashgar was already a segregated city—the Han and Uighur populations lived and worked in distinct sections of town. But in the evenings, it was also a lively and often noisy place, where the sounds of the call to prayer intermingled with dance music from local clubs and the conversations of old men sitting out late in plastic chairs on patios. Today the city is eerily quiet; neighborhood public life has virtually vanished. Emily Feng, a journalist for the Financial Times, visited Kashgar in June and posted photos on Twitter of the newly vacant streets.

The reason is that by some estimates more than one in 10 Uighur and Kazakh adults in Xinjiang have been sent to barbed-wire-ringed "reeducation camps"—and those who remain at large are fearful.

In the last two years thousands of checkpoints have been set up at which passersby must present both their face and their national ID card to proceed on a highway, enter a mosque, or visit a shopping mall. Uighurs are required to install government-designed tracking apps on their smartphones, which monitor their online contacts and the web pages they've visited. Police officers visit local homes regularly to collect further data on things like how many people live in the household, what their relationships with their neighbors are like, how many times people pray daily, whether they have traveled abroad, and what books they have.

All these data streams are fed into Xinjiang's public security system, along with other records capturing information on everything from banking history to family planning. "The computer program aggregates all the data from these different sources and flags those who might become 'a threat' to authorities," says Wang. Though the precise algorithm is unknown, it's believed that it may highlight behaviors such as visiting a particular mosque, owning a lot of books, buying a large quantity of gasoline, or receiving phone calls or email from contacts abroad. People it flags are visited by police, who may take them into custody and put them in prison or in reeducation camps without any formal charges.

Adrian Zenz, a political scientist at the European School of Culture and Theology in Korntal, Germany, calculates that the internment rate for minorities in Xinjiang may be as high as 11.5 percent of the adult population. These

camps are designed to instill patriotism and make people unlearn religious beliefs. (New procurement notices for cremation security guards seem to indicate that the government is also trying to stamp out traditional Muslim burial practices in the region.)

While Xinjiang represents one draconian extreme, elsewhere in China citizens are beginning to push back against some kinds of surveillance. An internet company that streamed closed-circuit TV footage online shut down those broadcasts after a public outcry. The city of Shanghai recently issued regulations to allow people to dispute incorrect information used to compile social-credit records. “There are rising demands for privacy from Chinese internet users,” says Samm Sacks, a senior fellow in the Technology Policy Program at CSIS in New York. “It’s not quite the free-for-all that it’s made out to be.”<sup>9</sup>

## Situational Assessment 2017: Trump Edition

In 2015, I took a swing at assessing the shape and state of our global challenges... but it is high time for an update.

While many things have changed in the world in the past two years, 2016 saw what looks like a phase transition in the political domain. While the overall phenomenon is global in scale and includes Brexit and other movements throughout Europe, I want to focus specifically on the victory of the “Trump Insurgency” and drill down into detail on how this state change will play out.

I use John Robb’s term “Trump Insurgency” here to highlight the fact that the election of 2016 was not an example of “ordinary politics”. Anyone who fails to understand this is going to be making significant errors. For example, the 2016 election is not comparable to the 2000 election (e.g., merely a “close” election) nor to the 1980 election (e.g., an “ideological transition” election). While it is tempting to compare it to 1860, I’m not sure that is a good match either.

In fact, as I go back and try to do pattern matching, the only real pattern I can find is the 1776 “election” (AKA the American Revolution). In other words, while 2016 still formally looked like politics, what is really going on here is a revolutionary war. For now this is war using memes rather than bullets, but war is much more than a metaphor.

This war is about much more than ideology, money or power. Even the participants likely do not fully understand the stakes. At a deep level, we are right in the middle of an existential conflict between two entirely different and incompatible ways of forming “collective intelligence”. This is a deep point and will likely be confusing. So I’m going to take it slow and below will walk through a series of “fronts” of the war that I see playing out over the next several years. This is a pretty tactical assessment and should make sense and be useful to anyone. I’ll get to the deep point last—and will be going way out there in an effort to grasp “what is really going on”. I’ll definitely miss wildly, but with any luck, the total journey will be worth the time.

### Front One: Communications Infrastructure.

All modern warfighters know that the first step of any conflict is to disrupt the enemy’s communications and control infrastructure.

