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| --- | --- |
| **Jihad Report** **Oct 17, 2020 -** **Oct 23, 2020** | |
| Attacks | **31** |
| Killed | **199** |
| Injured | **220** |
| Suicide Blasts | **0** |
| Countries | **9** |

**Moguls in Space**

In the 2013 science fiction film "[Elysium](https://www.space.com/22318-elysium-movie-review-science-fiction.html)" starring Matt Damon, Earth's wealthiest 0.01% move to the ultimate gated community, a luxurious orbiting space colony, leaving a poverty-stricken humanity to fend for themselves on a ravaged planet.

Interestingly, it is indeed some of today's 0.1% who are leading the way into space to build communities beyond Earth. However, quite the opposite of the movie, their goals are of the highest order, from democratizing access to space by lowering costs, to creating new products and ideas, to helping save the planet and opening space to future generations.

Yet, given the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, social justice and green movements, even as entrepreneurs like [Elon Musk](https://www.space.com/18849-elon-musk.html), [Jeff Bezos](https://www.space.com/19341-jeff-bezos.html) and [Richard Branson](https://www.space.com/18991-richard-branson-biography.html) spend billions to support a human breakout into space, there is a backlash building that holds these projects as icons of extravagance — even as their work may help save the Earth. This is the "Elysium effect."

As in any good social movement, there is a need for bad guys, and these guys are easy icons of evil to many. And there may be no easier target they could present than a shiny private rocketship or [space station](https://www.space.com/nasa-commercial-space-stations.html) — even if it is for a good cause.

Though they have many flaws, including the accumulation of lots of money, these space pioneers are actually trying to do something good for humanity and the planet. And while they may not be the cuddliest of people, just look at their other projects and goals: Musk builds [electric cars and solar power systems](https://www.space.com/22368-elon-musk-is-changing-the-world.html), Bezos wants to [move polluting heavy industry off planet](https://www.space.com/jeff-bezos-blue-origin-climate-change-fight.html) - even as Amazon pushes towards zero emissions, and Branson is a long time champion of social and [environmental causes](https://www.livescience.com/58469-richard-branson-tells-dairy-farmers-to-grow-weed.html).

Yet these visionaries, who author Christian Davenport called "[The Space Barons](https://target.georiot.com/Proxy.ashx?tsid=72128&GR_URL=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FSpace-Barons-Bezos-Colonize-Cosmos%2Fdp%2F1610398297%3Ftag%3Dhawk-future-20%26ascsubtag%3Dspace-us-9948571699188613000-20)" are often portrayed as rich boys with fancy toys. Things will get worse when the next wave of terribly branded "space tourists" begin to fly. Bezos' [Blue Origin](https://www.space.com/19584-blue-origin-quiet-plans-for-spaceships.html) and Branson's [Virgin Galactic](https://www.space.com/18993-virgin-galactic.html) will charge over $200,000 for excursions to the edge of space, while newcomer Axiom Space Systems and SpaceX will offer [flights to and beyond the International Space Station](https://www.space.com/spacex-axiom-space-launching-private-astronauts-in-2021.html) for a few tens of millions, and even loop the Moon for a just few hundred million more.

Prodded by the tears in our social fabric revealed by the [coronavirus pandemic](https://www.space.com/topics/coronavirus) and the social justice movement now underway, the Elysium effect will escalate dramatically after the 2020 presidential election, as a rising "green generation" of socially active post millennials begins a long needed cultural shift towards planetary stewardship. The mood will become increasingly anti-waste, anti-greed and anti-corporate, as social agendas blend with environmental goals.

It will not matter that throughout history it has often been the wealthy who invested in or supported major research programs, built the railroads, funded the ships that opened seas and the planes that opened the skies — their investments eventually creating the low-cost infrastructure for the rest of society to utilize. In the eyes of today's cultural rebels, the pioneering efforts of these space revolutionaries will be seen as stereotypical of the same extreme, concentrated male wealth and power that has driven the Earth to the brink of disaster.

Of course the situation is ironic. A social movement ready to upend the social order in the name of saving the planet and its people will attack the very people investing their wealth to try and save the people and the planet.

While those in the space field understand the goal is to open space to everyone by lowering costs over time, the fact that [the initial spaceflight customers aren't "everyone"](https://www.space.com/14961-ashton-kutcher-virgin-galactic-space-ride.html) sends a bad message. And frankly, when it comes to positive messaging, the Space Barons suck. Be it Musk and his President Donald Trump-style tweeting, Branson playing the playboy, or Bezos building his billions on what some see as the backs of an underpaid Amazon workforce, they paint their own targets on themselves.

Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos stands with a mockup of the company's Blue Moon robotic lunar lander during its unveiling on May 9, 2019.  (Image credit: Blue Origin)

This wouldn't be so bad if we didn't need to open space quickly, or if governments hadn't blown the job over the last few decades. But we do, and they have. With the climate almost literally melting down, economies cracking under the coronavirus pandemic and people lost in a fog of disunity and pessimism, we need the space revolution to succeed, not instead of or in spite of these other challenges, but because it can help us win them all.

We need to get our best minds out there, to observe and help us understand what is happening down here, but also to develop new technologies and [ways to save the planet](https://www.livescience.com/4091-10-ways-improve-earth-health.html), create new products such as medicines and to begin utilizing the resources of space to take the pressure off our home world. Governments have shown they are unable to make it efficient, and they certainly can't take it to scale.

Look, if you're reading this, you probably already "get it" when it comes to the importance of opening what Dr. G.K. O'Neill called "[The High Frontier](https://target.georiot.com/Proxy.ashx?tsid=72128&GR_URL=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FHigh-Frontier-Human-Colonies-Apogee%2Fdp%2F189652267X%3Ftag%3Dhawk-future-20%26ascsubtag%3Dspace-us-2661101410860383700-20)" (the seminal book on space settlement that converted Bezos and became one of his early products). There isn't much time for the space community to act, and as members of a society of nerds for whom it is as patently obvious that we must open space as that there will be another "[Star Trek](https://www.space.com/31802-star-trek-space-tech.html)" spinoff, we need to get much better at engaging the rest of the world in this new conversation about space.

It really is critical that these space revolutionaries not only be allowed to, but are supported in their quests. The best thing we can do is to understand and speak to the concerns of those who don't yet understand why this is happening and what the true drivers are behind it all.

Perhaps answering the old question: "Why are we spending money in space when we have so many problems down here?" before it is asked again, might be a good start.

First, the money "we" the taxpayers spend on space is relatively trivial. In fact, the U.S. Department of Defense spends the entire [NASA budget](https://www.space.com/nasa-2021-budget-request-aims-at-moon-mars.html) every two weeks or so. Of course in the case of the billionaires leading the charge the best answer is: "It's mainly not our money, it's theirs." Yes, in some cases they are taking government money to carry payloads and astronauts to space, but it is largely private money being invested, money that is and will save us billions of dollars over traditional government programs.

So let's talk about saving money for a moment — taxpayer money. SpaceX is carrying astronauts to and from the [International Space Station](https://www.space.com/16748-international-space-station.html) for about $30 million less than the Russians were charging NASA. The agency's old school [Space Launch System](https://www.space.com/33908-space-launch-system.html) megarocket has already run up over $25 billion in costs and is forecast to hit $30 billion by the time it delivers a few astronauts to the moon. (It can only deliver a few as it is not reusable.) It's estimated that SLS will cost about $30,000/kilogram to put something there, while SpaceX's workhorse [Falcon 9 rocket](https://www.space.com/18962-spacex-falcon-9.html) can do so for around $10,000/kg and the upcoming [Starship](https://www.space.com/spacex-starship-super-heavy.html) may cost a measly $2,000/kg!

At these prices amazing things become possible in space, things we can barely imagine, and things that may well not just help us save the Earth but make life a lot better for everyone.

Most importantly, why the Space Barons are doing this is not what many people think. While at some point in the future space economy, if they succeed, there will be immense profits made in space, the little known fact is that*the billionaires who are part of the space revolution aren't doing space to make money — they made their money to do space.* Go read their biographies. In many ways they are donating their money to build a better future.

After all, these folks aren't pouring their money into sports teams or fashion lines (ok, Branson does have an island). Their investment has already created tens of thousands of high tech jobs and a whole ecosystem of startups is taking off around them. It is no accident, and it is no frivolous pastime; it is their life's dream and their legacy for humanity.

