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| --- | --- |
| Jihad Report Jun 20, 2020 - Jun 26, 2020 | |
| Attacks | **34** |
| Killed | **132** |
| Injured | **65** |
| Suicide Blasts | **2** |
| Countries | **9** |

**Obamagate: The Beginning**

We know when Obamagate ended, but we don’t know when the policy of spying on Americans began. The tangled roots of the domestic surveillance of political opponents by the NSA predate the alarmism about Russia. Tracing them back into the fetid swamp takes us not toward Moscow, but to Tehran.

The first public revelation that the White House was spying on high level members of the political opposition [came in 2015](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/point/remember-when-obama-spied-congressmen-opposed-iran-daniel-greenfield/). Members of Congress had been eavesdropped on as part of an operation to sabotage Prime Minister Netanyahu’s campaign against the Iran Deal. The Israeli leader and his entire country had earlier been targeted by a massive spy campaign to stop Israel from taking out Iran’s nukes.

But the [new wave of surveillance](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/911-spygate-national-security-deep-state-daniel-greenfield/) was no longer just against a potential Israeli attack on Iran, but was part of a political campaign to win the domestic argument to aid Iran and legalize its nuclear program.

The Wall Street Journal reported that by 2013, surveillance of Netanyahu was focused on protecting the Iran nuclear negotiations. Netanyahu’s invitation to address Congress caught the White House by surprise and the surveillance was not only directed at Israelis or even pro-Israel Americans, but members of Congress who were skeptical that the Islamic terror regime would ever scuttle its nukes.

The Iran Deal ushered in a surveillance shift from monitoring the former allies that Obama wanted to toss overboard, to monitoring Americans who were friendly to those governments, and then leading members of the political opposition, and finally members of an incoming administration. Obama and his associates had redefined national security as the pursuit of his dangerous foreign policy, and the new national security threats were administration critics who were surveilled in order to entrap them.

Surveillance had morphed from spying on Obama’s political opponents to conspiring to lock them up.

General Flynn had been a key opponent of the Iran policy, [as detailed by](https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/russiagate-obama-iran) Lee Smith in How Russiagate Began With Obama’s Iran Deal Domestic Spying Campaign. Flynn’s arrival not only threatened the Iran Deal, but the politicized intelligence agencies that had been covering for Iran even during the Bush days. Beyond protecting the Iran Deal and Obama’s legacy, the fake intelligence machine was defending itself.

Flynn had already been forced out once. His return wasn’t supposed to happen and was seen as a threat.

Oubai Shahbandar, who had worked for the DIA and served on the ground in Iraq as a strategic analyst, noted that Flynn [had warned Obama](https://www.arabnews.com/node/1043896/columns) that Al-Qaeda in Iraq would make a comeback, “Flynn’s prophetic warnings would play out exactly as he’d warned shortly after he was fired.”

It was bad enough that Obama’s foreign policy vets and intelligence cronies had failed. The prospect of having Flynn return to take advantage of their mistakes and wreck their credibility was unthinkable.

The pretext for taking down Flynn was generated when he called Ambassador Kislyak about an anti-Israel resolution coming up at the UN. The Obama administration had played a key role in generating these shadow resolutions by other countries to pressure Israel. The Jewish State, along with the UAE, the Saudis, and Egypt, and any Trump associates friendly to them, had become targets in a shadow war meant to keep Obama’s foreign policy in place even under the incoming Trump administration.

Obamagate was waged to protect a foreign policy based around Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood.

That [was why](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/28/us/politics/mueller-walid-phares.html) Walid Phares, a Trump adviser, was also investigated by the FBI and the Mueller team for his friendliness to President Sisi's anti-Islamist government in Egypt. Flynn and Phares were investigated because they posed a threat to Obama’s pro-Islamist foreign policy. That was [Susan Rice’s pretext](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/did-susan-rice-spy-trump-officials-muslim-daniel-greenfield/) for unmasking the names of Trump officials meeting with the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates.