Our legacy sensemaking system was largely composed of and dominated by a small set of communications channels. These included the largest newspapers (e.g., NYT and Washington Post) and television networks (e.g., CNN, CBS, Fox, etc.). Until very recently, effectively all sensemaking was mediated by these channels and, as a

consequence, these channels delivered a highly effective mechanism for coordinated messaging and control. A sizable fraction of the power, influence and effectiveness of the last-stage power elites (e.g., the neocon alliances in both the Democratic and Republican parties) was due to their mastery at utilizing these legacy channels.

It is important for anyone planning in the contemporary environment to recognize that the activities of the Trump Insurgency are entirely different to all previous actors. Rather than endeavoring to establish control over the legacy infrastructure, the Trump Insurgency is in the process of destroying it entirely and replacing it with a very different architecture. One that is intrinsically compatible with its own form of collective intelligence.

It is clear to me that the Insurgency is engaged in “total war”. They are simultaneously attacking the legacy power structures on multiple fronts (access, business viability and, in particular, legitimacy) while innovating entirely novel approaches to the problem of large scale communications and control (e.g., direct tweets from POTUS). Their intent is not to play with or even dominate the legacy media—but to eliminate them from the field entirely and to replace them with something else altogether.

This approach is strategically optimal. The Trump Insurgency represents a novel model of collective intelligence *in general*. It is the first truly viable approach that is connected directly with the emergent decentralized attractor that has been driving technical/economic disruption for the last several decades. This form of governance is *structurally incompatible* with the legacy media architecture. It is intrinsically dissonant with the kind of top-down, slow, controlled, synchronized approach of the old media. It therefore both must dismantle this architecture and replace it with one that is in sync with its mode of operation and, thereby, benefits massively by hamstringing any collective intelligence that works in the old top-down fashion (i.e., all existing forces currently at play).

To use a concept from Gilles Deleuze, the Trump Insurgency is a *nomadic war machine* and it is in the process of smoothing the space of communication. To use a simpler metaphor, if you imagine the Trump Insurgency as highly effective desert guerrillas, they are currently in the process of turning everything into a desert. The Establishment, optimized for “jungle conflict”, is going to have a hard time.

