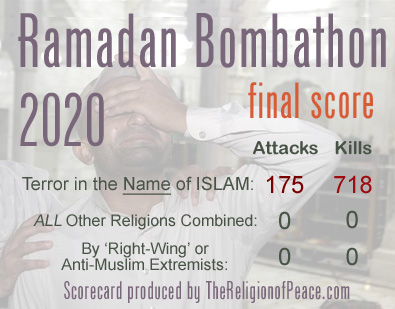
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jihad ReportMay 16, 2020 -May 22, 2020 | |
| Attacks | **52** |
| Killed | **187** |
| Injured | **245** |
| Suicide Blasts | **3** |
| Countries | **15** |



**Lockdown Lawbreakers**

Just hours after Tulare County supervisors voted to open up for business despite Gov. Gavin Newsom’s lockdown orders, officials received a letter threatening to withhold some of the $47 million in federal CARES Act relief funds it had been awarded.

“It is my understanding Tulare County has taken steps that are inconsistent with the Governor’s Executive Orders and the State Public Health Officer’s directives,” the letter from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services said.

“These problematic and concerning actions jeopardize public health and safety, not only within the county, but beyond, through community contact and spread,” the letter said. It went on:

If Tulare County believes there is no emergency, such that it can ignore the Governor’s Executive Orders or the State Public Health Officer’s directives, the county would not be able to demonstrate that it was extraordinarily and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This could jeopardize its disaster fundin.

The San Francisco Chronicle[reported](https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Rural-Tulare-County-bucks-Newsom-s-15284037.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headlines&utm_campaign=sfc_morningfix&sid=5d54065e91d15c7b08162233) on how local officials were responding to the suffering of local businesses when they voted to reopen:

“It’s become an issue of needing to get people back on their feet, back to work,” said Supervisor Dennis Townsend, who authored the county’s measure that permits virtually all businesses to reopen and halts local enforcement of the California stay-at-home directive. “By trying to protect people, we were taking away the livelihood of people.”

The Visalia Times Delta[reported](https://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/story/news/2020/05/20/hours-after-tulare-county-reopens-economy-state-threatens-pull-47-m-disaster-funds/5229532002/) on the rift between state and local governments:

The [supervisors’ 3-2 decision](https://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/story/news/2020/05/19/tulare-county-reports-101-new-cases-supervisors-vote-reopen-effective-immediately/5221222002/) allows nearly all businesses to reopen that fall under Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the state’s plan. That includes dine-in restaurants, churches, barbers, gyms, movie theaters and shopping malls.

As for the disaster funding, Townsend said the county has spent about $1.4 million on its COVID-19 response so far. By comparison, the CAO estimates the county will lose between $18-25 million in tax revenues with the economy shut down.

On Monday, Newsom singled out Tulare and neighboring Kings counties as two of five that will remain closed under newly relaxed criteria for restarting California’s economy. He pointed to severe outbreaks at nursing homes and meatpacking plants as obstacles the bi-county region would need to overcome before its economy could progress.

The Times Delta reported that Chairman Pete Vander Poel said “holding Tulare County hostage” because of nursing homes and the “corporate bad actors” who operate them for a profit is unfair because it is, after all, the state regulates those facilities.

But some businesses are nervous since state officials have bullied them.

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) closed a Corcoran bar over the weekend following a similar reopening resolution passed by Kings County supervisors Friday, the Times Delta reported.

Another establishment, Downtown Rookies Visalia,  announced it would reopen with dine-in service at 50 percent capacity but reversed it decision.

The bar wrote on its Facebook page:

However, after speaking with ABC this morning, we must follow governor Newsom’s restrictions and ABC will not permit any sit-down dining for restaurants that have a liquor license. So, unfortunately, we are back to take out only, until this governor of ours decides to release us for business as usual.

The California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology also spoke out against businesses opening.

“If businesses continue to put public health and safety at risk by not following the guidance provided, and if circumstances warrant it, the Board may pursue disciplinary action against their license,” the board said in a statement. “This will not be taken lightly.”

But others who live in this rural part of California agree with the plan to reopen the local economy.

“I’m happy with the board’s decision; it’s a step in the right direction,” Keith Korsgaden, who partially opened up his Visalia Crawdaddy’s dining room on Wednesday, said in the Times Delta report. “A lot of people would like a big part of their social life back, gathering for lunch and dinner with each other.”

Customer Asha Pratt said she was glad to finally sit down for lunch with her two daughters.

“I’m happy Crawdaddy’s is open,” she said. “It’s time to open the economy.”

The Chronicle reported that county leaders have no intention of changing course.

“We will not be doing any type of enforcement,” Supervisor Kuyler Crocker said.

**Killer Weather**

Researchers at Australian National University (ANU) have called for ‘climate change’ to be recorded as a cause of death on death certificates. They claim that in Australia, the rate of people dying as a result of global warming may be 50 times higher than is officially acknowledged.

In a [letter](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30100-5/fulltext)to The Lancet Planetary Health, researchers Arnagretta Hunter and Simon Quilty claim the impact of climate change is currently understated.

National mortality records in Australia suggest substantial under-reporting of heat-related mortality. Less than 0·1% of 1·7 million deaths between 2006 and 2017 were attributed directly or indirectly to excessive natural heat. However, recent research indicates that official records underestimate the association at least 50-fold.

According to the [*Sydney Morning Herald*](https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/climate-change-should-be-recorded-on-death-certificates-doctors-argue-20200521-p54v32.html):

Over the past 11 years in Australia, just 340 deaths have been recorded as being caused by excessive heat, but statistical analysis by two doctors with the Australian National University shows that 36,765 could have been attributed to heat.

“Climate change is a killer, but we don’t acknowledge it on death certificates,” co-author Arnagretta Hunter, from the ANU Medical School, said.

And:

“Climate change is the single greatest health threat that we face globally even after we recover from coronavirus.

“We are successfully tracking deaths from coronavirus, but we also need healthcare workers and systems to acknowledge the relationship between our health and our environment.”

Dr Hunter and her co-author Dr Simon Quilty, call for death certificates to include more information about factors contributing to deaths.

Climate activists around the world see the coronavirus pandemic as a [crisis which they must not allow to go to waste](https://www.breitbart.com/europe/2020/04/22/greens-celebrate-coronavirus-lockdown-as-blueprint-for-new-world-order/). The timing of this letter suggests that they are learning their lessons well. They may have noted that in many countries, the medical authorities have adopted extraordinarily lax policies towards the inclusion of “Covid-19” on death certificates.

In the UK, for example, as Ronan Maher has reported [here](https://hectordrummond.com/2020/05/08/ronan-maher-clauses-in-the-coronavirus-act-changed-how-we-record-deaths-its-time-to-change-them-back/) and [here](https://thecritic.co.uk/under-the-corona-act-dr-shipman-could-have-got-away-with-more-murders/), the Coronavirus Act (2020) includes clauses which makes it possible for doctors to put Covid-19 as a cause of death on certificates without even having seen the patient before their death — and with little independent oversight. This makes it quite possible that significant numbers of Coronavirus victims either did not have the disease – or did have the disease but only as a minor adjunct to much more serious conditions which killed them.

As the authors of the letter to Lancet Planetary Health must surely be aware, including ‘climate change’ as a cause of death on death certificates is fraught with similar difficulties. As well as being easily abused by activists with an agenda, it is impossible to attribute with any certainty even extreme weather events to climate change.