Of course, while working on their dream of opening space to all, they still have to chart their way through the economics. They may be making the downpayment on this train to space, but they're going to have to pay for the railroad somehow. That's where some of these early high priced private customer flights come in. Picking up a few hundred million from human payloads that pay for themselves is a good way to prime the pump. Keep in mind, economics and technology also have another characteristic — the more who fly, the lower the cost becomes. For example, while we take flying on an airline to be a normal thing to do, it was once so expensive and unusual that the people who could afford to do so had a name: "jet setters."

This drive to bring down costs is a central theme for the space revolution. Musk has said he wants to get the price per ticket to fly to Mars down to a few hundred thousand dollars. Bezos' focus is on funding enough space infrastructure that "two kids in a dorm room" can start a viable space company — much as having the post office, internet and fed-ex allowed kids like him to start Amazon.

Just being able to go out there, and the effects on those who go may also be profound, and well worth the cost of it all. As mentioned in the Democratic Convention, we need more people, including cultural and political leaders, to see the mother world from space and experience Frank White's transformational "[overview effect](https://www.space.com/overview-effect-amid-us-crisis-neil-degrasse-tyson.html)," perhaps changing the nature of what it means to be people of Earth. This alone may be worth the price of today's investment.

Projects like [Space For Humanity](https://www.spaceforhumanity.org/) are designed to help as wide a range of people as possible to experience space travel, and Branson intends to make some seats available on his [SpaceShipTwo](https://www.space.com/19021-spaceshiptwo.html) suborbital flights to those without the means to buy them. While democratizing spaceflight is their long term goal, Bezos and Musk need to do more in this arena in the short term.

While the recent billionaire who [bought a trip around the moon](https://www.space.com/41854-spacex-unveils-1st-private-moon-flight-passenger.html) on SpaceX's Starship is taking along an entourage of artists, scientists and others who would never otherwise get the chance, more needs to be done. In fact, all of these companies should announce programs to carry "regular" people into space on their flights — perhaps using a lottery system with a commitment that a set number of rides will always be available to the winners. Personally, I think this should include a lot of teachers, nominated by their students — and when safe enough, students nominated by their teachers. Talk about inspiration to excellence!

Over time, the economics will solve the problem, as spaceships begin to operate as routinely as airliners — as is the plan with SpaceX's Starship I mentioned earlier. Already being tested in south Texas, it is possible this one breakthrough rocketship program alone will throw open the airlock to our future in space.

Far from being a way for the elite to escape a dying world, the new space revolution must also show how it will transform life on Earth and support the battle to save the planet. Early priorities should be projects with direct benefit to the people. Examples include [pure fiber optics](https://www.space.com/made-in-space-second-zblan-optical-fiber-space-factory.html) able to multiply the speed of communications, labs [growing organs such as lungs in space](https://www.space.com/38206-lung-cells-grow-on-space-station.html) (much harder to do on Earth) and a thousand other people-oriented possible breakthroughs.

There are also major projects such as mining resources such as the rare earth elements we will need to move to an all electric economy, reducing carbon emissions on Earth by generating electricity in space, even an emergency backup plan to slow down global warming in case we can't transition to net zero emissions quickly enough by placing a [sunshade](https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20160425-how-a-giant-space-umbrella-could-stop-global-warming) between us and the sun, or [protecting us from asteroids](https://www.space.com/33576-asteroid-defense.html) so we don't have yet another global catastrophe. Real, beneficial projects like these are already on the boards. What is needed now is better communication about how, through the lowering of costs to be gained by their investments, these billionaires really are financing what will lead to the next human renaissance.

The public also needs to be able to directly profit from what is happening. As with [Virgin Galactic's stock offering](https://www.space.com/virgin-galactic-goes-public-nyse-stock-exchange.html), there should be more paths to enable the non-wealthy to invest in space, so more regular people's IRAs and retirement funds share in the equity of the frontier. This will demand more successes and increased transparency in the new space industry, and is of course a long-term investment, but startup space companies are being born all the time and while most will fail, some may well turn into the Apples and Fords of the next era.

Then there is the intangible inspiration of it all. We know space travel has magic in it. Just recall the pause in the middle of the coronavirus crisis when the [SpaceX Crew Dragon launched](https://www.space.com/spacex-demo2-nasa-astronaut-launch-success.html) and successfully delivered NASA astronauts to the space station, and how the world held its breath as they safely [plunged back to Earth](https://www.space.com/spacex-crew-dragon-demo-2-splashdown.html). For just a moment between the darkness of disease, partisan politics and the riots of unrest the people of Earth saw something amazing happen, something that showed what we can do when we are excellent.

How many young minds, locked at home and witness to the darkness of hate flooding the airwaves and internet watched in awe and wonder as the fires of their hopes ignited when that rocket ship launched? How many of tomorrow's heroes will now trace their careers to that moment?

If these rich dreamers are going to fund our future with money they have earned, I'll take it. We need them to do it. Not for themselves, and not to abandon a wounded world, but for our children and to make sure this world survives.

"Elysium" was just a movie, "Star Trek" is a creation of the imagination. But science fiction can also help us choose between possible realities. Applying the analogy of robber barons to this generation of space pioneers is convenient, but it does not hold. These people are not perfect, but they are trying to do the right thing and I am clear that at their core they believe life is precious, and that even as we work to save the Earth today, they are putting their money down on ways to build a better tomorrow for all of us.

**Silicon Communist Party**

Well, now we know why Big Tech suppresses stories unfavorable to Beijing's chosen candidate Joe Biden while simultaneously giving Chinese Communist Party propaganda a megaphone.

It turns out citizens of the People's Republic of China run Facebook's Department of Censorship. The New York Post reports the Facebook "Hate-Speech Engineering" (yes, they really call it that) team includes at least half a dozen foreign nationals recruited from Communist China. This is the crew that is smothering the Hunter Biden laptop story.

"The Hate-Speech Engineering team's staff includes a research scientist based at the Seattle office who earned his master's degree in computer engineering from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing," the New York Post reports.

Other team members come from Jilin University in northeast China, Nanjing University in eastern China and the Communist Party-backed conglomerate Huawei. These computer engineers are building and deploying artificial intelligence algorithms to smother wrongthink in your news feed, an insidious form of censorship that doesn't tell you your news has been scrubbed.

Their algorithms likely are right now burying the intelligence report based on public sources (not the laptop from hell) that shows high-ranking Chinese Communist government officials showered the Biden family with hundreds of millions of dollars. Hunter Biden's 2013 Bohai Harvest Rosemont (BHR) investment partnership was set up by People's Republic of China Ministry of Foreign Affairs institutions. BHR is a state-managed operation with direct ties to the Politburo.

At one time, foreigners were not allowed to own U.S. radio or television stations lest they use the mass media to influence American public opinion. Now, foreigners who have no understanding of traditional American values of free speech are imposing the values of the regimented, collectivist society where they were raised and educated on Americans. They are remaking American society according to the Chinese Communist Party's ideal, one that prizes social conformity and obedience to authority above all else.

We know this only because of leaks by a former Facebook employee. If not for an outraged whistleblower we would not know citizens of a Communist totalitarianism state are shaping the discourse surrounding American politics and this election.

Mark Zuckerberg, the man who imagines himself Caesar Augustus, is paying them to do it.

Internal company documents released by Project Veritas also reveal Facebook has a policy of hiring H-1B workers instead of Americans, and Chinese and Korean visa workers over other visa workers.

"When hiring for HR positions, it's important to prioritize H-1B visa workers, and this will stimulate the process of diversification of the workplace," says the leaked March 2020 document. The memo says "priority may be given to H-1B applicants from China and Korea to foster larger communities of diverse workers at Facebook." As Ronald Reagan said, personnel is policy.

"Promoting diversity" is really just a fig leaf to cover the Zuck's true motivation: Cheap foreign H1B labor slashes Facebook payroll costs.

And just as Beijing exploits Silicon Valley's addiction to cheap H1B labor, the Valley's commitment to globalism also makes it an unwitting dupe of the CCP.

Beijing now presents itself as the defender of globalization against President Trump's national economic policies. But Beijing's Marxist rulers are using the ideology and institutions of globalism as a Trojan horse to defeat the U.S. and Western industrial democracies.