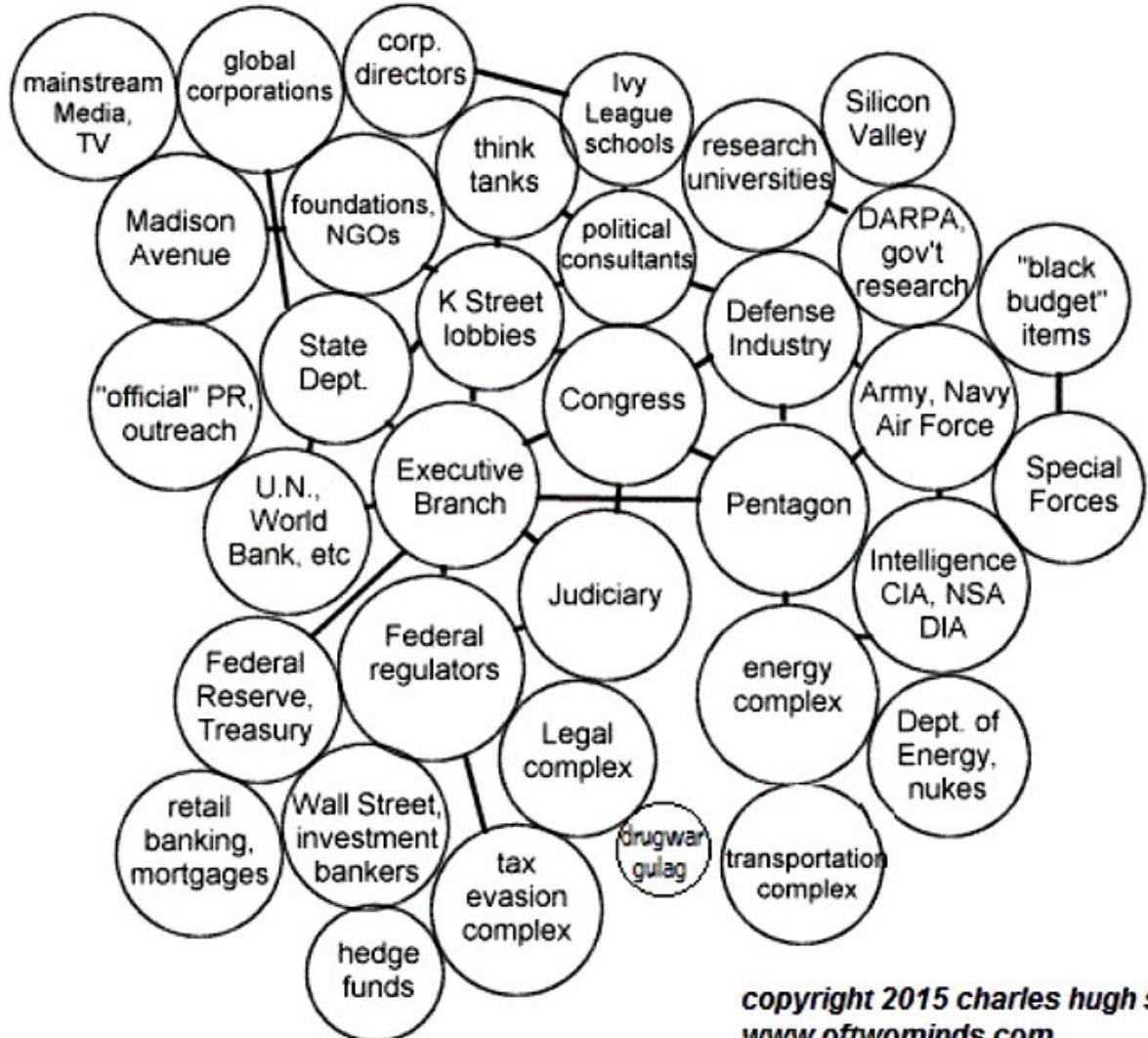
From where I sit, it seems evident that the Insurgency’s ability to read-plan-react (their “OODA loop”) is simply of a higher order than the legacy power structures. For at least the past 18 months, the Insurgency has been running circles around the the Establishment and the old media. Accordingly, I fully expect the Insurgency to win this fight. Specifically, for all functional purposes, I expect the memetic efficacy of the New York Times, CNN, the Washington Post, MSNBC and related channels to be near zero within the next two to four years. I would not be surprised to see several of these entities actually out of business.

Note, the relative position of “new media” such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube is harder to predict. I suspect that most of the important conflict of this front will take place here. Right now, all of new media is controlled by forces broadly opposed to the Insurgency. Yet the Insurgency must establish dominance on this territory. They can accomplish this either by capturing these existing platforms (aka “bend the knee” capitulation) or by moving the center of power to new platforms that are aligned with the Insurgency (e.g., gab.ai replacing Twitter). If you think that this latter is highly unlikely, I strongly urge you to reexamine your models and assumptions.

My sense is that the decisive decision in this conflict is whether the “new media” remain coupled to the legacy power structures (and their OODA loops) or decouple and enter into a direct conflict for “decentralized supremacy” (see my last point below). If they choose the former, they will lose. If they choose the latter, the outcome is hard to predict.

## The Deep State Network

*The elected state, the shadow state, the national security state, the public-private state and the institutions of propaganda.*



### Front Two: The Deep State

In ordinary politics, an elected candidate is expected to integrate with and make relatively small fine-tuning changes to the existing state apparatus and the mass of career bureaucrats that make up most of the actual machinery of government (AKA the “deep state”). Thus, while the Obama Administration might differ quite significantly from the Bush Administration in political theory and intent, the actual impact of these differences on the real trajectory of the “ship of state” is relatively small.

My assessment is that the Trump Insurgency has identified the Deep State itself as its central antagonist and is engaged in a direct existential conflict with it.

Normally this would be an easy win for the Deep State. However, I expect this front to be the most challenging, uncertain and dangerous of the war. The Deep State is massive, has access to vast resources and capabilities and has been in the business of controlling power for decades. But two things are moving in the Insurgency's favor.

First, the Deep State appears to be fragmented. For example, the "Russian Hacking" scenario of the past two months looks surprisingly uncoordinated and incompetent. I don't know exactly what is going on here, but it is clearly not the product of a unified and smoothly operating Deep State.