The Obama administration had not only redefined support for Islamic terror states as being in our country’s national interest, but it also redefined opposition to Islamic terror as a national security threat.

Flynn and Phares were targeted because they were critics of the Iran Deal and the Brotherhood.

After Obama and his cronies had dismantled counterterrorism and crippled the military, they took national security into an inverted Orwellian world in which terrorism was national security, and national security was terrorism, and members of the incoming Trump administration were the greatest national security threat because they opposed Obama’s foreign policy of aiding Islamic terrorists.

Flynn and Phares, in their own ways, struck at the twin Islamist hearts of that foreign policy.

The Arab Spring and the Brotherhood’s ascendancy had been crucial to Obama’s vision of a new Middle East. Obama had been pushing regime change in Egypt as early as his 2002 Daley Plaza speech, in which he invoked regime change for Egypt and Saudi Arabia, but not, of course, for Iran. The Brotherhood’s collapse across the region had been personally humiliating for Obama and his people hadn’t given up their dreams of a Muslim Brotherhood Reconquista in Egypt. Phares was a threat to those dreams.

Iran was Obama’s last shot at his grand strategy to realign America foreign policy toward Islamist terror states. This was not just one agreement, but a desperate attempt to turn back the clock to the Cairo Speech, before ISIS, the counter-revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia, and the growing tilt of the Saudis and the UAE toward Israel and against the Islamists and Iran. Obama’s entire foreign policy was on the line.

Having Flynn on duty risked sabotaging what Obama saw as his only surviving foreign policy success. And when Flynn directly intervened to stop an Obama shadow UN resolution aimed at Israel, his cronies in the intelligence community struck back hard, taking revenge over Flynn’s effort to protect Israel, and marking their territory from Egypt to Iran, while seeking to hijack the incoming Trump administration.

The peaceful transition that traditionally separated the American political system from those of failed states was coming apart as the Obama administration, no longer content with covert eavesdropping or media leaks, actively went to war over foreign policy with the Trump administration. This was not a mere Watergate. It was a civil war being waged within the limited confines of Washington D.C.

The weapons of the national security state were being used to fight a war over who would be able to define national security with intelligence community figures targeting an incoming intelligence community figure. Conflicts that were once conducted with media leaks had gone well beyond them.

But the pattern of media leaks did suggest a link between Obama's surveillance of members of Congress and the spying on Flynn.

As Smith notes, "Adam Entous was offered the leak of the Dec. 29 call early on". Entous was also the writer who 'broke' the story of Obama's spying on Congress and pro-Israel activists for the Wall Street Journal while spinning the material in a way that justified this latter-day Watergate. Washington D.C. operatives usually have favored reporters that they leak stories to for the right political spin.

It seems likely that whoever leaked the Congress surveillance story also leaked Flynn’s phone call.

As [I noted in 2018](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/911-spygate-national-security-deep-state-daniel-greenfield/), "Spygate was the warped afterbirth of our failure to meaningfully confront Islamic terrorism. Instead, the political allies of the terrorists and the failed watchmen who allowed them to strike so many times, got together to shoot the messengers warning about the terror threat."

The Obama administration betrayed America. It sold out the soldiers in the field, and then their commanders, and when it lost power, it went to war against the civilian leadership using the tools that had been traditionally reserved for the terrorists that it had refused to take on and defeat.

Obama didn’t just corrupt our national security system to wage war on his successor administration, he did it to protect the Islamist terrorist enemies of this country: Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Instead of fighting Islamic terrorists, Obama used the national security state to spy on their opponents, beginning with pro-Israel Americans, and concluding with Trump allies in a horrifying act of treason.

**BLM Founders are Marxists**

The co-founder of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, Patrisse Cullors, was the protégé of a communist-supporting domestic terrorist for over a decade, spending years training in political organizing and absorbing the radical Marxist-Leninist ideology which shaped her worldview.