**Obama’s Iranian Team Hacking the 2020 Election**

As you know, Obama illegally paid the Iran’s radical Islamic Regime billions in cash. Now, it seems, payback is coming. Hackers funded by the terror-sponsoring regime in Iran are actively targeting the 2020 election in the United States to "undermine" President Trump, whose re-election would be their "nightmare," according to a new report.

Senior U.S. intelligence officials have revealed that "Trump's reelection is a nightmare for the ayatollahs," so Iran is paying hackers to attack, using some of the cash provided by Obama.

"Iran seeks to undermine U.S. democratic institutions, the current U.S. president, and to divide the country in advance of the 2020 elections," one official told JTN.

That official, speaking to JTN on condition of anonymity, said the "cyber-warriors" are trying to exploit the coronavirus pandemic.

"Iran is targeting U.S. and international health organizations for COVID-19 information" and aims to release select information that would inflame discord, an official reported.

The report explained during the 2012 election, Iran was suspected of attacking several American banks, J.P. Morgan Chase, Bank of America and Citigroup, with denial-of-service strategies.

More recently have been attacks, apparently from Iran, on U.S. utilities, the report said.

"It’s fairly well known that the Iranian government has invested considerable resources into cyber hacking, and have done so for some time," Fred Fleitz, whose background includes being chief of staff to National Security Adviser John Bolton, told JTN.

"Iran is a major American adversary. I'm sure it wants to steal technology, learn about American weakness, meddle in our democracy, and steal economic secrets. I have no doubt the Iranians have an aggressive effort."

A cybersecurity expert, Ramesh Sepehrrad, told JTN that Iran has experienced its own uprisings demanding regime change and public anger over its mismanagement, and Iran's mullahs hope a disruption in the American leadership will benefit themselves, the report said.

She's on an advisory board for the Organization of Iranian American Communities, which opposes the current regime in Iran.

As part of the global effort to overthrow the American government, Democrats in Philadelphia pleaded guilty Thursday to accepting $2,500 in bribes to inflate the vote totals for three Democratic candidates. Domenick J. DeMuro, 73, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to deprive Philadelphia voters of their civil rights by fraudulently stuffing the ballot boxes for the candidates for Common Pleas Court in the 2014, 2015 and 2016 primary elections, [the Philadelphia Inquirer reported](https://www.inquirer.com/news/voter-fraud-philadelphia-ward-leader-judge-of-elections-domenick-demuro-guilty-plea-20200521.html).

Announcing the guilty plea Thursday, U.S. Attorney William M. McSwain said DeMuro also is accused of violating the Travel Act, which bars the use of a cell phone to promote illegal activity such as bribery.

"Our election system relies on the honesty and the integrity of its election officials," McSwain said. "If they are corrupt, the system is corrupt, which creates opportunities for election fraud and for the counting of fake votes."

The U.S. attorney said DeMuro "fraudulently stuffed the ballot box by literally standing in a voting booth and voting over and over, as fast as he could, while he thought the coast was clear."

"This is utterly reprehensible conduct. The charges announced today do not erase what he did, but they do ensure that he is held to account for those actions," McSwain said.

The Inquirer reported DeMuro admitted that a political consultant paid him to add votes for Democratic candidates. According to court documents, DeMuro inflated vote totals in a May 2014 primary by adding 27 fraudulent ballots. The following May, he added 40 votes, and in May 2016 it was 46. Prosecutors pointed out those figures were a significant percentage of the total votes cast at the polling place. In 2014, his fraudulent votes were 22% of the total of 118 ballots.

DeMuro faces up to 15 years in federal prison.

Earlier this month, [a Rasmussen poll](https://www.wnd.com/2020/05/2-3-voters-mailing-ballots-increase-election-fraud/) found nearly two-thirds of registered voters said moving the country to voting entirely by mail likely would increase election fraud. Last month, when CNN White House reporter Jim Acosta [challenged President Trump's concern about vote fraud at a White House briefing](https://www.wnd.com/2020/04/elizabeth-warren-pushes-universal-vote-mail-amid-pandemic/), the president cited a Judicial Watch lawsuit against Los Angeles County after 1.6 million ineligible voters were discovered on its roll. [Judicial Watch announced a new lawsuit](https://www.judicialwatch.org/press-releases/judicial-watch-sues-to-force-north-carolina-to-clean-its-voter-rolls/), in North Carolina, where many of the state's 100 counties have a large number of ineligible voters on their rolls.

Judicial Watch's 2019 study found 378 counties nationwide that had more voter registrations than citizens old enough to vote. The 378 counties combined had about 2.5 million registrations over the 100% registered mark.

**The Mask**

Former federal prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy says the real question regarding the "unmasking" of Michael Flynn is whether or not he ever was masked in the first place.

[He suggest in an National Review column](https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/05/michael-flynn-unmasking-real-story-is-when-he-was-not-masked-in-the-first-place/) that Flynn could have been identified either by the CIA or a foreign intelligence agency providing information to the Defense Intelligence Agency.

"This is not just about unmasking. It is about how pervasively the Obama administration was monitoring the Trump campaign," he writes.

McCarthy explains that there is no record showing who unmasked Flynn in connection with the Dec. 29, 2016, conversation with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak that led to his prosecution.

"I suspect that’s because General Flynn's identity was not 'masked' in the first place. Instead, his December 29 call with Kislyak was likely intercepted under an intelligence program not subject to the masking rules, probably by the CIA or a friendly foreign spy service acting in a nod-and-wink arrangement with our intelligence community," McCarthy says.

He notes that unmasking is the revealing in classified reports of the names of Americans who have been "incidentally" monitored by U.S. intelligence agencies.

McCarthy explains that for three years it's been assumed that Flynn's conversation with Kislyak was intercepted because the Russian ambassador was "routinely" monitored. The story has been that Flynn was in a conversation with Kislyak and later was "unmasked."

"I no longer buy this story. If it were true, there would be a record of Flynn’s unmasking," McCarthy writes.

He points out that acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell has said that the Obama officials in the list he provided last week to Sens. Charles Grassley and Ron Johnson were involved in all of the requested unmaskings of Flynn during the presidential transition period from the election of 2016 to the inauguration.

Yet, writes McCarthy, there doesn't appear to be a single listed unmasking pertaining to the Kislyak call.

There was no request for unmasking on Dec. 29, 2016, nor for the following week. The next unmasking is Jan. 5, 2017, by President Obama's chief of staff, Denis McDonough.

"This highlights how central that day is to the anatomy of the Democrat-crafted 'collusion' narrative," McCarthy writes. "It was on the morning of January 5 when Obama, Vice President Biden, and National Security Advisor Susan Rice discussed Flynn and the Trump–Russia investigation with FBI director James Comey and acting attorney general Sally Yates."

Obama and his top officials already knew it was Flynn who was in the conversation with the Russian ambassador. They targeted him specifically, because they wanted to know what Trump was doing, and how to block him, leak his plans to operatives, and to leak to the press as much as they could to make trump lose confidence in his own people.

The intelligence community eventual ruled that Flynn was not a security risk. The fact is that the meeting with Kislyak was authorized and was harmless. It was considered normal intelligence operations. One such operation is the CIA, which collects intelligence under executive order, because it's operations are done outside the United States.