Second, it seems highly likely that the Deep State is prepared to fight "the last war" while the Insurgency is bringing an entirely different kind of fight. The Deep State developed in and for the 20th Century. You might say that they are experts at fighting Trench Warfare. But this is the 21st Century and the Insurgency has innovated *Blitzkrieg*.

Let's take a look at the "fake news" meme for example. This has all the earmarks of a Deep State initiative. Carefully planned, highly coordinated, coming from all authoritative directions, strategically targeted. My read is that this was a Deep State response to the Communications Infrastructure fight. But it looks like this initiative has not only failed, but that the Insurgency has been able to leverage its decisive OODA loop advantages to turn the entire thing around and make "fake news" its own tool. How? By moving rapidly, unconventionally, in a very decentralized fashion and with complete commitment to victory.

If my read is correct, the balance of the struggle between the Deep State and the Insurgency will be determined by how quickly the Deep State can dispense with old and dysfunctional doctrine and innovate novel approaches that are adequate to the war. In other words, is this the Western Front (France falling in six weeks) or the Eastern Front (the USSR bleeding and giving ground until it could innovate a new war machine that could outcompete the Wehrmacht).

If my read of the situation is correct (which, of course, it very well may not be), then the Deep State would be ill advised indeed to undertake any major efforts in the next 12–24 months. For example, an "impeach Trump" initiative, would almost certainly be an enormous strategic disaster. In spite of the apparent strength of the Deep State, the Insurgency's superior OODA loop would likely result in an Insurgency victory in this fight—and victory here would greatly strengthen the Insurgency's position. (Can you say "Emperor Trump?")

From the opposite direction, the Insurgency would be well advised to *Blitzkrieg*. Right now it has the advantage of an approach and a model that its opponent doesn't understand and can't react to effectively. But the Deep State is deep. Given time it could learn how to win this fight. If the Insurgency wants to win, it needs to radically reduce the Deep State's strategic agency quickly. This means moving fast and moving decisively.

I cannot overstate how **deeply** dangerous this fight is. Classically, when a long-standing hegemony (cf "Pax Americana) is weakened and distracted by intra-elite conflict, rivals like Russia and China will see an opportunity to move from a hegemonic to a multi-polar world and can be tempted into adventurism. In these conditions, even the slightest mistake can push the system into nearly catastrophic conflict.

### **Front Three: Globalism**

Anti-globalist rhetoric was one of the most enduring and central features of the Trump campaign. Indeed, if Trump clearly stood for anything, resisting the "false song of globalism" was it. And all evidence in the post-election environment is that the Trump Insurgency will indeed be actively anti-globalist.

What is flat out astounding is the relative ease with which Trump has been able to cut through globalist Gordian Knots. For half a decade, the Trans-Pacific Partnership was an unstoppable juggernaut. Until, that is, Trump decided to end it. Perhaps this is evidence of a “below the surface” weakness that made TPP a paper tiger. Perhaps it is evidence of the relative balance of power between nationalist and globalist institutions. At least when the nationalist institution is the United States. (Compare the Greeks *vis à vis* the EU). Perhaps it is evidence of a larger scale anti-globalist conflict that has been raging for nearly a decade and has been surfacing all over the place (Brexit, Trump, Le Pen, etc.).

In any event, it is a significant victory and I am certain that it will embolden the Insurgency. At this point, I expect the Insurgency to cut deep into globalist power institutions (the World Bank, the UN, various treaty organizations) and, more importantly, globalist-allied national institutions like the Federal Reserve. The Globalists have an odd connection to power. Generally, they must move through influence and threat to elites, with a non-trivial amount of mass level propaganda to smooth the way. The Insurgency is broadly immune to globalist propaganda, the Insurgency elites seem unlikely to play ball with globalist elites or to back down under threat. At this point, I see only two real moves available to the globalists. 1) economic destabilization hoping to turn “the people” against the Insurgency; 2) some kind of social/military destabilization.

But I don’t give the globalists much of a chance. Of all of the major world powers, only the EU is currently dominated by globalists, and with the victory of Brexit and the surge of nationalism in France, the Netherlands, etc., even the Eurocrats are on the run.

