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| **Jihad Report** **Sep 14, 2019 -** **Sep 20, 2019** | |
| Attacks | **31** |
| Killed | **207** |
| Injured | **314** |
| Suicide Blasts | **4** |
| Countries | **10** |

**Magnetic Pulses on Mars**

AT MIDNIGHT ON Mars, the red planet’s magnetic field sometimes starts to pulsate in ways that have never before been observed. The cause is currently unknown.

That’s just one of the stunning preliminary findings from NASA’s very first robotic geophysicist there, the InSight lander. Since touching down in November 2018, this spacecraft has been gathering intel to help scientists better understand our neighboring planet’s innards and evolution, such as taking the temperature of its upper crust, recording the sounds of alien quakes, and measuring the strength and direction of the planet’s magnetic field.

As revealed during a handful of presentations this week at a joint meeting of the European Planetary Science Congress and the American Astronomical Society, the early data suggest the magnetic machinations of Mars are marvelously mad.

On November 26th, 2018, NASA's InSight spacecraft is set to touch down on Mars after completing a 205-day orbit in space. Learn about the three distinct ways this groundbreaking mission will study the deep interior of the red planet in the latest video from Decoder.

For more, read ‘Taking the Pulse of the Red Planet’ in the November 2018 issue of National Geographic Magazine.

In addition to the odd magnetic pulsations, the lander’s data show that the Martian crust is far more powerfully magnetic than scientists expected. What’s more, the lander has picked up on a very peculiar electrically conductive layer, about 2.5 miles thick, deep beneath the planet’s surface. It’s far too early to say with any certainty, but there is a chance that this layer could represent a global reservoir of liquid water.

On Earth, groundwater is a hidden sea locked up in sand, soil, and rocks. If something similar is found on Mars, then “we shouldn’t be surprised,” says Jani Radebaugh, a planetary scientist at Brigham Young University who was not involved with the work. But if these results bear out, a liquid region at this scale on modern Mars has enormous implications for the potential for life, past or present. (Get the facts about previous evidence for an underground lake on Mars.)

So far, none of these data have been through peer review, and details about the initial findings and interpretations will undoubtedly be tweaked over time. Still, the revelations provide a stunning showcase for InSight, a robot that has the potential to revolutionize our comprehension of Mars and other rocky worlds across the galaxy.

We’re getting an insight into Mars’s magnetic history in a way we’ve never had before,” says Paul Byrne, a planetary geologist at North Carolina State University who was not involved with the work.

Earth has a major global magnetic field thanks to its rotation and churning, iron-rich, liquid outer core. We know that this field has been around for a while and that it has shifted about fairly dramatically across geological epochs, based on natural records of its strength and direction trapped in specific minerals within the crust. The history of Mars’s magnetic field is similarly archived in its crust, as scientists learned in 1997 thanks to data from the Mars Global Surveyor orbiter.

“The same zoo of magnetic minerals that exist on Earth exist on Mars,” says Robert Lillis, a planetary space physicist at the University of California, Berkeley, who wasn’t involved with the new research.

The orbiter detected the red planet’s magnetism from 60 to 250 miles above the surface, and it found that the crustal magnetic field is ten times stronger than Earth’s is when measured from the same height above the surface. This suggests that, once upon a time, Mars also had a major global magnetic field.

Unlike Earth, though, Mars got unlucky. Around four billion years ago, its convulsing outer core appears to have seized up, causing a collapse in its global magnetic field. Left with a weak magnetic shield to defend itself, an outpouring of radiation from the sun—known as the solar wind—gradually stripped away much of its ancient atmosphere, turning a potentially life-supporting, water-rich world into a cold desert.

Grasping why these two planets had such different fates requires the best possible measurements of Mars’ magnetic ghosts, but from orbit, the strength of this remnant magnetic field has poor resolution. It’s like looking at a crowd of people from far away: If many are wearing red shirts and a few are wearing blue, a camera at a distance will largely register the preponderance of red. But get close with the same camera, and those all-important blue hues will be more clearly seen.

“The same is true for magnetic measurements,” says Dave Brain, a researcher of atmospheric and space physics from the University of Colorado not involved with the work. “The closer you get, the more structure you are able to pick out.”

InSight’s magnetometer, the first placed on the Martian surface, gave scientists their best look yet at the crustal magnetic field, and it gave them a bit of a shock: The magnetic field near the robot was around 20 times stronger than what had been predicted based on past orbital measurements.

Brain, who is familiar with the InSight data, says that this strong, stable magnetic signal is coming from rocks near InSight, but whether they are deep underground or nearer to the surface is currently unclear. That identification matters, Byrne says, because if it’s coming from younger rocks near the surface, it would imply that a strong magnetic field persisted around Mars for longer than we currently think.

We’re getting an insight into Mars’s magnetic history in a way we’ve never had before.

Perhaps even more puzzling, InSight also found that the crustal magnetic field near its location jiggled about every now and then. This wobbling is known as a magnetic pulsation, explains Matthew Fillingim, a space physicist at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the InSight science team.

These pulses are fluctuations in the strength or direction of the magnetic field, and they are not entirely unusual. Plenty of them happen on Earth and Mars triggered by upper atmospheric chaos, the action of the solar wind, and kinks in the planets’ magnetic bubbles, among other things.

What’s strange is that these Martian wobbles happen at local midnight, as if responding to the demands of an unseen, nocturnal timer.

InSight is near Mars’ equator, and in the same geographic position on Earth, at that time of night, you don’t see these types of magnetic pulsations. Night-time pulsations on Earth tend to happen at higher latitudes and are linked to the northern and southern lights. Right now, the ones on Mars have no clear source, but scientists have at least one suspect in mind.

Although it no longer has a potent global magnetic field, Mars is surrounded by a weak magnetic bubble created as the solar wind interacts with its thin atmosphere. This bubble is in turn compressed by the solar wind’s magnetic field, causing part of the bubble to take on a tail-like shape. At midnight, InSight’s spot on Mars is aligned with this tail, and as it passes through, the tail may be plucking the surface magnetic field like a guitar string.

If a high-altitude spacecraft, like NASA’s Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution, or MAVEN, orbiter, can swing above InSight at just the right time, it might show this to be the case. For now, though, it’s a puzzle without an answer.

During one of the presentations about Mars’ magnetism, scientists also mentioned that features in the magnetic signals appear to be registering an electrically conductive layer somewhere beneath the Martian surface. While the team can’t yet pinpoint an exact depth, they think it wouldn’t be any deeper than 62 miles.

Tests in deserts on Earth have shown how magnetometers are able to tell you whether there is water at depth, Brain explains. The same applies to InSight’s magnetometer, and it is possible that the layer it spotted is an aquifer of water with dissolved solids, or an ice and water layer, that could stretch around the entire planet.

It’s unclear how long bodies of surface water persisted in lakes, rivers, and even oceans in Mars’ past, but there is some evidence that the subsurface contains briny reservoirs today. Mars’s crust also gets warmer as you go deeper, Radebaugh says. And given the strong evidence for widespread ground ice on Mars, it is reasonable to think that subterranean aquifers of liquid water exist, too.

But the devil is in the details, and all other causes of such a signal still need to be ruled out, Brain says. The InSight lander has a drill, but it can only dig down about 16 feet below the surface, so scientists may have to find other ways—perhaps via future Mars missions—to test the watery layer theory.

Whether this Martian aquifer’s existence is ultimately verified or rebuffed, Brain adds, the invaluable nature of InSight’s measurements, including its magnetic ones, is already clear. Even rooted to a single spot in Elysium Planitia, this robotic emissary is beginning to dig up all kinds of buried Martian marvels.

**The National day of Mourning**

Today is the National Day of Mourning, in remembrance of the more than 20 million black lives lost to abortion since 1973, begins today with prayer and a press conference in Richmond, Va., remembered with a march for life on Aug. 31, with stops in Charlotte, N.C., Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala.

The two-day event is sponsored by several leading pro-life organizations, including Civil Rights for the Unborn, the Douglass Leadership Institute, The Restoration Project, the Thomas More Society, Human Coalition and the Family Research Council (FRC).

