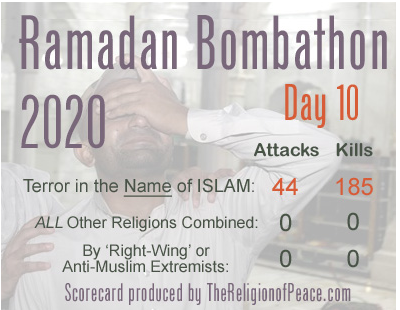
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jihad ReportApr 25, 2020 -May 01, 2020 | |
| Attacks | **29** |
| Killed | **112** |
| Injured | **108** |
| Suicide Blasts | **1** |
| Countries | **13** |
|  |  |

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**The Real Artificial Virus**

AsianScientist (Apr. 28, 2020) – Professor Tasuku Honjo, co-awardee of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, has refuted any link to social media posts that claim the SARS-CoV-2 virus was ‘man-made’ or ‘invented’ in a laboratory. “In the wake of the pain, economic loss, and unprecedented global suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am greatly saddened that my name and that of Kyoto University have been used to spread false accusations and misinformation,” Honjo said in a statement released by Kyoto University today. While comparative analysis of genomic data has shown evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus, the notion that the SARS-CoV-2 virus was invented has continued to receive mileage on social media platforms. “At this stage, when all of our energies are needed to treat the ill, prevent the further spread of sorrow, and plan for a new beginning, the broadcasting of unsubstantiated claims regarding the origins of the disease is dangerously distracting,” Honjo said. Honjo is currently the deputy director-general and a distinguished professor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Kyoto University, Japan. In 1992, Honjo discovered programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1), a key player in tumor immunology. He showed that PD-1, a protein expressed on the surface of a subset of immune cells known as T-cells, functions as a brake on T-cell function, and that blocking PD-1 would help to restore T-cell targeting of cancer cells. The Japanese immunologist’s findings paved the way for the use of PD-1 inhibitors as cancer treatment in human patients. Clinical development ensued, and in 2012 a key study demonstrated clear efficacy in the treatment of patients with different types of cancer, with patients experiencing long-term remission. In a 2016 interview with Asian Scientist Magazine, Honjo said his personal philosophy was to show “curiosity, courage and challenge” in his research pursuits. Two years later, Honjo was honored with the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for his discovery of PD-1 and its significance to cancer immunotherapy. “This is a time for all of us, especially those of us devoting our careers to the forefronts of scientific research, to work together to fight this common enemy. We cannot delay one moment in this effort to save the lives of our fellow humans,” Honjo urged.

"If it is natural, it wouldn't have adversely affected the entire world like this. Because, as per nature, temperature is different in different countries. If it is natural, it would adversely affect only those countries having the same temperature as China. Instead, it is spreading in a country like Switzerland, in the same way it is spreading in the desert areas. Whereas if it were natural, it would have spread in cold places, but died in hot places.

I have done 40 years of research on animals and viruses. It is not natural. It is manufactured and the virus is completely artificial. I have worked for 4 years in the Wuhan laboratory in China. I am fully acquainted with all the staff of that laboratory. I have been phoning them all, after the Coronavirus surfaced. But all their phones are dead for the last 3 months. It is now understood that all these lab technicians have died.

Based on all my knowledge and research till date, I can say this with 100% confidence - That the Coronavirus is not natural. It did not come from bats. China manufactured it. If what I am saying today is proved false now or even after my death, the government can withdraw my Nobel Prize. China is lying and this truth will one day be revealed to everyone".

**Treason is the Reason**

Hillary Clinton deserves being tried for treason and potentially executed, according to [Sebastian Gorka](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/sebastian-gorka/), President Trump’s former deputy assistant.

[Mr. Gorka](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/sebastian-gorka/) made the comment during an interview Thursday evening with Fox News anchor Sean Hannity as the two discussed Mrs. Clinton’s role authorizing the sale of Canadian mining firm [Uranium One](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/uranium-one/) to Russian state-owned nuclear company [Rosatom](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/rosatom/) while serving as the Obama administration’s secretary of state.

“The Russians infiltrated our national security to corner the uranium market and they succeeded, and they knew all the crimes that were committed,” Mr. Hannity said during the broadcast.

“If this had happened in the 1950s, there would be people up on treason charges right now. The Rosenbergs, OK? This is equivalent to what the Rosenbergs did and those people got the chair. Think about it. Giving away nuclear capability to our enemies, that’s what we’re talking about,” [Mr. Gorka](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/sebastian-gorka/) responded.

Married couple Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of espionage in 1951 for giving nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union and were executed by electric chair two years later.

[Mr. Gorka](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/sebastian-gorka/), 47, served as deputy assistant to the president from January until August. [Mr. Gorka](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/sebastian-gorka/) has insisted he resigned from that role, but the Trump administration has categorized his departure otherwise.

“[Sebastian Gorka](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/sebastian-gorka/) did not resign, but I can confirm he is no longer with the White House,” an administration official said at the time of his exit. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters Friday afternoon that the administration believes “there’s a lot of cause for concern” regarding the Uranium One deal but declined to comment specifically on Mr. Gorka’s remarks.

Michael McFaul, the Obama administration’s ambassador to Russia from 2012-2014, was among those perturbed by Mr. Gorka advocating for executing Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Trump’s former presidential campaign rival.

“This is disgusting,” Mr. McFaul tweeted Thursday alongside a video of Mr. Gorka’s remarks. “Amazing to remember that this man recently worked in the White House.”

House Republicans announced earlier this week that the Intelligence and Oversight Committees are launching a joint-investigation into the 2010 Uranium One deal. California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said the probe was “initiated on a partisan basis” and “designed to distract attention” away from the congressional investigations focused on Russia’s alleged involvement in Mr. Trump’s election.

**Voter ID Unconstitutional?**

On Wednesday, the Tenth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals issued a truly outrageous [opinion](https://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/opinions/18/18-3133.pdf). The court struck down Kansas’s 2011 law requiring voters to provide proof of citizenship when they register. As Kansas Secretary of State at the time, I was the author of that law—which passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the Kansas Legislature. Not only did virtually every Republican vote in favor, but also more than two-thirds of Democrats voted for the law.

The Tenth Circuit’s ruling was issued by only two judges, since one of the three judges on the judicial panel passed away before he could take part in the decision. And the ruling was no surprise, given who the two remaining judges were. Indeed, it was a textbook example of judicial activism.

The way the Kansas law worked, a voter could either submit a copy of his proof of citizenship—typically a birth certificate or passport—with his registration form, or he could send it in to the county election office up to 90 days later. If the state already had a copy of the voter’s proof of citizenship in the Kansas driver’s license database or in the Kansas birth certificate records, the state would verify the voter’s citizenship for him. It was extremely easy for U.S. citizens to comply with; and Kansas voters were overwhelmingly supportive of it when it was in effect.

Nevertheless, the two Tenth Circuit judges declared that the law violated the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), as well as the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Both parts of the decision were based on flimsy reasoning.

Regarding the claim that the Kansas law violated the NVRA, the Tenth Circuit disregarded the plain meaning of the federal law’s text, which says absolutely nothing about proof-of-citizenship requirements. Instead the Tenth Circuit invented its own legal test out of whole cloth. According to the two judges, a state must “show that a substantial number of noncitizens registered to vote,” or else the NVRA prohibits a state from requiring proof of citizenship at the DMV. Again, these words are found nowhere in federal law.

The Court seemed oblivious to the fact that it is very difficult to determine whether a person on the voter rolls is an alien or a citizen. One needs some sort of external information—like the person applying for a driver’s license only issued to aliens, or the person declining jury duty because he’s an alien—before one can conclude that he’s not a citizen. Nevertheless, the State of Kansas did find over a hundred aliens who had registered to vote; and an expert witness used statistical sampling to conclude that the true number was likely in the thousands.

But that wasn’t enough for the Tenth Circuit. The judges concluded that the minimal burden of finding one’s birth certificate outweighed the benefit of stopping fraudulent voting by these aliens.

The Tenth Circuit opinion is the epitomy of judicial activism, setting aside the plain meaning of the law and replacing it with a subjective, policy-based balancing test. It reads more like a legislative report than a judicial opinion.

Not only that, the Court ignored the fact that the Senate sponsor of the NVRA, Senator Wendell Ford (D-KY), said on the floor of the Senate in 1993 that “there is nothing in the bill now that would preclude the State’s requiring presentation of documentary evidence of citizenship.” So much for the intentions of Congress.

The section of the opinion holding that the Kansas law violates the Constitution is equally flawed. It is a perversion of the 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause to say that it prevents a state from requiring voters to prove their citizenship. The drafters and ratifiers of the 14th Amendment in 1866-68 certainly did not intend to ban such requirements. But of course the Tenth Circuit didn’t look to the original intent of the Constitution.

The Tenth Circuit also twisted the 2008 Supreme Court [precedent](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/07-21.ZS.html) of *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board* beyond recognition. In that case, the Supreme Court upheld the Indiana photo ID law against a similar constitutional challenge. The *Crawford* case actually provided strong support for the Kansas proof-of-citizenship law. The *Crawford* Court said that a state doesn’t need to prove how much voter fraud exists; the mere threat is enough reason to adopt to prevent ineligible people from voting.  *Crawford* also recognized “the legitimacy [and] importance of the State’s interest in counting only the votes of eligible voters,”  and a state’s “broad interests in protecting election integrity.”

