|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ihad ReportNov 30, 2019 -Dec 06, 2019 | |
| Attacks | **29** |
| Killed | **137** |
| Injured | **180** |
| Suicide Blasts | **0** |
| Countries | **11** |

**Mad Max**

Journalist and book author Michael Snyder says corporate debt is at record highs standing at $10 trillion.

Debt is setting records in every aspect of the economy, but companies are also making profits. Profit pay back loans. Defaults are actually pretty low right now. **“If you include all other forms of corporate debt not listed on the stock exchanges, that brings the total to $15.5 trillion, which is equivalent to 74% of GDP. We’ve never seen anything like this before in all of U.S. history.**" If one thing stops, like cash flow, the whole thing could come apart.

People need to realize the only reason why we have any prosperity in this country today is because it is fueled by cash flow. Not cash reserves, but cash flow. As long as people are buying, we can pull out of this and pay ourselves out of this mess. If they stop working or stop buying, the end will be swift. We have been building up this bubble, and it is the bubble to end all bubbles. Look at consumers. U.S. consumers are now $14 trillion in debt, which is an all-time record. State and local governments are at all-time debt record levels. I personally think that debt is asymptotic. People quickly realize that lower debt leads to more disposable income which leads to a happier life. $25 thousand a year doesn’t sound like much of a living, unless you’re debt free and all that money is disposable.

**The U.S. government.. just hit $23 trillion in debt, more than double since the last financial meltdown. However, the property backing the debt has also increased. People will eventually pay off houses, cars, and student loans, if they stay working and learn fiscal responsibility.**

All the debt has bought for us is more time to expand the bubble for relative stability. Meanwhile, like someone who has resorted to paying the home mortgage with Visa Checks, **we are literally committing financial suicide and literally destroying the futureof this country and the future of this republic.**We are destroying everything the founders built by insatiable greed in this generation.

It could **come crashing down, but right now there are only signs of massive correction upward. It is a correction for being held underwater until our lungs almost burst. The only question people have is whether or not it’s sustainable**.

People that have faith in Wall Street, people that have faith in Washington, people that have faith in the Federal Reserve and in the system, ultimately, they are going to be extremely disappointed. Most Americans are going to be blindsided by this, and most people have no idea what’s coming, absolutely no idea. We’re not just talking about Mad Max. We’re not just talking about Armageddon. We’re talking about the end of America. In the long term, if you want to prepare, you need to prepare for the end of our country. The questions comes up though. What about another country?

**China Missed Bond Payments**

Two Chinese companies failed to repay bonds worth a combined half a billion dollars on Monday, underscoring rising debt risks in the highly leveraged nation as the economy slows.  It proves President Trump's tactics on dealing with unfair China Trade are having a massive effect on China.

Peking University Founder Group was unable to secure sufficient funding to repay a 270-day, 2 billion yuan ($285 million) bond, according to a company filing to the National Interbank Funding Center. Tunghsu Optoelectronic Technology Co. failed to deliver repayment on both interest and principal on a 1.7 billion yuan bond, according to Shanghai Clearing House.

The quickening speed of bond defaults in China, especially among ailing private firms, highlights the growing financial strain triggered by the country’s worst economic slowdown in three decades and unabated trade tensions with the U.S. Last week, industrial firm Xiwang Group failed to pay a 1 billion yuan bond, missing a fresh repayment deadline on an already defaulted bond.

That “worst economic slowdown in three decades” is no accident. Rather, it’s the direct result of President Trump’s trade war policies which have had a negligible impact on the U.S. economy while pushing China to the brink of economic disaster. **In short, the president has clearly been right all along – China needs us far more than we need them.**

**FBI Always Gets Their Man**

I am not very confident that the FBI always gets their man. Sometimes, it appears, someone tells them to let the perp go. Sort of like Lords of War where Nicolas Cage has this FBI agent who chases him through the entire movie, and then catches him. He tells him, “In a minute, that phone is going to ring, and you’re going to be ordered to let me go. Because there are people in the Pentagon who need people like me, because they don’t want their hands to get dirty. That’s exactly what happens.

Well, maybe not this time. An indictment has been unsealed against the CEO of an online payment processing company, and seven others, charging them with conspiring to make and conceal conduit and excessive campaign contributions, and related offenses, during the U.S. presidential election in 2016 and thereafter.  Hundreds of donations . . .  to DEMOCRATS . . . including Hillary Clinton . . .

Assistant Attorney General Brian A. Benczkowski of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division and Assistant Director in Charge Timothy R. Slater of the FBI’s Washington Field Office made the announcement.

A federal grand jury in the District of Columbia indicted Ahmad “Andy” Khawaja, 48, of Los Angeles, California, on Nov. 7, 2019, along with George Nader, Roy Boulos, Rudy Dekermenjian, Mohammad “Moe” Diab, Rani El-Saadi, Stevan Hill and Thayne Whipple.

The 53 count indictment charges Khawaja with two counts of conspiracy, three counts of making conduit contributions, three counts of causing excessive contributions, 13 counts of making false statements, 13 counts of causing false records to be filed, and one count of obstruction of a federal grand jury investigation. Nader is charged with conspiring with Khawaja to make conduit campaign contributions, and related offenses. Boulos, Dekermenjian, Diab, El-Saadi, Hill, and Whipple are charged with conspiring with Khawaja and each other to make conduit campaign contributions and conceal excessive contributions, and related offenses.

According to the indictment, from March 2016 through January 2017, Khawaja conspired with Nader to **conceal the source of more than $3.5 million in campaign contributions**, directed to political committees associated with a candidate for President of the United States (Hillary Clinton) in the 2016 election. By design, these contributions appeared to be in the names of Khawaja, his wife, and his company. In reality, they allegedly were funded by Nader. Khawaja and Nader allegedly made these contributions in an effort to gain influence with high-level political figures, including the candidate. As Khawaja and Nader arranged these payments, Nader allegedly reported to an official **from a foreign government** about his efforts to gain influence.

The indictment also alleges that, from March 2016 through 2018, Khawaja conspired with Boulos, Dekermenjian, Diab, El-Saadi, Hill, and Whipple to conceal Khawaja’s excessive contributions, which totaled **more than $1.8 million,** to various political committees. Among other things, these contributions allegedly allowed Khawaja to host a private fundraiser for a **presidential candidate** in 2016 and a private fundraising dinner for an elected official in 2018.

The indictment further alleges that, from June 2019 through **July 2019**, Khawaja obstructed a grand jury investigation of this matter in the District of Columbia. Knowing that a witness had been called to testify before the grand jury, Khawaja allegedly provided that witness with false information about Nader and his connection to Khawaja’s company. Boulos, Diab, Hill, and Whipple also are charged with obstructing the grand jury’s investigation by lying to the FBI.

Currently, Nader is in federal custody on other charges.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. It merely alleges that crimes have been committed. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The FBI’s Washington Field Office is investigating the case and Deputy Chief John D. Keller and Trial Attorneys James C. Mann and Michael J. Romano of the Criminal Division’s Public Integrity Section are prosecuting the case.

**The Fall of Europe**

Significant social change usually takes place over the course of many decades, but sometimes gradual trends enter into an acceleration phase, and massive social transformations take place in a matter of years. A few years ago, who would have imagined that the demands of the transgender “community” would become the determining factor in the decisions of school boards, corporate boards, and athletic associations? Who would have thought that the “right” of boys to enter the girls’ locker room, or the “right” of drag queens to conduct story hours in public libraries, would someday outweigh all other considerations? Yet, here we are.

Thus far, the Islamization of several major European states has been a gradual process. But there are signs that this trend is now set to accelerate. After a 9/11-style plot was recently foiled by French intelligence services, the new Interior Minister, Christophe Castaner, revealed that 60 such attacks had been foiled since 2013.



Meanwhile, 235,000 complaints for rape or attempted rape were filed in 2018; this was 62,000 more than in 2016, and an astonishing 225,000 more than in 2005. In 2018, there were also more than a thousand anti-Christian attacks (mostly, the desecration of churches), and 541 anti-Semitic acts—up 64 percent from 2017, and a shocking statistic when one considers that Jews make up less than one percent of the French population.

Charles Gave, an economist who published an article on “The Demographic Suicide of Europe,” wrote that within thirty years, France will submit to Islam. In response, the mainstream press denounced him as “Islamophobic.” Likewise, when journalist Eric Zemmour wrote that he fears that the fight for the survival of France is “a battle already lost,” he, too, was accused of “Islamophobia.”

While anti-Muslim attacks are much fewer than anti-Christian or anti-Jewish attacks, and while only a few journalists dare to criticize Islam, French leftists have managed to create the perception that the nation is endangered by a wave of Islamophobia. On November 10, a coalition of left-wing groups organized a 13,000-strong march in Paris against Islamophobia.

While the French are engaged in their quick-time march to Islamization, a similar phenomenon is occurring in the U.K. The British have been in appeasement mode for a long time. For more than a decade, police and other authorities turned a blind eye to the activities of Muslim grooming gangs who were responsible for the rape and prostitution of thousands of teenage girls in towns and cities across the English Midlands. On the other hand, authorities were quick to prosecute the handful of “Islamophobes” who called attention to the crimes. Tommy Robinson, for example, was arrested on at least four occasions.

Islamophobia now seems to be a hate crime in England. On October 22, a Jewish blogger who goes by the name Fahrenheit 211, and who has been critical of Islam, was handcuffed and arrested at his home by at least a half-dozen police. The constables were led by a Muslim officer who is attached to the ‘hate crime and hate speech’ unit organized by Sadiq Khan, the Muslim mayor of London. The blogger was jailed on suspicion of Islamophobia; as Fahrenheit notes, it’s increasingly common in Britain to be arrested for such crimes of “wrongthink.”

The blogger is just the latest in a long line of British citizens who have run afoul of the law for saying the wrong thing about Islam. There is reason to believe that the Islamization of England could soon accelerate to warp speed. This is because there’s a chance that Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour party’s hard-left candidate, could become the next prime minister.

In a recent piece for Gatestone Institute, journalist Con Coughlin suggests that a Corbyn government would jeopardize Britain’s security and intelligence-sharing relationship with Washington because of Corbyn’s open association with “regimes and groups that are utterly hostile to the West and its allies.”

This, according to Coughlin, would include Corbyn’s close association with members of Hamas, Hezbollah, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Iranian regime. A Corbyn government would not only pose a danger to the U.S.–U.K. security relation, it would also endanger the citizens of the U.K. His pro-Islamist sympathies make it highly likely that the pace of Islamization in Britain would shift into high gear.