“Abortion kills more black lives than all the other leading causes of death combined, and it is by design that black women have access to abortion clinics, federal subsidies to help them kill their babies, and abort at three-and-a-half times the rate of white women," said Patrina Mosley, the director of Life, Culture, and Women's Advocacy at the FRC. This is exactly what Planned means. It is the planned extermination of the black American by killing their babies, with a priority being placed on female black babies. By the way, statistics prove beyond any doubt that due to the tremendous number of missing black females in America, that black males are far more likely to be homosexual.

"Today, Planned Parenthood operates nearly 80 percent of its facilities in black and Hispanic communities and has dedicated campaigns to encourage these women to abort their children," said Mosley.

“African-Americans make up less than 13 percent of the U.S. population yet receive nearly 40 percent of abortions," she said. This has been the corporate focus for 46 years. More than 50% of black females over the age of 18 having abortions have already had at least one prior abortion.

Patrina Mosely, director of Life, Culture, and Women's Advocacy at the FRC.

On the National Day of Mourning website, it states, "Planned Parenthood has long targeted Black babies and women under their plan of extermination called The Negro Project. They have used abortion to advance the eugenic cause and their efforts have resulted in the deaths of more than 20,000,000 Black lives."

"Currently, Planned Parenthood has constructed or is constructing three mega (10,000 square feet or larger) abortion centers in Black neighborhoods: one in the Churchill community of Richmond, VA, one in the Cherry neighborhood (the oldest Black neighborhood) in Charlotte, NC and the third in Birmingham, AL just blocks from the historic 16th Street Baptist Church," states the website.

The processional is designed to protest "this new construction and to expose their agenda of extermination," said the National Day of Mourning website.

As CNSNews.com has reported, although black Americans comprise 13.4% of the U.S. population, they accounted for 36.0% of the abortions in 2015. That was almost identical to the percentage of abortions (36.9%) that year among white Americans, who make up 76.6% of the population.

"In some areas of the United States, the percentage of black women who had abortions in 2015 was noticeably, and disproportionately, larger than the percentage of white women who did," according to the CDC, as reported by CNSNews.com. "In Georgia, for example, where blacks make up 32.2% of the population and whites make up 60.8%, black women had 62.4% of abortions while whites only had 24.7%.

In New York City in 2015, more black children were aborted than were born alive, according to data from the New York Department of Health.

Other states where black children were aborted in disproportionately high numbers in 2015 included Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, Tennessee and Virginia.

“The South isn’t the only place this is happening,” said Alveda King in a statement about the National Day of Mourning. “In New York City, more black babies are aborted than born. It’s not racist to point out this truth. It is racist to perpetuate this genocide.”

“This is an urgent message that bears repeating,” said Fr. Frank Pavone, head of Priests for Life. “The abortion cartel is working to eliminate black people in the U.S. They try to disguise this as compassion for the poor, but the truth is, Planned Parenthood and other abortion sellers are committing mass murder.”

“We need to make the statement loud and clear, that we will not stand for this any longer," said King. "Black lives matter, even in the womb.”

By the way, there were no mass shootings Friday. There were 125,000 babies aborted. Infanticide is by far the number cause of death in the world today.

**The False Zero Sum Game**

It is a false Marxist notion among young people in Europe that if you are successful or comfortable, it can only have been at the expense of humanity: "If I win, somebody else must lose." There seems to be no concept at all of "win-win" -- "If I win, all of you can win too: everyone can win!" -- that underpins a free-market economy and has lifted so much of the world so spectacularly out of poverty. Many of the young people see only barriers to be broken down. Pascal Bruckner called it, the "tyranny of guilt".

Unfortunately, the price for cultural relativism has become painfully visible in Europe. The disintegration of Western nation-states is now a real possibility. Multiculturalism -- built on a background of demographic decline, massive de-Christianization and cultural self-repudiation -- is nothing more than a transitional phase that risks leading to the fragmentation of the West. Among the reasons for that, the historian David Engels listed "mass-migration, the aging of the population, Islamization and the dissolution of nation states".

Mass-migration has already undermined the unity and solidarity of Western societies and -- combined with demonizing Israel in the hope of obtaining inexpensive oil and preventing terrorism -- has destabilized the post-1945 political consensus.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's policy of open doors -- "Wir schaffen das" ("We can do it") -- led to a right-wing party in her parliament. The Alternative for Germany (AfD) is now leading the polls in regional elections in the former East Germany. The French Socialist Party, which governed the country under President François Hollande, is now disappearing. The diktats of Brussels on immigration and quotas have broken the unity of Europe and resulted in the virtual "secession" of the Visegrad countries (Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia). The migration utopia in Sweden brought a populist right-wing party into parliament, and the arrival of half a million illegal immigrants pushed the once-marginal League of Matteo Salvini to the top of Italy's political establishment.

This list does not even include Brexit, the British vote to leave the EU. According to German journalist Jochen Bittner, writing in The New York Times last year:

"In late 2015, the Leave campaign started putting up placards which showed the exodus of refugees from Syria and other countries through the Balkans, and adorned them with slogans like 'Breaking Point' and 'Take Back Control'. With Ms. Merkel declaring an open-door policy, the message hit home for millions of worried Britons and Europeans. Not coincidentally, it was around this time that support for Brexit began to tick up".

Currently, the Europe that promised to avoid building more walls after 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down, is raising one after another one to defend itself from an unprecedented situation. There is the 15-meter Spanish barrier in Ceuta and Melilla; the Hungarian wall of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán; one at Calais in France; an Austrian fence planned at its border with Italy, a fence Slovenia wants to build at its border with Croatia and North Macedonia's fence for its border with Greece.

Whether one likes it or not, Europe seems to be feeling an existential cultural threat from these great migratory flows. There is not only the pressure of illegal immigration; there is also pressure from legal immigration. More than 100,000 people applied for asylum in France in 2017, a "historic" number, and more than 123,000 applications in 2018. In Germany, there were 200,000 requests for asylum in 2018.

This mass immigration is changing Europe's internal composition. In Antwerp, the second-largest city in Belgium and the capital of Flanders, half the children in elementary schools are Muslim. In the Brussels region, you can get some idea of the change by studying the attendance of religion classes in primary and secondary schools: 15.6% attend Catholic classes, 4.3% Protestant and Orthodox classes, 0.2% attend Judaism classes, and 51.4% attend Islamic religion classes (12.8% attend secular "ethics" classes). Is it clearer now what will happen in the capital of the European Union? We should not be surprised that immigration tops the list of worries of the Belgian population.

Marseille, the second-largest city in France, is already 25% Muslim. Rotterdam, the second-largest city in the Netherlands, is 20% Muslim. Birmingham, the second-largest city in Britain, is 27% Muslim. It is estimated that in one generation, a third of the citizens of Vienna will be Muslim. "Sweden is in a situation that no modern country in the West has ever found itself in", observedChristopher Caldwell. According to the Pew Research Center, Sweden might well be 30% Muslim by 2050; and 21% Muslim in the unlikely event that the flow of immigrants stops altogether.

Today, 30% percent of Sweden's babies have foreign-born mothers. The city of Leicester in the UK is presently 20% Muslim. In Luton, out of 200,000 inhabitants, 50,000 are Muslim. Most of the population growth in France between 2011 and 2016 was driven by the country's large urban areas. At the top are Lyon, Toulouse, Bordeaux and the Paris area, according to a study published by the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies. In Lyon, there are about 150,000 Muslims out of a population of 400,000. According to one article, 18% of the newborns in France carry a name that is Muslim. During the 1960s, the number was 1%.

In the most extreme scenario, the percentages of Muslims in Europe in 2050 are estimated to be: France (18%), UK (17.2%), Netherlands (15.2%), Belgium (18.2%), Italy (14.1%), Germany (19.7%), Austria (19.9%), Norway (17%).2050 is just over the horizon. What, then, is to be expected in two or three generations, when the late historian Bernard Lewis said that Europe would, "at the very latest", be Islamic ?

Unfortunately, the European mindset refuses to face the reality, as if the challenge is too severe to be addressed. "The unstoppable progression of this system makes me think of a tea on board the Titanic", prominent French philosopher Alain Finkielkraut writes.