I could go on. The Tenth Circuit’s opinion is weak on many fronts. If the Kansas Attorney General appeals and the Supreme Court takes the case, it is highly likely that the high court will overturn the decision.

It’s extremely important that the Supreme Court take the case and correct the Tenth Circuit’s errors. As it stands now, Kansas must simply take voters at their word when they check the box indicating that they are U.S. citizens. No verification. No proof. No way of stopping aliens from registering to vote.

There are four states that have enacted proof of citizenship requirements:  Kansas, Arizona, Alabama, and Georgia. Other states have considered following the lead of these four, but now the ACLU and other leftist organizations will use the Tenth Circuit’s flawed decision to claim that such requirements are unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court needs to overturn this case. The integrity of our elections is at stake

**Whitmer Sued**

The Republican led house of Michigan has declined to extend governor Gretchen Whitmer’s State of Emergency and instead voted to sue her.

ABC12 News [reports](https://www.abc12.com/content/news/Republicans-dont-extend-State-of-Emergency-vote-to-sue-Gov-Whitmer-instead-570085581.html) Michigan lawmakers did not approve a State of Emergency for the coronavirus pandemic and instead authorized a lawsuit challenging Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s authority.

Whitmer asked the Legislature to approve a 28-day extension of the emergency declaration, which expires Thursday night.

Instead, legislators voted on a package of bills Thursday that would change how the state responds to the coronavirus pandemic. They also voted to approve the lawsuit against Whitmer.

Members of the Republican-led House passed bills that would replace a series of orders issued by Democrat Gov. Gretchen Whitmer with state laws passed through the normal democratic process, according to Speaker Lee Chatfield.

He said Republicans support decisive action to prevent the spread of coronavirus, but Whitmer’s “unchecked and undemocratic approach” is not the best way.

“The current status quo relies on one-size-fits-all edicts that unfairly punish millions of people across the state without giving them any recourse or voice in the process,” Chatfield said. “The people deserve a better solution, and we can provide it.”

Per Fox2 [Detroit](https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/5-businesses-sue-gov-gretchen-whitmer-over-constitutional-rights-from-shutdown) the Butzel Long law firm filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer for five clients regarding the limits of a state’s police power.

“A declaratory and injunctive relief” is sought in violation of the constitutional rights of the businesses. The plaintiffs demand a trial by jury, according to a release.

“The lawsuit cites speculative modeling on the infectiousness and lethality of a new coronavirus, Governor Whitmer has issued executive orders that have shuttered civil society, placed 10 million people under house arrest and taken jobs away from nearly 1.2 million people, all without due process of law,” the release said. “The Governor has not disclosed the data or methodology used to create the modeling that purportedly justifies this extreme action.”

The five businesses named in the lawsuit are:

* Signature Southeby’s International Realty, Inc., a full-service residential brokerage in Birmingham.
* Executive Property Maintenance, Inc. in Canton which provides commercial, municipal, and residential clients lawns, snow and ice maintenance; fertilization; property maintenance; planting; softscape; hardscape; design and build; irrigation; and water feature services.
* Intraco Corporation, Inc. in Troy is a diversified exporter of architectural and automotive glass, automotive chemicals, and other goods.
* Casite Intraco, LLC in Troy distributes engine oil, fuel additives, and other after-market products for automobiles.
* Bahash & Company, LLC doing business as Hillsdale Jewelers is a storefront retailer of jewelry and offers jewelry-repair services in Hillsdale.

**Alabama Shows the Way to Election Integrity**

In an interview with Huntsville, AL radio’s WVNN that aired Friday, Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill dismissed the suggestion of implementing vote-by-mail elections on a broad scale, and especially in his home state.

Merrill explained that for vote-by-mail as the predominant voting method to be successful requires states to already have at least 60% of its voting by mail, which is the case only in a handful of states.

“Oh friend, I have a lot of thoughts about that, and I will tell you this — there are some things I think that need to be known by your listeners that I think are so very important,” he said. “First and foremost, there are five states in the union that use vote-by-mail as the predominant method for having voting in their state. Those states are Hawaii, Utah — but the experts in the field are Oregon, Colorado and Washington State. Now if you talk to experts, those states that have been doing this a while, especially those states I just mentioned — Oregon, Washington and Colorado — they will tell you that unless your state is already doing 60% of its voting by mail, primarily through the absentee process, you should not consider adopting vote-by-mail as the primary preference choice for your voters in your state.”

“If you do elect to pursue that, it takes about five years to have it implemented and to put you in a strong position to be able to know when you’re going to do it, you’re going to do it without any kind of interruption for the voter or for those election administrators,” Merrill added.

According to Merrill, his state of Alabama was at 4%, and neighboring Tennessee was at 2%, adding that other states were comparable with Alabama.

“I think it is important to know that this is not something we need to consider right now,” Merrill said. “What we’re doing is we’re promoting the efforts we already have in place and making this easy for people to participate.”  
Merrill says automatic receipt of ballots could be a violation of law in states like Alabama where voter ID laws are in place.

“One of the things that has become evident to [my staff] in their research is you cannot regulate the photo ID component if everyone is receiving a ballot automatically,” he said. “Now our law, which we just passed last year, requires anyone that participates in the vote-by-mail law through absentee participation has to return a copy of their valid photo ID in the application to receive the absentee ballot.

**Old Beer**

Across America, stadiums, entertainment venues and bars devoid of people are filled with something no one wants -- stale beer growing older and flatter by the day.

The issue is not that America has stopped drinking. Americans locked away at home away from their favorite watering holes are consuming alcoholic beverages at a faster clip than usual. A Nielsen report found beer and cider sales are up roughly 20 percent, according to NBC News.

The issue is that all the countless kegs delivered in early March in anticipation of St. Patrick's Day and the NCAA men's basketball tournament are full of beer that is getting less and less drinkable by the moment, The Wall Street Journal reported April 24.

“This was the absolute worst time for this to happen for draft beer,” said Craig Purser, chief executive of the National Beer Wholesalers Association. “We have never ever seen an interruption like this where everything freezes in place.”

Kegs and kegs of beer are sitting untouched in stadiums, restaurants and bars. Brewers have to figure out what to do with it all before it goes stale. The coronavirus pandemic stranded unused beer in stadiums, concert halls, restaurants and bars. Now brewers and distributors facing sizable losses have to figure out what to do with it all.

The NBWA is estimating about 10 million gallons of beer, or almost 1 million kegs, have been left to go stale -- and that's just from March deliveries. Other kegs are somewhere in the distribution chain, making the total hit to the industry about $1 billion, according to the NBWA.

Beer-makers would like to get those kegs back so they can be emptied and refilled for whenever lockdowns expire, but most places are not accessible. The Journal quoted executives as saying draft beer stays fresh in kegs for between two and six months.

Problems do not end when the kegs return, because the bad beer has to go somewhere. A mass dump down the drain would violate environmental rules.

“This is a hot potato because none of our businesses are set up to return massive amounts of beer,” Dan Vorlage, marketing head for Denver-based keg logistics company MicroStar Logistics LLC, told The Journal. “It takes three times as many trucks to transport full kegs than empty ones.”

MicroStar plans to treat all the beer it gets back to make it fit for disposal. The economics of the beer industry are also shaky, given that establishments that bought beer from vendors have been closed for weeks and might not be able to pay for what no one drank.

“We’re afraid lots of places will close and won’t be able to open back up -- they’re on very thin margins,” said Bob Pease, head of the Brewers Association, a trade body for small and medium-sized brewers.

D.G. Yuengling & Son will enlist the help of others to safely dispose of the flood of beer it expects to be returned.

“With each week going by more beer goes off,” Yuengling Chief Operating Officer David Casinelli said, adding that kegs could go bad sooner than usual.

“The kegs could all be warm. We have no idea how the beer has been handled," he said.

Boston Beer, parent of Sam Adams, will brew returned beer into ethanol, according to CNBC. The company has been doing this for years but is stepping up the program as it expects a glut of returned beer.

Dogfish Head Brewery, a part of Boston Beer, is taking a slightly different approach. It is using high-proof ethanol to make hand sanitizer, Sam Calagione, its president told CNBC.

“Today we’re making enough hand sanitizer per week in our facility to clean over half a million hands,” Calagione said.

**Bad Chinese**

China’s military banished a “provocative” US Navy destroyer from the South China Sea this week amid escalating tensions in the region — with the Communist country also expected to squash more pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army said the Navy vessel had been expelled from the oil-rich stretch of water after entering Chinese waters, and called on the US to instead focus on its “national epidemic situation,” referring to the coronavirus crisis — [which originated in China](https://nypost.com/2020/04/16/republicans-call-for-action-against-china-over-coronavirus-crisis/).

“The provocative actions of the United States seriously violated relevant international law norms, seriously violated China’s sovereignty and security interests, artificially increased regional security risks, and were prone to cause unexpected incidents,” Li Huamin, a spokesman for the People’s Liberation Army command that oversees the area, [said in a statement](http://www.mod.gov.cn/topnews/2020-04/28/content_4864295.htm).