A little history: In ancient times the Chinese emperor kept massive cauldrons as symbols of his authority. When a dynasty changed and power shifted, the cauldrons were moved. A rival who asked how much the emperor's cauldrons weighed tipped his hand that he planned to challenge the ruler. In 1995, Beijing gifted the United Nations an ancient cauldron "Dedicated to the 21st Century." It revealed its strategy – and violated the Chinese proverb "never ask the weight of the emperor's cauldrons."

The tech giants subscribe to the idea of "global citizenship" with religious fervor; they don't see themselves as American, but as global corporations. On the micro level, Google/Facebook/Twitter made the World Health Organization the arbiter of righthink on China virus. It might be worth asking if any Chinese nationals were involved in that decision considering the CCP bought and paid for the WHO.

We have long worried that Communist China's digital totalitarianism – a system in which the government uses a Big Data "social credit score" to determine where you work, where you live and whether you can board an airplane – could someday be imposed on Americans.

Now we see it is worse than that: Thanks to Facebook, the Chinese Communist Party is using Americans as lab rats to perfect the AI techno-surveillance-censorship apparatus it plans to export throughout the world.

Trump adviser Peter Navarro delivered an important address, what he dubs "the useful idiot speech," detailing the breadth and depth of the CCP's influence in America.

Now we know the idiots most useful to the Chinese Communist Party are in Silicon Valley. The tech lords have onboarded the operating system of Beijing's totalitarian collectivism, exalting social conformity and central control over free speech and free thought, and globalism over American nationhood.

**The Planned Parenthood Money Machine**

President Trump has moved to cut off Planned Parenthood's pipeline of public money in several ways. But the abortion-industry giant still receives about half a billion dollars a year from taxpayers, many of whom oppose abortion based on their religious beliefs. Now, that funding, under a second Donald Trump administration, could be in danger.

It's because Planned Parenthood faces accusations that it has overlooked evidence of sex trafficking. And such organizations are barred from receiving tax money.

[Operation Rescue said](https://www.operationrescue.org/archives/planned-parenthood-must-lose-medicaid-payments-for-aiding-human-traffickers-rapists/) Planned Parenthood staffers "are actively fighting against the girls and young women of this nation who are victims of rape and human sex trafficking."

"This," the report said, "should cost them their Medicaid provider eligibility nationwide, if President Donald J. Trump wins re-election.

"Thanks to President Trump and to the men and women of the U.S. Marshals Service, the Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI who fight the sex traffickers, thousands of women and children have been rescued and many hundreds of sex traffickers have been imprisoned," Operation Rescue said.

It cited a recent report from the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists' report that "showed Planned Parenthood personnel are essentially fighting to protect those who engage in this despicable crime."

The report said: "In 2017, a survivor group undertook an informal survey of other survivors of sex trafficking, who were minors at the time. ... Surveys were sent to 1,123 women who identified as survivors. Of the 1,123 there were 758 responses who were trafficked as children (67%). But child sexual abuse was prevalent in nearly 96% of them. Of the 758, nearly 90% (683) had had one abortion as a minor (ages 11-17).

"Of the 90% (683), 628 (92%) had had multiple abortions, sometimes at the same facility . . . None of them were separated from the traffickers or bottom (woman accomplice) who brought them in. None of them were asked for ID. All of them were given the abortion and not screened."

Operation Rescue President Troy Newman told WND: "It's clear the law is not on the side of Planned Parenthood. They have clearly been covering up child sex abuse and sex trafficking.

"Planned Parenthood has been an enabler for child traffickers."

He said such activities, confirmed through investigation and convictions, could allow the administration to remove federal funding. It also could expose the abortion giant to individual claims. The pro-life group Live Action several years ago released undercover videos showing various abortion industry employees concealing apparent crimes, such as underage girls getting an abortion (they were too young to grant permission to have sex).

Young girls, victims of rape and sex trafficking, continuing to be given abortions, the study shows. Newman said the public has little influence over those activities or the enforcement of laws banning that behavior. But he said the public does have a vote. Pregnancies due to all other reasons besides elective birth control total only 0.85%

He said he hopes there soon will be the "last snowflake that causes the avalanche" and the public outrage will begin to influence lawmakers. The issue has always been that the Democrats award Planned Parenthood up to $500 million each year in grants. Planned Parenthood then donates back $56 million to the Democrat Party. They have never contributed any money to the Republican Party. Operation Rescue said Planned Parenthood staffers nationwide "have been aiding and abetting a less organized but much larger group of rapists — those who rape girls in their own households, their own schools, and their own youth groups."

"Many selfless pro-life activists observe the young victims as they pray and offer help to women outside abortion facilities. Some have reported underage girls being taken in for abortions to the police, because they understand that a pregnant 13-year-old girl, for example, cannot legally give her consent to sex, and was likely the victim of rape, incest, or human trafficking."

It noted that the Department of Justice has confirmed that most victims of sexual abuse are girls 17 or younger.

"The girls most vulnerable are 11-to-15 years of age. They are under tremendous societal pressure to submit to sex. These girls represent 25% of all sexual abuse victims," Operation Rescue reported. "The AAPLOG report noted that girls above the age of 10 are much less likely to be sexually abused by blood relatives. Their victimizers are much more likely to 'acquaintances' like stepfathers, foster fathers, their mother’s boyfriends, and others."

Operation Rescue cited a source investigating attacks on young girls who said: "During my investigation, I obtained detailed government agency information on 70% of all Planned Parenthood facilities. Out of hundreds of thousands of girls below the age of 16 who were taken to Planned Parenthood facilities for birth control, VD treatment, or abortions in the past decade, Planned Parenthood staffers apparently have reported only a few hundred of them as potential victims to the police or to other designated child protection agencies."

That's even though Planned Parenthood staffers and every other person in the medical field are mandated reporters, meaning they are required to report suspicions of child abuse.

"When a mandated reporter fails or refuses to report suspected child abuse, he or she commits a misdemeanor or a felony, and is subject to prosecution in every state," OR said.

President Trump has promised pro-life leaders that if he is re-elected, he would work to take away all federal funding from Planned Parenthood. At least then, you and I would not be coerced into paying for the abortion of millions of babies each year in the USA alone. To date, more than 70 million American children have been killed, and you helped pay for it.

**EV Charging Costs Surprise New Owner**

A Rosedale man thought he was doing his part to help the environment and fight global warming when he bought a Chevy Bolt. But his latest BC Hydro bill has Brian Chwiendacz questioning his decision. Chwiendacz was shocked to see a charge of $287.86 after paying $89.05 and $90.87 on his two previous bills.

“We charge the car at home and use our electricity,” he said. “But we were never told, ‘Oh thank you for going green, but the government will now make you pay for that.’ How does this make sense?”

Chwiendacz says he has followed BC Hydro’s recommendation to charge between 11 p.m. and midnight. BC Hydro introduced a two-step residential conservation rate in October of 2018, incentivizing customers to turn off lights and take other steps to reduce their power usage.

In Chwiendacz’s case, he was charged $130.03 at the step one rate of $0.0945/kilowatt-hours, and another $130.65 when car charging bumped him up to the step two rate of $0.1417/kilowatt-hours.

“I called the BC Hydro number and talked to one of their representatives while I had the BC Hydro web site open on my computer,” he said. “After we talked for a bit he told me that he agreed that we should not have to pay the higher rate because of the electric vehicle being charged.”

BC Hydro spokesperson Mora Scott said Chwiendacz’s experience of a dramatic spike is not a common one, but an increase on the electrical bill should be expected when an electrical vehicle is purchased. She said that’s usually more than offset by not needing to fuel up a vehicle.

“Most electrical vehicle (EV) drivers make the switch because our electricity is clean and they save a lot in fuel costs,” she noted. “Charging at home is about 75 per cent cheaper than gas. For example, a Nissan Leaf can travel 100 kilometres for just $2 in electricity costs – a tiny fraction of what it would cost to drive an equivalent gas-powered car the same distance.

“We’re also looking at future rate options for EV drivers that could include off-peak (overnight) charging. This could be at a lower rate to encourage more British Columbians to make the switch to driving an EV.”

**Why Was Michael Hastings Killed?**

The very last op-ed progressive journalist Michael Hastings wrote for BuzzFeed was titled, “Why Democrats Love To Spy On Americans.” Ten days later, on June 17, 2013, Hastings emailed his BuzzFeed associates warning them, “The Feds are interviewing my ‘close friends and associates.’ ” He added that he was “onto a big story” and had to go “off the rada[r] for a bit … hope to see you all soon.”