"It is not by turning a blind eye to tragedy that it will be prevented from happening. What will be the face of France in fifty years? What will the cities of Mulhouse, Roubaix, Nantes, Angers, Toulouse, Tarascon, Marseille and the whole Seine Saint-Denis department look like?"

If the population changes, the culture follows. As the author Éric Zemmour points out, "after a certain number, quantity becomes quality".

While the power of European Christianity seems to be falling off a demographic and cultural cliff, Islam is making giant strides. It is not just a question of immigration and birth rates; it is also one of influence. "In September 2002 I participated in a meeting of the cultural centers of the leading European Union member states in Brussels", the German-Syrian intellectual Bassam Tibi, Professor Emeritus of International Relations at the University of Göttingen, wrote.

"The conference took place under the theme 'Penser l'Europe' ['Thinking of Europe'] while being given the title 'Islam en Europe'. There, I was disturbed to hear Tariq Ramadan speaking of Europe as dar al-Shahada, i.e. house of Islamic belief. The attending audience was alarmed, but did not get the message of the perception of Europe in an Islamist mindset as a part of house of Islam. If Europe is no longer perceived as dar al-Harb/house of war, but viewed as part of the peaceful house of Islam, then this is not a sign of moderation, as some wrongly assume: it is the mindset of an Islamization of Europe..."

The good news is that nothing is set in stone. Europeans could still decide for themselves how many immigrants their societies need. They could put in place a solution that is coherent rather than chaotic. They could still rediscover their humanistic heritage. They could resume having children and they could launch a real program of integration for the immigrants already in Europe. But none of these steps, necessary to avoid the transformation of large parts of the continent and its falling apart, is taking place.

It is important to listen to Pierre Manent's prognosis and to reject the current fashion of self-abasement. Europe seems to be afflicted with a skepticism about the future, as if the decline of the West is actually a justified punishment and a liberation from its faults of the past. Yes, many faults may have been terrible, but are they truly so much worse than the faults of many other countries, such as Iran, China, North Korea, Russia, Mauritania, Cuba, Nigeria, Venezuela or Sudan, to name just a few? More important is that at least the West, as opposed to many other places, has tried to correct its faults. Most important is to avoid over-correcting and ending up in a situation worse than before.

**The Undress Code**

A school in the United Kingdom is facing protests after it banned skirts and made wearing pants a dress code requirement.

The rationale? Officials were weary of checking proper skirt length … and the need to accommodate transgender students.

According to the BBC, the Priory School in Lewes, East Sussex is now dealing with demonstrations as some students want skirts allowed, while others say the dress code results in a waste of money and material.

The school’s website says “From September 2019, all Priory students will be required to wear our updated uniform,” according to the Independent. Students were told anyone in violation of the code would be sent home.

”This is about children and parents complaining about having to buy completely new uniforms for only a few terms,” one parent said.

From the story:

“It is not a good situation especially as it is my daughter’s final year of school and it’s really disruptive.”

One parent said they were offered money towards the cost of the new uniform, however, while others were reported to be in discussions with the school about the possibility of a compromise.

A spokesman for the Priory School said: “Our uniform is designed to be a practical uniform which encourages students to be ready to focus on their school work and activities.

”Our uniform also helps us to dilute the status placed on expensive clothes or labels and challenge the belief that we are defined by what we wear.

“There are at least 40 other schools which have a similar uniform requirement to stop heterosexuality completely. I can tell you that the median age has been on the increase globally, except in the Islamic community. While all societies have been forced, coerced, or constrained to propagate children, Muslims are encouraged to move in and begin having huge families, utilizing multiple wives if necessary. The average rate of increase in the EU is 1.65 among non-Muslims and as much as 6.5 among Muslims. In less then three generations, or about 55 years, Europe will be a majority Muslim country. This has been attempted unsuccessfully numerous times by the sword. Looks like it will be accomplished without firing a shot, thanks to the policies of Brussels.

**The UK Report**

I just completed a 2,000 mile observation and speaking tour by car of the UK. I visited England, Scotland, Northern and Southern Ireland, and Wales. After speaking to wonderful small groups, and selling some books, I asked people questions about their opinions on numerous subjects. Brexit, Brussels, climate change, Donald Trump, and the Muslim problem.

I have to say, after four days in London, the hardest thing to find was a native to England. Everywhere I travelled, dined, slept, walked, or commuted buy train, the space was operated and populated by immigrants.

I first spoke to a Romanian at Hard Rock Café in London. I walked from the Hilton to the restaurant a few blocks away near Hyde Park. I passed a right hand drive Lambourgini, two Bentley’s, and a Rolls Royce parked on the sidewalk. The Hard Rock was a 20-minute wait to eat, but it gave me time to interview the bar tender over a pint.

He spoke English well. Openly he said that Brexit meant more taxes for him, but that he thought it was a good thing. The first support I heard, which echoed throughout the entire journey, is that Brussels has its own agenda, which does not benefit any country that sits ignominiously behind one of the gold stars in the blue flag that flies everywhere in London. They are extracting money and diluting the sovereignty of each country, most of all England.

He supported Brexit, but he was also aware that there were foreign forced tracking people inside England who oppose remaining in the EU. There is a difference between supporting Brexit and not supporting remaining in the EU. They call them remoaners. The passions in England are as powerful as Trump Derangement Syndrome is in the USA. It has split friendships, families, and communities.

As I interviewed more and more people, which went all the way to Edinburgh and then to Glasgow and then the West coast in Stranraer, I developed my own final questions. Janice and Michael in Brighton wanted to remain in the EU. They were both retired educators who traveled the world and were prolific readers. They thought Bexit was stupid without having a deal of some kind. They wanted a plan going forward. They wanted a known future, no matter how bleak. They were experts on British history. They knew about wars, Churchill, and the English influence on the world for more than 2 thousand years.

They also placed no value on being British whatsoever. They were happy with being Europeans. I understood the position very well, finally. Then I asked that final question.

“Britain led the world in education, finance, and yes military might for more than 2 thousand years without anyone telling it what to do, or vetoing its laws, or diluting its money. It has been less than 20 years since Brussels stepped on the neck of Parliament and flooded the Island with Muslims. Why is Britain so afraid of resuming its role as a global leader in commerce, finance, and culture?”

To this, not one person I interviewed had an answer. It was as though no one had asked them that question before. They had been trained to stop remembering that England explored and connected the entire world. Yes, we fought for our own independence, but we would never have existed if it was not for England. The investment in men, materials, and money came from England. Now, England is being sucked dry by Brussels.

I took the ferry to Ireland from Stranraer. I barely made it. The first ferry was cancelled, because the door wouldn’t come down over in Ireland. So, I stayed in the queue on a first-come, first serve basis for the next ferry. I was the second to the last car to get on. Oh, yes, I drove those 2 thousand miles on the wrong side of the road. I can tell you that the Audi is a nice car, but the on board GPS is 20 years behind the times. In a word, lethargic and impossible to use, unless you can spare half an hour parked while you load your destination into the system. The solution is Apply Car Play.

On the packed ferry, I met Johnny and Cathy. She was for leaving, and he was for remaining. She said there is nothing to be afraid of in leaving, and he felt it was stupid to leave the hand that feeds you. She did not like Ireland’s vote being vetoed by Brussels. He felt Irish government was filled with a bunch of buffoons anyway, why not have someone outside review everything they rule. He was sick and tired of hearing about Brexit. By the way, she loved Trump, and he thought Trump was out of control.

I told him that is the whole point of Trump in America. For 171 years, we have had presidents controlled by an outside global syndicate. This is the first time since 1848, that we have had a president who makes his own decisions and has his own agenda, rather than a preplanned one handed to him by the global syndicate.

The traffic was heavy on narrow roads. The university was packed with students, and every single parking space was filled, because every single building was open for business. They use the British money.

After arriving in Belfast, I had a small presentation and met another Irish couple, Mike and Helen. He was a cop. He said that they were undergoing terror training weekly now. Not since the IRA activities 20 years ago have they had this level of threat in their country. They are watching sleeper cells. They are looking for IED’s. By the way personal firearms are legal and plentiful in Northern Ireland. They consider gun owners to be part of the national Irish defense.