​❧

**How about America? As Ronald Reagan** once said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.” Nowadays it might be more accurate to rephrase that to “never more than one election away.” If the Democrats should regain the presidency, and possibly the Senate, in next year’s election, we can expect a marked increase in Islamic influence over our government and our society.

President Obama famously said that “the future must not belong to those who slander the Prophet of Islam.” Many of his policies and appointments seemed geared to ensure that critics of Islam would have no future. On September 27, 2012, in a nighttime raid, federal authorities arrested Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the producer of a short YouTube video that mocked Muhammad. Mr. Nakoula was found guilty of probation violation and was sentenced to one year in prison. Of course, his real crime was that he had slandered the Prophet of Islam.

During President Obama’s eight-year tenure, he developed close ties with the Muslim Brotherhood—an organization that has been labeled as the “mother of all terrorist groups”—and he actively facilitated the Muslim Brotherhood takeover of Egypt under Mohamed Morsi. Meanwhile, his Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, worked closely with the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on plans to criminalize criticism of Islam. At around the same time, it was revealed that Mrs. Clinton’s top aide and close confidant, Huma Abedin, had family members who were deeply enmeshed in Muslim Brotherhood organizations. As it turned out, Ms. Abedin herself worked for several years as a managing editor for a Muslim Brotherhood journal.

No matter. When five members of Congress asked for an investigation of Ms. Abedin, they were treated like pariahs.

The Obama administration also channeled huge sums of money to Iran’s Islamist regime—money which not only advanced Iran’s nuclear program, but also enabled it to supply weapons to terrorist groups across the world.

Back on the home front, Islamic activist groups such as CAIR, ISNA, and MAS made a great deal of headway under the Obama administration. At the behest of Muslim pressure groups, John Brennan ordered the FBI (then headed by Robert Mueller), the Department of Defense, and other agencies to purge their training programs of any materials that might suggest that Islam was anything other than a model cultural-religious system. At the same time, many Muslim activists were placed in influential and sensitive government positions, including some in Homeland Security. And many are still embedded in the Deep State.

If Democrats should retake the government, it’s a sure bet that the promotion of Islam which took place under Obama, and which suffered a partial setback under Trump, will once again become a top priority. The party is now much more radical and left-leaning than it was under Obama, and, like leftists everywhere, party members will be tempted to ally themselves with forces that are subversive of American freedoms.

That said, it is not out of the question that America could suddenly find itself on the fast track to society as beholden to Islamic interests as Britain and France. An emboldened leftist-Islamist alliance, abetted by leftist legislatures and leftist judges, would go after critics of Islam with a vengeance. Once legitimate criticism of Islam becomes a hate crime punishable by imprisonment, opposition to the Islamist agenda will quickly dry up. And the pace of change will continue to speed up.

The West seems set for political turmoil that could greatly expand the power of Islam in France, England, and America. Is there any way, to stop it? Well, here are two suggestions: don’t forget to pray, and don’t forget to vote.

**Homeless No More**

One California city is apparently warming to the idea of pushing homeless people into a shelter where they’re not allowed to leave until they “demonstrate self-sufficiency.”

In other words, according to advocates: a jail.

Redding Mayor Julie Winter mentioned her aim for a kind of locked-down homeless shelter in an interview this week with [**Jefferson Public Radio**](https://www.ijpr.org/post/redding-mayor-envisions-forcing-homeless-people-stay-temporary-shelter?fbclid=IwAR32IYzYgul42U_bsc_iy7AvQ7aQ4SPn--etpLUSHJhEB-VEI_G3dwYsvy4#stream/0), a station that broadcasts in southern Oregon and Northern California. The interview concerned a [**Nov. 19 letter**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lR0NSzB4B-Hr-SZHWuqYg8Vvlnug17ug/view) the city drafted to Gov. Gavin Newsom, in which Winter asked him to declare a state of emergency over homelessness to access funding typically reserved for natural disasters. With that funding, the city of nearly 92,000 could build a shelter that effectively forces people with mental illness or substance-use disorder indoors, according to Jefferson Public Radio. Redding has seen an increase in homeless camps, despite repeatedly sweeping the camps and [**making arrests.**](https://www.redding.com/story/news/2019/08/26/dozens-arrested-anderson-homeless-encampment-sweep/2119714001/)

“That might be a low-security facility, but it’s not a facility you could just leave because you wanted to,” Winter told the station, adding that she’d like the shelter to hold people for up to 90 days. “You need to get clean, you need to get sober, you need to demonstrate self-sufficiency. And once you do that, you’re free to go.”

A shelter like that would almost certainly face swift and aggressive legal challenges from civil liberties organizations.

“There’s a lot of reasons why this kind of approach is not likely legal,” said Eric Tars, legal director at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, who noted it could run afoul of the Americans with Disabilities Act. “I would call it an internment camp, or a concentration camp. If it’s not a jail, then what else could it possibly be?”

Tars also expressed concern about the Trump administration’s reported interest in creating similar,[**temporary facilities in California**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/11/22/white-house-readies-california-homelessness-push-after-ousting-top-official/). The Trump administration has also reportedly indicated it’s interested in removing some homeless camps or otherwise instituting some sort of crackdown, according to the [**Washington Post.**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/11/22/white-house-readies-california-hom)That might be inviting California’s cities to do something similar, he said.

Winter did not immediately respond to a VICE News request for comment seeking further information on the shelter she mentioned to Jefferson Public Radio.

California’s nearly 130,000 homeless people represent about[**a quarter of the entire country’s homeless population.**](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/17/us/homelessness-california-population-states-comparison.html) And the state’s homeless people are largely unsheltered and sleeping on the streets, too, making the problem visible enough that President Donald Trump and members of his administration have bashed it multiple times. Advocates say the state’s homeless population has spiraled greatly in recent years due to a higher cost of living, rising rent and over-development, and inadequate social services for the very poor or mentally ill. Redding is a microcosm of that issue, though its homelessness isn’t on par with levels seen in the Bay Area or Los Angeles County. Shasta County, where Redding is based, [**recorded a homeless population**](https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/docs/libraries/housing-docs/2019-pit-report.pdf?sfvrsn=f0c6fc89_2) of 827 people this year, a 19.5% jump from the year prior. (Some county officials put that number [**somewhere between 3,000 to 4,000,**](https://www.redding.com/story/news/2019/06/11/annual-count-helps-identify-some-origins-homelessness/1409772001/) since counting homelessness is notoriously difficult.)

However, the county alleged in its letter that homeless people are refusing resources — part of the reason why it wants to force people into shelters — and negatively impacting the environment.

“Our tax-paying citizens are angry and overwhelmed, and they feel helpless. As the Mayor, I feel similarly,” Winter wrote. “The city has mental health services, a mobile mental health services unit, shelter, and substance abuse programs available that are underutilized or remain empty despite vigorous outreach.”

Chris Solberg, a homeless advocate in Redding, disputed the idea that the city’s homeless problem could be fixed with forced mental health or addiction treatment services. The 58-year-old noted that he often encounters homeless families, elderly homeless people, or refugees from the Carr Fire and Camp Fire.

“It’s demonic, to be honest with you,” he said of the forced-shelter idea.

Cities across the West Coast have argued that their hands are tied from addressing homelessness since the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled it was unconstitutional for them to ticket a person for sleeping on the street if they didn’t have an adequate shelter bed available to them. Following that September 2018 ruling, cities within the 9th Circuit are only able to ticket or jail a homeless person if they’re refusing adequate shelter space — which, especially in California, can be hard to come by.

Tars said that if a city can only convince someone to use shelter or services with the threat of locking them up, those services are probably inadequate or hostile to homeless people.

“Now it seems like what they’re doing is saying that if we can’t put people into jails that we call jails, we’re going to call the jails something else,” said Tars.

**The 18 Signs a Person is Evil**

Many people like to believe that they are a good judge of character, but sadly, that’s not always the case. There’s nothing worse than finding out that someone you thought you could trust is apparently nothing like what you believed them to be. However, don’t fault yourself for not knowing because these people are skilled in deception and manipulation.. They’re in schools, in the workplace, in churches—everywhere. They could be among your friends or your colleagues. So how do you know if someone you are dealing with has bad intentions or not?

**Passive Aggressive**

Being insulted by someone who is passive-aggressive can, at times, be tricky to figure out. The insults are probably hurled before you can even figure out that they’re meant to be for you. Their remarks may not be addressed to you, but sooner rather than later, you’ll realize that they are aimed at you. Don’t feel alone in this. Passive-aggressive people are negative and indirectly hostile. We sometimes call these people fair weather friends, because they are friendly to our face. They easily engage in conversations, laugh, and even sound like they are interested in hearing what you have to say. As soon as you are of their sight, they begin their subversion. They criticize you to others.

“Don’t get me wrong. I like the person, but,”…and then they proceed to tell something about you that is not good. You’re fat. You are slow. You make too many mistakes. You are critical of the boss. This is passive to your face, and then aggressive toward you when not around you.

In a plant or office, these are the most dangerous people in any organization. They often climb to the top management. They effectively nuke everyone who stands in their way, and eventually destroy the company. A good leader can spot these individuals and either coach them to stop this type of behavior by bringing it to the forefront, or remove them from his workforce as quickly as possible. They are often beautiful, handsome, smart, and very good at their jobs, which makes it painful to remove them. But it must be done, for misery follows wherever these people exist.

**Manipulative**

Manipulators will persuade, lie, do anything that they can just to get what they want, and they won’t have any feelings of remorse, not even a little bit. Their goal in life is to make other people feel guilty then completely control them to get what they want. They believe that their method is the best and only way because it guarantees their needs are met, and since they put primary importance on their own needs, that is all that matters. What other people think, feel, need, and want does not matter. Evil manipulators will take advantage of other people’s emotional sensitivity and sympathy. They will abuse your kindness and helpfulness and will reel you in to help them get what they want.

There are only two defenses, since these people are almost always the boss or the spouse. Not so easy to just dump them and move out. Jobs are not that easy to come by, especially if you quite, and a good spouse is as rare as tanzanite. They are always attached to someone, or they are so damaged that they have been ruined by another manipulator.

So, here are the two ways you can protect yourself. The first is time travel. Not what it sounds like. Manipulators are only effective in the moment. You remember the necromancer in the Riddick Chronicles? He could phase shift from one place to another a few feet away, making him impossible to fight. He was, however, only effective in the moment he was corporal. Riddick just anticipated where he was going to appear, and thrust his blade into that place to kill the necromancer.

That is what you have to do with the manipulator. When you can see what they are trying to do, you can anticipate it and hand them the document they think they have caught you without. You will feel their blade miss you every time.