In fact, he said, Flynn was in the Dominican Republic on the day of the phone call, he says. Kislyak might have been in Russia. McCarthy concludes that there were "several strands of the Trump-Russia probe and they date to as early as when Trump entered the race for the presidential nomination."

"The CIA played a central role. The agency collaborated — I’m tempted to say *colluded!* — with a variety of friendly foreign intelligence services, especially NATO countries that Trump made a habit of bashing on the campaign trail," he writes.

Trump didn’t know he was being spied on from inside his own organization, and he was being recorded on virtually all his phone calls. STILL, they found no wrongdoing of any kind. How many politicians do you know who could withstand that kind of scrutiny? Hell, every piece of paper that comes from politicians is redacted, shredded, or deleted.

**School Daze**

While advocates of big government may be rejoicing at the power flexed by Democratic governors, in particular, during the coronavirus crisis, one unanticipated consequence of it all could be millions of families choosing home schooling over the public option in the fall.

A poll of registered voters conducted by RealClear Opinion Research last month during the heart of the COVID shutdown found that 40.8 percent of families are more likely to pursue home schooling or virtual schooling after restrictions are lifted.

The poll of 2,122 registered voters included 626 parents who participated in the question regarding home schooling. Of those parents surveyed, the breakdown was 45.7 percent Democrats and 42.3 percent Republicans, so there was no conservative slant in the sample set. Among the respondents, minorities more strongly favored home schooling. For whites, 36.3 percent were more likely to choose home schooling in the fall, compared with 50.4 percent of African-Americans, 38.3 percent of Hispanics and 53.8 percent of Asians.

“Every single family with kids in school has been incredibly disrupted by the lockdowns," John Schilling, president of the American Federation of Children, said in a statement.

"With 55 million students no longer in their normal educational setting, families are clearly considering new options and many are seeing the benefits of homeschooling and virtual schooling," he said.

Multiple home-school advocates recently told The Western Journal that the forced shutdown of nearly the entire U.S. public school system has created a unique opportunity for parents to weigh the benefits of joining the millions of American students already doing their learning at home.

“The No. 1 hardest decision to make has been made for 55 million children,” Ray Moore, a longtime home-schooling advocate and founding board member of Public School Exit, said regarding parents making the switch. That’s always the barrier that’s hardest for us to break, but now [the kids are] home,” he said.

“This is a ‘kairos moment,’ a once in 100 year moment," Moore told The Western Journal in an email.

According to the National Home Education Research Institute, prior to the COVID shutdown of schools nationwide, about 2.5 million Americans were being home-schooled, making up just over 4 percent of the nation’s 57 million K-12 students. The total has more than doubled from the 1.7 percent learning at home in 1999, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Moore and his fellow leaders at Public School Exit are hopeful that millions more parents will decide to continue home schooling when the fall rolls around. Alex Newman, the group’s spokesman, said one of the top reasons families should make the move is the poor academic outcomes of public education. He argued the government-run system “is deliberately dumbing down America’s children” and is getting worse every year.

Newman pointed to the latest data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress showing that over two-thirds of eighth-graders haven’t reached proficiency in any subject, including reading, writing, history and math. Jessica Parnell, president of the Bridgeway Homeschool Academy in eastern Pennsylvania, reported her organization has seen an increase in home-schooling inquiries.

Parnell, herself a home-schooling parent, said many parents like her think, “I want to make sure that I’m infusing my family values and my faith values in my kids, and so home schooling becomes a fantastic way to do that.”

"As more families navigate school at home, we are seeing more and more turn to homeschooling as the better option as it affords a much more individualized approach than what classroom models can provide," she wrote in an email to The Western Journal.

"We anticipate that many will make the decision to continue in the fall as they see the benefits of tailoring curriculum to their student’s specific strengths and needs."

Moore, 76, said he is gratified to see how the home-schooling movement has matured in the 40-plus years since he and his wife decided to home-school their kids.

“The bonding and the emotional stability that a family gives children is intensified or strengthened through home schooling,” he said.

The public school system, writ large, has been a means the left has used to indoctrinate children into its statist, politically correct ideology for decades. Maybe one of the best silver linings coming out of this whole pandemic will be millions of kids freed from the left's manipulation and now able to develop, with greater input from their parents, their God-given talents to the best of their abilities.

**The War Front in Michigan**

While President Trump is working hard to rebuild Michigan's economy, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her minions are doing everything they can to destroy it. President Trump visited a Michigan Ford Motor Company auto plant his administration had retooled into a veritable "arsenal of health care," turning out ventilators for the nation and the world.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's response? Scold the company whose name is synonymous with Detroit. But it gets worse. The day after President Trump went to Ford to celebrate American know-how and the renaissance of American manufacturing, [Nessel went to court](https://www.michiganadvance.com/2020/05/22/ag-argues-in-court-to-shut-down-line-5-oil-company-accuses-her-of-pushing-political-agenda/" \t "_blank) to literally shut down the energy Michiganders depend on.

AG Nessel and her boss Whitmer want to close an existing pipeline now, years before its replacement is finished. Their jihad would destroy thousands of good-paying jobs across the state. You can thank Wall Street bigwigs Michael Bloomberg and Tom Steyer who pumped millions in dark money to elect them.

Bloomberg and Steyer are quite open about their passion to shut down the American energy industry. These two billionaires spend their fortunes buying politicians who will push their job-killing policies and cripple America's economy. Having made millions in the fossil fuel industry here and in China, Steyer is now the Green New Deal's leading evangelist. Mike Bloomberg, meanwhile, has no use for manufacturing in America. He would make it impossible for anyone to work in a factory – because there will be no factories. Bloomberg is advancing his "climate change" agenda by [paying](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/bloomberg-network-climate-lawyers-ag) activist lawyers working in 10 state attorney general offices run by Democrats.

And Michigan may be their next home. Emails obtained through a freedom of information request reveal Michigan Assistant Attorney General Skip Pruss in discussions to bring on one of Bloomberg's legal mercenaries. Whitmer's hard lockdown order is of a piece with her green new deal anti-energy agenda. They both shut down the way of life Americans are accustomed to and substitute it with government control over every aspect of life.

Let's not miss the big picture: Whitmer, Nessel, Bloomberg and the other pied pipers of the Green New Deal are playing right into the hands of the Chinese Communist Party. The CCP is intent on taking over the world and has been waging unrestricted economic warfare to achieve its goal.

The CCP destroyed our manufacturing industries through predatory trade practices. It bought off Wall Street with lucrative deals in China, turning our finance industry and people like Mike Bloomberg into lobbyists for Beijing. Our media industry is compromised by investments and business interests in red China.

The CCP knows shutting down American energy is the quickest way to destroy the American economy. The CCP sees an opportunity in the pandemic to overtake us as our economy is on the ropes. The continue-the-shutdown crew are useful idiots for the CCP, just as they are when they push the Green New Deal and blame the pandemic on President Trump rather than on China's dictator, Xi Jinping.

President Trump stood up to China and built an economy that was the envy of the world.

The Whitmer Democrats shut down Michigan's economy. Their crusade against energy would keep it shut down permanently. Beijing is on their side. President Trump is on ours.

**Men in Space**

The first astronauts launched by SpaceX are breaking new ground for style with hip spacesuits, gull-wing Teslas and a sleek rocketship — all of it white with black trim. The color coordinating is thanks to Elon Musk, the driving force behind both SpaceX and Tesla, and a big fan of flash and science fiction.