Eric Mann, who mentored Cullors for over a decade in community organizing, was a [member](https://t.umblr.com/redirect?z=https%3A%2F%2Fbooks.google.com%2Fbooks%3Fid%3DUd78AQAAQBAJ%26lpg%3DPA418%26ots%3DzX3powK1sz%26dq%3Deric%2520mann%2520weather%2520underground%26pg%3DPA418%23v%3Donepage%26q%3Deric%2520mann%2520weather%2520underground%26f%3Dfalse&t=YTcxNjJhYzMyNzg5ZWM2OTgyMWFhYmQ2MTFiYzM3MTNmYmRkNDUwNixiekw4T085bw%3D%3D&b=t%3AdlphvvQyKIAS18x67bZ1QA&p=https%3A%2F%2Fnearchaosblog.com%2Fpost%2F139997551143%2Fcliffs-notes-eric-mann&m=1) of radical-left militant groups: Students for a Democratic Society and the Weather Underground, which [bombed](https://t.umblr.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sfgate.com%2Fbayarea%2Farticle%2FS-F-police-union-accuses-Ayers-in-1970-bombing-3248056.php&t=YTc2MjMyN2UyMTZjOGViNDBlOThlMDZjMjYyMDJmNGE1M2ExZDBkZSxiekw4T085bw%3D%3D&b=t%3AdlphvvQyKIAS18x67bZ1QA&p=https%3A%2F%2Fnearchaosblog.com%2Fpost%2F139997551143%2Fcliffs-notes-eric-mann&m=1) government buildings and police stations in the 1960s and 1970s.

In a newly resurfaced [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1noLh25FbKI) from 2015, Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors reveals that she and her fellow BLM founders are “trained Marxists.”

In the video, Cullors is [interviewed](https://therealnews.com/?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=14319) by Jared Ball of the Real News Network and discusses the direction of the BLM movement.

“The first thing, I think, is that we actually do have an ideological frame. Myself and Alicia in particular are trained organizers,” she said. “We are trained Marxists. We are super-versed on, sort of, ideological theories. And I think that what we really tried to do is build a movement that could be utilized by many, many black folk.”

In previous interviews in 2018, while promoting her then-new book titled, “When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir,” Cullors describes her introduction to and affinity for Marxist ideology.

In an [interview](https://www.democracynow.org/2018/1/16/when_they_call_you_a_terrorist) with Democracy Now!, Cullors describes how she became a trained organizer with the Labor/Community Strategy Center, calling it her “first political home” and the center’s director, Eric Mann, her personal mentor.

She [told](https://thepolitic.org/amp/activist-friend-comrade-interview-with-patrisse-cullors-co-founder-of-black-lives-matter/) The Politic that it was there that she was trained from her youth and grew as a leader. The Labor/Community Strategy Center [describes](https://web.archive.org/web/20180817043149/https:/leftcoastforum.org/tag/eric-mann/) it’s philosophy as “an urban experiment,” utilizing grassroots organizing to “focus on Black and Latino communities with deep historical ties to the long history of anti-colonial, anti-imperialist, pro-communist resistance to the U.S. empire.”

The center [teaches](https://web.archive.org/web/20180817043149/https:/leftcoastforum.org/tag/eric-mann/) and studies the history of the “Indigenous rebellions against the initial European genocidal invasions,” the “Great Slave Haitian Revolution of the 1790s,” and the “Great Slave Rebellions that won the U.S. civil war for the racist north.”

The center also expresses its appreciation for the work of the U.S. Communist Party, “especially Black communists,” as well as its support for “the great work of the Black Panther Party, the American Indian Movement, Young Lords, Brown Berets, and the great revolutionary rainbow experiments of the 1970s,” while flaunting its roots in the new communist movement.

Speaking with ACLU’s At Liberty weekly [podcast](https://www.aclu.org/podcast/patrisse-cullors-lifetime-activism-and-founding-black-lives-matter-ep-4), Cullors described the center as her “foundation,” claiming it was there that she developed the skills which helped her found the Black Lives Matter movement, after having been recruited by its director, Eric Mann.