The other defense is to expose a weakness in them quickly. Say to them quickly what everyone else wishes they could say. Do it privately, calmly, and succinctly. More than likely, they will cower at your brilliance. You will most likely get fired, if it your boss. Don’t worry. You will feel fresh, pure oxygen flowing to your brain as soon as you walk out of the building. Why? Because every other person in that building wishes they were coming with you. These are the only two defenses that are high vibration. Oh, what happens when two manipulators coexist together? That is called marriage.

**Always Right**

###### Evil people will always believe that they’re right, no matter whom they are talking to, or what they are talking about. They won’t take anyone else’s thoughts or feelings into account because they’re incredibly arrogant, and they consider their own opinions as facts. They need to be always right, and unfortunately, to maintain their image of faultlessness, they would criticize and even laugh at those whose views oppose theirs. While debating with others, even if they are at the losing end, they will insist that what they think is the absolute truth, refusing to lose face.

###### The good is not about winning or losing an argument. It is about arguing. If you find yourself dealing with someone like this, don’t even bother arguing because they won’t let you win… ever. They are inflexible and are not willing to compromise their beliefs for the sake of friendship or to maintain a diplomatic professional relationship. They’re not diplomatic or tactful, and they would stubbornly insist on what they want until you agree with them. If you keep someone like this close to you, look around. You will see no one. Why? Because they have driven everyone away.

###### That is exactly where you should be, once you have your escape set up. You can come back from time to time, but as soon as you feel yourself being drawn into an argument, walk away. Within a very short time, they will either become self absorbed, or they will apologize and the retraining has begun. If you are successful, you can stay with this person. If you are not, you should seek greener grass.

**Mean to Animals**

Animal cruelty is a telltale sign that someone might actually be incredibly violent, especially if they find pleasure in hurting animals. These people enjoy hurting animals because it makes them feel powerful. They like the idea that they can inflict pain and instill fear, showing their control over an animal. Others simply enjoy the exercise in pain and violence. Many of these people will easily move on from hurting animals to hurting humans. So, if you happen to know someone who is outright mean to your dog, trying to hurt or torture your pet in one way or another, never invite them to come back to your house ever again. Better yet, just end the friendship then and there.

**Take Joy in Other People’s Failures**

As horrible as it sounds, malicious people enjoy other people’s misfortune. Not only do they actually like it when others fail, but they actually hope that it won’t be the last time. This does not count when watching football, but be observant for curse like, “I hope you break your leg. Or, kill that guy.”

Worse yet, evil people will add fuel to the fire and try to make the situation worse in any way they can. They see other people as rivals or competition, threatening their own success, so they will find ways to sabotage other people’s performance and set them up for failure. A cop who follows a person for a long distance closely, watching for any mistake is evil. They will undermine other people by highlighting their mistakes, demeaning their achievements, directly challenging them and putting them on the spot during meetings, or crack a joke at their expense. If you know someone like this, keep your distance unless you want to find yourself in the center of the fumes.

**Pathological Liars**

This is a very rare trait. Truly evil people use truth as their main weapon. They use it with the left hand and with an agenda. A pathological liar cannot tell the truth. They would say there is sugar in the salt shaker. They simply cannot tell the truth.

So, let me focus on the evil liar. Using facts as weapons in lies is remarkably difficult to do, but evil has a way of doing it in a way that will make even an angel pick up a sword. The magic is in the word, ‘why.’ What, how, where, and when are easy enough to document very precisely. Why is quite another thing.

The evil person will use facts to make themselves powerful. Simple enough. But remember this. It is not enough for them to win. All others must lose. So, they gather facts. All kinds of facts. And then they use these facts to develop a why. If they want o get rid of you, the Human Resources department will gather facts on you. You’re tardy. You sleep at your desk. You answer personal email on the job. You complimented one of the office girls. You have a bad attitude. You forgot to put your safety glasses on or wear your earplugs. You got a speeding ticket, or were caught drinking. All facts. All can be used to build a file on you. And when the time is right, they will fire you and you will never see a dime of unemployment benefits. This is the evil pathological liar.

**Never Say They’re Sorry**

Black-hearted people never say sorry, even if they know that they’re at fault. It even comes to a point where they truly believe that they don’t have anything to say sorry about, even if they are truly at fault. Not only do they refuse to acknowledge their mistakes, they seriously think that their actions don’t need any excuses. Self-centered and self-righteous, they also believe they are above reproach. Since they have trouble separating their actions from their character, they think that if they admit they did something wrong, then they’re bad people. But since they’re egocentric, it’s hard for them to accept that they did anything wrong and should assume responsibility to correct their mistake. They will twist a story, change the facts, and retell it so convincingly that they will believe their blamelessness in their version of an incident.

**Self Absorbed**

If you find that you have that one friend that won’t talk about anyone else but themselves, then chances are they are not good people. Regardless of your issues or your problems, selfish people will just keep bringing the subject back to themselves and their issues. It’s always about them and how they are effected. Unlike real friends who listen, these people don’t care and will rarely bring up topics you’ve shared with them in the past. Their recollection about things is radically different than reality. In fact, narcissists are most often discovered displaying this distinct characteristic. Everyone else except for them is weak or crazy compared to them.

**Don’t Value Anyone Else’s Time But Their Own**

People with bad intentions don’t care about anyone but themselves, and that goes for other people’s time as well. In their minds, their time is valuable, and everyone else’s is just a second thought. They have a deep-rooted belief that they have priority and should always come first. They have no empathy, they don’t negotiate or compromise regardless of other people’s struggles. They only look out for themselves and have no problem stepping on others to get what they want in life. They are never on time, and often make people wait for hours for them to arrive, and would be furious if you left without them.

These are the same people who will demand that you make plans to spend more time with them, but they will immediately disappear or cancel plans at the last minute when someone they find more useful shows up. Even though they expect you to set aside everything for them, they have no respect for your time and don’t care about disappointing you. If you find that you are with someone who has zero regard for your needs and wants, just steer clear of them.

**Controllers**

Evil people need to be in control of all situations, regardless of how they manage to do it or who gets hurt along the way. It is second nature to them to assert their dominance or superiority over other people. They want to control everything and everyone around them. Being in control allows evil people to go on with their deceitful ways in order to get what they want, having zero regard for anyone else. It doesn’t matter what they need to do in order to gain control, or whom they might step on, for as long as their way is the only way. One thing you must be aware of is that these people are political cage fighters. They often allow you to knock them to the floor, because they fight best on their backs. They do not obey the rules. If you sue them, they will post the lawsuit on their website to show the world how you are victimizing them. They have no concept of boundaries and they are relentless in pursuing what they want. They get overly upset when someone disagrees with them, and they won’t stop until they’ve convinced or forced everyone to follow what they say. Their need to be right almost always places them in the position of manager, boss, or owner of a business, so be careful.

**They Enjoy Being Mean**

There’s no other way to say it but those with bad intentions are just incredibly mean. Not only do they laugh at the expense of their supposed friends, but they also treat them horribly and put them down most of the time. I interviewed a criminal psychologist a few times. I was asking questions about the prison system. I wanted to know why he thought incarceration was a good way to deal with bad people.

Doesn’t it just make them a better criminal? What’s being done to rehabilitate them in prison? What he told me stuck with me for life. He said the people in prison for violent crimes are to there to protect society from them. When a person hits another person in the nose, and the blood flows immediately from their screams, the person get aroused. That is to say they get an erection. Females get a rush of hormones not unlike a massive orgasm. From this there is no rehab. From this is pure evil, and it will keep reoffending until someone or multiple people end up dead.

They are mean, because it gives them joy to be mean.

**They Blame Everyone**

Evil people do more than avoid accepting responsibility for their failures by blaming others for causing it. There are people who know what responsibility is and just refuse to take responsibility for their actions. That’s not evil. That is something else. Evil people make the fact that they did their offense because of you. In other words, look at the people with TDS. They burn cars, beat the elderly, burn buildings and loot because Trump is President. These are people who defraud banks, non-profits, and the public because of something that has nothing to do with them, but for which they can blame all their anger.

Kapernick blaming his extortion of funds from the NFL or Nike started out as police brutality, then it was Trump, and then it was the American flag, and now it is just white people in general. Always blaming someone else for their evil behavior. It is the core building block of the victim party, now the most powerful political force in the world today.

**Entitled**

More often than not, evil people feel extremely entitled for one reason or another. In ancient times it was the genealogy of the fathers that made them entitled. In modern times, it is the relation to a politician, or a banker, a celebrity or a CEO that makes them entitled. Parents often bribe colleges to get their child into that university so they can either get a degree or to find a spouse with a degree from that school. I look at the case of the 33 parents who had trafficked their poorly performing kids to faculty of certain schools along with bribery money, to make sure they got admitted.

The Lori Loughlin trafficked her daughter since she was 16 years old during the summers to spend time on the rowing coach’s private yacht and spent $500,000 so that they could leverage their daughter into USC. They got caught. There are dozens more also being prosecuted for this.

Look at Elizabeth Warren, who’s grades were so poor as a student teacher that she had to claim she was a native American on her applications to gain admission to graduate school. She got loans, admission, and preferential grades so the school could claim they were graduating a native American. Now, she’s running for President, and she has not still not stopped lying. Why? Because she feels entitled to the office.

There is another who feels that way. I think you know who that is.

**No Remorse**

Evil people though couldn’t care less about how the other person feels as they have zero remorse if they treat others horribly, having no guilt or shame for their vicious actions. People that show no remorse are often called sociopaths. A sociopath is a technical term for a person with antisocial personality disorder (ASPD). They have no fear, and they don’t care how other people see them unless it leads to their exposure, preventing them from displaying more antisocial behavior. They break rules and make reckless decisions without feeling guilty if they caused any harm. They can do the most wicked things and feel no remorse about the consequences of their actions. One can say they don’t have a conscience, and without a conscience, they don’t feel bad about any negative behavior or damage they do.

Hillary Clinton assassinated the President of Libya, and then laughed about his murder on national television. She put her own ambassador in harm’s way and watched him die live on TV. Then, she sent her national security advisor out to tell the world a lie about what caused it, and denied everything, saying, “What difference does it make, anyway?”

She’s in the wings of the Democrat party even now, waiting for the candidates to stumble and fall or to move too close to the Socialist ideology. She will steal the election and have no remorse.

**Ulterior Motives**

Immoral people make sure that they do “nice” things, not because they are actually nice but because they can use it to their advantage so that they can get something from you in return. They will make it seem like they are just being selfless, but deep down inside, they are already planning exactly how they are going to twist it for their own benefit. They’re exceedingly selfish, and they will not help you if they think they won’t benefit from it. Thinking only about their self-interests, they make friends with you and see what they can get from you. It could be anything such as money, access to your social circle, free food, free rides, or career opportunities. At work, these people only pay attention to those in positions of power. They are looking for the easiest way to climb the management ladder. You’ll notice that these people are proactive when the boss is around, but once the boss steps out, they’re back to being lazy procrastinators.