They are scheduled to launch to the International Space Station on May 27 on a Crew Dragon spacecraft and a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. LIftoff is scheduled for 4:33 p.m. EDT (2033 GMT) from NASA's Pad 39A of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken like the fresh new look. “It is really neat, and I think the biggest testament to that is my 10-year-old son telling me how cool I am now,” Hurley told The Associated Press.

A group of people posing for the camera

Description automatically generated

“SpaceX has gone all out" on the capsule's appearance, he said. "And they’ve worked equally as hard to make the innards and the displays and everything else in the vehicle work to perfection.”

The true test comes Wednesday when Hurley and Behnken climb aboard a SpaceX Dragon capsule atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and, equipment and weather permitting, shoot into space. It will be the first astronaut launch from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center since the last shuttle flight in 2011.

The hundreds of people who have been to space have traveled on just a handful of vehicles, eight in all over nearly six decades of spaceflight. This launch will mark the first attempt by a private company to send astronauts into orbit. Only governments — Russia, the U.S., and China — have done that. The gold rush is on.

The historic send-off deserves to look good, according to SpaceX. It already has a nice ring. Musk named his rocket after the “Star Wars” Millennium Falcon. The capsule name stems from “Puff the Magic Dragon,” Musk’s jab at all the doubters when he started SpaceX in 2002.

SpaceX designed and built its own suits, which are custom-fit. Safety came first. The cool — or wow — factor was a close second.

“It’s important that the suits are comfortable and also are inspiring,” explained SpaceX’s Benji Reed. a mission director. “But above all, it’s designed to keep the crew safe.”

The bulky, orange ascent and entry suits worn by shuttle astronauts had their own attraction, according to Behnken, who like Hurley wore them for his two previous missions. Movies like “Armageddon” and “Space Cowboys” stole the orange look whenever actors were “trying to pretend to be astronauts.”

On launch day, Hurley and Behnken will get ready inside Kennedy’s remodeled crew quarters, which dates back to the two-man Gemini missions of the mid-1960s. SpaceX techs will help the astronauts into their one-piece, two-layer pressure suits.

Hurley and Behnken will emerge through the same double doors used on July 16, 1969, by Apollo 11′s Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins — the Operations and Checkout Building now bears Armstrong’s name.

But instead of the traditional Astrovan, the two will climb into the back seat of a Tesla Model X for the nine-mile ride to Launch Complex 39A, the same pad used by the moonmen and most shuttle crews. It's while they board the Tesla that they'll see their wives and young sons for the last time before flight.

Making a comeback after three decades is NASA’s worm logo — wavy, futuristic-looking red letters spelling NASA, the “A” resembling rocket nose cones. The worm adorns the Astro-Tesla, Falcon and even the astronauts' suits, along with NASA’s original blue meatball-shaped logo.

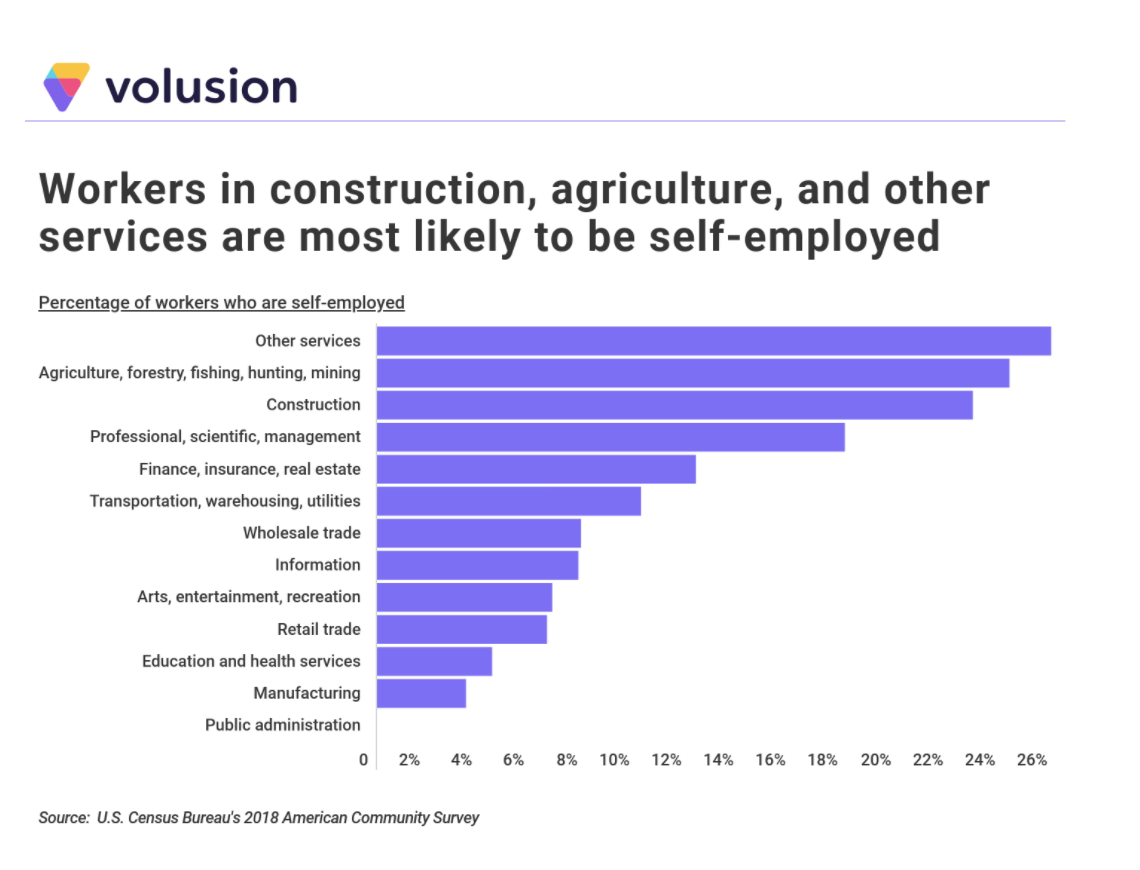
The white-suited Hurley and Behnken will transfer from the white Tesla to the white Dragon atop the equally white Falcon 9.

“It’s going to be quite a show,” Reed promised.

**America’s Small Business Wasteland**

America is the land of opportunity. Right? You get a good idea, work hard and long, and you can realize your dream. Let’s just suppose for a moment that this dream does not include working for someone else. It has, as its core, the dream of owning your own business or building your own product. The chart below reveals a US Census Bureau study done in 2018 that reveals the self-employed picture in the USA.

As you can see, these self-employed people in this Pareto chart indicate that 96% of the jobs are service jobs, except for construction workers who make up 24% of the job market. These could be roofers, framers, brick layers, etc. In essence, they are service jobs with their own tools. Yes, they are building stuff, but they are doing it for a square foot or hourly wage.



As you can see, only 4% of the self-employed jobs are in manufacturing. Before we go into why they only make up 4%, let me also point out that there are tens of millions of square feet of empty factories in America. They have been that way for more than 15 years, peaking with the passage of the Dodd-Frank set of banking regulations.

These regulations made it illegal for banks to do business with any business that does not have at least 2 years of profitable business on record. No cash businesses. No businesses that have not filed and paid taxes on revenue. Those regulations effectively killed startup businesses. I don’t mean you can’t go start a grasscutting business or start a hair salon. But, you cannot take newly awarded patents, decades of work experience, and a great idea and start up a manufacturing company making products in America unless you have already saved up the money yourself to do so.