They had three beautiful, superbly behaved children; two girls and a boy. I told them I was driving to Dublin for a couple of days of downtime. He said, when I pass the border, the roads turn to kilometers, and the money turns to the Euro.

After spending the night in a beautiful 19th century hotel, I drove to Southern Ireland. Sure enough, I had to access Youube to figure out how to change the speedometer to metric, and had to dig out the Euros to pay for the tolls. I stayed at the Shoreline hotel right on the Irish Sea. That night, I drove to the old bar district of Dublin. To interview bar tenders of course.

Southern Ireland wants to stay in the EU. The first things I noticed were the streets full of closed businesses. Block after block, had iron gates pulled over abandoned business locations. Parking was easy, because there was hardly any traffic. I walked about 6 blocks to a Czech bar and had some hot wings. Not hot. I was told I parked in a bad spot. It was a placed where a person could get mugged pretty easily.

I walked anyway back to the car and drove back to the hotel. The sky had cleared, and the stars looked great over the Irish Sea. When the Sun came up, the water was calm and smooth, and the hotel had a 2-mile walking trail along the bluffs looking over the quiet surf. 2 days of nothing is necessary from time to time.

I went to another old bar in a small village called Malahide across the bay. This bar was operated by two Irish young men. They called the Euro monopoly money. They were both for leaving the EU. They thought the Euro was worthless. They could not accept pounds or dollars. The pints were good, the restaurant upstairs served pizza, sort of. It was run by polish people, who were delightful, and they did not like Brussels at all.

The staff at the Shoreline was also Polish, and they did not like Brussels either. Everyone I met in Southern Ireland loved Donald Trump, by the way. He is their hero.

I took the ferry back across the Irish Sea to Wales and headed to Cardiff. After 2 hours of two-lane roads on the left at night with a roundy-round every two miles, oh yeah we’re back on miles and not kilometers, I was hungry and ready for a break. The waitress was 17 and headed to America for the first time with her dad, who is going there on business. What business? I’m glad you asked.

He sells forklift batteries. Think about that for a second. Still don’t get it? Well, I happen to know something about the forklift battery business. Guess where they all come from. That’s right, China. How in the world would a forklift battery supplier in Wales have an opportunity to sell batteries in the USA? One word. Okay, two words. Donald Trump.

The tariffs that Trump is placing on China, saving the USA $500 billion, is also creating business in Wales. Imagine that. The 17 years old waitress is so excited about going to America for the first time, because of Donald Trump.

Later, 4 hours later, I arrived in Cardiff to stay in a 19th century hotel that was once an orphanage. Yes, just like in Peter Pan. The night shift Italian asked me if I was American. I guess my fake Scottish accent wasn’t good enough. Then he asked me if I like Donald Trump. I said, “yes I did,” and he broke into the biggest Italian smile I thought he was going to hug me.

That all changed when I went to breakfast the next morning and met the Italian day manager. He like Obama. No, he did not like Trump. I commented on the weather, and he said, “Well, it’s the last hurrah, thanks to climate change.”

He went on to talk about how the climate was changing. I said, “Oh yeah. I heard the same thing was happening on Mars and Saturn as well.”

He had a blank look on his face.

I said, “It’s too bad mankind can’t make more carbon dioxide to help build up the atmosphere, because if Solar cycle 25 doesn’t kick in soon and let the Sun build up our atmosphere, the winters will get colder, and the summers will get hotter. I could see this factual evidence was melting the narrative in his tiny brain. The night shift Italian loved Trump, and the day shift Italian loved Obama.

All in all, I spoke to more than 100 people from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. All but three people loved Donald Trump and could not wait to see what life without Brussels telling them what to do would be like. The truth is that Trump is saving the world. The globalists hate it, and they hate you.

**Vote Harvesting: The Obama-Clinton Strategy for 2020**

The Heritage Foundation calls it the “tool of choice for vote thieves.” The convenient, innovative, and beloved mail-in [ballot](https://www.foxnews.com/category/politics/2020-presidential-election) has been a source of contention due to its vulnerability to manipulation.

During the 2018 midterms, Democrats in [California](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/us-regions/west/california) and a Republican consultant in North Carolina used a process called "ballot harvesting" to collect mail-in ballots for voters.

But there was a big difference between the two states, as I discuss in my new book, "[Power Grab.](https://www.amazon.com/Power-Grab-Liberal-Undermine-Republic/dp/0062944428/)" In North Carolina, ballot harvesting is illegal. [Congress](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/congress) refused to seat the winner of the 2018 midterm election between Republican Mark Harris and Democrat Dan McCready and a special election was held this month to replace him. Though Republican Dan Bishop managed to win the heavily Republican district last week, the history of "cheating" by the previous candidate weighed heavily, making the race far closer than one might expect in a district with an R+8 partisan lean.

In California, by contrast, ballot harvesting was legalized by Democrats in the state legislature. They don't consider it cheating in that state. It was used to flip seven Republican seats to the Democratic column in 2018.

Democrats have long dismissed claims that mail-in ballots are vulnerable to manipulation, pointing to what they call a dearth of voter fraud convictions. Nonetheless, they could hardly ignore the North Carolina race in which a Republican campaign operative illegally collecting ballots allegedly destroyed as many as a thousand ballots supporting the Democratic candidate.

The process of ballot harvesting should be illegal for very good reason. It violates the chain of custody, exposing the ballot to potential manipulation by campaign operatives or nonprofit political groups. They could harass voters to turn in ballots, “assist” them in filling them out, and potentially “lose” ballots that don’t support the candidate the ballot harvester is paid to help.

The indication that ballot harvesting made the difference in California can be found in the vote proportions. Studies of absentee voters have consistently shown they tend to reflect the population or lean slightly to the right. But when ballot harvesting was deployed in California, we saw late ballots break heavily for Democrats.

Take, for example, the race between former Republican Rep. David Valadao and Democrat T. J. Cox in California’s rural 21st district. When polls closed, Valadao led Cox by 6,000 votes — or 8 percent. That margin was wide enough for media outlets to call the race for Valadao.

However, late ballots delivered by third-party groups broke so heavily for Cox that he ultimately eked out an 843-vote victory. The results after ballot harvesting were very different from the polling before the race and since. In a July 2019 NRCC survey, Cox was polling at just 36 percent, while 52 percent said they would support "a potential Republican challenger." Valadao has since filed for a rematch.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that elsewhere in the state, Orange County voters on election night 2018 were calling the registrar’s office asking if it was legitimate for someone to come to their door and ask if they could take their ballot.

Who was coming to the door? According to a January 2019 Los Angeles Times story, illegal Dreamers were deeply engaged in the process — not just delivering ballots, but helping voters fill them out.

The Times reports on the experience of one Dreamer, Gabriela Cruz, who “found” a voter smoking a cigarette on a tattered old couch behind a group home hours before election day. He politely tried to wave her off until she "reminded him" he had a right that she as an immigrant without citizenship didn’t have. Half an hour later, she was helping the voter lookup candidates as he filled out his ballot by the light of her phone.

What are the implications of activists with an agenda “helping” voters look up candidates and fill out ballots? How many of those activists are willing to turn in a ballot that doesn’t help their cause? Should we be exposing people’s ballots to that kind of temptation?

Election security is more than Russian hackers trying to change votes. We must secure the chain of custody of ballots, validate the identity of the voter, and maintain updated voter lists. Thus far, Democrats have shown no interest in any of that.

Don't be fooled by cries for the Senate to pass so-called "election security" measures coming from the House. These measures are designed to enforce less secure voting processes on local communities, including the very vulnerable mail-in ballot. They are not about election security. They are about election manipulation in 2020.

If we want to get serious about securing our elections, state and local lawmakers and election officials must crackdown on the practice of ballot harvesting. Otherwise, Democrats will use it to manipulate the results of the 2020 elections.

**Spying for Profit**

It’s a story that the Fake Stream news is trying to use to upend an already very tumultuous presidential campaign.

They are trying to assert that during a phone call between President Trump and the Ukrainian President, the illegal activities by the Bidens were discussed. The official investigation of his son was quashed by Joe Biden in exchange for a billion-dollar loan by the US to Ukraine. The investigation into this illegal activity came up, and Trump asked for the investigation to resume. The counterintelligence spy immediately leaked this conversation to the New York Times. The Fake Stream News is calling him a whistleblower. He is not. He is a spy.