**The Wrong Enemies**

Most of the time, wicked people tend to be overly friendly only to hide the fact that they have tons of enemies. You might even join the pool of enemies when you realize these wicked people are selfish, egoistic, manipulative, and abusive liars. If you know some of their enemies to be good people, you should use caution. God forbids us from judging people. We are, however, allowed to know them by their fruits. You can also know them by their enemies. Jesus had tons of enemies, but they were all the right enemies.

**Expressive Hate**

Most villainous people are full of hatred. Not only do they feel incredibly high and mighty, where their thoughts and emotions are more important than anyone else’s, but they also tend to be racist, homophobic, bigots and tend to bash other people’s beliefs. And to top it all off, they don’t think that there is anything wrong with what they are saying. At work, they will complain about everyone and everything. They will vent about the boss, their colleagues, the clients, the computers, the work, and even the drinking water. Among friends, they will criticize your clothes, your hair, your car, the way you talk, and maybe even the way you chew your food. You’ll find that most of their issues are quite unreasonable and offensive, and if you tell them so, expect them to lash out at you. All this irrational hatred toward people, actions, and things is a major red flag that you’re dealing with an evil and toxic person.

**Unreliable**

Malicious people couldn’t care less about the things that are important in your life, making them very unreliable as well. Not only are they not there for you when you need them the most, but they also tend to flake on you over and over again, without any thoughts to your feelings. They will pretend to please you by making promises they can’t keep and taking on responsibilities they have no intention of accomplishing. They will appear to agree with your request, but they will procrastinate and take forever to complete the task. They won’t complain, but they will show their displeasure by not doing anything. They will not keep their commitments, and even if they do make some progress, they will rarely deliver on time unless they get something better in return. If you call them out for missing the deadline, they’ll get upset with you and would most likely drop the task altogether and leave you hanging do all the work yourself. If you have any people in your life that happen to be like this, then it’s time to seriously reevaluate that relationship and just call the entire thing quits.

**SNAP Requirements**

When I was in college with four small children at home, I received food stamps. It was either that, or drop out of school. To me, it was part of the student loan program. I stayed in school on the honor roll, and they fed my family. I paid back those food stamps a hundred times over with the higher income I received after I graduated.

During the Obama Administration, the Food Stamp Program, known as SNAP, became a favorite for buying votes. They actively recruited people to receive food stamps. Millions of able-bodied people were signed up and registered to vote at the same time. Grocers loved the program as well. These voters were reliable and targeted in certain districts. Many times during the 8 years, Obama was president, the ability to create riot on order was tested with glitches in the SNAP system. Within minutes of the cards being switched off, violence would break out. They tried to expand the program to include prepared foods such as McDonalds, and Burger King, but the retailers could not be convinced to launch the program. It created a new dependent class of Americans.

The Trump Administration had a different idea. A job is far more valuable to the integrity of a person than a free meal. “Government can be a powerful force for good, but government dependency has never been the American dream. We need to encourage people by giving them a helping hand but not allowing it to become an indefinitely giving hand,” Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue stated on Wednesday. “Now, in the midst of the strongest economy in a generation, we need everyone who can work, to work.”

Under current law, work-eligible adults without dependents under the age of 50 can only get three months of benefits over a three-year period if they don’t meet a work requirement of 20 hours per week. The new rule simply cuts back on states’ ability to exempt work-eligible people from the work requirements via waivers.

Nancy Pelosi said that the finalized rule “showcases the Trump Administration’s complete and devastating disregard for the health and well-being of millions of Americans.”

Republican lawmakers, in contrast, lauded the change.

“There is simply no reason today why, for example, an able-bodied adult male with no health problems and no dependents should not [be] employed – or at least contributing as a productive volunteer in his community,” said Republican Study Committee Chair Mike Johnson, R-La. “Our public policy in this country should always emphasize the virtue of hard work as a pathway out of poverty, while public assistance programs should be reserved only for those who are truly in need.

I do not know if full-time students with families can still get SNAP assistance.

**Judges Confirmed While Impeachment Show Aired**

The Senate confirmed four trial court nominees to the federal bench Wednesday, among them a public interest lawyer Democrats say will trim abortion rights.

Senators confirmed the nominee, Sarah Pitlyk, to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri on a 49-44 vote that largely followed party lines.

“Sarah’s strong legal experience, sharp intellect, and commitment to the rule of law make her an outstanding choice for the Eastern District,” GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri said in a statement. “I was proud to recommend her to President [Donald] Trump, and I am confident that she will serve the people of Missouri as a principled and fair judge for decades to come.”

Conservative groups made a last-minute push for Pitlyk after a Republican defection raised the prospect of a narrow confirmation vote. GOP Sen. Susan Collins of Maine opposed Pitlyk, citing concerns over judicial temperament.

Pitlyk joined the Thomas More Society as special counsel after graduating Yale Law School and practicing law in Washington, D.C., and St. Louis. The Thomas More Society is a public interest law practice that litigates pro-life and religious liberty causes. Her pro-life advocacy has included [criticism of surrogacy](https://dailycaller.com/2018/05/16/surrogate-mothers-supreme-court/) and fertility treatments.

Pitlyk also defended David Daleiden, the activist whose undercover videos [purport to show Planned Parenthood executives arranging the sale of fetal tissue](https://dailycaller.com/2016/01/25/creators-of-planned-parenthood-sting-videos-hit-with-felony-indictment/). Daleiden faced criminal charges arising from those videos in two states, relating to invasion of privacy and tampering with records. He has not been convicted on any charge.

“My concern is not based on Ms. Pitlyk’s personal views on abortion or various medical decisions, which she has every right to hold,” Collins said in a statement. “I do question, however, given her pattern of strident advocacy, whether she could put aside her personal views on these matters.”

“Her history of public service in defense of the First Amendment should be to Ms. Pitlyk’s credit, not used against her,” Travis Weber of the Family Research Council told lawmakers in a letter the Daily Caller News Foundation obtained.

Pitlyk was also a surrogate for Justice Brett Kavanaugh during his [contentious confirmation to the Supreme Court](https://dailycaller.com/2018/10/06/brett-kavanaugh-confirmed-supreme-court/). She clerked for Kavanaugh when he served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The Eastern District of Missouri is the federal trial court based in St. Louis, with jurisdiction over dozens of counties in the eastern part of the state.

Other nominees confirmed Wednesday include Austin Huffaker Jr. for the Middle District of Alabama, Douglas Cole for the Southern District of Ohio and John L. Sinatra for the Western District of New York.

**Patriot Act Extended by Democrats**

It may seem to many Americans that Washington is entirely consumed by the impeachment inquiry, and that no other important business is getting done on Capitol Hill. But on Tuesday, in a break from televised hearings, the House of Representatives voted to fund the government through December 20. If passed by the Senate, the continuing resolution would prevent a government shutdown and forestall a debate about border-wall funding.

That’s all well and good, except that Democratic leaders had slipped something else into the bill: a three-month extension of the Patriot Act, the post-9/11 law that gave the federal government sweeping surveillance and search powers and circumvented traditional law-enforcement rules. Key provisions of the Patriot Act were set to expire on December 15, including Section 215, the legal underpinning of the call detail records program exposed in the very first Edward Snowden leak.

“It’s surreal,” Representative Justin Amash told me on Tuesday, just before the vote. Amash, an independent who left the Republican Party over his opposition to President Trump, pointed to the hypocrisy on both sides of the aisle. Republicans have “decried FISA abuse” against the president and his aides, he said, referring to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, “and Democrats have highlighted Trump’s abuse of his executive powers, yet they’re teaming up to extend the administration’s authority to warrantlessly gather data on Americans.”

By tucking the measure into a must-pass bill, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi forced many members who oppose the Patriot Act to vote in favor of its extension. “Although I do have serious concerns with reauthorizing Section 215,” Representative Bobby Rush of Illinois told The Hill, “we must focus on the bigger picture here.” In late October, Rush signed a letter co-authored by Representatives Rashida Tlaib and Earl Blumenauer, which read, “We will not support any legislation that extends Section 215’s sunset date if it fails to contain robust reforms that protect innocent people from unjust surveillance.”

On Monday night, Amash submitted an amendment to strip the Patriot Act language from the budget bill, but the amendment was blocked by Democrats on the Rules Committee.

Just 10 Democrats defied the leadership to vote against the resolution, including Tlaib, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley, and Ilhan Omar (a.k.a. “the Squad”). “I cannot in good conscience vote in favor of a [continuing resolution] that reauthorizes unconstitutional mass surveillance authorities,” Tlaib told me, “especially under a president who has retweeted images of his opponents jailed and suggests anyone who disagrees with him is a criminal.” AOC tweeted before the vote, “Yeah that’s gonna be a no from me dog.”

Some advocates have questioned whether the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), which includes the Squad, should have done more to combat—or, at least, register its dissatisfaction with—the last-minute maneuver by Democratic leadership. On Wednesday morning, leaders of the CPC and the libertarian House Freedom Caucus circulated a joint letter on Capitol Hill calling for extensive reforms to the Patriot Act before it is reauthorized. But when it came time for the floor vote, CPC co-chairs Pramila Jayapal and Mark Pocan voted in favor of the funding measure. So did most of the caucus’s members. The only person in CPC leadership to vote against the bill was Omar.

“We needed a show of resolve from House progressives to underscore that protections for civil liberties are vital,” said Norman Solomon, the co-founder of digital activist group RootsAction.org. “Instead we got a cave-in from CPC leadership along with all but 10 Democrats.”

“There’s no other way to spin this,” a progressive staffer on the Hill told me. “This was a major capitulation. The progressive caucus has touted itself as an organization that can wield power and leverage the votes of its 90 members. And they didn’t lift a finger. Democratic leadership rammed this down their throats.”

Repealing the call records program had been considered relatively low-hanging fruit by reform advocates—not least because it’s no longer operational. The National Security Agency announced a year ago that it had shut down the program after a series of compliance mishaps (during which many millions of innocent Americans’ phone records were accidentally collected). Lawmakers in both parties have expressed bewilderment about why they should reauthorize a program the NSA doesn’t use.

But in recent hearings, Trump administration officials have argued that the government should retain the authority in case it needs it later. In early November, an NSA official told the Senate Judiciary Committee the agency feared losing a “tool in our toolbox” that could prove “valuable moving forward.”

Thanks to House Democrats, those fears are allayed for the moment.