This was no accident. This was by design. The Global Syndicate knows that their worst enemy is not the factory worker. It is not the school teacher or the car dealership owner. It is the free and independent startup business that can compete and drive prices down and disrupt the current status of the world with new technology in energy generation, storage, and sustainability. It is the medical, information, and transportation innovations that can be made in the startup factories that will change the world.

So, they stop them cold. They starve them out. They force them to work for someone else, so those ideas can never be realized. Humanity has to wait for generations, or may never see the innovations at all.

Now, the interesting thing is that none of these startup businesses are asking government or the taxpayers for a dime. Not a penny. The only thing they are asking for is to get government out of the way, so they can access the capital they need to get started. The investor cannot find them, because the SEC has made it illegal for them to solicit funds. Even if the investor could find the startup company, the tax laws penalize him for investing, because when that little startup becomes large enough for the investor to realize a return on his investment, the IRS takes so much of the profits that it makes the risk not worth taking. It is easier to just invest in subsidized oil or existing stocks.

**The Fake Reopening**

**Adapted from Brandon Smith Alt-Market.com**

**How does one define an economic “reopening”?**I think most people would say that a reopening means that everything goes back to the way it was before the crisis; or at least as close as possible.  Most people would also say that a reopening is something that will last.  Simply declaring “America has reopened” while keeping many restrictions in place in certain parts of the country is a bit of a farce.  **And, reopening with the intention of implementing lockdowns again in a matter of weeks without explaining the situation to the public is a scam of the highest order.**

For example, states like New York, California, Illinois and New Jersey have extended their lockdowns; with LA's extension remaining ambiguous after they initially declared restrictions for another 3 months. New York's lockdown is extended to the end of May (so far). This is the case in many US states and cities, while rural areas are mostly open. This is being called a “partial reopening”, but is there a purpose behind the uneven approach?

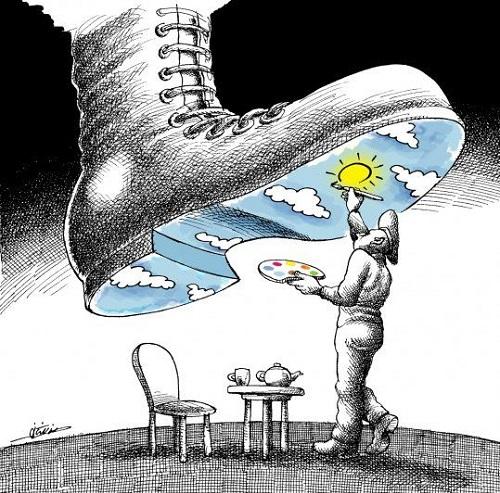
You already know the restrictions will continue in Democrat-controlled population centers while rural areas have mostly opened like they’re trying not to get noticed. People are pissed off. Everywhere I go, people avert their unmasked eyes from people who are wearing masks, because they don’t want to say hello. Even the bravest among us, won’t dare to share hands or God forbid, hug someone in public.

The end result of this will be a flood of city dwellers into rural towns looking for relief from more strict lockdown conditions. In about a month, we should expect new viral clusters in places where there was limited transmission. I suggest that before the 4th of July holiday, state governments and the Federal government will be talking about new lockdowns, using the predictable infection spike as an excuse.

Mainstream media seems to be confused; is China open, or locked down? Of course, we may never know how bad the problem is and was in China as their numbers have been shown to be utterly rigged and suppressed from the beginning, but the point is that the phrase “reopening” is meaningless there, just as it will be meaningless here in the US.

**This is part of the plan. The farce of reopenings does indeed have a purpose.** The Global Syndicate is clearly the only beneficiary of this event; with a world-wide surveillance state now openly on the table along with an accelerated shift into digital currency systems. It is taking advantage of this crisis to push their agenda.

**In white papers published by globalists at**[**the Imperial College of London**](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/medicine/sph/ide/gida-fellowships/Imperial-College-COVID19-NPI-modelling-16-03-2020.pdf)**as well as MIT, the plan**[**is openly admitted**](https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/03/17/905264/coronavirus-pandemic-social-distancing-18-months/)**.**They suggest using “waves” of economic openings and then lockdowns to control the spread of the virus. The timelines seem to vary, but in general the models call for a one month open, two months closed cycle. The goal is to deliberately increase infections every couple of months in specific regions of a country, then declare economic shutdown and quarantine measures once the spread reaches a certain level; this is meant to continue until a vaccine is developed, which could take years.

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/boot%20painting_1.jpg?itok=T-n4QfCN)

**When the globalists at MIT say “We are not going back to normal”; this is what they mean.** Right now, the general public (at least in some parts of the country) is cheering the reopenings, but what they don't realize is that the reopenings are an illusion. Restrictions are going to remain in place in many states and cities, while they will be lifted and then re-instituted in others. In fact the situation is going to become much worse over time, by design.

The next lockdown, whenever it is announced, will be absolutely devastating to the US economy which is already in a downward spiral.The mitigating factors will be how effective central bank stimulus is at stalling the freefall (not very effective so far).  Other factors include the percentage of small businesses that survive the first lockdown and how many jobs those businesses can bring back to the economy. **The first lockdown may be survivable for a large percentage of Americans and businesses; the second lockdown will financially destroy all but the most prepared.** And make no mistake, there WILL be many more lockdowns over the next couple years.

In the meantime, international banks like Wells Fargo and JP Morgan have seen to it that [small businesses are hit hard](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-20/wells-fargo-jpmorgan-among-banks-sued-by-small-business-owners) by the crisis by funneling bailout money and paycheck loans to their larger clients over the smaller businesses that the money was intended to go to. Of the 300,000 clients of JP Morgan that applied for an emergency loan through the government bailout program, only 18,000 actually received one and many of these clients were NOT small businesses.

**If the cycle of lockdowns continues, small businesses will be wiped off the map.**The elites have rigged the economic game; they control where every dollar of the bailout money goes, and many of their corporations are the only institutions that are equipped to survive the onslaught. The Global Syndicate seeks total centralization of production and distribution. They will crush any small business as automatically non-compliant.

**This is exactly what happened during the Great Depression** when JP Morgan and other major banks devoured thousands of small local banks across the country and removed them as competitors from the system. After the depression, banking was completely centralized into the hands of a select few mega-companies. Today, they are attempting to erase all localized small business competition to international corporations.

**Taking over the business infrastructure of entire nations and removing all independent competition is only one incentive for the lockdowns to continue.** There is also the process of acclimating the public to the idea that lockdowns are the “new normal”. While I do see resistance in certain parts of the world, including the US, many countries in Asia and Europe have witnessed a rather sheepish response to the idea of medical tyranny. I also see an immense wildfire of unconstitutional legislation and illegal state measures being rolled out in the US while the public is distracted by financial circumstances and the virus threat.

Certainly, it appears that**most Americans hate the lockdowns.** But will they be fooled by the “reopening” into complacency for the next several weeks while the **government gets ready to hit them with the next round of restrictions?**Will they be so caught off guard they won't know how to react? Imagine the economic devastation of just one more nationwide lockdown event? It will be carnage, and a lot of hope within the population will be lost.