The Fake Stream News is reporting that President Trump withheld military aid to Ukraine, unless they investigate former vice-president Biden for a quid-pro-quo to funnel money to his own son while he was VP. This much is public domain, because Biden bragged about it on TV in public. Trump wants the criminal investigation to resume in the Ukraine.

The truth is that the 2020 election isn’t going to be a normal presidential campaign. All presidential phone calls are monitored. Trump knows this already. Intelligence officers on both sides are listening. What does not happen, ever, is the intelligence officers leak that information to the press. This is clearly not whistleblowing. This is spying. The New York Times pays very well for these types of stories. This means that the spy who leaked the story to the Times broke the law.

Do we know who he is? No. Do we have the exact words exchanged between the two governments? No. Is any conversation the President has with any foreign leader illegal, ever? No. Disclosing those conversations is highly illegal. This spy should be arrested, have his home raided by the FBI, and have all his emails and phone conversations seized and scanned for the entire time he has been in government service. He should serve 20-30 years in prison, beginning immediately.

The potentially explosive propaganda game is already gripping Washington. Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire is properly classifying this alleged whistleblower complaint as more of the counterintelligence operation trying to unseat President Trump and so will not turn any of the evidence over to the relevant committees in Congress. As a result, lawmakers know little about its actual contents. The American people know less. This is clearly spying at the highest levels, and it appears the New York Times is not only complicit, but that they are guilty of solicitation of spying. That, earth explorers, is conspiracy.

The president and his allies are on one side, dismissing the whistleblower as a spy, and characterizing coverage of the complaint as “fake news” while also claiming that even if Trump did try to pressure a foreign power into investigating his chief political rival by threatening its security, he would be well within his rights.

“A President telling a Pres-elect of a well known corrupt country he better investigate corruption that affects US is doing his job,”[tweeted](https://twitter.com/RudyGiuliani/status/1174879405988077568?s=20) Rudy Giuliani, Trump’s lawyer. (For much of 2019, Giuliani has been[openly pushing the new government](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/21/us/politics/giuliani-ukraine.html) of Ukraine, led by President Volodymyr Zelensky, to investigate  that Biden improperly pressured Ukraine to fire a prosecutor who was looking into a company on whose board Biden’s son sat. Earlier this year.

“It doesn’t matter what I discussed,” Trump added Friday. “But I will say this: Somebody ought to look into Joe Biden.” (On Friday, the Wall Street Journal reported that during their July phone call, Trump urged Zelensky “about eight times” to work with Giuliani on a Biden probe.)

“Not one single credible outlet has given ... any credibility to [Trump’s] assertion — not one single one,” Biden told reporters Friday after an event in Iowa. “And so I have no comment except the president should start to be president.”

100% of the evidence is pointing at Biden and his selling of American intelligence and financial support for criminal elements inside Ukraine. Trump is trying to get law enforced, because it is clear that laws in Ukraine were broken. Biden can be impeached for that activity, which would make him ineligible for any government service.

That, earth explorers, would be a Party-ending catastrophe for the Democrats. That is exactly why the Global Syndicate press is pushing to make this entire story out to be merely an attempt by Trump to influence the election. It is influencing the election, because it absolutely should influence the election. These crimes must be exposed to the public, and the criminals who did them should go to prison and have their money seized. Crimes like these are making the men who do them billionaires. The Biden gang is robbing Democracies all over the world of dignity, and trying to make you believe they are innocent bystanders. They are not. They are the worst type of corruption that has been doing their business inside our government for more than 171 years.

What’s terrifying about this that Hunter Biden has no background in Ukraine. He has no background in energy or natural gas or anything like that, but of course his father, the vice president at the time, was the highest ranking person on U.S. policy towards Ukraine, and the money we’re talking about here is staggering. Hunter Biden was getting $83,000 a month from this Ukrainian energy company where he had no background. That is more than a million dollars a year for nothing but the influence of Joe Biden on US policy governing the Ukraine.

That is the issue here. That is the only issue. Ukrainian officials in the prosecutor’s office decided to investigate, and they started to investigate. We already know that Vice President Biden withheld a multi-billion dollar loan from Ukraine unless the official investigation into Hunter Biden was quashed.

The Bidens are not disputing that he got paid all this money. They’re not disputing that Hunter Biden had no background with Ukraine or with energy of any kind. They are also not disputing that Biden forced the Ukrainian justice department to stop its investigation. The Bidens and the Democrats just simply want the issue to go away. President Trump had an official conversation with the now-Ukrainian president, saying, ‘You need to investigate this. I think you need to investigate this,’ and that’s something that should have been adjudicated all this time. Trump is simply asking for the law to be enforced. That is not the scandal.

Do not be fooled by the Fake Stream News. This is a Biden scandal of epic proportions. This is not a Trump scandal. Biden committed treason by aiding Ukrainian and Chinese criminal elements by selling American technology, intelligence, and financial access. He and his son should be in prison. This and this alone is exactly what is at stake here. The truly frightening thing about this entire affair is that if Hillary had been elected, Biden would have gotten away with it. None of this would ever have been exposed.

The real brilliance is that Trump is actually the whistleblower, and he got the MSM to report on it 24 hours a day for days. True genius.

**3-D Quantum Teleportation Achieved**

Austrian and Chinese scientists have succeeded in teleporting three-dimensional quantum states for the first time. High-dimensional teleportation could play an important role in future quantum computers.

Researchers from the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Vienna have experimentally demonstrated what was previously only a theoretical possibility. Together with quantum physicists from the University of Science and Technology of China, they have succeeded in teleporting complex high-dimensional quantum states. The research teams report this international first in the journal Physical Review Letters.

In their study, the researchers teleported the quantum state of one photon (light particle) to another distant one. Previously, only two-level states ("qubits") had been transmitted, i.e., information with values "0" or "1". However, the scientists succeeded in teleporting a three-level state, a so-called "qutrit". In quantum physics, unlike in classical computer science, "0" and "1" are not an 'either/or' – both simultaneously, or anything in between, is also possible. The Austrian-Chinese team has now demonstrated this in practice with a third possibility "2".

It has been known since the 1990s that multidimensional quantum teleportation is theoretically possible. However: "First, we had to design an experimental method for implementing high-dimensional teleportation, as well as to develop the necessary technology", says Manuel Erhard from the Vienna Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

The quantum state to be teleported is encoded in the possible paths a photon can take. One can picture these paths as three optical fibers. Most interestingly, in quantum physics a single photon can also be located in all three optical fibers at the same time. To teleport this three-dimensional quantum state, the researchers used a new experimental method. The core of quantum teleportation is the so-called Bell measurement. It is based on a multiport beam splitter, which directs photons through several inputs and outputs and connects all optical fibers together. In addition, the scientists used auxiliary photons—these are also sent into the multiple beam splitter and can interfere with the other photons.

Through clever selection of certain interference patterns, the quantum information can be transferred to another photon far from the input photon, without the two ever physically interacting. The experimental concept is not limited to three dimensions, but can in principle be extended to any number of dimensions, as Erhard emphasizes.

With this, the international research team has also made an important step towards practical applications such as a future quantum internet, since high-dimensional quantum systems can transport larger amounts of information than qubits. "This result could help to connect quantum computers with information capacities beyond qubits", says Anton Zeilinger, quantum physicist at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Vienna, about the innovative potential of the new method.

The participating Chinese researchers also see great opportunities in multidimensional quantum teleportation. "The basics for the next-generation quantum network systems is built on our foundational research today", says Jian-Wei Pan from the University of Science and Technology of China. Pan recently held a lecture in Vienna at the invitation of the University of Vienna and the Academy.

In future work, the quantum physicists will focus on how to extend the newly gained knowledge to enable teleportation of the entire quantum state of a single photon or atom.

**India’s Moon Lander is Dead**

India's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter circling the moon has spotted the country's lost Vikram lander on the lunar surface, but there is still no signal from the lander, according to Indian media reports.

K Sivan, chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation, said today (Sept. 8) that the Vikram lander was located by Chandrayaan-2 and efforts to restore contact the probe will continue for at least 14 days, according to a Times of India report.