The late-game maneuver irked some advocacy groups, which have argued that Democrats’ broader complaints about the Trump administration—its white nationalist advisers, hostility to immigrants, disregard for the Constitution, and disdain for the press—should compel them to prioritize surveillance reform, too.

“Democrats are actively arguing that Donald Trump is unfit for office,” said Sandy Fulton of Free Press. “They’ve repeatedly acknowledged that he’s a threat to our most vulnerable communities. And yet they’re going to give him the Patriot Act?” Democratic leaders want to isolate the debate about intelligence from the debate about Trump’s fitness for office, Fulton explained. “They want to have these two conversations separately. But that doesn’t make sense. They should be the same conversation.”

A CPC spokesperson defended its members’ support of the continuing resolution. While acknowledging the caucus would have “preferred a clean CR without the 215 extension,” she said, “the top priority for the Progressive Caucus is to ensure major surveillance reform is included in any ultimate reauthorization.” The extension will help this goal, she argued: “Without a short extension that allows us to obtain these major reforms, we would end up in a much worse position.”

Jayapal, the CPC co-chair, denied that this was a situation of Democratic leadership bearing down on progressives. “That happens pretty often,” she said, laughing. “So I actually know what that feels like. This wasn’t one of them.”

According to Jayapal, negotiations between members of the Judiciary Committee and the NSA-friendly House Permanent Subcommittee on Intelligence (HPSCI) were going well. “Almost every single thing in our letter has been addressed, but not quite to our level of satisfaction,” Jayapal said. “We’re still pushing really hard, and we need this extra time to be able to finish that.” Without HPSCI’s buy-in, she said, “there’s no point in marking up a bill … because that is often where we run into problems.”

But some advocates say the best way to get buy-in from the intelligence committee is a show of strength. It would only have taken a few dozen progressive defections to kill the continuing resolution, after which the leadership would have been forced to strip the Patriot Act from the bill and schedule another vote on funding the government. “Self-identified progressives should have thrown a monkey wrench into the Orwellian machinery,” said Solomon. “Putting up a fight now would have opened up possibilities for rolling back key aspects of the surveillance state.”

Jayapal disagreed. If the House had not passed the extension, she said, the GOP-led Senate would have sent over a clean reauthorization bill (with no reforms), and she worries moderate Democrats might have gone along with it—especially if faced with the alternative of allowing the provisions to expire altogether. “You could go through and name any strategy for me, and I would tell you why it would fail,” she said.

As for allowing the Patriot Act to sunset, Jayapal told me, “There was no scenario in which this thing was going to expire.” Eighteen years after 9/11, raising the specter of “the next attack” still has political potency. “We already heard that from the Senate,” Jayapal said.

These views represent competing visions for how progressives should wield power in Congress. Jayapal’s pragmatic streak has often contrasted with the more openly confrontational approach of Ocasio-Cortez or Tlaib. While members of the Squad have seemed to relish fights with top Democrats, Jayapal has advocated for sticking to principles, while finding ways to work collaboratively with leadership.

“In my ideal world, we wouldn’t have the Patriot Act. Period,” Jayapal said, “but that’s not where we are. So we’ve got to fix these things, and they need to be substantive, real changes. That’s what we’re working on.”

**The Impeachment Show: Season 4**

In February of 2016, three months before Republicans had selected a nominee, the Deep State operating under the direction of Barack Obama placed CIA spies into the Trump, Cruz, and Kasich campaigns. Season 1 of the impeachment show was well underway. Those spies were not only gathering information through illegal means, they were planting information as well. Through their manipulation of staffers, lawyers, department heads and potential cabinet choices they were able to cripple these campaigns.

Trump managed to get the nomination on May 26th, 2016. The other spies slipped away in the mass layoffs, but the ones inside the Trump team stayed and laid the groundwork for an insurance plan. The Global Syndicate does not leave too much to chance. They didn’t trust Trump, because he could not be bought. Trump was not playing along. In fact he went immediately to the public and told them the moment he discovered that he was being spied upon by the Deep State. They didn’t trust the voters, and they weren’t sure Hillary had the right strategy, even though the more she appeared publicly, the worse she did on the polls.

Season 2 began with the creation of the Russian collusion. It rolled right through the inauguration and a few months later resulted in the firing of Sally Yates, James Comey and others at the very highest levels of the FBI, because they were openly and brazenly trying to overthrow the election. It also included the compromising of the FISA warrant process by feeding fabrications to the judges in order to pull warrants to cover the tracks of the spying with actual surveillance. They assassinated all the Russian assets. They attacked Michael Flynn to make sure he could not report anything to Trump. Rather than the judges calling back in the fraudsters to face contempt charges, they went silent. All of them.

Season 3 began with the Mueller Investigation. Well, they used his name, but he didn’t actually do anything. It was a script-writing process that the news actors read every day for a year. It went nowhere. The entire season was a flop, and Mueller forgot all his lines at the hearing. No Oscar for that one. As this was going on, due to poor ratings, the Deep State tried to stall the economy and cause another Depression like there were able to do in 1928. It didn’t work

Season 4 begins with an effort to twist a phone call to the Ukrainian president Zelenski into a Quid Pro Quo. That didn’t poll well, so they changed it to bribery. That didn’t look too good when the people realized that billions of dollars were being laundered through Joe Biden’s son from both China and Ukraine. It doesn’t look good The Season is wrapping up with a straight Party impeachment vote forced by 20 radical Democrats who have enough dirt to restore the entire Yankee Stadium.

On Friday’s broadcast of CNN’s “New Day,” House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC) stated that he expects “to lose some” Democrats on an impeachment vote.

Co-host John Berman asked, “How many Democrats do you expect to lose on the impeachment vote?”

Clyburn said, “Well, we do expect to lose some, and that’s why I say it is a conscience vote, and it’s with their constituents. We have a very diverse caucus. I share six counties with a Democrat in South Carolina. I share the part of those counties that is much different from the part that Cunningham has, and we may be voting differently. I have no idea.”

And they don’t care. Why? Because their goal is to impeach Trump. Once he is impeached, the entire trillion-dollar press empire will turn on a full ad campaign for a Constitutional Crisis. Never before in history has an impeached president been on the ballot. They will press the States to remove his name. They will press the Senate to remove him, or else lose their elections.

The question is, will this result in a landslide election, or a revolution?

According to [**Moody’s Analytics**](https://www.moodysanalytics.com/-/media/article/2019/president-election-model.pdf), Trump is headed toward another four years in the White House. And, if the numbers are right, it won’t even be close.

In fact, his Electoral College victory could very well be wider than the 304-227 margin he enjoyed over Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election.

Since 1980, Moody’s has managed to nail the outcome every time but once — like many, it didn’t see Trump coming.

“In our post-mortem of the 2016 presidential election model,” the report said, “we determined that unexpected turnout patterns were one of the factors that contributed to the model’s first incorrect election prediction.” Here’s Moody’s track record, including a 2016 adjustment for the turnout variable:

Will it return to its winning ways? The team takes into account how consumers feel about their finances, the performance of the stock market [**SPX, +0.91%**](https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/index/spx?mod=MW_story_quote) and their job prospects. Essentially, today, they’re feeling pretty good.

“Under the current Moody’s Analytics baseline economic outlook, which does not forecast any recession, the 2020 election looks like Trump’s to lose,” the authors wrote. “Democrats can still win if they are able to turn out the vote at record levels, but, under normal turnout conditions, the president is projected to win.”

**From the MarketWatch archives (August 2016):** [**To professional economists, Trump isn’t even the second best candidate in the 2016 presidential election**](https://www.marketwatch.com/story/to-professional-economists-trump-isnt-even-the-second-best-presidential-candidate-in-the-race-2016-08-22)

Moody’s uses three models to come up with its forecast. In each case, Trump gets at least 289 Electoral College votes.

The “pocketbook” measure, which focus on how people feel about their money situation, is where Trump shines brightest, grabbing a whopping 351 electoral votes. “If voters were to vote primarily on the basis of their pocketbooks, the president would steamroll the competition,” the report said.

The stock-market model gives him the slightest edge of 289-249, as investors continue to navigate a volatile investing landscape. Then there’s the unemployment model, which leans heavily in his favor at 332-206

**Chinese SETI**

China's giant, alien-hunting radio telescope is finishing its testing-and-commissioning phase, which has occurred over the past three years.

Located in southern China's Guizhou province, the [Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope](https://www.space.com/33357-china-largest-radio-telescope-alien-life.html) (FAST) began these trial operations in September 2016.

Scientists are using FAST — the world's largest single-dish radio telescope — for a variety of tasks, including to [search for extraterrestrial intelligence](https://www.space.com/30043-seti-search-for-extraterrestrial-intelligence-infographic.html).

China Central Television (CCTV) reports that, so far, FAST has detected and identified 99 rapidly spinning neutron stars known as [pulsars](https://www.space.com/32661-pulsars.html), more than 30 of which are especially fast-rotating millisecond pulsars.

The search for extraterrestrial life and other scientific targets is also underway.



"In the process of observing signals from celestial bodies, we also collect signals that might be emitted by humans or extraterrestrial intelligence," Zhu Ming, director of the scientific observation and data division at the FAST operations and development center, explained in a [recent CCTV video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7CYx1l7buE).

"However, this is a huge amount of work, since most signals we see — 99% of them — are various noises, so we need to take our time to identify the signals we want in the noises," Zhu said.

The FAST team recently organized a user training session, bringing together more than 100 astronomers from across China to discuss their experiences and discoveries during the trial operation of the big dish.

Li Kejia, a researcher from the Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics at Peking University, explained that FAST is now mainly used to measure the performance of a pulsar timing system, to directly detect [gravitational waves](https://www.space.com/25088-gravitational-waves.html).

"The sensitivity of FAST is very high, so the accuracy of the data measured is very good," Li told CCTV. "FAST has a promising future in terms of gravitational wave detection."

Researchers using FAST have increased the facility's observation modes from three to more than 10. Research and development of new receiving equipment are also underway.

"I hope that in the next three years, we can further improve the reliability of FAST and increase its effective observation time to 50%," Jiang Peng, chief engineer of the FAST project, said in the CCTV video. "Since it's already about three times as sensitive as the second-largest telescope in the world, a 50% effective observation time is already very remarkable."

The FAST team recently organized a user training session, bringing together more than 100 astronomers from across China to discuss their experiences and discoveries during the trial operation of the big dish.

Li Kejia, a researcher from the Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics at Peking University, explained that FAST is now mainly used to measure the performance of a pulsar timing system, to directly detect [gravitational waves](https://www.space.com/25088-gravitational-waves.html).

"The sensitivity of FAST is very high, so the accuracy of the data measured is very good," Li told CCTV. "FAST has a promising future in terms of gravitational wave detection."