**This will lead to two possible paths: Submission, or rebellion.** Either the majority of the American people will accept the lockdowns as a new fact of everyday life, or they will become so enraged by the destruction of their economy that they will revolt.

**If the intent is to keep the cycle going until a vaccine is introduced as elitist publications assert, then we have a LONG way to go and this first lockdown was child's play compared to what comes next.**

The excuse for the wave model will be that they need to control and slow the spread of infection over time to avoid overwhelming our medical infrastructure. But this makes very little sense to me at this stage. Perhaps within the first month or two of the pandemic this was somewhat logical, so that we could gauge the threat of the virus. What we know right now is that the virus is at least three times more deadly that the average annual flu; which is something to be concerned about, but not something we should be destroying our economy over.

Bottom of Form

Frankly, there's no logic to the wave model unless the agenda is to destroy the economy. If the goal is to continue infecting the population until everyone has developed an immunity or a vaccine is offered, then why not simply remove all the lockdowns permanently and get it over with now? This would result in far less deaths in the long run compared to economic collapse. If the goal is so-called “herd immunity”, then we can achieve that much faster through viral transmission than waiting years for a vaccine that may or may not work.

But the elites don't care about “herd immunity”; what they care about is is control. The vaccine narrative itself is a form of control. You have to wait for the establishment to save you. You have to wait for them to allow the economy to be opened, even for a short period of time, so that you can then be allowed to work or run your business. You have to wait for permission to live your normal life. And, if the elites get their way, you won't be given permission until you accept immunity passports, tracking apps and a vaccine.

I will be covering the vaccine issue in a future article, but the underlying message that the public is hearing daily is that you no longer have the power to make decisions for yourself, you must wait for instructions. While the coronavirus is something that should be taken seriously (to a point), the wave model is not an acceptable solution to the problem.

And while many conservatives are looking to Trump to obstruct lockdowns in the future, I would recommend they not hold their breath.  Trumps cabinet is overflowing with globalists and banking elites, I would not put much hope in intervention from the White House.

**Do not be fooled** by the reopening.**It is not real** because it is not meant to last. **It is a steam valve to calm public outrage** and to condition us to periodic tyranny. The elites believe that we will eventually acclimate to lockdowns as long as we have a reopening to look forward to a couple months down the road.**They believe that our tendency to rebel will be suppressed by false hopes that the next reopening will be a permanent reopening.** They believe that after 18 months or more of the wave model we will be so desperate for normalcy that we will do anything to get it, including willingly giving up every last ounce of freedom we have left. **This is the true purpose of the pandemic.**

**How to Win Against China**

On May 20, speaking from the Senate floor, Josh Hawley, the youngest member of the chamber, laid out his plan for fixing international trade, taking on the People’s Republic of China, and thereby, too, saving America.

In so doing, Hawley, populist firebrand that he is, showed that he was willing to overturn the stale orthodoxies that have mildewed our economy and undermined our security.

In his speech, Hawley laid out the core problem: The People’s Republic of China (PRC) has taken advantage of the flaws built into the current international economic system, embodied in the World Trade Organization (WTO), that agglomeration of unelected globalcrats. As Hawley put it, “We must recognize that the economic system designed by Western policy makers at the end of the Cold War does not serve our purposes in this new era.” He added, “And we should admit that multiple of its founding premises were in error.”

Those founding premises, Hawley continued, trace back to the save-the-world utopianism of our 28th president, Woodrow Wilson. Having entered World War One in 1917, Wilson had some strange ideas; for one thing, it would be “a war to end all war,” and, he added, we must strive for “peace without victory.” Yes, such concepts might seem a bit, well, unrealistic; you know, like the musings of an ivory-tower professor. In fact, Wilson had been a professor and subsequently, in fact, he held presidency of Princeton University before winning the White House. So maybe now we can see the origins of his vaulting but vacuous phrasemaking.

Indeed, without a doubt, Wilson was a great talker; he wove webs of words and theories that have bewitched many politicians since, inspiring them to be wannabe Wilsonians. For instance, there was George W. Bush, who said he heard “a calling from beyond the stars,” summoning America to wars of choice, aimed at “ending tyranny in our world.” Well, we know how that worked out.

As Hawley said, “During the past two decades, as we fought war after war in the Middle East, the Chinese government systematically built its military on the backs of our middle class.” Exactly. While we were liberating Fallujah for the third or fourth time, the Chinese were hollowing out our economy.

Of course, Bush wasn’t our only warlike president in the past two decades; we also had Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, both of whom launched foreign interventions as well, even as they were welcoming Chinese products and influence into the U.S. Indeed, as an aside, one wonders what Obama’s vice president, Joe Biden, thinks of all this: Has he learned the lesson of Iraq and other quagmires? Has he rethought trade with China? Those are certainly good questions to be answered during the remainder of the 2020 campaign season.

kay, back to Hawley. Having raised serious questions about the status quo, he offered three specific answers:

First, we should withdraw from the World Trade Organization. As Hawley put it, the WTO was built on a false promise: the idea that the nations of the world would converge around a fair and non-manipulated trading system; as the Missourian put it, “they wanted a single liberal market to support a single, liberal international order that would bring peace in our time.” Yet in the decades of the WTO’s existence, the countries of the world haven’t come together on much of anything—except, perhaps, to snooker Uncle Sucker.

And we might pause to note Hawley’s slyly ironic use of the words, “peace in our time.” That’s an allusion to the catastrophically mistaken statement of British prime minister Neville Chamberlain; back in 1938, Chamberlain made a wrongheaded deal with Adolf Hitler, which he said would bring “peace in our time.” Wrong!

Yes, Hawley is saying, the stakes today are potentially that high; we can’t stay in an organization that has “not been kind to America.” He added, “The WTO’s dispute resolution process has systemically disfavored the United States”—and favored China.

Second, Hawley says that having left the WTO, the U.S. should negotiate new trade deals on a more reciprocal and bilateral basis; that is, the U.S. should make a trade deal with, say, the United Kingdom—and then on to another deal with the next potential trading partner. As Hawley explained, “We must replace an empire of lawyers with a confederation of truly mutual trade.”

Indeed, Hawley argues that a new focus on win-win trade deals—as freely determined by the two countries actually involved in the deal, as opposed supranational WTO-crats—deals that would offer a new opportunity for the U.S. to put together better alliances, based on mutually beneficial economic and strategic relationships:

We benefit if countries that share our opposition to Chinese imperialism—countries like India and Japan, Vietnam, Australia and Taiwan—are economically independent of China, and standing shoulder to shoulder with us. So we should actively pursue new networks of mutual trade with key Asian and European partners, like the economic prosperity network recently mentioned by Secretary Pompeo.

We might pause over one of the countries Hawley mentioned above, Taiwan. Its formal name is the Republic of China (ROC), an island nation whose capital is Taipei. In other words, the ROC is separate and very much distinct from the People’s Republic of China, whose capital, of course, is Beijing. The two nations split in 1949, when Mao Zedong’s Soviet-backed communists took over the mainland. In the decades since, the ROC, population 23 million, has become a prosperous and free country, while the PRC is merely … prosperous. (And, of course, menacing.)

So it’s notable that Hawley has become a strong champion of Taiwan, which stands not only as a bulwark against the PRC, but also as proof that the Chinese people, if given a choice, will choose freedom.