Tensions have been high in the region [over the past month](https://nypost.com/2020/04/23/us-chinese-warships-enter-south-china-sea-over-oil-dispute/), with a dispute between Malaysia and China over oil drawing US, Chinese and Australian warships.

The waters have immense strategic value, carrying over $3 trillion in trade every year and believed to hold immense gas and oil reserves, with China, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines making competing territorial claims in the region.

US Navy ships in the South China SeaReuters

A new report published Friday says Communist Chinese authorities are also expected to suppress more pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong as demonstrators plan to return to the streets following the coronavirus pandemic.

Officials in Beijing are demanding Hong Kong enact national security measures that would ban “treason” and uprisings against the Communist Chinese government like those that have roiled the administrative region since last June, the [Wall Street Journal reports](https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-takes-harder-line-on-hong-kong-amid-coronavirus-protest-lull-11588272302).

Thousands of pro-democracy protesters have been arrested in the mass rallies over Chinese influence in the region, which had been brought to [a standstill by the demonstrations](https://nypost.com/2020/04/24/protesters-gather-in-hong-kong-despite-coronavirus-restrictions/).

**The Business of Operation Corona-Scare**

Markets got very excited (briefly) this week about a study finding a Gilead Sciences drug helped coronavirus patients heal a little more quickly. But that was all the trial found: remdesivir isn’t the miracle cure that will get us all out of lockdowns tomorrow, unfortunately.

Worse, as Bloomberg's Faye Flam writes, the trial was rushed to get quick FDA approval, without getting helpful information on what kinds of patients it helps or hurts the most; and now that the study is over, we’ve forever lost a chance to help doctors treat virus patients better.

All of which raises a significant number of questions and Acute Care Surgeon (and Asst Professor of Surgery at Wash U.) Mark Hoofnagle warns "I am truly sorry to say, Remdesivir is probably worthless, except that it will cost about $1,100 for the treatment.”

In an excellent Twitter thread, Hoofnagle details what he calls "some fascinating drug company shenanigans."

First, the pre-test probability that an infused, small-molecule inhibitor of a virus would improve mortality in symptomatic patients was already pretty low. Unfortunately, antivirals work poorly in acute disease. This has to do with their mechanism of action, and host response.

Antivirals usually target some aspect of viral replication/assembly/transmission. Remdesivir is a clever pharmacologic prodrug that inhibits a key piece of RNA viruses that mammals don’t have - the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase, and inhibits viral replication.

Unfortunately, by the time you are symptomatic with a virus, you are usually already high/peak viral load. So, when you give an antiviral to someone who is already ill, the damage from the virus is largely done. It’s there in big numbers and in the cells.

Consistent with this, the Lancet paper on the remdesivir trial in China shows no impact on viral load clinically. The only thing it appears to inhibit is the body’s response to the virus.

Pick your metaphor. The cat is out of the bag. The damage is done. At this point the host response to virus is activated, and your body is suppressing replication through a variety of mechanisms (which also make you feel terrible).

So how could inhibiting RDRP after the fact help? The answer is, it probably doesn’t. It certainly didn’t in this trial - no difference, not even a trend in mortality, but in subgroup analysis maybe shortened disease duration in early/mild disease.

Now, critics of stupid drugs that should never have been stockpiled by govts say, “sounds like Tamiflu!”

Yes. This is the same as Tamiflu, which also maybe shortens flu by a day, but otherwise is a largely useless antiviral (and actually harmful with bad side effect profile).

Fortunately, side effects of remdesivir did not seem severe in this trial with only about 3x as many patients stopping than placebo, some rashes, nothing life threatening.

Where do the Shenanigans come in?

Well, remember how maybe this Chinese trial showed a shortened course in a subset of patients? Like tamiflu? But didn’t change mortality? No. And Tmiflu costs a few dollars, but millions buy it each flu season. The results? It shortens the suffering by about 4 days from 15 to 11. HCQ actually reduces the suffering to about 3-4 days by attacking the virus molecule, and not the body.

Well a month ago the NIAID trial changed their endpoints to remove death and instead look at duration. No really. They changed the destination half way through the race to match the only positive outcome of another trial, that they (or Gilead at least) certainly had a copy of the paper once it was submitted to Lancet.

Since NIH remdesivir trial is in the news, was there an explanation about why the primary outcome (now positive) was changed last month to 'time until clinical recovery?'

This is like declaring a race and then when you realize you’re not going to win, declaring the destination was actually wherever you are standing at the moment.

Then, even more fishy, \*the same day\* as this Lancet trial is release, Gilead and NIAID claim a “positive trial” and they’ve “shortened the course of the disease significantly”. Notably, the mortality benefit did not reach significance.

By the end of the day, reports that FDA is going to emergently approve remdesivir for treatment of COVID.

Gilead gets what they want. No one will want to be in a control arm in further trials and they will argue all future trials must be non-inferiority.

Before we have the answer whether this drug actually changes anyone’s destiny, it’s going to become the gold standard therapy. We will likely now never know if (the unlikely possibility) it changes mortality.

Absolute genius. You have to salute them. On the day a negative trial of their drug is reported, based on a press release they took over the news cycle, and with some midstream edits to their endpoints their now “positive” trial wins them FDA approval and a halted trial.

It’s an infusion, once symptomatic, you need an admission, a test, etc., really even symptoms are probably too late a goal for such a therapy to work. Prophylaxis (like Gilead’s Truvada/PreP) would be better - but unworkable in its current form.

Either way, a big win for Gilead, but I’m unimpressed with any if the evidence presented so far that this is a game changer.

Naked Capitalism's Yves Smith exclaims, it is disturbing to watch the push to con the public into seeing remdesivir as the only promising treatment for coronavirus, and points to a new study that found and tested 47 old drugs that might treat the coronavirus: Results show promising leads and a whole new way to fight COVID-19.

**Venezuelan Bay of Pigs Failure**

As we've recently observed, Washington's push to oust Maduro is by no means over, even if seemingly less intensified as well and central to media coverage. Currently for example, there's some level of build-up of US naval ships in the Caribbean ordered by the administration off Venezuela's coast for what the White House had described early last month as ["counter-narcotics operations"](https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/distraction-trump-sends-warships-venezuela-counter-narcotics-operation).

And now the Associated Press has unearthed the stunning details of a prior failed coup attempt that seem straight out of a Hollywood script, given it involved a plot centered on about **300 “heavily armed volunteers”** who unsuccessfully tried to topple Nicolas Maduro in**a “private coup” allegedly funded by US billionaires**.

The American overseer of the whole operation was a former Green Beret who ran secret training camps in neighboring Colombia, with the aim to infiltrate the group into Venezuela in order to fuel momentum for a broader 'armed popular uprising' à la covert CIA-style Syria regime change ops.

*The plan was simple, but perilous.****Some 300 heavily armed volunteers would sneak into Venezuela from the northern tip of South America. Along the way, they would raid military bases in the socialist country and ignite a popular rebellion that would end in President Nicolás Maduro’s arrest.***

*What could go wrong? As it turns out, pretty much everything.*

***The ringleader of the plot is now jailed in the U.S. on narcotics charges. Authorities in the U.S. and Colombia are asking questions about the role of his muscular American adviser, a former Green Beret.****And dozens of desperate combatants who flocked to secret training camps in Colombia said they have been left to fend for themselves amid the coronavirus pandemic.*

And like other more recent disastrous failed plots to oust the socialist strongman in Caracas, such as last year's short-lived rebellion a small group of Juan Guaido loyal officers, AP [reports the](https://www.ksl.com/article/46747715/ex-green-beret-led-failed-attempt-to-oust-venezuelas-maduro) "The failed attempt to start an uprising collapsed under the collective weight of skimpy planning, feuding among opposition politicians and a poorly trained force that stood little chance of beating the Venezuelan military."

[[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/silvercorps.jpg?itok=h0wuJO-V)After leaving the Army in 2016, Goudreau worked as a private security contractor in Puerto Rico and set up Silvercorp USA in 2018. Image via SilvercorpsUSA/Daily Mail.](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/silvercorps.jpg?itok=h0wuJO-V)

It's unclear the extent to which it had the official backing or coordination with US intelligence, or the degree to which it was an entirely private, 'rogue' undertaking, though Venezuelan state media has slammed the newly emerged plot as another failed CIA coup attempt.

Though at times while pitching and discussing his plan, ex-Green Beret Goudrea — who in 2018 established his private security firm Silvercorp USA — **had contact with individuals linked to President Trump (such as a veteran personal bodyguard of Trump's) as well as a who's who of shady defected Venezuelan military officers**, the AP report claims that any Washington officials or people of influence who caught a whiff of his bizarre plan rejected it and distanced themselves from it.