Researchers using FAST have increased the facility's observation modes from three to more than 10. Research and development of new receiving equipment are also underway.

"I hope that in the next three years, we can further improve the reliability of FAST and increase its effective observation time to 50%," Jiang Peng, chief engineer of the FAST project, said in the CCTV video. "Since it's already about three times as sensitive as the second-largest telescope in the world, a 50% effective observation time is already very remarkable."

Really. Where are all the aliens? We should have been probed, exterminated, assimilated, infected, invaded or abducted by now, shouldn't we?

The Fermi Paradox ponders the lack of evidence of another transmitting intelligent civilization -- of all the stars and all the galaxies in the universe, you'd think one intelligent alien race would have bothered to call by now? Either we're on the interstellar "do not call" list, or we're the most advanced life form out here (scary thought), or (even scarier) we're the *only* life form out here.

[**SCIENCE CHANNEL: Are We Alone?**](http://science.discovery.com/tv-shows/are-we-alone)

The search for any extraterrestrial life is one of the most profound things we, as a species, can do. But as *any* other life beyond Earth's shores has yet to be discovered, the search for extraterrestrial *intelligence* (SETI) can be a hard-sell. Still, the search continues and scientists are thinking up more and more extreme ways to fine-tune our high-tech array of astronomical instruments to detect intelligence in the stars.

The main assumption we have to make is that our hypothetical alien neighbors have evolved in a similar way to us. Because there's a lack of other examples in the cosmos (so far) it's a pretty good place to start and a logical assumption to make -- even though it might be wildly improbable. *I'm skeptical that any other galactic race evolved through the "reality TV phase."*

One phase of development we assume is that an intelligent race of aliens will have worked out how to transmit radio waves. We've been "radio loud" for nearly 120 years (although, with the advent of digital, our easily detectable analog signal will soon go silent) -- so should any eavesdropping aliens be within 120 light-years from Earth, they may have detected us.

But that's just accidental radio leakage -- what if we could turn our radio antennae to the stars and "listen" for ET's deliberate attempt to send a radio signal? Since the 1960's SETI programs have hunted for alien radio signals, but only recently, with the help of NASA's Kepler space telescope, have we been able to carry out directed searches on star systems that are known to contain exoplanets that could play host to an alien civilization. Although this directed SETI hasn't turned up a signal yet, there's potentially millions more "habitable" worlds out there -- we've only just begun.

There have been a few false alarms when listening out for a SETI signal. As we're looking for a specific, narrow-band radio signal (something that could only be generated by a form of technology), terrestrial interference can show up in SETI searches. Fortunately, astronomers are a savvy bunch and usually know the difference between aliens and Aunt Sally gossiping on her cellphone.

[The word on the street](http://news.discovery.com/space/asteroids-meteors-meteorites/could-asteroid-mining-drive-21st-century-space-industry-130204.htm) is that mankind is on the verge of becoming an asteroid-mining powerhouse... although the reality is that the majority of the technology we have currently cannot mine and refine ore in space. But that doesn't mean distant extraterrestrial civilizations haven't advanced to this stage.

We know that asteroids contain a wealth of material and we know that asteroids orbit other stars -- therefore, ET will likely jump to the same conclusion as us: mine asteroids for material and get rich! (Well, the "get rich" thing might be more of a human disposition.) Could the debris from wholesale alien mining operations around another star be detected? Possibly.

If sufficiently advanced, some aliens may even fabricate their own tiny black holes, measuring only an atom's width and yet carrying the mass of a million tons. By plopping this black hole into some kind of hypothetical black hole drive, the engine could generate a vast quantity of gamma-rays that, in turn, would be converted into energy to power the spacecraft. According to researchers, this could be an inexhaustible power source. What's more, if we know the signature of the radiation emitted from these artificial black hole drives, we may be able to detect these whizzy aliens.

**The Peloton Wife**

After the internet was triggered by a Peloton ad featuring a yuppie buying a $2,500 exercise bike for his already-thin girl, now known on Twitter as "Peloton wife," **actor Ryan Reynolds came up with a brilliant idea:**he hired Peloton Wife - since identified as actress Monica Ruiz - and made a commercial for his Aviation Gin brand (not to be confused with Avion tequila).

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/peloton%20wife.jpg?itok=31KRR7gm)

Seen by over 6 million people since its Friday release, the ultraviral ad features Ruiz sitting at a bar, flanked by two supportive friends. Clearly shaken from her Peloton experience, she looks at her drink and says "This gin is really smooth," before downing the entire drink.

"**You look great, by the way**" says one of the other actresses - playing off the recent outrage over the Peloton commercial in which "Grace from Boston" documents a year in her life since her male partner gave her the expensive exercise bike

**The NATO Shakedown**

In March, [news](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/world/europe/germany-nato-spending-target.html) that Germany refused to meet the financial obligations that come with membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was met with some ire by the general public.

President Trump ran on a platform of holding our NATO allies accountable. That means making them pay their 2% as agreed \for the shared armed force. In 2014, NATO members [agreed](https://www.politico.eu/article/germany-nato-defense-spending-criticism/) to increase their contributions to the alliance to the amount of 2% of their respective GDPs; less than a quarter kept their promise.

Since taking office, President Trump has pressured our allies to meet the standards they set themselves. But the United States shouldn’t hold its breath. Germany—who had agreed, months back, to meet the 2% benchmark—announced in March that they will not do so. In an attempt to soften the blow, Germany suggested that it and the United States should only provide 16% of NATO’s operating budget—a reduction from the 22% that the United States had been burdened with. Lowering the cost means lowering the size of the army. Why? Because Germany is building another army. They are building a European Army.

**THE ONCE-BOLD AMBITIONS OF THE POST-WAR COALITION**

Seventy years after its formation, NATO is a shadow of its former self, a husk of the once-formidable alliance of anti-Soviet allies.

The Soviet menace was at the gate in the twilight of the 1940s. A world exhausted after years of total war was once again facing an existential threat. Communism was spreading like an untreated infection, and Western ideals were besieged. Since its inception, former Bloc states and weaker European nations have joined NATO to protect their autonomy. In theory, this should be a strong alliance, one well-funded and well-managed with immense institutional knowledge.

In practice, it’s a farce. That does not mean it requires less money to operate. Billions have been siphoned off the NATO force to form side forces that are being run by someone else; the Global Syndicate. Who are they being formed against? Why NATO, of course.

In the years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, member states have failed to pay their fair share of their obligations and forced the United States to shoulder the burden. Only a few members even bother to host military exercises for the alliance. Even when countries host their fellow members, the United States finds itself footing the bill for the massive costs associated with moving, coordinating, and executing the missions of other armies.

NATO’s member nations have done little to expand or modernize their military forces in recent years. For nearly 20 years, Western militaries have focused their efforts at combating asymmetric threats, from terrorism, insurgencies, and non-state actors. The focus on unconventional warfare and counter-insurgency operations led Congress to steer defense monies to “[overseas contingency operations](https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10143/7).” This sterile, purposefully vague phrase describes what is essentially a slush fund, separate from the broader defense budget. More than 40% of the French military is deployed on the streets of France to battle Muslims on a street by street basis. Right now, they are being torn between managing yellow vest protests and keeping Muslims from taking over entire swaths of cities and ejecting the French from their own country.

But while our military attention was focused on the mountains of Afghanistan, the streets of Iraq, and the deserts of Syria, new threats have emerged—threats that most of our Western allies are wholly unprepared for. Russia and China, fueled by chauvinism and motivated by dreams of imperialist grandeur, launched massive campaigns to expand their militaries and create robust intelligence apparatuses.

[[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/marine3_1.png?itok=Lvv0t7cb)Army Rangers, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Photo Spc. Steven Hitchcock](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/marine3_1.png?itok=Lvv0t7cb)

**THE BEAR AND THE DRAGON**

Defense observers often sneer at Russia’s failures in their recent military technology ventures. Sukhoi’s new SU-57 [lacks](https://thediplomat.com/2019/05/russia-to-procure-76-su-57-stealth-fighter-jets-by-2028/) the latest stealth technology, and the Russian Federation has only been able to scrape together enough money to purchase [76 aircraft](https://tass.com/defense/1058494). Russian ground forces had also planned on [acquiring 2,300](https://thediplomat.com/2016/09/russias-military-to-receive-100-new-t-14-armata-battle-tanks/) T-14 Armata main battle tanks by 2020—but had to push the timeline to 2025, which many experts still predict they’ll fail to meet. Russia’s Northern fleet sits docked, for the most part, rusting away while one official described the plans to modernize its hundreds of ships as a “fiasco.”

But these failures haven’t stopped Vladimir Putin from re-enacting the golden age of Soviet expansion. While the annexation of Crimea drew widespread media attention, Russia’s admittedly impressive involvement in Syria went largely unreported. Its naval base at Tartus is Russia’s only port to the Mediterranean sea, and they were not prepared to lose it. Russia sent thousands of advisers to train and fight alongside Assad’s forces against ISIS, the Syrian Democratic Forces, and the roughly dozen other non-state actors to claim territory in Syria.

Russia mobilized a large air presence to enforce air space and harass coalition aircrafts, all while using its Special Operations capabilities to fortify regime territory and reclaim that which was lost. It proved that the regional power had achieved something we hadn’t seen from them since the 1980s: force projection—the key characteristic of a world power.

Bottom of Form

More alarming, though, is China. The sleeping dragon continues to smile for the cameras while it builds a military that rivals our own and is capable of dominating any regional opponent. Cold War-era equipment stocks and lackluster training curricula have been replaced by modern weapons systems, communications, body armor, and sophisticated exercises that dwarf those of most of their western counterparts.

Moreover, China is ahead of the curve when it comes to cyberwarfare. Its army invested heavily in the space years before the United States understood the value of defending critical systems against hacker attacks. In addition, China continues to project power throughout Africa, flooding eager third world countries with cash and military advisers, and have launched an island-hopping campaign to claim land without so much a protest in the region.

[[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/marine4.png?itok=2fS0Y1-X)Green Berets assigned to 3rd Special Forces Group. Jan. 30, 2014. Photo by Sgt. Steven Lewis](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/marine4.png?itok=2fS0Y1-X)

**AMERICA STANDS ALONE**

The reluctant and half-hearted allyship of our NATO allies ultimately leaves the United States alone. NATO’s passivity over Russia and China has long established that they don’t take the threats seriously; indeed, it’s not clear they take their own sovereignty seriously. Of course, they’ll continue to lean on the military might of the United States. Why pull your weight when the last three decades have proven that Uncle Sam will foot the bill?