"We have found the location of Lander Vikram on [the] lunar surface and Orbiter has clicked a thermal image of Lander," Sivan told the ANI news service in an interview, adding that attempts to communicate with the lander are ongoing.

The Vikram lander went silent Friday (Sept. 6) while attempting a first-ever landing near the moon's south pole. ISRO lost contact with Vikram when the lander was just 1.2 miles (2 kilometers) above the lunar surface, raising fears that it may have crashed on the moon. The Vikram lander is India's first moon lander, and is carrying the country's first lunar rover, called Pragyan.

ISRO officials have not yet released the Chandrayaan-2 image of Vikram on the lunar surface or described the potential condition of the lander. But they have said that despite the lander's presumed failed moon landing, the craft has already demonstrated key technologies for future missions.

"The Vikram Lander followed the planned descent trajectory from its orbit of 35 km (22 miles) to just below 2 km above the surface," ISRO officials wrote in an update Saturday (Sept. 7). "All the systems and sensors of the Lander functioned excellently until this point and proved many new technologies such as variable thrust propulsion technology used in the Lander."

As ISRO tries to regain contact with the Vikram moon lander, the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is doing well in lunar orbit, the space agency said. In fact, the orbiter could last well beyond its planned one-year mission.

"The Orbiter camera is the highest resolution camera (0.3m) in any lunar mission so far and shall provide high resolution images which will be immensely useful to the global scientific community," ISRO officials said in the Sept. 7 statement. "The precise launch and mission management has ensured a long life of almost 7 years instead of the planned one year."

The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter is equipped with eight different science instruments to study the moon from above. Those instruments include: a high resolution camera, a lunar terrain mapping camera; a solar X-ray monitor; an imaging infrared spectrometer; a dual frequency synthetic aperture radar for studying moon water ice and lunar mapping; a sensor to study the moon's thin exosphere; and a dual frequency radio science experiment to study the moon's ionosphere.

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon after the Chandrayaan-1 mission of 2008 and 2009. An instrument on that first mission discovered the spectral signature for water across wide swaths of the moon, with big concentrations at the lunar poles, where permanently shadowed craters allow water ice to stay frozen.

"This was a unique mission which aimed at studying not just one area of the Moon but all the areas combining the exosphere, the surface as well as the sub-surface of the moon in a single mission," ISRO officials said in the update. "The Orbiter has already been placed in its intended orbit around the Moon and shall enrich our understanding of the moon’s evolution and mapping of the minerals and water molecules in the Polar Regions, using its eight state-of-the-art scientific instruments."

**Too Old to Hire. Too Young to Retire**

Age discrimination is real. Two out of three workers between ages 45 and 74 say they have seen or experienced [age discrimination](https://www.aarp.org/work/working-at-50-plus/age-discrimination/?intcmp=AE-WOR-WK50-IL) at work, and job seekers over age 35 cite it as a top obstacle to getting hired. And if you happen to work in the high-tech or entertainment industries, your chances of experiencing age discrimination are even higher.

**10 Age Discrimination Facts**

While the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) makes it illegal to discriminate against workers age 40 and up, the exact rules, and how they are interpreted, aren't always so clear to workers. Here are 10 important facts you should know about age discrimination:

1. **Age discrimination is illegal at any stage of employment, including during hiring, promotions, raises and layoffs.** The law also prohibits [workplace harassment](https://www.aarp.org/work/on-the-job/info-2016/workplace-bullying-ways-to-define-and-prevent.html?intcmp=AE-WOR-WK50-IL), by coworkers, supervisors or clients, because of age. The ADEA applies to employers that have at least 20 employees; some states have stronger protections. Also prohibited: mandatory retirement ages except for a few exemptions, such as airline pilots and public safety workers.
2. **It is currently legal for employers and prospective employers to ask your age as well as your graduation date.** AARP is working to strengthen protections against this line of inquiry. You can opt to remove this identifying information from your [LinkedIn profile](https://www.aarp.org/work/job-hunting/info-2015/liven-linkedin-profile-for-job-search.html?intcmp=AE-WOR-WK50-IL), or try to deflect the question in an interview, but there's nothing stopping a prospective employer from asking.
3. **A 2009 U.S. Supreme Court ruling made it harder for older workers who've experienced proven age discrimination to prevail in court.** The court said plaintiffs must meet a higher burden of proof for age discrimination than for other types of discrimination. In other words, the Supreme Court moved the law backward and sent a message to employers that some amount of proven discrimination is legally allowed.
4. **Most Americans age 50 and up — 8 in 10, according to AARP research** — say they want to see Congress create stronger laws to prevent age discrimination at work.
5. **Most people believe age discrimination begins when**[**workers hit their 50s**](https://www.aarp.org/work/working-at-50-plus/?intcmp=AE-WOR-WK50-IL), according to AARP research of workers between the ages of 45 and 74. Still, 22 percent believe it begins even earlier, when workers hit their 30s and 40s. And 17 percent say they think it begins in one's 60s.
6. **There's also a gender difference in the perception of age discrimination:** While 72 percent of women between the ages of 45 and 74 said they think people face age discrimination at work, only 57 percent of men in the same age range said so.
7. **Among older workers surveyed by AARP, not getting hired is the most common type of age discrimination they experienced**, with 19 percent of respondents citing it. An additional 12 percent say they missed out on a promotion because of age, and 8 percent say they were [laid off or fired](https://www.aarp.org/work/on-the-job/info-06-2013/what-to-do-after-losing-job.html?intcmp=AE-WOR-WK50-IL).
8. **You can take action.** If you think you've been discriminated against, you can file a charge with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). You can also work with a lawyer to file a lawsuit. Before taking either of these steps, consider going through your company's grievance system, if it has one. Know that filing a lawsuit can be expensive and there is no guarantee of victory. To help bolster your case, be sure to keep a careful record of all of the alleged discrimination.
9. **Last year, the EEOC received 20,857 charges of age discrimination.**Age discrimination makes up more than 1 in 5 of the discrimination charges received by the EEOC.
10. **Contrary to stereotypes, workers age 50 and up are among the most engaged members of the workforce,** according to an AARP study. Sixty-five percent of employees age 55 and up are "engaged," compared to 58 to 60 percent of younger employees. They also offer employers lower turnover rates and greater levels of experience.

The most at-risk age group is between 60 and 65. Once a worker reaches 60, they become an enormous liability to the employer. 90% of new health costs begin at age 60. The worker at this age has no options for income. Men cannot get any income until the age of 64, if they are willing to take a 20% cut in their monthly social security. Men cannot access their proper social security until age 66 and two months. That age is going up every year.

Women cannot draw social security of their own until the same age, but they can draw a portion of their husband’s social security at 62, under certain conditions.

The facts are that people in this age group have a very hard time finding employment. They are forced to start their own businesses or work as a contractor until they can access their retirement accounts. I recently learned of a man who had to sell his 401k account at age 60, because he was fired from a company he had worked at for 15 years. He had to pay $48 thousand in taxes on his own retirement money. I learned of a woman who was fired at 60 from a job she had worked at for 10 years without missing a single day of work. She has no 401k, because the company didn’t offer one. She had no way to live and no way to find a job at her age.

The laws are in place, but in almost 100% of the time, they are cannot be enforced. People among the working poor cannot save up enough for these rainy days, because they are not earning enough extra to do that. 100% of what they earn is needed to get by until the next payday. It is like that for their entire lives.

I have three degrees and a half dozen professional certificates. If I could not contract, using my skills, then I would have no income at all, and I am too young to draw my social security. They are hoping that I die before I get a chance to access any of the money I saved up after 50 years of working.

Why do you think that millions of retired people leave the country as ex-patriots? Because for $1,500 a month, a person can live quite well in Colombia or Panama or Ecuador. People simply cannot survive on that amount in this country. The places where people used to live on lower incomes have been developed and resold to investors. When that happens, the rent goes up by 1,000%, and people cannot afford the rent. That is precisely why the homeless rates have gone up.

The only way to stay alive these days is to upgrade your skills and keep working. Keep setting goals. Keep achieving more and more. There is no camping anymore.