Hastings did not get to see those associates soon or otherwise. In the early morning hours of June 18, his leased Mercedes crashed into a palm tree at high speeds in a residential Los Angeles neighborhood. The car burst into flames upon impact, and Hastings’s body was burned beyond recognition.

Two months later, Hastings’s widow, Elise Jordan, gave her first national interview. “My gut is that it was really a tragic accident,” Jordan said of the crash, before adding a more bankable quote: “There will be published his profile of John Brennan in an upcoming edition of Rolling Stone, probably in a couple weeks.”

Jordan did not know enough about President Obama’s newly appointed CIA director to be concerned. For the four previous years, Brennan had served quietly as Obama’s deputy national security advisor and generally kept his name out of the news. Jordan’s comments about Brennan made no waves.

They should have. Although not yet made public, Michael Hastings was well aware of a 2010 email hacked from the chief security officer of Stratfor, a global intelligence company and CIA contractor.

The email, which was fed to WikiLeaks, reads as follows: “Brennan is behind the witch hunts of investigative journalists learning information from inside the beltway sources. Note — There is specific tasker from the WH to go after anyone printing materials negative to the Obama agenda (oh my.) Even the FBI is shocked. The Wonder Boys must be in meltdown mode…”

Those who knew Brennan had to believe the email was accurate. From the beginning, he served as Obama’s fixer. In recent weeks, declassified documents have confirmed Brennan’s central role in the plot to subvert first Trump’s candidacy and then his presidency, but even before Obama was elected president, Brennan had shown his potential for high-level mischief.

Beginning in January 2008, for instance, a still unnamed individual breached Obama’s passport file four times. To its credit, CNN reported a detail the New York Times did not find newsworthy, namely that the suspect worked for the Analysis Corporation, whose CEO “advises the Illinois Democrat on foreign policy and intelligence issues.” That CEO was John Brennan. With a president to elect, the media let the Brennan angle die.

Michael Hastings was a media outlier. Although he moved in progressive circles, his one true cause was a free press. Hastings represented a shrinking pool of journalists from within that circle willing to pursue the truth even if it thwarted the Democratic agenda.

A month before his death, Hastings appeared on the left-wing Current TV program, The Young Turks. “The Obama administration has clearly declared war on the press. It’s declared war on investigative journalists, our sources,” said Hastings. “I think the only recourse to this kind of behavior by the government is to say back to the government, ‘We declare war on you.’”

Hastings was responding to the news that Obama’s Justice Department had quietly seized all of the relevant records for twenty Associated Press telephone lines. The seizure had to do with AP reporting on a covert CIA operation in Yemen. Although only five reporters were involved in that story, more than one hundred reporters used the lines and switchboards whose records were seized.

AP President Gary Pruitt publicly scolded Attorney General Eric Holder, arguing that the government had “no conceivable right to know” the content of those records. On Face the Nation, Pruitt boldly assessed White House strategy, “I know what the message being sent is: If you talk to the press, we’re going after you.”

In his June 7 op-ed, Hastings referenced another looming scandal, “Glenn Greenwald’s exposure of the NSA’s massive domestic spy program.” Hastings cited several other journalists, including James Rosen of Fox News, who had been “viciously attacked by the Obama administration and its allies in the FBI and DOJ.” He may not have known about the cyber-harassment of CBS News’s Sharyl Attkisson. In her book, Stonewalled, Attkisson refers to the Stratfor email about Brennan in the way of suggesting her possible tormentor.

As to whether Brennan had Hastings killed, one essential variable overrides all the many circumstantial ones: the testimony of Michael’s older brother, Jonathan. In an extended interview, Jonathan related how he had flown out to Los Angeles to help ease his brother through a manic episode, not Michael’s first. “I started to make arrangements with our other brother to fly out and help me possibly force Mike into checking himself into a hospital or detox center,” said Jonathan.

Jonathan never got the chance. “He snuck out on me when I was sleeping. He crashed his car before anyone could do anything to help him.” It is highly unlikely Brennan or his allies had sabotaged the car. What seems probable, however, is that the Deep State response to Hastings’s investigation aggravated his paranoia.

Unlike the brother and parents of Seth Rich, the DNC data analyst murdered in 2016, Jonathan and his family did not turn on those who speculated about Michael’s death. Instead, Jonathan suggested a more constructive course of action. “By casting Mike’s death as a kind of Robert Ludlum-style conspiracy,” said Jonathan, “people miss out on how the government actually silences and suppresses reporters: through the threat of legal action.”

Four years after the death of Hastings, possibly at the instigation of larger forces, the Rich family would take legal action to prevent Fox News and others from investigating the death of their son Seth. Michael Hastings would have been appalled.

Two years almost to the day after Hastings’s death, Donald Trump announced for the presidency. Soon thereafter John Brennan launched his secret war to undermine Trump. It must have surprised even Brennan that the media, including the hosts of The Young Turks, cheered him on. More perversely still, after he lost his gig at the CIA, NBC, and MSNBC hired Brennan as a senior national security and intelligence analyst.

Among the few progressive journalists to see through the madness was renegade Rolling Stone reporter Matt Taibbi. In his book, Hate Inc., Taibbi says out loud what should have been obvious to everyone on his side of the barricades: “Being on any team is a bad look for the press, but the press being on team FBI/CIA is an atrocity, Trump or no Trump.” As the Biden laptop scandal has shown, the media and the FBI still play on the same team.

The profile of John Brennan, the one Elise Jordan believed was to be published “in a couple weeks,” never did see the light of day. Serious progressive journalism appears to have died when Hastings did. He had warned that “the Obama administration’s version of the national security state will begin to eat itself,” but he could not have suspected that his progressive colleagues would happily enable the feast.

Hastings never did tell his readers why Democrats love to spy on Americans, but he surely sensed what the answer was: unlike Republicans, Democrats know they can get away with it. So why not?

**Maybe You’ll Believe It When Biden Says It**

Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden recently bragged that Democrats have created the “most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics.”

“We’re in a situation where we have put together, and you guys did it for our administration…President Obama’s administration before this. We have put together, I think, the most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics,” he said.

Biden’s bizarre comments quickly spread on social media Saturday, with many claiming Biden was admitting to voter fraud.

“What a terrible thing for Biden to say!” President Donald Trump posted on Instagram. “Rigged election?”

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany shared the clip on Twitter, saying “BIDEN ADMITS TO VOTER FRAUD!”

While corporate media and Syndicate candidates downplay the problems with mail-in ballots. They wave off the overwhelming, nationwide evidence that voters who have received duplicate ballots, received ballots despite being registered to vote in other states, or received ballots addressed to someone else. Many of those votes are collected by harvesters and then voted anyway. Democrat governors have struck down requirements for matching signatures, or any signatures, or even arriving by election day, in order to ensure an ample flow of fraudulent votes to rinse the votes of Americans down the drain and into the swamp.

Certain states such as [New Jersey,](https://thefederalist.com/2020/06/26/widespread-fraud-in-new-jersey-special-election-proves-again-that-mail-in-ballots-are-ripe-for-abuse/) Virginia, and Pennsylvania have already seen examples of voter fraud and discarded ballots, triggering Reps. Mike Johnson (R-La.) and Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) to [send a letter](https://twitter.com/RepMikeJohnson/status/1311828268350353409/photo/2) to Attorney General William Barr asking the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute alleged crimes related to mail-in voting. Poll watchers are arrested, intimidated, or banned from polling stations where fraud might be spotted and reported. During the Trump Town Hall with Savanah Guthrie, she repeatedly spouted the Syndicate’s talking point that there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud. That it is a myth. President Trump said, “You have got to be kidding me.”

These incidents, all of which have barely come to light within the past week, seriously undermine the public’s faith in this year’s election. That is exactly the Global Syndicate’s plan. They want the whole world to lose faith in the American election system. Winning is perhaps not even the main objective. Making sure everyone loses may be the plan all along.

There are many people who feel that if the Global Syndicate is not stopped this election yet, America may never have another one. There are plans to make it fair. There are plans to make it immune to identity theft. I fear the only way to do that is to bankrupt the Democrat Party and launch a new, American Independent Party that will take its place in the two-party system.