The United States is not the world’s police, and the American people are tired of endless war,  sending our sons and daughters to die for reasons that are abstract at best. While we try and disentangle ourselves from the quagmire that is the Middle East and Western Asia, we must reconfigure our large conventional military to ensure a position of strength and readiness, prepared to engage the threats of China and Russia without the support of our NATO partners.

**Russian Bombers are Fast**

The Russian Armed Forces put into action an ambitious program to modernize and expand the strategic bomber fleet.

In March 2018, Russia announced that it would completely overhaul its entire Tu-160 long-range strategic bomber fleet by 2030. According to Deputy Defense Minister Yuri Borisov, the entire fleet of Tu-160 bombers will be replaced with the newer Tu-160M2 version, in addition to heavy upgrades of all operational aircraft. All on-board radio-electronic equipment and engines will be replaced.

Serial production of the Tu-160M2 will begin in 2023 and the plan is for it to remain a state of the art warplane for the next 40 years. The Russian Aerospace Forces intend to purchase no less than 50 such aircraft.

The first such warplane is to be delivered in 2021, with 3 more in 2023. Afterwards serial production will continue with 3 Tu-160M2s being produced per year.

The Tupolev Tu-160 (NATO codename: Blackjack) is a long range, supersonic, variable geometry wing, strategic bomber -designed to penetrate sophisticated air defense systems at low altitude and supersonic speed. It is the Soviet counterpart to the US Air Force B-1B Lancer strategic bomber.

Armament (typically nuclear short range and long-range cruise missiles) is carried inside two weapons bays located at the middle of the fuselage.

The Tu-160M2 is a further development of the Tu-160 strategic bomber with state-of-the-art sensors and weapons.

In all, the Tu-160M2 is a highly upgraded version featuring detection reduction coatings, new more powerful and efficient engines giving it greater operational range, new avionics, electronics, glass cockpit, communications & control systems, a number of weapons, as well as improved thrust and unrefueled range. It will also be equipped with a new defensive system protecting it from missiles.

It will boast four new Kuznetsov NK-32 engines. The Kuznetsov NK-32 is an afterburning, three-spool, low bypass, turbofan jet engine, the largest and most powerful engine ever fitted on a combat aircraft. In maximum afterburner it produces 245 kN  of thrust (55,000 lbf).

It is expected that the Tu-160M2 will be armed with long-range standoff cruise missiles, including the Kh-101/Kh-102 (nuclear variant) air-launched cruise missile and the Kh-55 subsonic air-launched cruise missile.

The maiden flight of the first Tu-160M2 took place in January 2018.

The initial contract, signed on January 25, 2018, is for the production of 10 Tu-160M2s and the modernization of all other Tu-160s in the Russian Aerospace Forces by 2030.

The contract with United Aircraft Corporation’s Tupolev, for the first 10 warplanes, stands at 160 billion rubles (nearly $2.8 bn) and stipulates that the first Tu-160M2 should be delivered by 2023. Delivery of the final bomber in the first buy, according to the contract, is slated for 2027. Relaunching production itself required an investment of 37 billion rubles ($577 mil.).

The plan is for another 40 units of the Tu-160M2 to be delivered under future contracts yet to be signed.

In the meantime, the Russian Aerospace Forces operate 10 Soviet-era Tu-160s, and 7 modernized Tu-160M1s, commissioned in 2018. The Tu-160 was first introduced into service in 1987 and was the last supersonic strategic bomber to enter service with the Soviet military.

The Tu-95 is the oldest strategic bomber in service with the Russian Aerospace Forces. There are 48 of the Tu-95MSs and 12 of the modernized Tu-95MSMs.

The Russian Aerospace Forces also operate Tu-22M strategic bombers which are much smaller than the Tu-160 and Tu-95. All 63 Tu-22s in service underwent modernization. Sixty-one were modernized to the Tu-22M3 variant, 1 to the Tu-22M3M and the last one was turned into a Tu-22MR, which is currently being overhauled.

Currently, the US operates three types of strategic bombers – the B-1B, the B-2, and the B-52. The US Air Force has 62 B-1Bs, out of which, according to data from August 2019, only 6 were fully operational, with the others being grounded or undergoing maintenance. They have been in service since 1985.

The longest serving bomber in the US Air Force is the B-52A which was commissioned back in 1955. The existing fleet was upgraded to the B-52H Stratofortress, commissioned in 1961. It is planned for this warplane to be operated until 2050. As of June 2019, there were 58 B-52 bombers in operation, with 18 more in reserve.

The B-2 is the only stealth bomber in operation anywhere in the world. It was commissioned in 1993. Thef US Air Force operates 20 such warplanes. There is also the B-21 Raider stealth bomber in development by Northrop Grumman. The first test aircraft is being built in Northrop Grumman’s Palmdale, California, facility and has yet to make its maiden flight. The optimistic forecast is that the first bomber should enter service by 2025.

As of the end of 2019, the US and Russia operate comparable fleets of strategic bombers, with the US being technically ahead of Russia if we focus only on dry figures and do not question the forecast of expected progress for the B-21 Raider program.

At the same time, a challenge for the US Air Force is that its assets are dispersed all around the world in preparation for possible conflicts with a wide range of possible adversaries, including Russia, China and Iran. In turn, strategic bombers  of the Russian Aerospace Forces’ are mainly needed to deter the United States. This factor negates the numerical advantage of the US strategic bomber fleet.

As of early 2013, Russia had only 16 Tu-160 strategic bombers. Now, it has 17. Seven of them underwent deep modernization. If the Tu-160M2 program succeeds, and if Russia procures 50 Tu-160M2 bombers by 2030, that will not only put Russia on par with the US, it might put it ahead. All this depends on progression of the US’s B-21 development and modernization of its strategic bombers.

**How fast are they?**

Well, on Nov. 3, 2019, an unusual incident took place in the skies over the Japanese Sea when Russian Tu-160 supersonic bomber outrun two U.S. F-35 fighter jets that try to intercept bomber performing a surveillance mission.

According to the Russian [newspaper](https://vz.ru/news/2019/11/7/1007279.html) Vzglyad, with reference to the Chinese edition Sina, wrote that the American fighters “lost sight” of the Russian Aerospace Force bomber, who easily moved away from them.

The Tu-160 was performing a routine flight on November 3 over the Japan Sea when two F-35s approached, one on either side, intending to escort him. At this point, the Russian bomber suddenly accelerated, triggering the afterburner and increasing the speed to Mach 2.05, writes Chinese media.

According to the publication, the two F-35A fighters also reacted, but a little too late. When the acceleration was turned on, the radar still detected the Tu-160, but the pilot no longer saw it.

Noteworthy while the Tu-160 has a top speed of Mach 2.05 (1570 mph) the F-35A reaches Mach 1.6 (1200 mph). The Chinese edition notes how the 110-ton Russian aircraft was able to easily move away from the 13-tonne American fighters. Fighters from NATO and Allied countries are constantly trying to control all flights of the Tu-160 and other Russian bombers.

Let me just say that it is not effective to have a bomber that is faster than the most expensive fighter ever built. That’s like a death star being able to outrun an X-wing fighter in attack mode. Not good.

**The XB-70**

The futuristic XB-70A Valkyrie was originally conceived in the 1950s as a high-altitude, nuclear strike bomber that could fly at Mach 3 (three times the speed of sound) – any potential enemy would have been unable to defend against such a bomber.

By the early 1960s, however, new Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs) threatened the survivability of high-speed, high-altitude bombers. Less costly, nuclear-armed ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles) were also entering service.

As a result, in 1961, the expensive B-70 bomber program was canceled before any Valkyries had been completed or flown.

Even so, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) bought two XB-70As which were used for flight research involving the Air Force and NASA’s Flight Research Center (FRC), which was a predecessor of today’s NASA Dryden Flight Research Center.

The first flight of the XB-70 was made on Sept. 21, 1964.

Designed by North American Aviation (later North American Rockwell and still later, a division of Boeing) the XB-70 had a long fuselage with a canard (or horizontal stabilizer) mounted just behind the crew compartment. It had a sharply swept 65.6-percent delta wing. The outer portion of the wing could be folded down in flight to provide greater lateral-directional stability. The airplane had two windshields. A moveable outer windshield was raised for high-speed flight to reduce drag and lowered for greater visibility during takeoff and landing. The forward fuselage was constructed of riveted titanium frames and skin. The remainder of the airplane was constructed almost entirely of stainless steel. The skin was a brazed stainless-steel honeycomb material. Six General Electric YJ93-3 turbojet engines, each in the 30,000-pound-thrust class, powered the XB-70. Internal geometry of the inlets was controllable to maintain the most efficient airflow to the engines.

The XB-70 was the world’s largest experimental aircraft: capable of flying at Mach 3 at altitudes of 70,000 feet, it was used to collect in-flight information for use in the design of future supersonic aircraft, military and civilian.

**The SR-71**

Capable of cruising at speeds in excess of Mach 3.2, the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird was the fastest air-breathing manned aircraft to ever to see operational service. But even though its performance has never been matched, the SR-71 was retired as the Cold War drew to a close. The Blackbird was initially retired in 1990, even before the fall of the Soviet Union. Eventually, however, three of the jets were reactivated by the Air Force—at the insistence of Congress—for a brief period between 1995 and 1998. Meanwhile, NASA flew research missions with the aircraft until 1999. In the end, the Blackbird was retired without a true replacement. But why?

Ultimately, while the SR-71 delivered unparalleled performance, it was its operating costs that condemned the Blackbird to early retirement. Moreover, the U.S. Air Force had doubts about the aircraft’s survivability versus a new generation of Soviet (and later Russian) air defenses and interceptors—like the SA-10 Grumble (and other advanced S-300 derivatives) and MiG-31 Foxhounds. In fact, the Air Force actively resisted congressional attempts to revive the program during the 1990s because of those very reasons.

The questions always comes up. Do we have anything faster? Do we need anything faster? The answer is yes. We do.

**The X-37B**

The U.S. Air Force's unmanned X-37B space plane has flown four clandestine missions to date, carrying secret payloads on long-duration flights in Earth orbit. The robotic vehicle resembles NASA's famous space shuttle but is much smaller. The X-37B is about 29 feet (8.8 meters) long and 9.5 feet (2.9 m) tall, with a wingspan just less than 15 feet (4.6 m). At launch, it weighs 11,000 lbs. (4,990 kilograms).

The X-37B's payload bay (the area in which the cargo is packed) measures 7 feet long by 4 feet wide (2.1 by 1.2 m) — about the size of a pickup truck bed. Just what the X-37B carries in there is unclear, however. Air Force officials generally comment only on the overall goals of the program, stressing that each payload is classified. [Photos: The X-37B Space Plane]

"The primary objectives of the X-37B are twofold: reusable spacecraft technologies for America's future in space and operating experiments which can be returned to, and examined, on Earth," states an X-37B fact sheet produced by the Air Force.