*Planning for the incursion began after an April 30, 2019, barracks revolt by a cadre of soldiers who swore loyalty to Maduro’s would-be replacement, Juan Guaidó, the opposition leader recognized by the U.S. and some 60 other nations as Venezuela’s rightful leader. Contrary to U.S. expectations at the time, key Maduro aides never joined with the opposition and the government quickly quashed the uprising.*

***A few weeks later, some soldiers and politicians involved in the failed rebellion retreated to the JW Marriott in Bogota, Colombia. The hotel was a center of intrigue among Venezuelan exiles.****For this occasion, conference rooms were reserved for what one participant described as the****“Star Wars summit of anti-Maduro goofballs” — military deserters accused of drug trafficking, shady financiers and former Maduro officials seeking redemption.***

*Among those****angling in the open lobby was Jordan Goudreau****, an American citizen and three-time Bronze Star recipient for bravery in Iraq and Afghanistan, where he served as a medic in U.S. Army special forces, according to five people who met with the former soldier.*

*Those he interacted with in the U.S. and Colombia described him in interviews alternately as a freedom-loving patriot, a mercenary and a gifted warrior scarred by battle and in way over his head.*

The 43-year old Goudreau soon landed a spot helping to organize security for the February 2019 controversial 'Live Aid freedom-type' opposition supporting concert put on by British billionaire Richard Branson, held on the Venezuelan-Colombian border.

[[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/branson.jpg?itok=Kf-pcvIo)British billionaire Richard Branson on the Venezuelan-Colombian border at his concern in support of opposition leader Juan Guaido, via Getty Images/Daily Mail.](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/branson.jpg?itok=Kf-pcvIo)

Goudreau had later written of the event: **“Controlling chaos on the Venezuela border where a dictator looks on with apprehension,”** according to an Instagram post showing him working the concert, which attempted to gem up popular support for ousting Maduro.

The invasion plans involving 300 trained and armed rebel soldiers hinged on Goudreau working closely with a ringleader of the Venezuelan military deserters, Cliver Alcalá, previously a retired major general in Venezuela’s army, as [AP continues](https://www.ksl.com/article/46747715/ex-green-beret-led-failed-attempt-to-oust-venezuelas-maduro):

*Goudreau told Alcalá his company could prepare the men for battle, according to the three sources. The two sides discussed weapons and equipment for the volunteer army, with Goudreau****estimating a budget of around $1.5 million for a rapid strike operation****.*

***Goudreau told participants at the meeting that he had high-level contacts in the Trump administration who could assist the effort****, although he offered few details, the three people said. Over time, many of the people involved in the plan to overthrow Maduro would come to doubt his word.*

*From the outset, the audacious plan split an opposition coalition already sharply divided by egos and strategy. There were concerns that Alcalá, with a murky past and ties to the regime through a brother who was Maduro’s ambassador to Iran, couldn’t be trusted. Others worried about going behind the backs of their Colombian allies and the U.S. government.*

However, training camps along the border appeared spartan and ill-prepared, with recruits sleeping in barren conditions with lack of enough food and weaponry.

[[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/slvrcprfile.jpg?itok=Maob_4Gh)Goudreau marketing himself as a slick head of a multi-national contractor firm, via SilvercorpUSA/Daily Mail.](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/slvrcprfile.jpg?itok=Maob_4Gh)

But documented evidence shows plans for major weapons shipments, some of which reportedly did arrive and were later recovered inside Venezuela's borders by Maduro's military:

*The volunteers also shared with Mattos a three-page document listing supplies needed for a three-week operation, which he provided to AP. Items included****320 M4 assault rifles, an anti-tank rocket launcher, Zodiac boats, $1 million in cash and state-of-the-art night vision goggles****. The document’s metadata indicates it was created by Goudreau on June 16.*

*“Unfortunately, there’s a lot of cowboys in this business who try to peddle their military credentials into a big pay day,” said Mattos.*

Bottom of Form

The CIA among other US agencies would deny ever having anything to do with Goudreau and the ultimately failed plan.

However, the report emphasizes it had **the support of particular American billionaire businessmen**. AP [describes](https://www.ksl.com/article/46747715/ex-green-beret-led-failed-attempt-to-oust-venezuelas-maduro):

*When the Colombians checked with their CIA counterparts in Bogota,****they were told that the former Green Beret was never an agent****. Alcalá was then told by his hosts to stop talking about an invasion or face expulsion, the former Colombian official said.*

*It’s unclear where Alcalá and Goudreau got their backing, and whatever money was collected for the initiative appears to have been meager.****One person who allegedly promised support was Roen Kraft, an eccentric descendant of the cheese-making family who — along with former Trump bodyguard Schiller — was among those meeting with opposition envoys in Miami and Washington.***

*At some point, Kraft started raising money among his own circle of fellow trust-fund friends for what he described****as a “private coup” to be carried out by Silvercorp****, according to two businessmen whom he asked for money.*

[[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/maduro1_0.jpg?itok=1CxLDp6E)Getty images](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/maduro1_0.jpg?itok=1CxLDp6E)

The ragtag poorly planned 'invasion' was thwarted by the Venezuelan military essentially at the border from the start:

*The plot quickly crumbled in early March when one of the volunteer combatants was arrested after sneaking across the border into Venezuela from Colombia.*

*Shortly after,****Colombian police stopped a truck transporting a cache of brand new weapons and tactical equipment worth around $150,000, including spotting scopes, night vision goggles, two-way radios and 26 American-made assault rifles with the serial numbers rubbed off.****Fifteen brown-colored helmets were manufactured by High-End Defense Solutions, a Miami-based military equipment vendor owned by a Venezuelan immigrant family.*

Currently, the main organizers, including Alcalá and Goudreau himself, are in prison. The ex-Green Beret is now in US federal custody reportedly on narcotic charges, but the details remain unclear.

**The FBI is Corrupt?**

Last night DOJ documents were unsealed proving that the FBI’s goal all along was to get Michael Flynn fired.

As everyone following the Spygate saga knows, the entire case against Flynn is based on him supposedly lying to FBI agents about a conversation he had with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. The FBI agents who interviewed Flynn had a transcript of the conversation in front of them as they interviewed Flynn – effectively quizzing him in hopes that he’ll misremember something in a way that could be construed as a “lie.”

Among other revelations, the newly unsealed documents show the origin of the bizarre argument that Flynn violated the Logan Act. But first, some background information.

The dispute over Flynn’s truthfulness allowed Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates to express “concern” that Flynn could be blackmailed by Russia simply because he deviated from the transcript of the recorded call with Kislyak. She claimed to be concerned about potential violations of the Logan Act, a rarely enforced law that had been on the books since 1799 prohibiting Americans from corresponding with foreign governments “relating to controversies or disputes which do or shall exist” between the two countries.

The Logan Act is vague, potentially unconstitutional, and would have legal ramifications for several individuals if it were enforced (e.g., Jimmy Carter’s peace efforts as a private citizen, Dennis Rodman traveling to North Korea, or Jane Fonda parading around with the Viet Kong). Even the Act’s namesake, George Logan, wasn’t deterred by it and traveled to Britain in 1810 to try to de-escalate tensions that eventually led to the War of 1812.

Only two people have been indicted under this Act, in 1803 and 1852. That’s an average of less than one person per century. No one has been convicted under the Logan Act. It’s hardly an ideal legal avenue to prosecute someone during a critical presidential transition involving dealings with a foreign power. Yet this is the law that propelled the Russia collusion narrative among the media into the Trump presidency.

So why did Yates float the Logan Act? Because as we just learned, that was the FBI’s plan B to incriminate Flynn if he didn’t “lie.” As Sean Davis wrote in The Federalist last night right after the documents were made unsealed:

In the handwritten FBI notes, the note-taker, whose identity was not made clear in the document production, wrote that an alternate goal is to “get [Flynn] to admit breaking the Logan Act,” a reference to a 1799 law restricting communications between private citizens and foreign governments.

The argument that the obscure Logan Act was violated was also echoed in the media.

Accusations that Flynn was a traitor to his country who violated the 1799 law gained steam following the criminal leak of top-secret information to Washington Post columnist David Ignatius. Ignatius’ sources suggested the routine conversation between a top incoming White House adviser and his foreign counterparts might be a Logan Act violation. As absurd as the suggestion was, Ignatius dutifully parroted it.

So the FBI originated the “Logan Act” argument, the AG parroted it, and the media helped spread it. And the entire time, they were saying WE were the crazy ones for suspecting anything.

**Starship**

SpaceX has never flown a person into space in its first spacecraft, the Crew Dragon. But already Musk is showing off his big, shiny Starship — and NASA is bristling.



SpaceX has never flown a person into space in its Crew Dragon, its first crew-capable spacecraft. But already the company is showing off its much bigger, much shinier cousin: the Starship, built in Boca Chica, a coastal village at the southeastern tip of Texas, as part of a plan to carry giant crews into deep space. And NASA's administrator is bristling.

That's because, even though the Crew Dragon — which consists of a capsule for carrying cargo and crew into space on top of a Falcon 9 rocket — is still very much in the works, it's well behind schedule. Awarded a NASA contract in 2014, SpaceX initially said it would deliver an operational vehicle that astronauts could fly in by 2017. But that still hasn't happened. As of [March](https://www.space.com/spacex-crew-dragon-returns-to-earth.html), SpaceX has completed one uncrewed mission to the International Space Station using the Crew Dragon. It planned to launch a crewed mission later in 2019. But when a Crew Dragon capsule exploded during engine testing in [April](https://www.space.com/spacex-crew-dragon-engine-test-anomaly.html), SpaceX and NASA put off the planned first crewed mission.