**The America Independent Party Manifesto**

**New Citizen Registration Statement**

We believe in liberty and justice for all under God. We want to keep America independent and safe. We will protect the family, marriage and work. We believe in individual responsibility and free enterprise. We must obey our Constitution and promote Declaration of Independence principles. We are true American Independents.

**Statement of Purpose**

The American Independent Party is the party of ordered liberty in a nation under God. We believe in strict adherence to written law. We believe the Constitution is the contract America has with itself. Its willful distortion has led to the violation of our Tenth Amendment guaranteed right to limited government--which inevitably requires oppressive taxation. Its faithful application will lift that burden.

Freed from the lawless oppression of Progressive rule, we may then compassionately and justly use our energy and ingenuity to provide for ourselves and our families. We will then establish truly free and responsible enterprise and reassert the basic human right to property.

We believe in protecting all human life however weak, defenseless, or disheartened; endorse the family as the essential bulwark of liberty, compassion, responsibility, and industry; and declare the family's right and responsibility to nurture, discipline, and educate their children.

We assert the absolute, concurrent Second Amendment guaranteed individual right to self defense coupled with a strong common defense, a common defense which requires a national sovereignty not damaged by imprudent treaties.

We oppose all illegal immigration. We support secure borders and immigration policies inviting the best of the world to join us in freedom.

Announcement of the Revival of the American Independent Party Of These United States

On July 10, 2012, the American Independent Party Of These United States (AIPOTUS) was revived by the Executive Committee of the American Independent Party of California in an online convention conducted from Vacaville California at its party headquarters. The national committeemen of the American Independent Party of California constituted themselves the governing body of the revived national party. They adopted a declaration of principles and elected officers.

Declaration of Principle of the

American Independent Party Of These United States (AIPOTUS)

**Preamble:**

A revival of the American Independent Party as a national political party is urgently needed today because the two major parties, Democratic and Republican have proven themselves respectively, unwilling and incompetent to faithfully follow the principles and traditions of our nation's founding fathers. Moreover, the officers of all three branches have proven faithless in fulfilling their oaths of office by reason of ignorance, incomprehension, cowardice, or disloyalty.

Both major parties are complicit in the rise of an overbearing central power, which has imposed a crushing burden of taxation; exhibited a disregard for our basic liberties and basic principles of fiscal responsibility; imprudently and disloyally surrendered portions of our sovereignty to international entities; signally failed to attend to its duties in regard to the security of our borders and enforcement of immigration statutes, and failed to create that sine qua non of national sovereignty, a national currency.

The States have surrendered their sovereignty to the central power, contrary to the dictates of the Constitution, and have, consequently, been reduced to a servile and dependent condition, incompatible with the oaths of their legislative, executive and judicial officials to support the Constitution.

**Principles**

We believe in liberty and justice for all under God. We want to keep America independent and safe. If entrusted with legislative and executive power, we will protect the family, marriage and work. We believe in individual responsibility and free enterprise. We must obey our Constitution and promote Declaration of Independence principles. We are true American Independents.

We believe that to secure and fulfill all God-given rights and duties, governments are instituted among men. To fulfill those duties and protect those rights, We the People of the United States of America ordained and established a Constitution for ourselves. We believe that the Constitution is the original and current contract that all Americans have with each other and not with the public servants entrusted with implementing and abiding by that contract.

The American Independent Party is the party of ordered liberty in a nation under God. We believe in strict adherence to written law. We believe that the willful distortion of the meaning of the Constitution by all three branches has led to the violation of our Tenth Amendment guaranteed right to limited government. Such an egregious overreach inevitably requires oppressive taxation and regulation to support its usurpations of power. But, the faithful application of the Constitution will lift those awful burdens.

We believe that all those who govern are the servants of God for the good of citizens. Therefore all governments are under God whether they like it or not! This is why we call those who rule in our nation, Public Servants. We will resist by all political means at our disposal the increasing inclination of our Public employees and representatives to become, ever more, Public Masters.

In consequence whereof, we call upon all Americans, who value their God-given liberty, to join us in once more securing life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness for ourselves and our posterity and to join us in the holy cause of the Restoration of the Constitutional Republic!

**American Independent Party Platform**

Declaration of Independence Rights are God-Given

All rights are unalienable in that none have a right to take them unjustly. Liberty includes the pursuit of happiness, which is the possession and exercise of virtue. Liberty includes the right to use and claim as an individual possession any unclaimed thing received from the hand of God, in or upon or above the Earth. This right to any possession includes its entire use, that is, its exchange, control, protection, and entire disposition. And the first and greatest of these possessions is our life.

**God-Given Duties to Individuals**

God gave Man this earth to make of it a well-tended Garden—not to leave it an uninhabited wilderness. He gave us our lives—not to be lived to ourselves alone—but in love to one another. And the duty to love certainly includes the duty not to act hatefully towards others. Therefore, we have a duty to be at peace with each other. Our duty to love one another includes a duty to protect each other from unjust harm. We have further a duty to cooperate with each other in the fulfillment of these duties. Such duties are the basis for just government.

As the only creature made in God's image and likeness, all men have an equal duty to love themselves and others to honor that image of the God they are commanded to love. To obliterate that image by unjustly taking a life is the highest crime that one may do to another. To take a life justly is the most somber obligation God ever imposes.

Our Constitution Enables Us to Protect Our Rights and Fulfill Our Duties

To secure and fulfill all God-given rights and duties, governments are instituted among men. To fulfill those duties and protect those rights, We the People of the United States of America ordained and established a Constitution for ourselves.

Rights and Duties of Association, Including that Forceful Association—Government

God created Man with two great dimensions—individual and social. In so doing He gave us the right to associate with each other to take advantage of our rights and to fulfill our duties. The right to associate includes the right to choose one's associates, but does not include the right to force others to associate.

God has imposed on men a duty to associate in governments to put a justified fear into the hearts of evildoers. These duties are given for the good of all—but not to deprive any of the rights they are designed to protect! Governments should never commit the crimes they are created to prevent!

No association of men has any rights of itself, but only by reason of the rights contributed to it according to the covenant established among its members. That fundamental limit on associations includes the greatest and most forceful of all human associations—government. However, among all our rights we find those derived from our duties, for we all have a right to justly pursue our duties.

**Therefore:**

The Constitution: the Original Contract America has with Itself

The American Independent Party is the party of ordered liberty in a nation under God. We believe in strict adherence to written law. We believe the Constitution is the contract America has with itself. Its willful distortion has led to the violation of our Tenth Amendment guaranteed right to limited government—which inevitably requires oppressive taxation. Its faithful application will lift that awful burden.

**Freedom from "Liberalism"**

Freed from the lawless oppression of Liberal rule, we may then compassionately and justly use our energy and ingenuity to provide for ourselves and our families. We will then establish truly free and responsible enterprise and reassert the basic human right to property.

The Protection of Life, and the Duties and Rights of Families

We believe in protecting all human life however weak, defenseless, or disheartened; we endorse the family as the essential bulwark of liberty, compassion, responsibility, and industry; and declare the family's right and responsibility to nurture, discipline, and educate its children. We maintain that all humans are persons from the beginning of their biological development and especially deserve our love and nurture when they are weakest and most dependent.

**Marriage Between a Man and a Woman**

We insist that marriage is between a man and a woman and assert the role of the law in establishing and reinforcing the mutual rights and obligations of that God-ordained contract.

**The Individual and Common Defense**

We assert the absolute, concurrent Second Amendment guaranteed individual right to self defense against impositions by other citizens or our government, coupled with a strong common defense, a common defense which requires a national sovereignty not damaged by imprudent or un-Constitutional treaties.

**Opposition to Illegal Immigration & Support of Secure Borders**

We oppose all illegal immigration. We support secure borders and immigration policies, inviting the best of the world to join us in freedom. We emphatically demand that our borders be protected against intrusions by that most straight-forward and practical means, a fence, reinforced by all the necessary manpower and electronic surveillance. We also insist that those who violate our immigration laws—be they illegal immigrants or their employers—be punished for their crime in a way that will deter them from future offenses.

**Our Great Pro-Life Constitution**

The Republic established by our Constitution is the greatest of all pro-life institutions. In the first place, it protects our lives from the impositions of foreign nations and internal disorder. Our Constitution in its Fifth Amendment also forbids the government to take life—or liberty or property—unjustly. The Fourteenth amendment requires all States to apply all the protections they provide for life equally to all visitors or citizens, and to all born or unborn persons within the territories governed by their laws.