Third, Hawley wants to crack down on the ability of international capital, including Wall Street, to hopscotch the world—and step all over the people of the world. As Hawley explains about the current WTO dominion. There is a reason why Wall Street loves the status quo. There is a reason why they will object to leaving the WTO and resist major reforms to our global economic system. That’s because they are on a gravy train of foreign capital flows that keep their checkbooks fat.

Indeed, underneath all the complexity of international finance, there’s a simple enough bottom line; Wall Street, and global capital as a whole, profit from international arbitrage. This international “arb” is the system of playing off one country’s tax-, regulatory- and wage-systems against another country’s—and seeking to profit from both sides of the equation.

Indeed, here in the U.S., in the last few decades, it’s been easy for financial companies to play this arbitrage game. In effect, they have issued the following ultimatum to American industrial companies: “You must outsource or relocate to China, because the taxes/regulations/wages are lower there. If you do so, we’ll reward you by bidding up your stock price here in the U.S. But if you don’t, maybe we’ll buy you, replace the management, and then move to China. Or maybe we’ll buy your competitor, move it overseas, where it can take advantage of the lower costs, undercut you—and put you out of business.”

This ultimatum, repeated thousands of times, reminds one of Marlon Brando’s famous line from The Godfather: “I’m gonna make him an offer he can’t refuse.”

Many millions of lost American jobs later, we’ve learned how few companies have been able to refuse this sort of “offer.”

Hawley makes it clear: As a nation, we’ve dug ourselves into a deep hole. And in the meantime, the PRC is on the move: On May 21, the South China Morning Post, a Hong Kong-based newspaper under the sway of the Beijing government, reported on the PRC’s plan to allocate an additional $1.4 trillion for technological mobilization. So yes, we face a clear and present danger.

Fortunately, a clear-eyed understanding of a threat is not the same as a downcast bowing down to it. What we need to do is build on our understanding—and turn that understanding into action.

Hawley is just one senator, and in terms of seniority, a very junior one at that. And yet he thinks with a wise historical sweep that could—and should—change the policy course of America. As he said:

We can build a future that looks beyond pandemic to prosperity—a prosperity shared by all Americans, from our rural towns to the urban core. We can build a future that looks past a failed consensus to meet our national security needs in this new century.

Yes, if we can build that future for ourselves—reuniting the nation around a renewed appreciation of the common good, as well as a newfound apprehension of the common threat—then we have a fighting chance. And if America can pull together an alliance of other like-minded nations, all fearful of the Red Dragon, then we all have a strong prospect of success.

Because darn few people anywhere wish to live in tyranny. And the Chinese Communist Party is tyrannical.

**The Orbiting Power Collector**

The scientific experiment offers a first look at the secretive space plane's orbital activities.



A Boeing image shows the X-37B in its capsule before launch.

(Image: © U.S. Air Force)

A secretive military space plane will soon test the idea of using microwave beams to send solar power to Earth from space. The U.S. Air Force's [X-37B space plane](https://www.space.com/25275-x37b-space-plane.html) is expected to launch into orbit Saturday (May 16) with an experiment onboard that tests the possibility.

The Photovoltaic Radiofrequency Antenna Module Flight Experiment (PRAM-FX) represents the first orbital test of such a sci-fi technology since the 19th century — solar satellite power. Build a big [solar array](https://www.livescience.com/41995-how-do-solar-panels-work.html) in orbit, the idea goes, and it could collect enough sunlight (unfiltered by atmospheric effects or clouds,) to generate a powerful beam of [microwaves](https://www.livescience.com/50259-microwaves.html). A collection station on [Earth](https://www.livescience.com/earth.html) would then convert that beam into useful power. Launch any satellite into a high enough orbit and it will receive a near-constant stream of sunlight, with only brief passes through the Earth's shadow. A whole constellation of solar arrays might offer uninterrupted 24/7 power.

"The idea got a lot of attention, and sort of came into its own in the late 60s, early 70s, when there became an imperative to explore energy sources other than fossil fuels ," when fossil fuel supplies became unstable and prices skyrocketed, said Paul Jaffe, a civilian electronics engineer at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) and leader of the NRL's beamed energy research.

That research tapered off as fuel prices dropped, Jaffe said. But in 2007, the Department of Defense picked up the baton. A satellite beam is a much safer and more efficient way of getting power to an overseas military base than convoys of fuel trucks, he said. Those trucks, stuffed with combustible fuel, can be attacked and destroyed, risking the lives of their drivers and guards. But a microwave beam passes invisibly through the atmosphere unguarded. You can't shoot at it.

With time, the beams might also power military drones, like the ones now used for [spying and killing overseas](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/11/24/unblinking-stare). Powered by a microwave beam, the drones could buzz endlessly overhead without ever having to land to refuel. (Even further down the road, of course, there might be civilian applications for the technology.)

So far, PRAM-FX can't do any of that. But it offers the NRL team a first chance to test a key component of a solar power satellite in the environment where it would eventually function.

The experimental device sandwiches its electronics between a solar array and a backplate, according to Chris DePuma, an electronics engineer at the NRL also working on the project. The solar array collects energy from the sun, converts it to a DC electric current, and then uses that current to power a 2.45 gigahertz microwave "that theoretically in the future would be transmitted out of an antenna pointed toward a receiver site," DePuma told Live Science.

For PRAM-FX's purposes though, the microwave energy lands on a coaxial cable that "dumps it off" into an instrument used to record data, DePuma said. The NRL researchers will compare that output to the energy taken in using the solar array to figure out the efficiency of their setup.

"This will inform the feasibility and the economics of something like solar power satellites," Jaffe told Live Science.

This isn't the first time these researchers have tested the equipment. Experiments in vacuum chambers on Earth, using lamps to mimic the effects of the orbital sun, have offered clues as to how PRAM-FX will operate. But there's nothing quite like being up there, the researchers said.

PRAM-FX will be one of several research payloads aboard the X-37B when it launches from Cape Canaveral, Florida on Saturday. That's unusual: In its previous five missions, the Air Force didn't mention X-37B carrying scientific payloads. In its cumulative seven years and 10 months in orbit, no details about the space plane's payloads or precise purpose were ever disclosed.

This time around though, a bit more information is on offer. According to a Space Force [statement](https://www.spaceforce.mil/News/Article/2177702/next-x-37b-orbital-test-vehicle-scheduled-to-launch), the X-37B will carry a "service module" into space with the spaceplane's first payload of scientific experiments. It will deploy a satellite known as FalconSat-8 with some experiments aboard, while PRAM-FX and another experiment will remain attached to the X-37B.

(The X-37B belongs to the Air Force, but the Space Force is handling the launch. The Space Force is a nascent branch of the military, established in December 2019 by President Donald Trump and charged with handling space warfare.)

A key advantage of affixing PRAM-FX to the X-37B, Jaffe said, is that his team can take advantage of the X-37B's communications systems, propulsion, and other resources. That saves the NRL team the trouble and expense of building in all the machinery necessary for a free-floating satellite to operate. And the X-37B's orbit will offer lots of different sun angles at which to test the equipment, DePuma said.

he uncrewed space plane operates a bit like a smaller, robotic Space Shuttle — launching atop an Atlas V rocket and staying in orbit for months on end. Its previous, fifth mission lasted 780 days before the machine glided back to Earth on Oct. 27, 2019.

NRL researchers considered other possibilities for getting PRAM-FX into space, including one of NASA's space station resupply missions, before landing on the X-37B.