Like the space shuttle, the solar-powered X-37B space plane launches vertically, with the aid of a rocket, and cruises back to Earth for a runway landing. The diminutive space plane is designed to operate at altitudes ranging from 110 to 500 miles (177 to 805 km). "The X-37 is a technology testbed, and as such, pushing the envelope is the mission," Joan Johnson-Freese, professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., told Space.com, referring to OTV-3. "Endurance is one of several X-37 profile parameters that are being tested, along with others, such as in-flight capabilities and turnaround time for use."

All X-37B missions to date have launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Base in Florida. While the first three touched down at California's Vandenberg Air Force Base, future missions beyond OTV-4 may continue to land at NASA's [Kennedy Space Center](https://www.space.com/17705-nasa-kennedy-space-center.html) in Florida, right next door to Cape Canaveral, officials have said. Boeing is [using an old NASA space shuttle hangar at KSC to service the X-37B space planes](https://www.space.com/24168-secret-x37b-space-plane-boeing-hangar.html) for the U.S. Air Force.

The secrecy surrounding the X-37B and its payloads has spawned rumors that the vehicle could be a space weapon of some sort, perhaps tasked with capturing or damaging other nations' [satellites](https://www.space.com/24839-satellites.html).

But the space plane is likely too small and not maneuverable enough for such work, experts say. Instead, its chief mission is likely what Air Force officials have claimed all along: to test out new sensors and other next-generation satellite technologies, to see how they perform and hold up in the space environment.

"I absolutely think that's the primary mission," former Air Force orbital analyst Brian Weeden, who now works as a technical adviser for the nonprofit Secure World Foundation, told Space.com just before the launch of OTV-2.

Various other aspects of the X-37B's design would make it a less-than-ideal space weapon, he added — including the craft's shuttle-style runway landings, which leave it vulnerable to attack by hostile forces.

"It can be tracked, so it's going to be hard for it to sneak up on anything," Weeden said. "And when it comes down itself, it's a very ungainly, slow-moving glider."

**The Rod of God**

The 107-country Outer Space Treaty signed in 1967 prohibits nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons from being placed or used from Earth's orbit. What they didn't count on was the U.S. Air Force's most simple weapon ever: a tungsten rod that could hit a city with the explosive power of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. used what they called "Lazy Dog" bombs. These were simply solid steel pieces, less than two inches long, fitted with fins. There was no explosive – they were simply dropped by the hundreds from planes flying above Vietnam.

[Lazy Dog projectiles](https://books.google.com/books?id=SQrcBQAAQBAJ&q=tungsten#v=onepage&q=lazy%20dog&f=false) (aka "kinetic bombardment") could reach speeds of up to 500 mph as they fell to the ground and could penetrate nine inches of concrete after being dropped from as little as 3,000 feet

The idea is like shooting bullets at a target, except instead of losing velocity as it travels, the projectile is gaining velocity and energy that will be expended on impact. They were shotgunning a large swath of jungle, raining bullet-sized death at high speeds.

That's how Project Thor came to be.

Instead of hundreds of small projectiles from a few thousand feet, Thor used a large projectile from a few thousand miles above the Earth. The "[rods from god](http://www.sfgate.com/opinion/article/RODS-FROM-GOD-Imagine-a-bundle-of-telephone-2539690.php)" idea was a bundle of telephone-pole sized (20 feet long, one foot in diameter) tungsten rods, dropped from orbit, reaching a speed of up to ten times the speed of sound.

The rod itself would penetrate hundreds of feet into the Earth, destroying any potential hardened bunkers or secret underground sites. More than that, when the rod hits, the explosion would be on par with the magnitude of a [ground-penetrating nuclear weapon](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Front_Page/GH18Aa01.html) – but with no fallout.

It would take [15 minutes](http://www.popsci.com/scitech/article/2004-06/rods-god) to destroy a target with such a weapon.

One [Quora user who works in the defense aerospace industry](https://www.quora.com/How-realistic-was-USAFs-Project-Thor-in-terms-of-implementation) quoted a cost of no less than $10,000 per pound to fire anything into space. With 20 cubic feet of dense tungsten weighing in at just over 24,000 pounds, the math is easy. Just one of the rods would be prohibitively expensive. The cost of $230 million dollars per rod was unimaginable during the Cold War.

These days, not so much. The [Bush Administration even considered revisiting the idea](http://www.sfgate.com/opinion/article/RODS-FROM-GOD-Imagine-a-bundle-of-telephone-2539690.php) to hit underground nuclear sites in rogue nations in the years following 9/11. Interestingly enough, the cost of a single Minuteman III ICBM was $7 million in 1962, when it was first introduced ($57 million adjusted for inflation).

The trouble with a nuclear payload is that it isn't designed to penetrate deep into the surface. And the fallout from a nuclear device can be devastating to surrounding, potentially friendly areas.

A core takeaway from the concept of weapons like Project Thor's is that hypersonic weapons pack a significant punch and might be the future of global warfare.

**The Horowitz Report: How to Prepare**

What should people expect from the report?

## **1) First off, lower expectation of justice for wrongdoing**

The widespread surveillance of the Trump campaign, according to published reports, included the use of human informants, overseas intelligence assets, wiretaps and national security letters. Many critics of that surveillance hope that this Inspector General report will bring some justice. They should get rid of that hope as soon as possible.

Inspector Generals are like the human resource arm of a corporation. Human resource divisions do not exist to help employees but to help corporations. They take care of problems and protect the corporation. Similarly, Inspector Generals exist to help their agency deal with problems and messes. Sure, they may be forced to admit wrongdoing on the part of the agency and its employees, but they will always downplay it. If there’s a conceivable way to say that the department didn’t violate the policy or law, they will do that. And they will characterize the bad behavior that they must concede as limited to rogue employees and not representative of the larger agency.

Now having said that, Michael Horowitz has actually been willing to admit some of the wrongdoing by James Comey and Andrew McCabe, [both of whom](https://thefederalist.com/2019/08/01/doj-ig-referred-james-comey-criminal-prosecution-leaking-classified-information/) he [referred for criminal prosecution](https://thefederalist.com/2018/04/19/justice-department-ig-submits-criminal-referral-of-andrew-mccabe-to-us-attorney/). He has harshly criticized Peter Strzok and Lisa Page, and many other people whose politicized decision-making reflected poorly on the department. Of Lisa Page and Strzok, he said that they “[brought discredit to themselves](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/byron-york-political-bias-infected-fbi-trump-clinton-investigations).”

But if Horowitz were an actual prosecutor, he would have rung up dozens of employees on crimes. Instead, we’re hearing rumors of just a couple of employees are being held slightly accountable for what they did in 2016. That’s not an impressive number given what we already know about what they were doing.

## **2) Don’t rewrite history**

Some defenders of the surveillance of the Trump campaign have been claiming that critics of the surveillance have placed all of their hope in the Inspector General report. That’s simply not true, even for those who seek some level of justice through the Inspector General’s investigation. As evidence, here’s a February 2018 tweet from President Trump upon hearing the news that then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions was going to ask Horowitz to look into the abuse:

[](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)

**[Donald J. Trump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)**

[✔@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)

Why is A.G. Jeff Sessions asking the Inspector General to investigate potentially massive FISA abuse. Will take forever, has no prosecutorial power and already late with reports on Comey etc. Isn’t the I.G. an Obama guy? Why not use Justice Department lawyers? DISGRACEFUL!

[81.2K](https://twitter.com/intent/like?tweet_id=968856971075051521" \o "Like)

[9:34 AM - Feb 28, 2018](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/968856971075051521)

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](https://support.twitter.com/articles/20175256)

[60.6K people are talking about this](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/968856971075051521" \o "View the conversation on Twitter)

Perhaps the report will show that Trump’s skepticism was unwarranted but there is no question that the informed critics of the DOJ’s actions were unimpressed with what an IG report would do or show.

## **3) Remember that constraints on Horowitz’s probe are significant**

People expecting a thorough look at the widespread surveillance on the Trump campaign likely will be disappointed for several reasons.

First off, the IG said he was looking only into the surveillance of “a certain U.S. person,” presumably Carter Page. But Page is just one of the campaign affiliates who was surveilled. Horowitz said that “if circumstances warrant,” he’ll “consider including other issues that may arise,” but it’s unclear how many were looped into his sluggish probe.

Horowitz is also constrained by the fact that he is only allowed to speak with people who work at the Department of Justice at the time of his questioning. If they’ve retired or been fired, he can’t force them to cooperate with his probe. If they work at a different agency or department, he can’t compel cooperation. And that’s significant since many other agencies were involved in the Russia collusion theory that was disseminated throughout the government. The dossier — secretly funded by Hillary Clinton and the Democratic National Committee, for instance — was fed through multiple agencies, not just the FBI and Department of Justice.

These limits don’t make his probe meaningless, but just much less effective than a real investigation. This could explain why the Attorney General assigned an actual federal prosecutor to look into the matter, even if he started his probe years’ too late, giving the implicated opportunities to hide evidence and let trails run cold.

The Department of Justice has revealed that the probe led by federal prosecutor John Durham has become a criminal investigation due to the wrongdoing it has found.

## **4) Don’t believe spin**

Having said all this, it’s also important not to believe the spin being fed to reporters by the implicated parties. Reporters colluded with Justice Department leakers to perpetuate the Russia hoax, so they’re the furthest thing from impartial at the outset. The implosion of that conspiracy theory was humiliating to reporters, none of whom have admitted how they got the overarching journalistic narrative of 2017, 2018, and 2019 so wrong. They promised readers bombshell support of the frankly ridiculous theory that Trump was a traitor who had colluded with Russia to steal the 2016 election. Instead, a limitless probe of Trump and his campaign found no evidence of such collusion.

## **5) However downplayed, facts will likely show significant wrongdoing**

The best thing the Inspector General report will have is factual information. Few people actually read his previous, sprawling reports on abuses at the Department of Justice and FBI but those who did learned a great deal about the sorry state of affairs at those agencies. Sure, he may have said he couldn’t definitively show that Lisa Page’s bias against Trump affected her actions against him, but he still clearly showed her extreme bias and the actions she took against him. Reasonable people who are not paid to support the Department of Justice, then, can make their own determination about whether she’s as sanctified as the liberal media claim.

The Republican memo outlined particular facts. The Democrats’ memo disputed those facts. Regardless of whether Horowitz joins Trump’s critics in defending all the actions of the agency he serves, the facts will enable people to make their own decisions.