Mann, an avowed communist revolutionary, was the New England [coordinator](http://scua.library.umass.edu/umarmot/author/amoore/page/2/) for Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in 1968. The following year, a more radical wing splintered from the SDS, led by Bill Ayers and Bernadine Dohrn, calling for violent “direct action” over civil disobedience.

The splintered faction became known as the Weather Underground, with the stated goal of overthrowing the U.S. government. As a result, the FBI [classified](https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/weather-underground-bombings) the organization as a domestic terrorist group in 1969.

Mann led a group of fellow Weathermen who launched their own violent direct action at the Harvard University Center for International Affairs.

In an article titled: “Band Invades, Violently Disrupts Center for International Affairs,” the Harvard Crimson [reported](http://www.thecrimson.com/article/1969/9/26/band-invades-violently-disrupts-center-for/) that a band of 20 to 30 activists invaded the Center for International Affairs, “roughing up” several staff members and employees before fleeing.

Several slogans, including “Pig,” “Fuck U.S. Imperialism,” and “Imperialists Screw All Women,” were sprayed on the building’s walls. Rocks thrown by the group broke several windows and a telephone was damaged to prevent police from being notified.

Undergraduates who saw the group leaving the building and chanting “Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh; NLF is going to win,” said they recognized some of them as members of Weathermen, a militant spin-off of the older New Left Caucus of SDS.

Mann was later [charged](https://www.thecrimson.com/article/1969/10/1/three-warrants-sent-out-for-disrupters/) with five counts of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, damaging property, defacing a building, and disturbing a public assembly, for which he spent 18 months in prison.

At the 2010 United States Social [Forum](https://web.archive.org/web/20111019164811/http:/www.ussf2010.org/about) in Detroit, under the slogan “Another World Is Possible. Another U.S. Is Necessary,” the Labor/Community Strategy Center sponsored a session [titled](http://archive.organizingupgrade.com/index.php/modules-menu/community-organizing/item/65-transformative-organizing-theory-panel): “Transformative Organizing Theory: Conscious Organizers Seek to Build Anti-racist, Anti-imperialist Politics Rooted in Working Class Communities of Color.” In it, Cullors––rising to prominence––was chosen by Mann to be a [panelist](http://web.archive.org/web/20120211205206/https:/thestrategycenter.org/transformative-organizing) along with him.

There, Cullors [spoke](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suN8QTMojEY&t=1s) about growing up as a working class, queer, Black woman, in a single-parent household, with a father who was in and out of prison.

Cullors stated that “positionality in this country is supposed to devastate us” and had done so somewhat successfully, while stressing the need to “fight this thing.”

Both Cullors and Mann strongly endorsed Bernie Sanders. Cullors was a primary [speaker](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2473425416252794) at a Sanders campaign event the day before Super Tuesday, which Mann [attended](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2775660805859072).

Cullors, viewing Biden as far too moderate, pushed [for](https://www.newsweek.com/black-lives-matter-co-founder-endorses-sanders-warren-1488912) the latter to end his campaign, accusing him of having an “old guard mentality” and coming from an “old establishment.”

Now with Biden leading as the Democratic presidential nominee, Cullors and Mann are finding a sympathetic ear for their radical agenda.

As Breitbart news [reported](https://www.breitbart.com/2020-election/2020/06/19/weaponized-whiteness-meet-extremists-shaping-joe-bidens-2020-agenda/), a group of 50 leading national progressive groups representing millions of active members across the country, are [pressuring](https://int.nyt.com/data/documenthelper/7024-groups-letter-to-biden-on-cops/32bc37ca38ee340f4303/optimized/full.pdf#page=1) Biden to adopt the radical platform of the Movement for Black Lives which was co-written by BLM.

The group is calling for Biden to immediately incorporate their radical policies, including putting forward a transformative and comprehensive policing and criminal justice reform laid out by the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL).

Citing his “moral responsibility in this moment” to make amends for past harms he had caused, the groups demanded that Biden make commitments such as advance reparations and defund police, prisons, and weaponry in order to fully fund healthcare, housing, education, and environmental justice.