**Public Servants, Not Public Masters! All Governments Under God**

We believe that all those who govern are the servants of God for the good of citizens. Therefore all governments are under God whether they like it or not! This is why we call those who rule in our nation, Public Servants. We will resist by all political means at our disposal the increasing inclination of our Public employees and representatives to become, ever more, Public Masters.

Wikipedia has it listed as a far-right extremist organization that was responsible for the rise of the George Wallace campaign of 1967. Wallace resonated with many people for his ideas of smaller government. Democrats tried to paint him as a segregationist. They ended up doing what they always do. They shot him. They shot up the Freedom Caucus members at a baseball game, injuring two security agents and nearly killing Congressman Scalise. One of their soldiers was recently arrested for planning the assassination of Joe Biden. He isn’t really working out for them like they had hoped.

I think it’s time for the Democrat Party to be rinsed out with the other shitty diapers of politics.

**And the War Goes On**

The CCP war with America is ramping up with no end in sight. Although Operation Corona-Scare did not kill as many people as planned, the effect is the same. There will be no return to normal. We have already damaged millions of children with fear and isolation. The world will be dealing with the psychosis caused by strapping a mask over their faces and the faces of their parents for at least a generation. You can never get that affection and bonding back from the depths of fear.

Counterfeit cash is still pouring into our country. 1s 5s 10s and 20s are being dumped onto Main Street for the express purpose of making businesses distrust the money supply. When the banks stop giving them credit for their deposits, small businesses will revolt. The banks will close. They already have, in many cases.

The public outcry will push the US treasury to recall all cash to the banks for cleaning. Then, they will issue electronic credit. This set up an even bigger threat to the people. I go to bed every night, scared that the money I have in the bank will be stolen. My Amazon account is closed right now, because of fraud. I don’t even know if you can buy my books, or if I will get paid on the 29th as usual. Someone charged cat food, masks, and pet odor spray on my account. They were buying something every 20 minutes for days, and they won’t tell me who bought it or where it is being shipped. That’s probably a smart thing. I would be there today, collecting, if I knew who was stealing from me.

There’s more. Well-known China expert Gordon Chang has concluded that China is killing Americans "deliberately" with its export of fentanyl.

Writing for the Gatestone Institute, he quotes Fox News host Tucker Carlson stating it's a fact that "fentanyl and Covid both came from China, China's our main rival, they're benefiting from the deaths of many thousands of Americans."

Chang writes that China has been pushing fentanyl into the U.S. for years, and last year fatal drug overdoses hit a record 70,980, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Of that total, more than 36,000 were from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, he said. Vanda Felbab-Brown of the Brookings Institution has called it the "deadliest" drug epidemic in American history.

Cocaine and methamphetamine fatalities were also up, largely because they were mixed with fentanyl.

Felbab-Brown also noted that since 2013, China has been "the principal source of the fentanyl flooding the U.S. illicit drug market—or of the precursor agents from which fentanyl is produced, often in Mexico."

That aligns with what the Drug Enforcement Administration has found, Chang noted.

"In China, gangs work on fentanyl compounds in labs to make the drug more addictive, a former American national security official told me a few years ago. Moreover, Chinese technicians constantly change formulas to avoid detection at the American border," he wrote.

"In short, China's regime is killing Americans with fentanyl. It is doing so deliberately. Carlson was right to suggest intentionality."

While the Trump administration has pressured Beijing to announce a ban on exporting fentanyl-class substances without permission, analysts warn that the rules are hard to administer.

Chang noted that the Communist Party controls virtually every business in China, and even gangs are not likely to be around in the near-totalitarian state without government approval.

"And if the [Communist] Party somehow does not know of a particular gang, it is because it has decided not to," he said.

Further, all exports are inspected before leaving China, which allows the shipment of fentanyl through its National Postal Service.

He said an estimated 13% of packages from China contain fentanyl or another contraband product, but Chinese officials believe running drugs "is a small price to pay for achieving national greatness."

Cleo Paskal of the Washington, D.C.-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies said the Chinese are obsessed with "comprehensive national power."

"They meticulously measure it, thoroughly study it, and constantly compare rankings of China to other countries, especially the United States," Paskal said.

Chang said China "is, with malice, trying to reduce America's comprehensive national power with fentanyl. There can be no other explanation for Beijing letting criminal organizations operate unimpeded."

**Democrat’s Race War is Over?**

It is not enough to win. All others must lose. For more than 100 years, the Democrats have clutched to their previous ownership of the black race in America. They have used semantics and the Global Media Empire to keep black people inside the fences of the new plantations; festering in the middle of Democrat run cities all over America. They didn’t know any better. They couldn’t. Democrats controlled the cops, the schools, the newspapers, and the banks to make sure blacks could not buy homes, start businesses, or leave the plantation.

All that changed when Donald Trump became president. “What do you have to lose?” he asked them in 2016.

A new survey found that President Donald Trump’s approval rating among likely black voters skyrocketed between Monday and Friday of this week.

The results of Rasmussen Reports' daily presidential approval rating tracking poll found that Trump’s approval among likely black voters went from 25 percent on Monday to 46 percent on Friday.

Trump's approval rating among this demographic actually decreased to 24 percent on Tuesday. Three days later, it had nearly doubled to 46 percent.

The president's overall approval rating was at 51 percent on Friday. "Daily tracking results are collected via telephone surveys of 500 likely voters per night and reported on a three-day rolling average basis," according to Rasmussen.

"The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 1,500 Likely Voters is +/- 2.5 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence."

Considering the historical support for Republicans presidential candidates among black voters, if the results are anywhere close to accurate -- and Rasmussen does have a good track record -- then Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden is in big trouble.

The support of black voters is crucial for Democrats, and without the vast majority that support, Biden’s campaign is sunk.

Last month, Gallup reported Trump's support is up among black Americans from 2016, although the pollster didn’t find that support anywhere near the 46 percent approval rating figure reported by Rasmussen.

Gallup reported that “aggregated data from polls conducted July 30-Aug. 12 and Aug. 31-Sept. 13 show Trump approval -- a rough surrogate for likelihood to vote for Trump -- at 11% among Black Americans, with disapproval at 87%.”

For context, the pollster further noted, “The Democratic candidate for president over the five presidential elections since 2000 has averaged 91% of the Black vote, with 8% on average going to the Republican candidate.”

Trump won the 2016 election with an estimated 8 percent of the black vote, so even if Gallup’s aggregate date showing a 3 percentage point increase to 11 percent is accurate, the president has already made large inroads with black voters.

Trump has courted black voters since his first presidential campaign, and has worked hard while in office to go to bat for the black community.

Politico reported that in 2019, the Trump campaign shocked some black Florida residents by advertising in The Westside Gazette, a black-owned Broward County newspaper.

Gazette publisher Bobby Henry told Politico, “I thought it was quite abnormal.

"For [Trump] to reach out to the broader African-American community is what surprised me.”

Under the Trump administration, black unemployment reached historically low levels prior to the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic, and the president has proudly touted his actions to provide funding for historically black colleges and universities.

Trump was also successful in signing into law the bipartisan criminal justice reform FIRST STEP Act in 2018, which aims to reduce prison populations and rehabilitate convicted felons.

Trump sparred with Biden over criminal justice during Thursday’s debate in Tennessee.

Trump hit Biden hard for his support of crime legislation in the 1980s and 1990s that critics say disproportionately targeted black Americans.

“You put tens of thousands of mostly young black young men in prison,” Trump told Biden.

Trump also laid into Biden for not working hard enough on the issue of criminal justice reform during his eight years as vice president.

Perhaps Thursday’s debate, and Trump's record with black Americans, endeared the president to the all-important voting bloc.

If the Rasmussen survey is indeed accurate, Trump’s debate performance proved to a great many black Americans that while Democrats have talked about improving their lives for decades, the president was successful in making his case that he’s been a true ally for the black community.

**Endless Wars Are Over**

During this election season, there is much discussion around the increasing polarization of the American electorate. While these conversations can seem overwrought, there is clear data showing an increasing divide on issues like race relations and the economy.

However, on foreign policy, the American people are more united. There is an increasingly shared belief across party lines that the United States needs to end its endless wars and adventurism abroad. Based on a bevy of recent polls and research, American voters will likely reward candidates who support foreign policy restraint, while punishing those who advocate for the maintenance of a failed status quo.