**The Democrat Gun Control Carnival**

While it’s not the most popular anti-gun proposal out there, many gun control advocates are fans of the idea of “no fly, no buy.” In other words, if your name is on a terrorist watch list, you don’t get to exercise your Second Amendment rights, even if it’s not really you. It didn’t take much to look at that and see the problems, yet a surprising number of Democrats have supported such a measure in the not so distant past.

Yet when you change the script just a bit and make the list something like, say, the gang database, suddenly it’s an issue.

Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee amended the measure during a Wednesday mark-up to authorize the federal government to issue extreme risk protection orders in some instances, but they rejected an amendment that would have red-flagged anyone who law enforcement lists as a gang member.

“The majority of violent crime, including gun violence, in the United States is linked to gangs,” Rep. Ken Buck, a Colorado Republican who sponsored the amendment, said Wednesday. “My amendment is quite simple. It would allow the issuance of a red flag order against anyone whose name appears in a gang database if there was probable cause to include that individual in the database.”

Democrats objected with reasons that sounded very familiar to Republicans.

GOP lawmakers have staunchly opposed “No Fly, No Buy” proposals Democrats have tried to pass in the House in recent years because the lists flag the wrong people.

Like the no-fly lists, which have erroneously flagged many innocent individuals as terrorists (including the late Sen. Ted Kennedy), the gang databases are often inaccurate, Democrats said.

“You know, California had these databases, and they finally stopped when they discovered that they had 3-year-olds on the databases as gang members,” Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California said. “I mean, so some of these are reliable, a lot of them are not.”

Yeah, that *does* sound awfully familiar, doesn’t it?

However, there are some key differences. For one, the number of terrorist attacks in the United States are remarkably minor while gangs account for the lion’s share of violent crime in the United States, particularly homicides.

I’m not saying we *should* pursue something like this, only that there are some key differences which suggest using the gang database makes a bit more sense than the No Fly List.

In an effort to try and score some point, Rep. Eric “Nuke ’em All” Swalwell had to offer his two cents and said he’d back it if white supremacists were added to the database.

It didn’t go like he thought it would.

Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell of California offered to support the amendment if Buck agreed to include those listed “individuals affiliated with white nationalism.”

Buck agreed, but he said the language should include “any type of supremacy.”

“Let’s add Cosa Nostra to this,” Buck added.

Of course, this illustrates a problem with this kind of thing. Groups can keep being added, denying people of their Second Amendment rights on the mere suspicion of them being involved with criminal activity. This is especially problematic when you consider how anyone and everyone who refuses to toe the progressive line these days is labeled a racist, even for just being concerned about your child’s education. Being part of a parent’s group that opposes so-called “desegregation” efforts could be enough to get one labeled as a white nationalist these days, despite it not being remotely applicable.

To be fair, the Democrats were right in killing this, but they did it for all the wrong reasons.

At the end of the day, no one should be denied their constitutionally-protected right to keep and bear arms without due process of law. A name on a list or in a database without such due process shouldn’t be enough to deny someone those rights.

For Democrats, though, this is of pandering to particular demographics rather than a principled stand on due process. Had the amendment been about “no fly, no buy,” they’d have been all over it and we all know it.

**The Persian Problem**

Watching the events of last weekend’s bizarre Iranian attack on Saudi installations, I predicted that the global price of oil would spike but that the increase would be manageable. Thankfully, these assertions have proven true.

Iran has had decades to seek an amicable peace with the West over its nuclear and geopolitical ambitions, but each time it has remained stubbornly obstinate in rejecting Western negotiation attempts. Even when the West grotesquely compromised itself on the altar of appeasement with Iran, as it did during the Obama administration’s piteous nuclear “deal” in 2015, the ruling mullahs in Iran proved to be entirely untrustworthy. Since 2015, Iran has engaged in a massive surge of nefarious activity throughout the region, confirming that it is not a regime interested in achieving peace with the West. Instead, the mullahs desire regional hegemony at all costs.

Thankfully, though, since Donald J. Trump became president in 2016, the United States has completely reversed course on the Obama administration’s Iran appeasement plan. Rather than weakness through mindless giveaways to the terrorist-sponsoring state, the Trump administration has insisted that Iran comply with international law and imposed onerous economic sanctions upon the country. And, with each provocation from Iran, U.S. resolve has only strengthened and increased cohesion between and among its Israeli and Sunni Arab allies in the region.

On top of the Trump sanctions, the Trump policy of promoting domestic fossil fuel production has helped to insulate the United States from the geopolitical risk of Iranian attacks on the world’s oil supply.

**The Real Purpose of Iran’s Oil Attacks**

Therein lies the purpose of Iran’s attacks on Saudi Arabia’s oil production capabilities. Iran’s hope was to negatively impact the world oil market so badly that prices would spike to unmanageable levels, hitting American energy consumers — people like you and me — hard. The logic was simple: Americans vote with their wallets. If Iran could increase the direct costs on American voters for supporting hardline policies against Iran, the regime might force favorable domestic political changes in the United States.

Plus, with the Trump sanctions in place, Iran’s economy has been slowly dying, increasing political discord in Iran and threatening the stability of the regime. If the Iranians had managed to take out Saudi Arabia’s oil production capabilities over the long term, they could benefit economically, as desperate countries that are dependent on Saudi oil, like China or any of the European states, would come clamoring for Iranian oil.

Despite Iran’s oil gambit being a failure, it stubbornly refuses to negotiate. Forty years of existing as geopolitical pariahs, much like North Korea, have not softened the mullahs’ religious zeal to spread their Islamist revolution to the world. They assume the Americans are incapable of holding out against their iron will for very long. Rather than viewing their recent attack as the absolute failure that it was, I believe that Iran’s leaders are likely preparing to up the ante.

**Iran Will Attack the Strait of Hormuz**

Next, I expect Iran to go for broke and attempt to blockade the Strait of Hormuz, through which 21 percent of the world’s oil passes every day. Iran’s navy is nowhere near as powerful as the U.S. Navy. Yet the Iranians do have some asymmetric capabilities that bear noting.

First, Iran has developed the use of small, fast-attack boats that can maneuver better than the larger, more advanced U.S. Navy warships in the relatively close quarters of the Strait of Hormuz. Second, Iran has a large sea mine arsenal. Neither of these threats is enough to stymie an American maritime response to an Iranian attempt to blockade the Strait. Nonetheless, the world should be ready for the possibility of world oil prices spiking significantly in the event of an Iranian move on the Strait. Iran also possesses missiles capable of hitting American targets as far as 2,000 kilometers (1,243 miles) away.

The real question will be: How long would it take for the U.S. Navy to secure the Strait of Hormuz? After all, the longer an oil crisis there lasts, the higher the price of oil goes, and the greater the risk to domestic politics becomes. It is likely that Iran will seek to destabilize the oil markets soon as the United States enters what will be a contentious presidential election year. Iran’s leaders likely believe that the threat of higher oil prices will exacerbate fears of a recession, thereby putting political pressure on President Trump. Tehran also likely believes that such pressure will force Trump to negotiate rather than risk a war on top of that economic uncertainty — just as Americans are going to vote in 2020.

That is why the U.S. Navy and its partners must move a large contingent of its forces to nearby waterways to ensure that Iran cannot blockade the Strait. What’s more, American air power and special forces would have to be brought to bear to retaliate against the bases where Iranian attacks against the Strait originated. The Trump administration must explicitly state, and signal through force deployments to the region, that America and its partners will protect the international oil supply — no matter the cost. By moving sizable naval forces into the region, the Trump administration can better deter Iran (deterrence being the whole point).

**Fighting in the Gray Zone**

The United States must also be prepared for asymmetrical Iranian attacks. The FBI has already arrested a New Jersey man for apparently trying to help Hezbollah terrorists in the country identify potential soft targets in New York City.

More dangerously, Iran’s nuclear weapons program may have given the regime access to devastating electromagnetic pulse weapons that can destroy electronic equipment, sending America back to a 19th-century level of development. There is also the added threat of Iranian drone attacks, which have thus far proved to be devastating.