By moving quickly and decisively against the Deep State allies of globalism at home and erecting nationalist resilience to global institutional influence (e.g. high tariffs and protectionist monetary policy), combined with shaping a narrative that points all bad economic news directly at globalists, the Insurgency might well be able to cut most globalist power off at the knees.

Notably, even large multi-national corporations—until recently appearing to be pulling the strings of political policy—seem to be rapidly capitulating to the Insurgency. The two major globalist forces that have not yet been publicly tested are the energy companies and the banks. What will happen here remains to be seen. A cynic might suggest that the Insurgency itself is only superficially populist and in fact really simply represents the interests of Energy and Banks against other elites. That cynic might be right, we shall see.

The net-net result of this front will be a significant weakening of the post-War global institutional order and a rebalancing of power along not yet fully understood nationalist alignments. It is not clear what effect this change will have. For example, one might expect “global scale” issues like climate disruption or terrorism to lose focus and efficacy—but that isn’t clear. It is certainly plausible that nation-to-nation alliances can make significant forward progress in even these areas of interest. Particularly if you assume that globalist agendas were extracting value from global scale crises rather than resolving them.

Moreover, there is no reason to believe that a multi-polar nationalism will be less stable over the long term than a hegemony. History has certainly cut both ways. Perhaps what is most clear is this: the period of *transition* as globalist forces struggle to maintain power while nationalist forces are not yet in any form of stable equilibrium with each-other is a moment (possibly lasting years) of extreme danger.

#### **Front Four: The New Culture War**

Last week, Reddit user *notjaf0* expressed something important. It is worth reading his entire post, but the gist is this: the left won the culture war of the 1960's—1990's. And the Trump Insurgency does not represent "the next move" of the old right in that old war. It represents the first move of an emergent new culture. One that is directly at war with the "Blue Church" on the ground of culture itself.

*"The Blue Church is panicking because they've just witnessed the birth of a new Red Religion. Not the tired old Christian cliches they defeated back in the '60s, but a new faith based on cultural identity and outright rejection of the Blue Faith." —/u/notjaf0*

While I can nit pick at some of his analysis, broadly speaking I agree. As of 2016, the shoe is on the other foot—the counter culture has become the mainstream and the Insurgents are the new counter culture.

Similar to the other battles, this Culture War front is characterized by a distinction between a more powerful and established Blue team organized around and fighting "the last war" and a Red team still in flux but beginning to figure out how to fight from the future. And, as per the other fronts, until the Blue team figures this out, it will continue to lose ground without understanding why.

In this case, however, the superior OODA loop of the Insurgency is only part of the strategic shift. Of far more importance is the fact that the Insurgency evolved within a culture broadly dominated by the values and techniques of the Blue Church and therefore, by simple natural selection, is now almost entirely immune to the total set of "Blue critique".

In other words, if we map the arc of the culture war from the 1950's through to the 1990's we will see the slow emergence of a set of strategies, techniques and alliances on the part of the emerging Blue Church that became increasingly perfected and effective over time. For example, the critical power of the epithets "racist" or "sexist" which had little or no traction in the 1930's and 1940's had, by the 1990's become decisive.

Yet, even as the Blue Church was achieving dominance, the roots of the Insurgency were being laid. And, like bacteria becoming increasingly immune to an antibiotic after constant exposure, those aspects of the emergent "Red Religion" that were able to survive *at all* began to coalesce and expand. What has now erupted into the zeitgeist is something new and almost completely immune to the rhetorical and political techniques of the Blue Church. To call an adherent of the Red Religion "racist" is unlikely to elicit much more than a "kek" and a derisive dismissal. The old weapons have no more sting.

Moreover, the Red Religion does not intend to engage the Blue Church in any way other than "outright rejection." It considers the Church and its adherents to be acting in bad faith by default and the doctrines of the Church to be little more than a form of mental illness. Accordingly, the Red Religion has no intention of dialogue, conversation or even sharing power with the Church.

The Blue Church should expect to meet the Red Religion in war. And in this conflict the Red Religion has the advantage.