For most of the post-9/11 era, the conventional wisdom reinforced by the political pundits and the consultant class was that foreign policy hawkishness was a political strength. Even politicians such as President Barack Obama, who owed part of his political success to opposing the Iraq War, still felt the need to show hawkishness regarding other military conflicts.

The perceived political incentives contributed to Obama ignoring the lessons of the Iraq War and initiating the disastrous intervention in Libya in 2011, along with the failed surge of American forces in Afghanistan from 2009-2012. A lack of significant political accountability by Republicans — who only seemed to try to “out-hawk” Obama — in the 2012 election for these failures reinforced the notion that support for primacy abroad was the politically safe position.

That conventional wisdom reigned into the early days of the 2016 election, but was shattered by two candidates, one during each major party’s primaries. In the Democratic primary, Sen. Bernie Sanders gave the presumptive nominee, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, an unexpectedly strong challenge. Sanders has been a consistent critic of American foreign policy in the Middle East, while Clinton supported the Iraq War and the overthrow of Moammar Gadhafi in Libya. While Sanders did not make foreign policy the centerpiece of his campaign in 2016, his record on those issues further strengthened his appeal with the progressive left, which is traditionally wary of military intervention.

More so than Sanders, Donald Trump completely upended the conventional wisdom around what a candidate needed to say on foreign policy to win. During the 2016 Republican primary, Trump frequently and aggressively criticized America’s wars in the Middle East. During a primary debate in South Carolina, Trump excoriated former President George W. Bush for invading Iraq, and for his administration’s lies about the threat posed by Saddam Hussein. Prominent Republican pundits criticized Trump’s remarks and claimed that his comments would hurt his chances in South Carolina, a state heavily populated by military service members and veterans who were thought to be more hawkish.

Yet Trump easily won the South Carolina primary and the Republican nomination. During the general election, while by no means portraying himself as a dove, Trump would continue his criticism of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan while tying Clinton to America’s broader failures in the Middle East. This messaging likely played a key role in Trump’s 2016 general election victory. According to research conducted by two political scientists following the 2016 election, Trump’s perception as the less interventionist candidate among voters in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin likely drove his victory in those critical states.

Since the 2016 election, the American public’s desire for more foreign policy restraint has grown, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Polling conducted in July by YouGov and commissioned by the Charles Koch Institute showed that 76 percent of Americans want to bring our troops home from Afghanistan, and 74 percent want to bring our troops home from Iraq — an increase of 7 percent and 6 percent respectively in the same poll from January 2020. The same poll also found that 75 percent of Americans believe we should prioritize domestic issues over foreign policy issues.

A polling project conducted by the Eurasia Group Foundation in August also found that Americans are increasingly rejecting military intervention abroad. This poll found a majority of self-identified Trump and Biden voters (along with voters who support neither candidate) support negotiating directly with foreign adversaries to avoid military conflict. Consistent with this finding, the poll found that Trump and Biden voters alike support the U.S.-Taliban agreement mandating a full American withdrawal from Afghanistan. Additionally, the poll showed that a majority of Americans oppose a new conflict with Iran.

In April of this year, polling conducted by Concerned Veterans for America found that nearly three-fourths of veterans and military families support an end to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, along with less military engagement abroad. Considering that swing states like Arizona, Florida, and North Carolina have larger than average veteran and active duty military populations, this demographic that is becoming increasingly wary of endless war could play a key role in the outcome of the 2020 election.

The message to candidates up and down the ballot is clear: Reject foreign policy restraint at your own political peril. Ending our endless wars and pursuing less adventurism abroad is good policy and good politics. Hopefully, this reality will be absorbed by more policymakers and will lead to fewer of them supporting unnecessary wars for the sake of political expediency.

**NASA Trying to Best the GTN**

As you know, my Global Telescope Network is made of thousands of Amateur telescopes coordinated into a composite and dynamic image of space, specifically the area most likely to originate objects that could collide with earth. It’s a high-tech early warning system. I have had it posted and made numerous inquiries to NASA and the Space Force. I am working on a business plan and SBIR application to fund it.

In the meantime, it appears that NASA already sees that amateurs discover 70% of the asteroids we are finding. IN an effort to best my design, NASA has expedited its first-ever asteroid-sampling operation. As I expected, it is apparently going a little too well.

You will recall last week I talked to you about the agency's OSIRIS-REx probe that snagged so much dirt and rock from the surface of the near-Earth asteroid Bennu on Tuesday (Oct. 20) Well, that the spacecraft's sampling mechanism didn't close properly, allowing some of the collected material to escape into space, mission team members announced Friday (Oct. 23). Not a big deal. The particles are small and will likely burn up in the atmospehere, if they ever made it here.

OSIRIS-REx's handlers now plan to stow the collected material in the probe's return capsule as soon as possible, to minimize the material lost. The team hopes to begin that crucial, multi-day operation on Tuesday (Oct. 27), NASA officials said.

Captured by the spacecraft’s SamCam camera on Oct. 22, 2020, this series of three images shows that the sampler head on NASA’s OSIRIS-REx spacecraft is full of rocks and dust collected from the surface of the asteroid Bennu. They show also that some of these particles are slowly escaping the sampler head. Analysis by the OSIRIS-REx team suggests that bits of material are passing through small gaps where the head’s mylar flap is slightly wedged open.

Captured by the spacecraft’s SamCam camera on Oct. 22, 2020, this series of three images shows that the sampler head on NASA’s OSIRIS-REx spacecraft is full of rocks and dust collected from the surface of the asteroid Bennu. They show also that some of these particles are slowly escaping the sampler head. Analysis by the OSIRIS-REx team suggests that bits of material are passing through small gaps where the head’s mylar flap is slightly wedged open. (Image credit: NASA)

"Bennu continues to surprise us with great science and also [by] throwing a few curveballs," Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA's associate administrator for science at the agency's headquarters in Washington, said in a statement.

"And although we may have to move more quickly to stow the sample, it's not a bad problem to have," Zurbuchen said. "We are so excited to see what appears to be an abundant sample that will inspire science for decades beyond this historic moment."

The $800 million OSIRIS-REx mission launched in September 2016 and arrived at Bennu in December 2018. The mission's chief goal is to deliver at least 2.1 ounces (60 grams) of pristine Bennu material to Earth. That will happen on Sept. 24, 2023, when the return capsule touches down in the Utah desert.

All indications are that the probe collected more than enough material during Tuesday's maneuver, which featured a six-second-long "kiss" of Bennu with OSIRIS-REx's Touch-And-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism (TAGSAM) head.

The head sank deep into Bennu, perhaps getting up to 19 inches (48 centimeters) beneath the surface, mission principal investigator Dante Lauretta, of the University of Arizona, said during a news conference Friday. And photos captured by the spacecraft show that the sampling head is jammed with material, suggesting that OSIRIS-REx snagged, at minimum, hundreds of grams of Bennu bits, Lauretta added.

But those photos also revealed a cloud of particles escaping from the TAGSAM head, through gaps where small rocks prevented the sampler's mylar flap from closing all the way. The jailbreak was spurred when OSIRIS-REx moved TAGSAM around to get a look at the collected sample, Lauretta said.

He and his colleagues originally planned to weigh the sample Saturday (Oct. 24), an operation that would have involved spinning OSIRIS-REx around a bit. But that operation would doubtless have liberated more asteroid particles, so mission team members now plan to proceed directly to sample stowage. (They also canceled an engine burn that would have slowed OSIRIS-REx's retreat from Bennu, for the same reason.)

Skipping the weighing step is no great loss, Lauretta said.

"The challenge that we have in front of us is due to the fact that the TAGSAM is probably really full of material," he said during Friday's new conference. The top priority at this point, he added, "is to get this sample safely stowed and minimize any more loss."

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It's tough to quantify how much material has been lost, Lauretta said. But he estimated that up to 10 grams of Bennu samples flew the coop as a result of the recent photography activities, and that "grams to tens of grams" could be lost during the stow operation. (The escape rate seems to be quite low when Bennu stays relatively still, Lauretta said.) If these numbers are correct, and OSIRIS-REx did indeed snag hundreds of grams of material on Tuesday, then the mission is in fine shape going forward.