On Sept. 30, [Elon Musk](https://www.space.com/18849-elon-musk.html), CEO of SpaceX, told CNN that the Crew Dragon would be ready to carry astronauts into space in [three to four months](https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/30/tech/elon-musk-spacex-crew-dragon-nasa-timeline/index.html). But NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine told CNN he wasn't convinced, and due to delays from SpaceX and Boeing (which is at work on a similarly delayed, competitor capsule called Starliner), he anticipated NASA buying more seats aboard Russian capsules.

**PLAY SOUND**

The public friction followed an incident just days earlier in which Bridenstine undermined a much-ballyhooed Musk presentation of the completed Starship prototype with a critical tweet.

"I am looking forward to the SpaceX announcement. In the meantime, Commercial Crew is years behind schedule. NASA expects to see the same level of enthusiasm focused on the investments of the American taxpayer. It's time to deliver," he said, referring to the NASA-funded Commercial Crew Program that is tasked with these joint government-private partnerships for crewed space transportation.

So why is SpaceX building two ships, and why is the company in a public tiff with the NASA administrator?

Crew Dragon is SpaceX's answer to a problem that began after NASA retired its space shuttle program, with its last flight in July 2011. At the time, the space agency didn't have any other space vehicle ready to ferry people and supplies into low Earth orbit where the International Space Station sits. (Since then, NASA has relied on Russian vehicles to travel to the ISS.)

Starship is something else entirely: a vehicle that, if it works as intended could serve Musk's [stated goal](https://www.inverse.com/article/51291-spacex-here-s-the-timeline-for-getting-to-mars-and-starting-a-colony) of permanent settlement on Mars. It wasn't built to fulfill any NASA goals or contracts, won't launch from NASA facilities (at least at first), and appears to have been [funded in large part by a Japanese billionaire](https://www.businessinsider.com/yusaku-maezawa-zozo-ceo-resigns-sells-yahoo-spacex-starship-flight-2019-9) looking to hitch a ride to the moon.**PLAY SOUND**

Under President Barack Obama, NASA farmed out the future of American low Earth orbital operations to the Commercial Crew program, which contracts with private companies to build spacecraft capable of ferrying both people and supplies to and from low Earth orbit, and transporting people on more distant missions to the moon and beyond. NASA has essentially hired SpaceX and Boeing to act as taxi services under its oversight, under the theory that the private companies could operate more efficiently than the bureaucratic space agency. Meanwhile, NASA has thrown its own engineering might behind a different project: the [Space Launch System (SLS)](https://www.space.com/33908-space-launch-system.html), a giant, heavy-lifting rocket, designed in-house at NASA, that's scheduled to form the backbone of crewed missions beyond low Earth orbit: a moon base, trips to Mars and potentially visits to asteroids.

Bridenstine, appointed under President Donald Trump, has continued to cheerlead for both of these projects. NASA wants Commercial Crew operational now, and, as Vice President Mike Pence announced in March 2019, it wants to return to the moon and land the first woman on the lunar surface by 2024 (i.e., the end of Trump's presidency, if he were to win a second term). In NASA's new vision, this 2024 mission will be the first step in establishing a permanent station in lunar orbit, and eventually a base at the moon's south pole.**PLAY SOUND**

But SLS's near-term prospects may not be so sunny. In October 2018, NASA's Office of the Inspector General [reported](https://oig.nasa.gov/docs/IG-19-001.pdf) that SLS is over budget and behind schedule. Bridenstine said in March that if the system isn't up to the task in time, NASA might rely on commercial rockets for a lunar mission, [according to Spaceflight Now](https://spaceflightnow.com/2019/03/13/facing-fresh-sls-delays-nasa-chief-opens-door-to-launching-orion-lunar-mission-with-commercial-rockets/).

But that was before the Crew Dragon capsule exploded, setting back Commercial Crew Program plans as well. There have also been concerns about the [safety of the Crew Dragon’s parachutes](https://spacenews.com/crew-dragon-parachutes-failed-in-recent-test/), according to SpaceNews.

So why build the shiny Starship (meant for travel beyond low Earth orbit) when Crew Dragon is still being perfected?

In theory, Crew Dragon should really be as cheap and efficient as promised. The spacecraft is reusable, and it can ferry up to seven passengers into orbit aboard reusable Falcon 9 rockets — pointing to per-seat costs far less than the $85 million NASA spends for each person ferried into space in a rented spot aboard a cramped Russian ship. But the Dragon is little more than a scaled-up version of the little, round, flat-bottomed capsules that (with the notable exception of the big, gliding space shuttle) have dominated spacecraft design for decades.**PLAY SOUND**

For years, Musk has brought up Starship in his talks — SpaceX's vision for a vehicle to accomplish more or less what NASA has wanted to achieve with SLS, but on an even grander scale. And on Friday night (Sept. 28), he showed off the prototype MK-1 on the field where it had been assembled in South Texas.

At 30 feet (9 meters) across and a full 160 feet (50 m) tall even before mounting on its booster rocket, the giant, reusable, stainless steel vehicle represents an idea of how to do deep-space travel unmatched by anything else in the human playbook. (Once mounted on a not-yet-constructed reusable Super Heavy rocket, the whole assembly will stand over 380 feet, or 115 m tall.)

SpaceX says Starship in its final form will be able to carry at least 100 tons (90 metric tons) of cargo into low Earth orbit. And, perhaps carrying smaller loads, it's expected to be able to land on the moon and return to Earth. The company has also suggested Starship will one day carry up to 100 people, though that number would mean cramped quarters. Saturn V rockets of the Apollo era could lift similar masses, but  their crew capsules were comparably tiny, and never carried more than three people at a time into space. The planned Orion capsule, still the primary crew vehicle for the first stage of planned SLS missions, is expected to have a maximum crew capacity of six. (The Russian capsule maxes out at three.)**LAY SOUND**

If Crew Dragon were on schedule and offering NASA a way into space without pricey, embarrassing Russian assistance, Bridenstine might have been happier to see Musk standing in a field in front of his giant, shiny new rocket ship telling the world it would perform a 12-mile (19 kilometer) test hop in a month or two, and reach orbit within [six months](https://www.space.com/spacex-starship-reach-orbit-six-months.html). It's relatively cheap, big enough for long-haul mission, and built by engineers able to bypass NASA's conservative, plodding culture ⁠— in sharp contrast to SLS. (SpaceX builders slapped the MK-1 together in just a few months, out in the open, exposed to the elements — a far cry from the giant, sterile hangars where NASA constructs its multiyear projects.) But Starship isn't on track to fill the gaps in NASA's  It doesn't have a booster rocket yet — needed to carry the Starship capsule into space — let alone life-support systems, the equipment needed to keep humans alive and well on the craft.

Bridenstine [tweeted](https://twitter.com/JimBridenstine/status/1179853879418052608) Thursday (Oct. 3) that the two had spoken on the phone, suggesting they'd reconciled. And Musk has said that SpaceX is still focused on Crew Dragon, estimating that Starship takes up just 5% of the company's [resources](https://www.space.com/spacex-starship-crew-dragon-nasa-flights.html).

**The Barber Rebellion**

When the weather permits I like to work in my little backyard here in Brooklyn. It’s a 20’ by 25’ postage stamp of cement and dirt surrounded by the small plots of my neighbors. Over the past couple of weeks as New York City has endured its lockdown, I have noticed one neighbor, day in and day out, cutting people’s hair a few yards down. At first I thought maybe it’s just family haircuts, but unless this guy has old testament levels of offspring, it became clear he had set up shop. I even saw the cash exchanged once or twice.

According to my mayor, one Bill de Blasio, you remember him, big oafy guy who wasted everyone’s time running for president? Yeah, him. So he says that what I should have done when I saw this illegal barber operation going on was to jump on the phone to 311 and alert the authorities so that they could send the officers from the New York Police Department to break up the crime ring.

That is not what I did. I did something that in Brooklyn we like to call “minding your own freakin’ business.” The guy wears a mask and gloves, as do his customers. And while strict social distancing is not in place, nothing is happening that is half as potentially harmful as going to a bodega (that’s what we call delis.) It seemed to me that this cat was running a pretty conscientious little situation and his customers seem fine with whatever danger they may be placing themselves in.

But let’s say I did have a problem with it, that I was that guy. You know, the self-appointed pandemic hall monitor type. Even in that upside down universe, I’m pretty sure my first course of action would be to go talk to the guy before I request that men and women with guns show up at his door.

I very nearly went over to see how much he was charging, but he seems to only know one hair-style, a kind of high and tight that is part Marines and part K-Pop. I rocked that in high school, not really my thing now. But the point is that even though I already knew that de Blasio’s “rat on your neighbor” policy was the epitome of stupidity, being in the actual situation made the awfulness of it more visceral.

There I am, smoking my cigarette, watching this makeshift hairdresser’s busy scissors and I realized I had been deputized by my mayor to mess up his whole deal. It’s not an authority I want, and even just knowing I have it makes me very uncomfortable. The good news is that apparently the hotline Hizzoner set up has mostly been used to mock the policy, not to tattle on fellow citizens, but it’s still disturbing and dystopian.