“We ask that you revise your platform to ensure that the federal government permanently ends and ceases any further appropriation of funding to local law enforcement in any form and redirect those and additional resources towards much needed community-led and community-controlled public safety efforts,” the letter [reads](https://int.nyt.com/data/documenthelper/7024-groups-letter-to-biden-on-cops/32bc37ca38ee340f4303/optimized/full.pdf#page=1).

**Mask Burning**

Following North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper's suggestion that wearing masks could be made mandatory across the state, the Reopen North Carolina group has started a Burn Your Mask Challenge in protest.

Ashley Smith, the founder of Reopen North Carolina, said in a video posted to Facebook: "As you know we're a group against mandatory anything, and we're for personal liberty and the Constitution and personal freedom."

Smith then went on to claim that a mask "does not prevent the spread of COVID-19," despite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) saying: "A cloth face covering may not protect the wearer, but it may keep the wearer from spreading the virus to others."

While holding up a mask, Smith said: "This is not a sign of your compassion or how much you care for any other human being. This is a sign of control, this is a sign to tell them if you are going to comply."

In response to somebody asking if Smith could burn a mask for them as they had never bought one, Smith claimed that she bought a box of masks purely for the challenge. The mask that Smith was referring to appeared to be a disposable surgical mask, but according to the CDC: "The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators.

"Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance."

Smith challenged anyone watching the video to burn their mask and use the hashtag #IgniteFreedom on their videos.

While the Reopen NC group has shared two videos of people burning their masks, the challenge does not seem to have caught on on social media. At the time of writing, other than the two shared by Reopen NC, it seems that there are only three other videos on Facebook.

However, the so-called challenge has been met with criticism, with many arguing that the masks should be donated to healthcare workers and medical first responders instead. The Facebook video of Smith burning the mask has amassed more than 5,000 comments with many expressing their anger at the waste of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Rance Rizzutto said: "Your bravery is immense. What a hero burning equipment that could protect workers in hospitals or any other place that has felt the real effects of this disease.

Jon Montgomery said: "What you have just said is one of the most insanely idiotic things I've ever heard. At no point in your rambling, incoherent response were you even close to anything that could be considered a rational thought.

"We are all now dumber having listened to it. You will be awarded no points. And may God have mercy on your soul."

According to the COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard, the state has had more than 45,000 cases of the coronavirus with 829 people currently hospitalized.

The city of Raleigh in North Carolina has voted to make wearing face masks mandatory and Gov. Cooper said: "We want people voluntarily to do this, but we are looking at, potentially, rules to make these mandatory."

**Soros: The Declaration**

In an interview on May 11 with [*Project Syndicate*](https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/the-crisis-of-a-lifetime-by-george-soros-and-gregor-peter-schmitz-2020-05) titled “The Crisis of a Lifetime”*,*billionaire George Soros spoke openly about current events. Soros opened the interview by noting that the COVID-19 pandemic represented an obstacle, albeit surmountable, for his larger plans to change the world.

“This is the crisis of my lifetime,” Soros said. “Even before the pandemic hit, I realized that we were in a revolutionary moment where what would be impossible or even inconceivable in normal times had become not only possible but probably absolutely necessary.”

It should be noted that Soros lived through the Holocaust in Hungary, surviving as a courier for the Jewish council that identified and kept track of the Jews for the Nazi occupiers. He later assumed a fake name, and his father paid a Christian government official to take the boy in as his “godson.”

“And then came COVID-19, which has totally disrupted people’s lives and required very different behavior,” Soros said in the interview. “It is an unprecedented event that probably has never occurred in this combination. And it really endangers the survival of our civilization.”

Soros lamented that the pandemic which has killed over 470,000 worldwide has prevented China and the US from uniting to combat the real existential threat facing humanity: climate change.

“The continuing conflict between the US and China complicates matters because we ought to work together on climate change and on developing a vaccine against COVID-19. But, apparently, we cannot work together because we are already competing over who will develop – and use – the vaccine.”