In the nature of every movement that has endured the crucible of selection, the Red Religion is much more coherent and focused than the dominant Church which is criss-crossed with internal conflict and in-fighting. The Red Religion was born into and optimized for new media (e.g. optimized for memes rather than films) and as the balance of power shifts from 20th Century media to 21st Century media, this inures to the advantage of the Reds. Going

deeper, even as the Red Religion has developed an immunity to most of the primary techniques of the Blue Church, it has simultaneously developed its own memetic/values structure connected with deep human values that stem from ancient “tribal selection” and are highly attractive to the portions of the human family (men and women) who are focused on protecting and defending their tribe (hence the Red Religions’ intrinsic focus on Nationalism).

In other words, over the short to mid term, most of the humans who are best prepared to wage war—who are most attuned to and psychologically ready for war—will be attracted to the Red Religion. They will be focused, almost entirely immune to the entire portfolio of Blue weapons and they will be armed with and optimized for 21st Century techniques of waging culture war.

As a consequence, the result of this conflict will almost certainly be fatal for the Blue Church. We are already witnessing it, in the form of both an increasingly desperate “doubling down” on obviously impotent attacks and a creeping demoralization within the fabric of the Church. I expect to see this accelerate and as the Insurgency wins on other fronts, the set of alliances that hold the Church together will begin to unravel and the Church will collapse.

The sooner that happens, the better it will be for everyone.

Right now, the Church is killing us. While it is holding many important, necessary values, it is also holding a ton of stuff that is deeply dysfunctional. But by monopolizing the instruments of culture and power, it inhibits us like a well meaning but overbearing parent from being able to form the new innovations in culture, practice and value that are necessary to our age. The collapse of the Blue Church is going to lead to a level of “cultural flux” that will make the 1960’s look like the Eisenhower administration. As the Church falls away, the “children of Blue” will explode out in a Cambrian explosion and reach out to engage in all out culture war with the still nascent Red Religion.

This Culture War will be unlike anything we have ever seen. It will take place everywhere all at once, constrained less by geography than by technical platform and by the complex relationship between innovation and power on an exponential technology curve. It will be a struggle over not just the content, but the very *sense and nature* of identity, meaning and purpose. It will mutate so quickly and will evolve so rapidly that all of our legacy techniques (both psychological and institutional) for making sense of and responding to the world will melt into so much tapioca. This will be terrifying. It is also the source of our best hope.

### **The War for Collective Intelligence**

If you’ve made it this far (or chose to skip directly here), take a breath and settle in. This is the interesting part. For that precious few who prioritize understanding over brevity, what follows will make much more sense if you have read my Foundational Assumptions, The Coming Great Transition, Introducing Generation Omega and The Future of Organization.

For those who want the *tl;dr*, it is this: we live in a non-linear world, stop thinking linearly.

Once you have accepted this as the task, you will eventually come to an important conclusion: you can’t. By yourself, you can’t think non-linearly. This isn’t your fault. Individual human beings can’t think non-linearly. Only “collective intelligences,” those agents of “inter-subjective consciousness” can. To put it more simply, we **implement** and **do** things as individuals. We **innovate** as tribes. And the world we live in today—the world of the 21st Century—is a world of continuous innovation.

In this environment, for the first time ever in history, the ability to innovate is decisively superior to the ability to deploy power. Prior to today, the rule of “the battle goes to whoever gets there the first with the most” was a decent rule of thumb. Of course, this has never been strictly the case. Most of the great stories of history are built around moments of innovation where the smarter but less powerful group was able to outwit and undermine their opponent with superior technique, technology and strategy. Over time the balance has slowly but consistently moved in the direction of innovation. Ask Turing and Oppenheimer about the accelerating pace of innovation as it relates to war.

*The* conflict of the 21st Century is about forming a Collective Intelligence that can outwit and out innovate all of its competitors. The central challenge is to innovate a way of collaborating and cohering individuals that maximally deploys their individual perspectives, capabilities, understandings and insights with each-other. Right now, the Insurgency has the edge. It has discovered some key ways to tap into the power of decentralized collective intelligence and this is its principal advantage. While it is definitely not a mature version of a decentralized collective intelligence, it is substantially more so than any collective intelligence with which it is competing and unless and until a more effective decentralized collective intelligence enters the field, this advantage is enough.