"We did explore a number of different hosts as possibilities, and ultimately this offered the best combination of availability for flight and ability to integrate with — since our experiment isn't well suited to being its own satellite because of its [bulky] dimensions," Jaffe said.

If you've played the game SimCity, you might be familiar with a fictional scenario in which the beam from one such solar satellite gets diverted, setting fire to the surrounding area. It's also easy to imagine an orbital [microwave beam](https://www.livescience.com/38169-electromagnetism.html) being used as a weapon.

While it might not be technically impossible to engineer a disaster situation, Jaffe said, it's also not likely.

"Most people hear 'microwave' and picture [that thing in their kitchen that cooks things](https://www.livescience.com/microwave-ovens-safety-health.html)," Jaffe said.

But microwave frequencies are also used in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth systems on your phone, he said, and they [aren't inherently dangerous](https://www.livescience.com/32285-how-does-a-microwave-oven-work.html). And they aren't a terribly efficient way to set things on fire across great distances, because they have relatively low power densities.

"A way to think about power density is if you go out in the sun on a clear afternoon you're not going to burst into flames … but in that same sunlight that won't burst you into flames if you take a magnifying glass you can use it to set something on fire," Jaffe said. "Not because you're adding energy, but because you're concentrating the energy that falls on the magnifying glass such that it falls on a very small point."

That isn't a realistic scenario here, Jaffe said.

"For microwaves, it is very difficult to focus them in the same way that a magnifying glass focuses sunlight," Jaffe said. "That's why you need these really big antennas."

The bigger the antenna you have, the higher the power density you can create on Earth. But even huge antennas, more than a few miles long, would struggle to concentrate power to dangerous levels from the high orbits necessary.

"A microwave-based solar satellite would be very difficult to weaponize, if it could even be done at all," Jaffe said.

Still, if a full constellation of solar power satellites ever do get built, he said, it will be key to design them so that they don't exceed limits on microwave power already set by radiation safety regulators to prevent cancers and fires.

In the near term, Jaffe said, this technology is being developed for the military. But down the road he said he hopes it will lead to a futuristic clean power source that could benefit everyone — and give the U.S. a new near-monopoly over a global energy supply.

**Graham, McCain, Obama**

President Trump once said about Senator Lindsey Graham that he “would like to stay in the Middle East for the next thousand years with thousands of soldiers and fighting other people’s wars.” This statement is critical to understanding why Senator Graham has announced that he won’t bring Barack Hussein Obama before the Senate Judiciary Committee to explain his role in Russia-gate. Graham knows that Obama targeted Trump National Security Adviser Michael T. Flynn because Flynn was opposed to the Obama policy of using the CIA to destabilize the Middle East and bring the Muslim Brotherhood and other Jihadist forces to power.

But here’s the kicker: Graham and the late Senator John McCain were blood brothers with Obama in promoting the “Arab spring” uprisings in the Middle East that left 560,000 dead in Syria alone when a civil war ensued. To make matters worse, the Russians won anyway.

This is a real scandal, in contrast to the phony allegations against Trump that Graham’s friend and collaborator John McCain gave to the FBI in the form of the Steele dossier. What’s more, it was Graham who actually encouraged McCain to go to the FBI with this bogus document, which was based on Russian disinformation.

Any simple Google search discloses many stories about the “secret” operations ordered by Obama and carried out by John Brennan’s CIA that sent arms through Saudi Arabia and Qatar into the hands of “rebels” in the Middle East that turned out to include Jihadists. The New York Times estimated the cost of the CIA program at $1 billion.

So-called “moderate” forces supported by the U.S. even admitted some of their weapons went to groups like al Qaeda and ISIS. Incredibly, Graham and McCain turned on Obama only when he failed to escalate the wars even further. They had sought 20,000 more U.S. ground troops in Syria and Iraq in 2015.

These “dirty wars,” a major blot on America’s reputation and standing in the world, are critical to understanding Obama’s involvement in the plot to prevent Flynn from serving as Trump’s National Security Adviser. Remember that Obama had fired Flynn from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and then Flynn had campaigned for candidate Trump, who had promised an end to unwinnable foreign wars. This was a direct challenge to Obama’s legacy.

Flynn had been appointed Trump’s National Security Adviser when an illegal leak to the Washington Post made a “scandal” of Flynn’s conversations with the Russian Ambassador. Flynn was forced out, framed by the FBI, and pleaded guilty under pressure to charges of lying. Belated recognition of the set-up has led the Justice Department to now drop the case against him (although a Clinton-appointed federal judge is trying to keep it alive).

Flynn has been unable to explain his side of the story because of the legal assault against him. But according to his writings and previously known public statements, Flynn considered America’s intelligence on the rise of Sunni terrorist groups in the Middle East to be flawed. Citing intelligence from the DIA, the agency he ran, he saw the Obama policies as producing more instability and chaos, even leading to the rise of the Islamic State or ISIS. In short, Obama’s policy was producing more terrorists.

When Trump ended this disastrous policy in mid-2017, the Washington Post reported the news in a story headlined, “Trump ends covert CIA program to arm anti-Assad rebels in Syria, a move sought by Moscow.” This was an attempt to keep Russia-gate, which was then underway, going full-speed ahead, by creating the impression that Trump was doing Moscow’s bidding. Echoing the Post, Lindsey Graham sent out a Tweet, saying that if the story were true and the CIA program was ending, “it would be a complete capitulation to Assad, Russia, and Iran.”

In fact, using the CIA to destabilize the Assad regime in Syria had already backfired by provoking a Russian military response, in the form of intervention on behalf of Syria in 2015. Assad is still in power to this day, consolidating his victory, and so are the Iranian mullahs.

Eventually, Trump made another smart move – withdrawing U.S. military support for the Kurds, a Marxist-led group seeking their own independent state in the region that claimed to be fighting ISIS.

Wisely, Trump left this problem to the Turks, fellow members of NATO, who opposed U.S. support for the Kurds with good reason, since Kurdish groups have been waging war on Turkish civilians for decades. Trump understood that the Turks were the best defense against Syrian and Russian expansionist designs in the region.

At the same news conference where he rejected Graham’s Middle East policies, Trump went on to say, “The people of South Carolina don’t want us to get into a war with Turkey, a NATO member, or with Syria. Let them fight their own wars. They’ve been fighting for a thousand years. Let them fight their own wars.”

Considering this tension between Trump and Graham (and Obama), Graham’s rejection of Trump’s request for Obama to testify at his upcoming Russia-gate hearings makes sense. He knows the truth would backfire on those who were co-conspirators in the Obama/CIA policy that led to so much death and destruction in the Middle East (and which Michael T. Flynn opposed). Clearly, Graham and McCain were on Obama’s side and bear some of the responsibility for the terrible loss of life in the region, not to mention the millions of refugees.

In order to deflect attention away from those “dirty wars,” the Steele dossier was peddled not only by the Democrats but by McCain and Graham to frame Flynn, Trump, and other officials as Russian agents. No matter how pro-Trump Graham today sounds, in his multiple appearances on Sean Hannity’s Fox program, the cold hard facts tell a different story.

Graham, who helped get Russia-gate started, is now going to hold hearings into how Russia-gate got started? That’s a joke. It’s even more laughable now that Graham says he won’t call Obama as a witness. Clearly, he wants to protect Obama. And by protecting Obama, he hides his bloody hands in Syria and his anti-Trump maneuvers that started Russia-gate in the first place.