It should be noted that [documents](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1029160/000101143811000207/0001011438-11-000207.txt) from the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2011 [show Soros Fund Management LLC invested heavily](https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/148233/soros-backed-a-disease-control-lab-in-wuhan-right-before-covid-19-break-out/) into [WUXI Pharmatech Caymen, Inc](https://www.wuxiapptec.com/about/location)., a pharmaceutical and biotechnology company that operated a research facility in Wuhan.

In the interview, Soros was highly critical of President Trump.

‘Donald Trump would like to be a dictator,” Soros said. “But he cannot be one because there is a constitution in the United States that people still respect. And it will prevent him from doing certain things. That does not mean that he will not try, because he is literally fighting for his life. I will also say that I have put my faith in Trump to destroy himself, and he has exceeded my wildest expectations.”

As of February 2018, he had a net worth of $8 billion, having donated more than $32 billion to the Open Society Foundations. Domestically, the [OSF is a strong supporter of the left-wing and the Democratic Party, especially through its support of Priorities USA Action](https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/147580/soros-behind-campaign-against-trumps-coronavirus-response/), the Democratic Party’s largest super PAC.

**The War**

Three events last week showed that Democrats do not want a mere transfer of power if they win the November election: they intend to revolutionize our entire system of government.

The first happened Wednesday, when Democrats blocked the Senate from considering a bill on police reform by Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC).

Scott, who is African American, has been working on the issue for years. He had the full support of the rest of the Republican caucus. He also agreed to consider whatever amendments Democrats offered.

They still used the filibuster to block the bill from even being debated.

The episode showed that Democrats do not actually care about police reform. Nor do they want to unite the nation behind any sort of bipartisan compromise. They simply want to use the issue in the elections, which they hope will give them the House, the Senate, and the presidency. Then they can [get rid of the filibuster](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/06/23/bidens-top-congressional-ally-open-to-scrapping-filibuster-if-former-vp-wins/) and pass whatever they want.

The second episode happened later that same day, when the school board in Democrat-dominated Oakland, California [voted](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/06/25/oakland-abolishes-school-police-department/) unanimously to abolish the police force in local public schools.

With school shootings still a concern, the board bowed to the wishes of Black Lives Matter activists and removed a crucial layer of defense for the city’s children.

It is not an isolated episode: Democrats on the Minneapolis City Council voted Friday to disband their city’s police.

This is not a party that is interested in rational decisions on public policy. This is a party committed to a revolutionary course.

The third episode happened Friday, when the House of Representatives voted along party lines to make Washington, D.C., the 51st state.

It is an utterly absurd proposal. D.C. is barely even a proper city; in land area, it is [smaller](https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/cities/rank/land-area) than Stockton, California. There is no pressing national demand to add another state and redesign of the national flag.

There is only one reason Democrats want to add another state: they want to add two Senators, who — given the partisan makeup of the Swamp — will always be Democrats. That means Republicans would have to work much harder to gain a majority. (It would also mean the majority that confirmed Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court would never have existed.)

With a permanent majority in the Senate, and the filibuster gone, Democrats will be able to redesign the country, even without passing a constitutional amendment. They will be able to expand the Supreme Court and pack it with liberals with just a [simple majority](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/packing-the-supreme-court-explained). They will be able to make all eleven-million-plus illegal aliens in the country voting citizens, permanently altering the electorate in Democrats’ favor. They will pass a version of the Green New Deal. And so on.

The Democrats knew a D.C. statehood bill would not pass now; their goal is to soften opposition so that they can pass it next year with minimal opposition, if and when they sweep the November elections.

Democrats have made their intentions clear. The only way to stop their socialist revolution is to beat them in November.

Police made several arrests after a group of Black Lives Matter protesters marched through a Beverly Hills residential neighborhood Friday night.

“Videos and photographs of the mob flooded social media as they [shouted](https://www.dailywire.com/news/black-lives-matter-group-storms-beverley-hills-residential-area-eat-the-rich-abolish-capitalism-now) various messages throughout the residential neighborhood and tore down American flags,” the Daily Wire reported.