Like all wars, the shape of this particular conflict will be highly dependent on path, timing and surprise. Right now, for example, the relative difference in power between the Establishment and the Insurgency is large, and while it continues to lose its impact, power still matters. At the same time, while the Insurgency has a meaningful advantage in “collective intelligence” this advantage is not overwhelming. Thus the details of the situation that I describe above. So, for example, if the Deep State uses its power advantage as a way to stall until it can innovate a collective intelligence advantage, it has a decent chance. (Of course, becoming a decentralized collective intelligence is going to be really hard for the actual individuals who make up the Deep State to understand and accept.)

But watch out as the conflict evolves. As the Insurgency cuts down and unplugs legacy power structures (e.g., the media, the intelligence agencies) and replaces them with more fluid and innovative approaches (e.g., gab.ai and Palantir) the balance will begin to tip quickly. If the Establishment cannot stave off the Insurgency in the next 4–5 years, that phase of the war will be over.

Then the real question. Does the Insurgency and the Red Religion represent a stable attractor in the 21st Century. Can it form a collective intelligence that is able to select-against and out-compete all comers. If so, what does this look like? My sense is that this is ultimately a highly unstable state. While tribalism (nationalism) can be very potent in the short term, it is ultimately a deeply unstable ship to navigate the oceans of the future.

Or is there a different timeline where one of the “children of Blue” discovers an approach that is more intelligent still—one that is more fit to ride the wave of exponential technology and global scale crisis? One that is more fully in line with the true nature of inter-subjective consciousness? One that can scale without losing its coherence? One that is adequate to the whole set of existential challenges of the 21st Century?

Such an eventuality is certainly possible—although the most robust collective intelligence is likely to be more purple than red or blue. How likely? Well, right now I think we have a decent chance but really do believe that the die will be cast in the next 3–5 years.

For those who want to take action, I have three recommendations:

1. The Blue Church, the Deep State, the Old Media and all the other aspects of the Establishment are holding you back. Free your mind. This is going to be much harder than it sounds. For most people, if you are under 40, your entire development has taken place within the context of the Blue Church. Many of your deepest assumptions and unconscious values are going to have to be examined with brutal honesty and courage.
2. All Collective Intelligence is gated by Sensemaking. Right now, our collective sensemaking systems are in complete disarray. We don't know who or what to trust. We barely even know how. Find ways to improve your individual sensemaker and collaborate on collective sensemaking systems. This should get easier as the old media and the Blue Church collapse.
3. Both #1 and #2 require other people. And, since all of our old ways of collaborating with other people are either suspect or obsolete, you are going to have to learn how to build real faithful relationships the old fashioned way. Get much better at making friends. I don't mean casual acquaintances. And I definitely don't mean social network contacts. I mean the kinds of people who ready willing and able to actually care for you—even at risk to themselves. Not because of shared ideology or even shared mission, but because of the deep stuff of human commitment.

Good luck. \*10



ABOVE: MEME SOURCE UNKNOWN / ASTROSOCIETY ARTICLE — 'TO MAKE ONE COMPLETE ROTATION IN 24 HOURS, A POINT NEAR THE EQUATOR OF THE EARTH MUST MOVE AT CLOSE TO 1000 MILES PER HOUR (1600 KM/HR). THE SPEED GETS LESS AS YOU MOVE NORTH... THE EARTH ALSO REVOLVES AROUND THE SUN... TO GO AROUND THIS IMMENSE CIRCLE IN ONE YEAR TAKES A SPEED OF 66,000 MILES PER HOUR (107,000 KM/HR)... RELATIVE TO THE LOCAL STANDARD OF REST, OUR SUN AND THE EARTH ARE MOVING AT ABOUT 43,000 MILES PER HOUR (70,000 KM/HR) ROUGHLY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE BRIGHT STAR VEGA IN THE CONSTELLATION OF LYRA.' \*11

## The Empire Strikes Back

With the resignation of National Security Advisor Michael Flynn in the face of a howling media mob, the knives are now out not only for other administration officials, but for President Trump himself. Make no mistake about what's happening here: this is a rolling coup attempt, organized by elements of the intelligence community, particularly CIA and NSA, abetted by Obama-era holdovers in the understaffed Justice Department (Sally Yates, take a bow) and the lickspittles of the leftist media, all of whom have signed on with the "Resistance" in order to overturn the results of the November election.