It brings up an interesting question about the nature of American civil life. Is my primary duty to my government or to my neighbors? For me the answer is clearly the latter. The idea that I should be the entity ensuring everyone lives by the letter of the law is anathema. Should we call the police when there is a serious crime happening? Sure, of course. Should we call the police because someone is cutting hair in their backyard? No.

The American people are smart, they understand what is going on, and they are doing a good job handling what has been asked of them. But they also need to be trusted, we don’t need a state-driven crackdown on people living their lives and we certainly don’t need citizens looking over their shoulders waiting to be sold down the river by fretful neighbors.

So, no. I will not be telling on neighbors who cut hair, or throw a small BBQ, or sit on their stoops without social distancing, or let their kids play together in the park. That is not a door that should ever be opened in a free society. Thankfully, it is one that my fellow New Yorkers and I do not see fit to go through.

**The New America Civil War**

There are 24 Democrat governors. They are under do or die orders to keep their States locked down until election day. Some will not be able to do that, but they can keep some cities and countries locked down by force. That means, if you open your business you will have your license revoked, you will be fined every day you are open, and you may be placed in jail. One tattoo operator in North Carolina is serving 60 days in jail for being open for 10 minutes. A restaurant in Maine had their health license and liquor licenses revoked by the Governor, effectively closing his business.

Across these 24 States are more than 560 cities considered to be sanctuary cities. That is to say, they block federal immigration laws from being enforced in direct violation of the US Constitution. The federal government is about to cut off their federal budgets, which means they will be coming after citizens to foot the bill. How will they do that? Traffic citations, fees, fines, and enforcement actions have risen more than 400% in the last 60 days across these States in an effort to fund State salaries while keeping all of your businesses closed. They want to effectively tax the federal funds being deposited in your accounts right now. They are calling this income, and they want to take some of it for themselves.

What we are witnessing is the formation of the civil war through the tariffs of abominations. You want to see what that looks like, go back to 1850 and watch what the newly formed DNC did to split the country in half. They used these tariffs to isolate 13 States from the union. They accomplished this by 1860. Those States told the 7 industrial States of the North to go screw themselves. Without injuring even one single person, the South changed the gage of their railroads and printed their own money. The United States was no longer united. Mission accomplished. America was dead.

The Global Syndicate blocked Lincoln every way they could in his efforts to reform the union. He arrested them, printed his own money, and violated the Constitution a dozen times in his efforts to defeat the Global Syndicate that had shattered the new country, barely 80 years old. When he succeeded, they shot him in the head.

Now, the Global Syndicate is heavily invested in 24 governors. They wouldn’t even be elected, if it was not for Chinese money pouring into their campaigns and buying attack ads against their opponents. They violate federal law. In fact, when was the last time you saw a high-level Democrat arrested for money laundering? For child trafficking? For receiving foreign bribes? For murder or drug trafficking, or cyber security violations? Never. Why? Because the rule of law does not apply to them.

And as I have said before, war is just justice denied. In other words, the way to avoid the war is to service justice.

**Old Souls**

In the realm of mortals, the most fearsome being is an old soul. They are not so easily sold. They are not easily victimized or fooled. They are never in the middle of demonstrations, but rather in front of them, or behind them. They are the souls most hunted by the Global Syndicate. When do these old souls come to have a mortal life?

From time to time, some would say. When the world needs them most, like a super hero, they come; others say. Too late and too few, it seems.

The Lucifer-class beings who seek to serve darkness by convincing mortals to relinquish their godhood and follow or worship Lucifer. That is a deep concept; worship. It is a function of transferring glory from one being to another. Never underestimate the concept of glory. A physicist would call this resonant energy. The glory you possess is the most valuable thing in the universe, across all dimensions. It is yours to treasure.

Entrusting God with it will usually result in a return on that investment in the form of peace, tranquility, growth and enlightenment. Abdicating it to Lucifer will envelope you in an orgasm of pain, wealth, and adrenalin. In the end, you will be dumped in a cesspool of despair and self-deprecation like the peel of some fruit.

The old souls can do battle with the best of Lucifer’s demons. It would e best if you made friends with one. How do you find one?

Old Souls have a level of self-assurance that is unusual for souls in other stages. This isn’t the same as the brash confidence or “can-do” attitude of Young Souls. Rather, Old Souls are generally relaxed and philosophical about life, at ease with themselves and others, and have fewer worldly concerns.

That’s not to say that Old Souls have no issues; many clearly do. (We all have issues of some sort right up until our very last life.) But unlike Mature Souls, Old Souls do not let their issues stress them out.

Old Souls tend to emanate a calm, steady quality that has substance, depth or gravitas. In contrast, Young Souls tend to appear frantic and superficial while Mature Souls seem perpetually stressed and assailed by life. You can often hear it in the voice —

* Young Souls tend to talk loud and fast (“I’m right and you know it!”)
* Mature Souls have a sort of soft tone laced with uncertainty (“I’m really not sure I can cope with this …”)
* Old Souls tend to have a slow, deep voice – relaxed, assured and unhurried (“If there’s one thing I know, it’s that I know nothing…”).

This inner calm and depth is also evident in the old soul’s eyes. Whereas Young Souls cannot make eye contact for long, and Mature Souls will do so occasionally, when they’re not too stressed or distracted, Old Souls tend to make direct eye contact with an unflinching gaze. (Note: This is *not* the same as the cold stare of a psychopath!) They are unafraid to look another in the eyes and see into their heart.

Old Souls are like citizens of the world, not so much identified with their country or culture of origin. They tend to be drawn to the quiet life away from the noise of the city. Old [Kings](http://personalityspirituality.net/articles/the-michael-teachings/reincarnation-the-35-steps/teachings/the-michael-teachings/the-seven-roles-in-essence/the-king-soul/) in particular will tend to spend their last lives as homeless, wandering teachers.

Human existence is not a prison, or a wheel of torment, from which only the most worthy gain liberation.

We incarnate because we want to and we choose to. We keep doing it precisely because we want to come to terms with it. We know that in each life we will probably spend several decades not remembering who we are, not remembering our eternal Home, buying into the illusion of separation, experiencing fear. This is the very stuff which inspires us to become more conscious.

Completion occurs when it matters not whether you are incarnate or discarnate: you see through the illusion and you always feel at Home.

The soul will unify its consciousness with soul mates who have also completed, and it may serve as an elder spirit guide to others still undergoing reincarnation. But there is no longer value to be had in incarnating as a human being.

There are some rare exceptions, however. There are old souls who overcame everything and did not have to go out again. They chose to anyway. Why? It’s not what some would think. It is not ego. It is a love for you. They come back to mortality for you. If they can open their mouth, write a few words, love someone with power for a while, they can change the world.

There have always been a few of these souls on the Earth, in order to keep darkness in check. But now, at the end of the age, there are many of us who have come here. And, for the first time in human history on this planet, those thoughts and that love can cover the whole world in a matter of seconds, if the people so wish it. There is no possible way for the tech giants to stop you, if you choose to share our words. You control which things go viral and which things do not.

Many are called, but few choose.

**Target: America**

Imagine if you will, an edict from your Mayor or your Governor. This edict targets you and 30 million other citizens simply because you are a member of a specific economic class or category of worker. Your vocation has been determined to be “non-essential.” The directive is clear. You will forgo your wages for an indeterminate period of time. You have no choice. If you fail to comply, you face fines and/or imprisonment. The stated objectives of all of this, are to preclude the medical system from being overwhelmed and to increase the lifespan of one million people, many of whom would perish within 6 months anyhow from already existing conditions.

This is exactly what has happened. Mayors and governors used the suggestion by the President to enact certain “social distancing” guidelines and they forced workers in “non essential’ occupations to stay home. They stopped them from assembling, moving, shopping, selling, and in some cases even speaking with one another. This has over the past few months, caused over 30 million people to become newly unemployed and unable to feed their families. This number will continue to rise. It is not much of a reach to believe we could hit 20% unemployment…numbers we haven’t gotten to since the Great Depression.

There is little to no actual science behind this draconian decision. The experts told us that by sacrificing the jobs of 30 million people (and still counting) we would “flatten the curve” on new infections and thus keep our hospital system from being overwhelmed. The “experts” and their models have been proven wrong time and again throughout this debacle.

The expected tidal wave never struck the hospital system as a whole. Point of fact, because of deferred procedures put off in order to free up bed space for the expected surge, many hospitals have laid of staff and some have shut their doors…permanently. The United States is now exporting ventilators.

As more and more information comes in, we are seeing that this virus is infectious, it is far less deadly than expected. It certainly not as dangerous as H1N1 that occurred under the Obama Administration. When it comes right down to it, this disease is going to end up with a Mortality Rate at or below our annual flu average. For that, we brought direct harm, pain and suffering to 30 million other Americans.

The Chicken Little folks supporting Dr Fauci and COL/Dr Birx are claiming that we saved a million U.S lives by shutting down our economy. Fine. Let’s do some math. For the sake of argument, let’s agree here that without closing up our economy, the number of U.S. Fatalities would have reached 1.1 Million. Let’s also assume that by invoking Dr Fauci’s draconian measures, we were able to cut that number down to 100,000 (I chose 1.1M and 100K in order to make the math simpler).