Human Events Managing Editor Ian Miles Cheong shared footage of protesters shouting “Eat the rich!”:

In an executive order issued Friday on [protecting](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-protecting-american-monuments-memorials-statues-combating-recent-criminal-violence/) America’s memorials and statues, the president said many of the rioters, arsonists, and left-wing extremists who carried out acts against the monuments had identified themselves with ideologies such as Marxism.

He continued:

Anarchists and left-wing extremists have sought to advance a fringe ideology that paints the United States of America as fundamentally unjust and have sought to impose that ideology on Americans through violence and mob intimidation.  They have led riots in the streets, burned police vehicles, killed and assaulted government officers as well as business owners defending their property, and even seized an area within one city where law and order gave way to anarchy. During the unrest, innocent citizens also have been harmed and killed.

“My Administration will not allow violent mobs incited by a radical fringe to become the arbiters of the aspects of our history that can be celebrated in public spaces,” the president commented.

“State and local public officials’ abdication of their law enforcement responsibilities in deference to this violent assault must end,” he concluded.

**Radioactivity Alert for Nordic Regions**

Nordic authorities say they detected slightly increased levels of radioactivity in northern Europe this month that Dutch officials said may be from a source in western Russia and may “indicate damage to a fuel element in a nuclear power plant.”

But Russian news agency TASS, citing a spokesman with the state nuclear power operator Rosenergoatom., reported that the two nuclear power plans in northwestern Russia haven’t reported any problems.

The Leningrad plant near St. Petersburg and the Kola plant near the northern city of Murmansk, “operate normally, with radiation levels being within the norm,” Tass said. . quoted the Rosenergoatom spokesperson as saying.

The Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish radiation and nuclear safety watchdogs said this week they’ve spotted small amounts of radioactive isotopes harmless to humans and the environment in parts of Finland, southern Scandinavia and the Arctic.

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority said Tuesday that “it is not possible now to confirm what could be the source of the increased levels" of radioactivity or from where a cloud, or clouds, containing radioactive isotopes that has allegedly been blowing over the skies of northern Europe originated. Its Finnish and Norwegian counterparts also haven't speculated about a potential source.

But the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands said Friday it analyzed the Nordic data and “these calculations show that the radionuclides (radioactive isotopes) come from the direction of Western Russia.”

“The radionuclides are artificial, that is to say they are man-made. The composition of the nuclides may indicate damage to a fuel element in a nuclear power plant,” the Dutch agency said, adding that ”a specific source location cannot be identified due to the limited number of measurements.”

Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization tweeted on Friday that the organization’s radiation-monitoring sensors in Sweden detected a slight increase of several harmless isotopes in northwestern European airspace.

The unnamed Rosatomenergo spokesman told TASS on Saturday that radiation levels at the Leningrad and Kola power stations and their surrounding areas “have remained unchanged in June, and no changes are also observed at present.”

“Both stations are working in normal regime. There have been no complaints about the equipment’s work," Tass quoted him as saying. "No incidents related to release of radionuclide outside containment structures have been reported.”

**Can Love Save the World, Again?**

Up until now, the candidates themselves would supposedly be the story in November. The left had cited Trump's tweets and erratic firings as windows into his dark soul. The right had replied that an addled and befuddled Joe Biden was not really a candidate at all.

Instead he was a mere facsimile who would have to be carried to the Election Day on the shoulders of the Democratic party, only shortly to fade away. Then a radical vice president soon could implement a hard-left agenda by succession what she could not through election. Issues themselves are no longer likely to decide the election either.

Not long ago progressives argued that the miracle Trump economy was in shambles, done in by plague, quarantine and riot. They thundered that it was what you would expect from Trump's innate chaos -- a mess that would have to be invented if it had not existed. The right had countered that deregulation, energy development, tax reform and reindustrialization that made America Great would make American Great -- Again.