Mike Flynn, a good man who saw the enemy clearly, and had the courage to name it, saw Russia not as an enemy but a geopolitical adversary with whom we could make common cause against Islam—and who also vowed to shake up a complacent and malfeasant IC—was its first scalp, and an object lesson to new CIA Director Mike Pompeo should he have any reformist notions. As for the media, having previously failed to take down Trump aides Steve Bannon and Kellyanne Conway, Flynn was the next best thing; their joy today is unbounded.

Is this what you thought you voted for in November? Is this how you thought American democracy worked? Is this the country you want to live in?

Welcome to the Deep State, the democracy-sapping embeds at the heart of our democracy who have not taken the expulsion of the Permanent Bipartisan Fusion Party lightly. They realize that the Trump administration poses a mortal threat to their hegemony, and so have enlisted an army of Democrats, some Republicans, the "neverTrumpumpkin" conservative die-hards, leftist thugs, Black Lives Matter and anybody else they can blackmail, browbeat or enlist. They mean business.

We've come to a pretty pass when Wikileaks now makes more sense than the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and other Democrat mouthpieces and house organs. Or when fugitive Julian Assange, holed up in London at the sufferance of the Ecuadorian government, appears to have more insight, integrity and curiosity than the entire Beltway media:

**Trump's National Security Advisor Michael Flynn resigns after  
destabilization campaign by US spies, Democrats, press**  
[pbs.twimg.com/media/C4nxw0SW...](http://pbs.twimg.com/media/C4nxw0SW...)

We're in the midst of a rapidly moving spy game here, adrift in the famous Wilderness of Mirrors, and with the major players switching—or appearing to switch—sides in a flash. The CIA has never forgiven Ronald Reagan for taking down the Soviets and spoiling its extremely cozy relationship with the KGB. The two agencies had long since worked out a modus vivendi, under which rules they both did their best to keep the Berlin Wall standing, Eastern Europe locked away, and the postwar status quo in operation; it was only when one side or the other broke protocol that civilians ever heard a thing about them, as when the KGB arrested American journalist Nick Daniloff for allegedly spying in Moscow in 1986:

Aug. 30 Nicholas S. Daniloff, correspondent for U.S. News & World Report, is detained in Moscow after being handed a package by a Soviet acquaintance containing two maps marked "top secret." The arrest follows by one week the arrest in New York of Gennadi F. Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the United Nations, on charges of espionage.

Daniloff was eventually freed and left the Soviet Union at the end of September. You can read more about him here.

Now, up is down, black is white, and in is out. This is, of course, how you play the game, to keep everyone in a state of maximum confusion. So let's cut to Main Narrative, as retailed by the MSM, with timely encouragement from the CIA and Democrat operatives masquerading as journalists:

- Trump is unfit to be president. Plus, Hillary is unbeatable, so give up already.
- Oops—Trump wins.
- The Russians stole the election.
- Trump is too cozy with the Russians.
- Trump's people are too cozy with the Russians.
- No wonder the Russians stole the election for Trump.
- Flynn called the Russian ambassador—and lied about it!
- The coverup is always worse than the crime! Flynn must go!
- Flynn's gone—but here comes the ghost of Howard Baker
- "What did the president know and when did he know it?"
- Trump is doomed.

... So what must Trump do now? First, complete his cabinet. Second, fire every fireable federal employee in the leak-prone agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency. Third, start taking operational security seriously. Fourth, assume everything you say will leak to the media and be spun as malevolently as possible. Fifth, trust nobody.

Finally, fight back, with all the powers of the presidency. And take every friend you can get... Because, if you don't, you're going to get a lot more of this:



Act accordingly. <sup>\*12</sup>

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"A few years back my wife and I were on a bus trip to see a museum. A couple from Melbourne, Australia was on the tour. The lady got tears in her eyes. 'If it wasn't for you fellows—' she said, 'for the Marines who fought in the South Pacific. We wouldn't be here today.' Well, that's true. Japan had plans to conquer Australia. And I'd never thought about it before then, but the work we did really stood for something. We might not have always realized it here in this country, but the folks who stayed free in other countries sure did." —Roy Gerlach

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Thank you.

### **God**

The *All* that *IS*.

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