Bottom line? For each life allegedly saved, we as a nation, the states & localities severally, DEMANDED under threat of fines and/or imprisonment, that 30 other (non essential) American workers forgo their paychecks. We (corporate we) told select classes of people that we were going to essentially deny them the ability to make a living…and without any sort of due process whatsoever.

Basically, the Democrat Governors and Mayors continue to deny the civil rights of broad swaths of the American citizenry. The global media empire has thousands of reporters in every Republican city and State standing in line to interview the family members who survive the first COVID victim who dies after President Trump authorizes them to reopen for business. They have already written the script that will lay the dead at the feet of the President.

Democrats abridged the right to earn a living on the unproven chance that it might save a stranger’s life. What’s worse, it wasn’t like we demanded that all of America make this sacrifice. No. We actually forced the weakest (financially) among us to carry this load. The irony is that the folks most interested in keeping this shutdown in place until we are “perfectly safe,” aren’t the hourly wage, service industry workers who have been forced to shoulder almost this entire burden. Nope. It’s the “essential workers,” people whose occupation allows telecommuting, the media and of course, folks on government salaries that continue to keep their pantries full of designer ice cream, while people who wait tables or cook food or style hair are starving to death.

Mind you, none of the above was done via legislative action, which might have made it somewhat more palatable. It was all done via executive orders, big and small. As new data comes in, we are seeing that all of this had little to no effect on the spread of the virus nor the number of fatalities. Democrats trampled on the Constitution, destroyed our economy and wrecked the lives of millions of Americans…for nothing. In some cases like Michigan, the State legislature is suing their own governor to force her to let people go back to work. This weekend, Candace Owen was suspended off Twitter for publicly asking Michigan to go back to work. And they aren’t done yet. Their intention is to keep America crippled until the election. Above all else, they want to do two things.

First, they want to outlaw all Trump rallies. Second, they want nationwide mailin ballots and ballot drop boxes set up in Democrat precincts to make sure to beat Donald Trump in November. By the way, all the ballots have been printed and already voted. All they need is a way to get them counted.

**Five Eyes Confirm Operation Corona-Scare**

China's malfeasance in unleashing the global coronavirus pandemic on the world, which has killed more than 245,185 to date, was detailed in a 15-page dossier authored by "Five Eyes" intelligence.

China accidentally leaked the COVID-19 from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, lied in a "deadly denial of human-to-human transmission" until Jan. 20, obfuscated whistleblower reports, censored internet reports in a cover-up, and withheld important scientific information – including virus samples – to help other countries treat the disease, according to a memo leaked to Australia's [**The Daily Telegraph**](https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/coronavirus/bombshell-dossier-lays-out-case-against-chinese-bat-virus-program/news-story/55add857058731c9c71c0e96ad17da60).

All told, it is a scathing rebuke of President Xi Jinping's China issued by Five Eyes' consortium of intelligence from the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

China's handling is an "assault on international transparency," the memo stated, adding researchers who blew the whistle on the outbreak early have been either silenced, allegedly jailed, or have mysteriously disappeared, per the report.

On Sunday, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said “enormous evidence” shows the novel coronavirus began in a laboratory and that Beijing has refused to give international scientists access to learn what happened.

“I can tell you that there is a significant amount of evidence that this came from that laboratory in Wuhan,” Pompeo said on ABC’s “This Week.” “These are not the first times that we’ve had a world exposed to viruses as a result of failures in a Chinese lab.”

Pompeo stopped short of saying the virus was man-made, noting that he agreed with a report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that ruled out genetic modification or it having been man-made.

“I’ve seen what the intelligence community has said,” said Pompeo. “I have no reason to believe that they’ve got it wrong.” Pompeo declined to say whether the Chinese intentionally released the virus.

Also, evidence potentially pointing to China's negligence has been destroyed, Five Eyes intelligence found.

"At the end of this, when the dust settles, it is also clear that there has to be a re-evaluation by the West of its relationship with China, both in terms of dependency but also because of the many treaties and agreements and rules that China broke by keeping silent over the true nature of the coronavirus, despite the fact that it was in its early days," Tory Member of Parliament Bob Seely told MailOnline.

"That breach of trust has come at the cost of tens of thousands of lives in Europe and throughout the world, and a devastating impact on our economy and the lives of people in Britain but also in other Five Eyes and other free states."

President Donald Trump has vowed a thorough U.S. investigation into intelligence reports of the virus having leaked from a lab accident in Wuhan, instead of the earliest reports it originated in a nearby wet market where live animals are slaughtered and sold for food.

Trump had originally praised China's response to the coronavirus before it came overseas, killing more than 67,492 in the U.S., and intelligence reports began uncovering the scale of China's malfeasance and cover-up.

The Wuhan lab, which had been granted $3.7 million by the Obama administration and Dr. Anthony Fauci's U.S. National Institutes of Health, had lax safety protocols and conducted "risky" research in studying severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and other infectious coronaviruses.

Intelligence details how China downplayed the outbreak early on, while scrambling to cover its tracks on failures to contain it, including "destroying" lab samples, disinfecting wet market animal stalls, censoring whistleblower reports online of "silent carriers," and shunning countries seeking samples of the virus for its own medical research, per the report.

China's National Health Commission reportedly ordered virus samples destroyed and issued a "no-publication order" on research Jan 3.

"There is little doubt that China misled the world at a critical early phase of COVID-19," Seely, who sits on Parliment's foreign affairs select committee, told MailOnline. "Its aggression and threats to others now – both to individuals and countries – is an attempt to hide that.

"It is really clear that we need a reappraisal of our relationship with China. We need to work with China now to solve COVID-19 for the good of our people and the world."

While not finalizing a concrete dollar figure to date, Trump has vowed to seek retribution from China, a country it has been hard on imposing tariffs on trade in order to leverage a massive trade deal. The U.S. has long held a large trade deficit with China, Trump lamented.

Among the revelations in the intelligence report, per the Telegraph:

* The lab had a sample with 96% genetic match to COVID-19 as early as 2013.
* "Risky" research bat-derived coronaviruses
* Asymptomatic carriers were "kept silence" early by China.
* Chinese search engines were censored to snuff out reports on the outbreak.
* The World Health Organization denied human-to-human transmission until late January, despite evidence to the contrary found by neighboring countries.
* China locked down travel within its country from Wuhan in the Hubei Province, but publicly criticized other country's travel bans on China.

"Millions of people leave Wuhan after the outbreak and before Beijing locks down the city on Jan. 23," the Five Eyes memo read, per the Telegraph. "Thousands fly overseas. Throughout February, Beijing presses the U.S., Italy, India, Australia, Southeast Asian neighbors and others not to protect themselves via travel restrictions, even as the PRC [People's Republic of China] reimposes severe restrictions at home."

The intelligence sharing of the five English-speaking nations has come into question amid the United Kingdom's contracting Huwaei, a Chinese telecommunications company, to work on its nationwide 5G network. The Trump administration has been pressing the U.K. to reconsider, particularly because China's government holds forced technology transfer sway over its businesses.

"There are clearly questions that need to be answered about the origin and spread of the virus, not least so we can ensure that we are better prepared for future global pandemics," Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman told the Telegraph.

Among the search terms bleached from Chinese Internet service, starting Dec. 31:

* "SARS variation."
* "Wuhan Seafood market."
* "Wuhan Unknown Pneumonia."

Among the whistleblowers to be silenced or have since disappeared, per intelligence:

* Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher Huang Yanling, thought to be patient zero, disappeared and her biography was deleted from the lab's website. The institute denied she is patient zero, saying she is alive. But no one has heard from her.
* Held in extrajudicial detention centers are: businessman Fang Bin, lawyer Chen Qiushi, and former state TV reporter Li Zehua.

Scientist Dr. Shi Zhengli was leading the partially U.S.-funded study of coronavirus bat viruses at the WIV lab.

A comprehensive timeline of Chinese disinformation campaign on the coronavirus is ongoing online at the [**Center for Security Policy.**](https://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/wuhan-virus/)

“China behaved like authoritarian regimes do, attempted to conceal and hide and confuse,” Pompeo said on ABC. “It employed the World Health Organization as a tool to do the same.”

The secretary said China continued to block access by health experts from the WHO, as well as U.S. scientists, from getting access to samples of the virus needed for study.

“This is an ongoing threat, an ongoing pandemic,” Pompeo said. “The Chinese Communist Party continues to block access to the Western world, the world’s best scientists, to figure out exactly what happened.”

Australia’s demand for accountability from China received support from other countries, but the CCP responded by threatening Australia with a boycott. Many countries are demanding reform within the WHO and have called for the CCP to be held accountable for the pandemic. Australia, being one of the most vocal countries, has been threatened by the CCP with a boycott in tourism and foreign trade.

The foreign minister of Australia said Monday that he would not submit to the coercion. As of April 27, the number of confirmed cases of the CCP virus in Australia reached 6,714, with 83 deaths. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, and Foreign Minister Marise Payne, recently called for the international community to send independent inspectors into China to investigate the actions taken by the Chinese Communist Party since the outbreak of the virus.