The samples cannot be stowed immediately, Lauretta said. The team first needs to finalize and validate an updated stowing plan that takes into account leaking asteroid particles, for example. The mission also must secure a long, continuous block of time on NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN), the set of radio dishes around the globe the agency uses to communicate with its far-flung spacecraft. Sample stowage will be an involved and time-intensive process with lots of back-and-forth between OSIRIS-REx and the ground, Lauretta explained.

These complications notwithstanding, the mission team is happy and excited about how things have gone to date, Lauretta said.

"We couldn't have performed a better sample-collection experiment," he said. "The particles are escaping because we were almost a victim of our own success here."

OSIRIS-REx has been backing away from Bennu since Tuesday's sampling maneuver and will not swoop in toward the asteroid again, Lauretta said. Assuming the sample is stowed successfully next week, the next big milestone will come in early March, when OSIRIS-REx departs Bennu and starts heading back toward Earth.

That trip will be relatively uneventful, Lauretta said — until September 2023, when the return capsule comes down to Earth (containing an unknown amount of material; there's no good way to measure the mass once the sample has been stowed).

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The asteroid rocks and dirt will then make their way to labs around the world, where scientists can study them for clues about the solar system's early days and the role that carbon-rich space rocks like Bennu may have played in helping life get started on Earth.

**Dark Matter Detector**

A patent application was filed for Hyperstealth in September 2019 that can split a single laser into millions of smaller lasers that are clones of the parent laser, the diameter of these cloned lasers is in the micrometer and nanometer scale and since they are all polarized in the same direction and can be confined to a tight cone, these lasers may be able to detect weak interactions with axion particles of dark matter.

New computer models suggest that axions modulate light polarization and most lasers are polarized. Dark matter permeates around us like a wind, but it does not seem to interact with normal matter, pressure or radiation. Normal matter is attracted to dark matter due to the gravitational pull and hydrogen clouds in the early universe would never have formed into stars had it not been for the extra pull of dark matter, which clumped together much earlier than normal matter which was hindered from clumping due to the high radiation of the early universe.

Without dark matter, we would not exist. The elusive and hypothetical “Axion” is now a leading candidate for a theoretical dark matter particle that is thought to make up 85% of all matter in the universe. Scientist have not yet detected dark matter, hence the name “dark”, it doesn’t emit or reflect light but we can see the effects of dark matter in massive astronomical bodies such as galaxies which don’t have nearly enough visible mass to hold together, with the dark matter even shaping them into spiral galaxies.

Astronomers also see gravitational lensing which look like rings around galaxies, these rings are produced from the light of other galaxies behind them being bent into the ring due to this extra nonvisible mass of the galaxy in front. A filament structure that has been identified throughout the universe where galaxies cluster is also thought to be made up of dark matter as calculations show visible matter could not accomplish this within the 13.8-billion-year age of the universe without dark matter being present.

The Axion may also account for the reason that matter and antimatter didn’t completely annihilate each other near the beginning of the universe. The previous leading dark matter candidate was the WIMP (Weakly Interacting Massive Particles) theorized to be a million times heavier than an electron but have failed to be detected over many years of searching. Theoretical physicists have turned their attention to the Axion, which should be roughly a billion times smaller than an electron.

If detected and their mass is calculated and verified, it will provide insights into our universe that should answer numerous key questions over a wide area of scientific fields. The fact that the particle is so lightweight means that it will behave more like a wave than a particle. When I compressed one of our laser circles, an interference pattern formed indicating quantum mechanics was at play, the line that makes up the circle is composed of 1000 smaller lasers.

Optical experts have since confirmed that my quantum mechanics assumption was “100% accurate”. The visible presence of quantum mechanics with our laser splitting makes this a viable candidate for dark matter detection if those particles behave more like waves than particles. The double slit experiment in physics, shows an interference pattern and demonstrates the light can both behave like a particle and a wave.

Most dark matter experiments need to be done nearly a mile deep (about 2 kilometers) underground to avoid any interference from cosmic rays or gamma rays which would potentially cause false positive readings. These buried infrastructures are in South Dakota, Minnesota, Japan, Italy, China, and Finland. The theoretical neutrino particle was discovered by this method as Ray Davis discovered them by building a neutrino detector deep in an old gold mine in South Dakota in the late 1960’s and early 70’s. Davis was awarded the Noble prize in 2002 for his neutrino discovery.

Gravitational-wave detectors (GWD) are not buried below the surface of the Earth and the mirrors in the GWD are relatively immune from cosmic rays, calculated to strike the mirrors once in a millennium. Gamma ray burst have been detected by gamma ray telescopes but not picked up by GWD. However, the two lasers run 4 kilometers each in two different directions at 90 degrees to each other and bounced back the same tunnels from a mirror and then compared to each other, called the most accurate rulers ever built, any movement (distance changed) between the two lasers are register by interference which indicates gravity waves. Several detections have been made from neutron stars and/or black holes colliding somewhere in the universe.

A benefit of our Hyperstealth laser splitting technology is that it does not need to be super cooled as many of the dark matter experiments do. Many of these other experiments use quantum computers or technology derived from them which do require constant supercooling. One of the dreams for developers of quantum computers was to find a way to tightly pack millions of lasers together that are entangled and to do it at room temperature, I believe we have already achieved those two items. Making this technology into a practical quantum computer will have to be left to others. Using it as a dark matter detector on the other hand may prove rather simple.

**Sudan and Israel: Pressure for Peace**

Above all, that the very symbolic decision to maintain no contact with Israel, neither diplomatic nor economic, will be lifted. It remains to be seen whether this will have extreme importance for the future of the Middle East. Diplomatic ties will certainly be established, as well as maybe cautious economic ties. But Sudan has totally different problems at the moment. Israel is not at the top of the list of priorities.

Israel and Sudan are not direct neighbors. Where does their conflict lie?

The decision to have no contact goes back to the declaration from the Arab League after the Six-Day War in 1967. It was decided at the time that there would be no diplomatic relations with Israel as long as Israel didn't abide by the United Nations resolutions. That means a withdrawal from the territories occupied at the time, including the Palestinian ones.

Then, over the past few years, there were other problems: The Israelis made the accusation that Hamas was buying weapons there and smuggling them into the country. Sudan also lies on the route that many refugees take to Israel. These are problems that have arisen recently and will probably shape diplomatic relations.

The countries didn't establish ties on their own accord, but as part of an agreement brokered by the United States. Ahead of this news, President Donald Trump announced that Sudan would be removed from the US terrorism blacklist. That was apparently a prerequisite for Sudan to normalize relations with Israel. What does it mean for Sudan that it is no longer on that list?

It's very important for Sudan. There have been American sanctions for years. There were also some EU restrictions, but they were not quite as far-reaching. The sanctions were imposed after the embassy attacks in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, in which Osama bin Laden was involved. The al-Qaida leader also sought refuge in Sudan for a time. That is actually something the Sudanese had tried to set straight under former dictator Omar al-Bashir. After September 11, 2001, they worked very closely with the CIA. But they never managed to get off the sanctions list.

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The sanctions were very tough because they stipulated that American banks couldn't do business with Sudan — similar to the current sanctions on Iran. For Sudanese firms that meant that they in effect could not receive outside investment, or only very little, and it wasn't possible to participate in the global market.

Sudan now has to pay compensation for its alleged involvement in the US embassy attacks in Tanzania and Kenya. The interim government has promised $335 million (€282 million). However, the country is in the midst of an economic crisis — in part because of US sanctions. How can Sudan raise such a huge sum?

Sudan doesn't possess great resources, but there is still the agreement with South Sudan over transit fees for oil that comes from the wells in southern Sudan. That gives Sudan a little bit of money still at least. There is a very unregulated, but to some extent lucrative, gold trade in Sudan. So there is still money available. But $335 million is a relatively small price to enter the global economy.

Yes, obviously it was bought. What's bought, however, is that the resumption of diplomatic relations has been accepted. Israel is relatively far away and is not currently the most urgent issue in the country. Clearly, this was only achieved with pressure. And that also leads to domestic upheaval, among other things, for the transitional government, which was already under great pressure.

Sudan has become the third Arab country that now intends to normalize ties with Israel, after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. What does that mean for the Middle East peace process?

I don't see a great effect on the Middle East peace process, which for many years has not deserved this name anyway and is also dead. Sudan also never played a central role in it. I think the issue that the Israelis are interested in working together on, above all things, is stemming weapons smuggling from Sudan to support Hamas and groups close to the Muslim Brotherhood.