Lastly, Iran has already shown itself to be proficient in the shadowy art of cyber warfare. The Pentagon (and Western businesses) must be prepared for a sustained Iranian cyber warfare campaign directed against soft targets throughout the West. All of these attacks would occur in what the Israelis refer to as the “Gray Zone” of conflict.

Iran has already indicated that it will not fight fairly, and it rarely will hit a target directly. Yet it has also revealed its desperation and its willingness to risk much to further its geopolitical objectives. Rather than seek accommodation with this radicalism, the West must stiffen its spine against it. Ultimately, Iran cannot defeat the United States, and there is little reason to compromise over Iran’s nuclear (or wider geopolitical) ambitions so long as it continues on its present course.

Standing strong will deter Iran more than negotiations would. Only through continued strength and vigilance can the West ever hope to have a peaceful resolution to its current conflict with Iran.

**The Cosmological Constant**

There is a fundamental problem in physics.

A single number, called the cosmological constant, bridges the microscopic world of quantum mechanics and the macroscopic world of Einstein's theory of general relativity. But neither theory can agree on its value.

In fact, there's such a huge discrepancy between the observed value of this constant and what theory predicts that it is widely considered the worst prediction in the history of physics. Resolving the discrepancy may be the most important goal of theoretical physics this century.

Lucas Lombriser, an assistant professor of theoretical physics at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, has introduced a new way of evaluating Albert Einstein's equations of gravity to find a value for the cosmological constant that closely matches its observed value. He published his method online in the Oct. 10 issue of the journal Physics Letters B.

**How Einstein's biggest blunder became dark energy**

The story of the cosmological constant began more than a century ago when Einstein presented a set of equations, now known as the Einstein field equations, that became the framework of his theory of general relativity. The equations explain how matter and energy warp the fabric of space and time to create the force of gravity. At the time, both Einstein and astronomers agreed that the universe was fixed in size and that the overall space between galaxies did not change. However, when Einstein applied general relativity to the universe as a whole, his theory predicted an unstable universe that would either expand or contract. To force the universe to be static, Einstein tacked on the cosmological constant.

Nearly a decade later, another physicist, Edwin Hubble, discovered that our universe is not static, but expanding. The light from distant galaxies showed they were all moving away from each other. This revelation persuaded Einstein to abandon the cosmological constant from his field equations as it was no longer necessary to explain an expanding universe. Physics lore has it that Einstein later confessed that his introduction of the cosmological constant was perhaps his greatest blunder.

In 1998, observations of distant supernovas showed the universe wasn't just expanding, but the expansion was speeding up. Galaxies were accelerating away from each other as if some unknown force was overcoming gravity and shoving those galaxies apart. Physicists have named this enigmatic phenomenon dark energy, as its true nature remains a mystery.

In a twist of irony, physicists once again reintroduced the cosmological constant into Einstein's field equations to account for dark energy. In the current standard model of cosmology, known as ΛCDM (Lambda CDM), the cosmological constant is interchangeable with dark energy. Astronomers have even estimated its value based on observations of distant supernovas and fluctuations in the cosmic microwave background. Although the value is absurdly small (on the order of 10^-52 per square meter), over the scale of the universe, it is significant enough to explain the accelerated expansion of space.

"The cosmological constant [or dark energy] currently constitutes about 70% of the energy content in our universe, which is what we can infer from the observed accelerated expansion that our universe is presently undergoing. Yet this constant is not understood," Lombriser said. "Attempts to explain it have failed, and there seems to be something fundamental that we are missing in how we understand the cosmos. Unraveling this puzzle is one of the major research areas in modern physics. It is generally anticipated that resolving the issue may lead us to a more fundamental understanding of physics."

Related: 8 Ways You Can See Einstein’s Theory of Relativity in Real Life

The worst theoretical prediction in the history of physics

The cosmological constant is thought to represent what physicists call "vacuum energy." Quantum-field theory states that even in a completely empty vacuum of space, virtual particles pop in and out of existence and create energy — a seemingly absurd idea, but one that has been observed experimentally. The problem arises when physicists attempt to calculate its contribution to the cosmological constant. Their result differs from observations by a mind-boggling factor of 10^121 (that's 10 followed by 120 zeroes), the largest discrepancy between theory and experiment in all of physics.

Such a disparity has caused some physicists to doubt Einstein's original equations of gravity; some have even suggested alternative models of gravity. However, further evidence of gravitational waves by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) have only strengthened general relativity and dismissed many of these alternative theories. Which is why instead of rethinking gravity, Lombriser took a different approach to solve this cosmic puzzle.

"The mechanism I propose does not modify Einstein's field equations," Lombriser said. Instead, "it adds an additional equation on top of Einstein's field equations."

The gravitational constant, which was first used in Isaac Newton's laws of gravity and now an essential part of Einstein's field equations, describes the magnitude of the gravitational force between objects. It is considered one of the fundamental constants of physics, eternally unchanged since the beginning of the universe. Lombriser has made the dramatic assumption that this constant can change.

In Lombriser's modification of general relativity, the gravitational constant remains the same within our observable universe but may vary beyond it. He suggests a multiverse scenario where there may be patches of the universe invisible to us that have different values for the fundamental constants.

This variation of gravity gave Lombriser an additional equation that relates the cosmological constant to the average sum of matter across space-time. After he accounted for the estimated mass of all the galaxies, stars and dark matter of the universe, he could solve that new equation to obtain a new value for the cosmological constant — one that closely agrees with observations.

Using a new parameter, ΩΛ (omega lambda), that expresses the fraction of the universe made of dark matter, he found the universe is made up of about 74% dark energy. This number closely matches the value of 68.5% estimated from observations — a tremendous improvement over the huge disparity found by quantum field theory.

Although Lombriser's framework might solve the cosmological constant problem, there’s currently no way to test it. But in the future, if experiments from other theories validate his equations, it could mean a major leap in our understanding of dark energy and provide a tool to solve other cosmic mysteries

**What is an Avatar**

An avatar, a concept in Hinduism that means "descent", refers to the material appearance or incarnation of a deity on earth. The relative verb to "alight, to make one's appearance" is sometimes used to refer to any guru or revered human being.

An avatar is a personalized graphical illustration that represents a computer user, or a character or alter ego that represents that user. An avatar can be represented either in three-dimensional form (for example, in games or virtual worlds) or in two-dimensional form as an icon in Internet forums and virtual worlds.

Avatars are used widely on websites and in online role-playing games. They are an integral part of Internet chat, Internet messaging systems, blogs and artificial intelligence, particularly virtual reality.

Techopedia explains Avatar

The term avatar as it relates to computer user identification was first coined by Chip Morningstar and Joseph Romero in 1985, when they were designing LucasFilm's online role-playing game "Habitat".

The simplest avatars are small graphic files used on websites. For instance, members using chat boards can upload an avatar to represent themselves. The images may be humorous or serious, and often show a beast or hero. They normally appear attached to user posts alongside the username.

Some websites provide users with a pool of avatars from which to choose. Avatars in a virtual reality are interactive characters in virtual worlds, which may be customized by the user. These avatars walk within the computerized landscape, manipulating the surrounding environment. Avatars can be moved and acted upon using the keyboard and mouse. Virtual world avatars also have an associated inventory of objects such as tools, weapons, clothing, vehicles, virtual currency, etc.

The Sanskrit word avatar (or avatara) literally means “descent.”

It refers to the descent of divinity from heaven to earth, and is typically used to describe an incarnation of God. (1)

Paramhansa Yogananda explained that the term avatar refers to a soul who has been freed from maya (delusion) and is sent by the will of God back into manifested existence to help others.

Examples include the founders of major world religions, such as Jesus Christ, Buddha, and Krishna. Yogananda said that an avatar “is born not to show us how great he was, but to give us hope that the state of consciousness he had attained, we too can attain.” (2)

ORTHODOX HINDU BELIEFS

More traditional Hindus believe an avatar to be a direct manifestation of God, rather than a re-incarnation or re-appearance on earth of a soul that has been liberated. This is comparable to the understanding that many Christians have of Jesus Christ, who they consider as having never been in human form before he was Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, the word avatar is sometimes limited to the different incarnations of Vishnu. In modern times, it is one of many Sanskrit terms that have been applied to everything from online computer identities to “avatar training,” as if one could simply take a class and become an avatar!