Tom Connell, a journalist with Sky News Australia, said: “Yes, it’s a very united push one for a global independent inquiry into COVID-19. Clearly, they have been focused a lot on the role of the WHO and also the role of China. What the Chinese Communist Party knew and when, and what was done to try to suppress the virus. So perhaps, in cases, what was not done.” The Australian Financial Review reported on the 26th that Cheng Jingye, the Chinese ambassador to Australia, said Australia's pursuit of an independent investigation into the coronavirus pandemic was "dangerous" and could spark a boycott of students and tourists visiting Australia, as well as sales of popular agricultural products exports such as beef and wine. However, Australia did not back down.

Sky News Australia anchor Laura Jayes said, “The government is not backing down from a push inquiring into China's handling of coronavirus despite the threat from the Chinese ambassador.” On the 27th, Foreign Minister Marise Payne responded to Cheng Jingye, saying that Australia’s call for an independent inquiry into the CCP virus comes at the right time and is a principled call.

She added: “This is an unprecedented global crisis that has serious health, economic, and social implications. We reject any suggestion that economic duress is appropriate to respond to calls for such assessments. What we need at this time is global cooperation.” British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace also expressed his support for the Australian call for an investigation into the CCP virus outbreak inside China.

He said that during this "once-in-a-century" event, the world needs transparency and every government needs to learn the lessons presented by this event. #C.C.P.virus #Wuhan #Coronavirus Sign the Petition to Investigate, Condemn, and Reject the Chinese Communist Party.

**The Meteor Menu**

If you were born any time after 1983, there's probably a better than 50-50 chance that you'll be around in the summer of 2061 when [Halley's Comet](https://www.space.com/19878-halleys-comet.html) makes its 31st (observed) return through the inner solar system. Those who are older may have seen this famous comet on its last appearance during the winter of 1986. But whether you're here to greet the comet on its next return 41 years from now, you'll have a chance to spy some bits and pieces from Halley during these next few days.

Like other [comets](https://www.space.com/53-comets-formation-discovery-and-exploration.html), Halley is a cosmic litterbug; about every 76 years as it sweeps closest to the sun, it leaves a "river of rubble" in its wake along its orbit. When the Earth interacts with that rubble river, those comet bits race through our atmosphere at high speeds to produce the effect of "[shooting stars](https://www.space.com/15353-meteor-showers-facts-shooting-stars-skywatching-sdcmp.html)."

At two places the comet's orbit passes very close to our own orbit. The material that it releases into space on its way in toward the sun produce the October meteor shower known as the [Orionids](https://www.space.com/23219-orionids-meteor-shower.html), while the material that is released after the comet has rounded the sun and is heading back to the outer limits of the solar system produce a meteor display in early May: The [Eta Aquarids](https://www.space.com/23363-eta-aquarid-meteor-shower.html), which are due this week.

## First sighted in 1870

Unlike some of the other annual meteor displays whose history can be traced back for hundreds or thousands of years, the Eta Aquarids were not "officially" discovered until the late 19th century. In 1870, while sailing in the Mediterranean Sea, Lieutenant Colonel G.L. Tupman sighted 15 meteors on the morning of April 30, and another 13 a few mornings later. All the meteors appeared to emanate from the constellation of [Aquarius](https://www.space.com/21511-aquarius-constellation-facts-about-the-water-bearer.html).

Then in 1876, Professor Alexander Stewart Herschel deduced that the orbit of Halley's Comet nearly coincided with Earth's orbit around May 4, and that if we encountered any comet debris capable of producing meteors, those streaks of light would seem to emanate from the vicinity of Aquarius.

Herschel immediately noted that Tupman's observations were very close to his prediction. In the years that followed, increasing numbers of other astronomers and observers also noted similarities between the orbits of Halley's Comet and the Eta Aquarid stream.

These streaks of light are produced by material which originated from the nucleus of Halley's Comet. This cosmic vagabond has traveled around the sun countless numbers of times over the centuries, each time leaving behind dust and grit similar in consistency and texture to cigar ash; each encounter with the Eta Aquarids brings with them the traces of a famous visitor from the depths of space — and quite possibly the dawn of creation.

## Not many meteors will be seen

"Aquarid meteors appear as fast streaks (average speed, 41 miles or 66 km/sec). The brightest leave long-lasting trains. Since they are on the outbound leg of their orbits, these meteors arrive mainly in daylight; thus the nighttime observation interval is short and occurs just before dawn."

Because these meteors appear to radiate from a position low on the eastern horizon for mid-northern latitudes, watchers in the tropics are best placed. South of the equator this is one of the best meteor showers of the year, producing up to 60 per hour. Under the most favorable conditions from the southern United States, a dozen or more meteors per hour can be seen from the Eta Aquarid swarm. But observers from mid-northern latitudes may only see about half as many.

The Eta Aquarids are around for about a week. They're predicted to reach a maximum on Tuesday morning (May 5). Since the bright moon is just two days from [full phase](https://www.space.com/16830-full-moon-calendar.html) it will light up the sky all night, likely squelching all but the brightest of these celestial streaks of light. So, you might ask what's the sense of getting up before dawn to watch?

The answer is you might still see something spectacular.

## Grazing the atmosphere

On May 16, 2014, basketball-sized meteoroid entered the atmosphere 63 miles above Columbia, South Carolina. Moving northwest at 78,000 miles per hour, it burned up 52 miles above the Tennessee countryside, just north of Chattanooga. This fireball, not part of any meteor shower, belongs to a class of meteors called Earthgrazers. (Image credit: Marshall Space Flight Center Meteoroid Environment Office)

For most, perhaps the best hope is catching a glimpse of a meteor emerging from the radiant that will graze our atmosphere horizontally — much the same way as a flat rock can be made to skim across the top of a lake or pond.

Assiduous meteor observers refer to such meteors as "[Earthgrazers](https://www.space.com/25912-long-lasting-fireball-meteor-video.html)," and they have a propensity to produce rather colorful and long-lasting trails. Such meteors produce unusually long paths and more often than not appear to move across the sky from a point rather low to the horizon.

Unfortunately they also tend to be few and far between. But if you happen to catch sight of just one, it will more than justify your getting out of bed and venturing outside at the crack of dawn.

## Halley's upcoming return

An image of Halley's Comet taken in 1986.  (Image credit: NASA)

Halley's Comet is currently approaching the far end of its orbit (aphelion). It will arrive there on Dec. 8, 2023 and then it will begin its long trek back toward the sun, reaching its closest point on July 28, 2061. It's expected to put on a good show in the evening sky during August of that year, hanging in the western sky after sundown, shining with the brightness of a star of the [first magnitude](https://www.space.com/21640-star-luminosity-and-magnitude.html) — possibly even brighter. Its gossamer tail consisting of gas and dust, should point almost straight up from the horizon.

If you are among those who were around in 1986 when the comet made its most recent appearance, you either didn't see it, or if you did you likely were not impressed with the view.

**Related:**[**A gift from Halley’s Comet: The Eta Aquarid meteor shower in photos**](https://www.space.com/36740-eta-aquarid-meteor-shower-amazing-photos.html)

I remember being at a comet watch that was held at Jones Beach, Long Island on a chilly Saturday night in January of that year. There was a long line of people waiting to get a glimpse of this famous object through my 10-inch telescope and as each person took a look through the eyepiece, I gave a running commentary of what they were looking at. The thing I remember the most was a comment uttered from a young lady who described what she was looking at as a "smur." I asked her what a smur was, and she said: "It's a cross between a smear and a blur."

This photo of Halley's Comet was taken in April of 1986 from the Kuiper Airborne Observatory — a NASA telescope mounted on a Lockheed C141 Starliner jet. (Image credit: NASA)

Unfortunately, the 1986 return of Halley was its worst apparition in 2,000 years: When it was at its brightest, the comet was on the far side of the sun as seen from Earth, so it appeared much smaller and dimmer compared to its previous appearance in 1910 when it came so close to Earth that it possibly even brushed us with its tail.

## A final thought

Robert S. Richardson (1902-1981) was on the staff of the [Mount Wilson](https://www.space.com/26567-mount-wilson-observatory.html) and [Palomar](https://www.space.com/26310-palomar-observatory.html) observatories, and later Associate Director of the [Griffith Observatory and Planetarium](https://www.space.com/21312-griffith-observatory-astronomy-for-the-public.html) in Los Angeles. In 1967, he wrote a book, "[Getting Acquainted with Comets](https://www.amazon.com/Getting-acquainted-comets-Robert-Richardson/dp/B0006BOJ0U/)," (McGraw Hill, New York) and devoted a chapter to Halley's Comet. He finished that chapter by asking his readers to imagine the comet to be a living organism endowed with superhuman powers of perception. And yet, he mused, when it comes by Earth every three-quarters of a century, it finds a planet almost always engaged in either a war or revolution.

"Earth is the most favored planet in the solar system," the book reflects, "a planet neither too hot nor too cold, blessed with an abundance of oxygen, and water, and a fine big satellite to keep it company. What a wonderful world earth could be ... if only it weren't for the people!"