For all of 2019 and 2020, Democrats had claimed that a calm abroad would return with a Biden win. They talked of reestablishing the influence of postwar American-led diplomacy, soft power, traditional alliances, transnational organizations and the United Nations.

Trump Republicans believed all that was more the problem, not the solution. They argued that America's relationships with NATO, China and the European Union were now at least founded on reality, not dangerous fantasies and stale bromides.

Trump opponents saw the November election as a return to Washington normality: no more fights with the press, no more paranoia of a deep state, no more dissident generals, canned FBI leaders or exasperated CIA officials. Trump's base instead had seen the November election as the last chance to drain the federal swamp of careerists, apparatchiks, corporate flunkies and various grifters.

These unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats, lobbyists and revolving-door functionaries over the prior decades had hacked at the Bill of Rights, stagnated the economy, mired the nation in endless winless wars and mortgaged the country to China.

But that conundrum is ancient history now. For nearly a month, the nation has been consumed by massive protests and chronic riots, looting and arson. The catalyst for the demonstrations -- the violent and wrongful death of African American George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police -- is itself fading from connections with the ensuing upheavals. Statues are toppled. Names are abruptly changed. Careers cancelled.

Police are both reviled -- and walking off the job. Retired generals are no longer seen as conservative traditionalists but radicals themselves who dare to take on the commander-in-chief. Downtown Seattle is no longer in the control of the city government.

The internet is aflame with self-appointed sleuths. They scour hours of video, and millions of words, searching for an indiscreet past remark -- as fodder to take out a political opponent, a rival for a job or a personal enemy. The people's energy, tranquilized by a two-month national quarantine and terror of the coronavirus, has suddenly exploded in both massive protests and silent seething at the lawlessness.

The result is that for good or evil, the 2020 election is no longer really about Biden and Trump, Democratic or Republican policies, or progressive and conservative agendas. No, it is now about America as it has been before May 2020 -- always flawed, but constantly improving, and not perfect but far better than the alternatives -- and what has now followed.

The Global Syndicate would have you believe that America is racist, cruel and incapable of self-correction of its so-called original sins -- without a radical erasure of much of its past history, traditions and customs. It sees occasional violence as a necessary stimulant of long overdue change. It argues that the American founding focus on liberty and freedom as increasingly selfish and incompatible with social justice and equality. Racism, the protesting left says, is in the American DNA. It finally requires massive cutting, chemotherapy and radiation -- treatment that deservedly will sicken and may even kill the host.

The other half of the country will vote to preserve what is under attack. They feel that the dreamy world of the demonstrators and rioters is an Orwellian vision far worse than the present reality that they are protesting. America in their view is the world's only large, successful multiracial democracy. It is the dream destination of the world's immigrants -- precisely because its ancient institutions adapt and change for the better, but only if they are preserved and allowed to work.

The angry and the demonstrating are loud and visible; their opponents are angry and quiet. The election will reveal not just who is more numerous -- but sadly also who is the angriest.

**VISA Blacklists Political Enemies Via Social Score**

Do you remember me telling you that the social scoring system Communist China uses to control its people is coming here? We walked about the FICO score as a slave score. The fact that you can miss a payment on your credit card, and FICO will punish you for 7 years. No appeal. 7 years is about 20 times the punishment you will get for shoplifting. If you work as a contractor, vote for the wrong party, own a gun, or join the wrong club, the Credit Bureau will penalize you.

Many new couples inquire about a potential mate’s age or how many previous partners they’ve had. Others are more interested in another number.

Approximately 42% of adults say knowing someone’s credit score would affect their willingness to date that person, [according to a recent survey](http://www.bankrate.com/credit-cards/money-pulse-0517/) of 1,000 adults by personal finance website Bankrate.com. That’s up from nearly 40% last year. Women were nearly three times as likely to consider credit score a major influence on a potential partner compared to men (20% versus 7%). Younger daters are not as concerned about these three digits: 45% of older millennials, defined here as those aged 27 to 36, said they care about these three digits.

This can be useful for people using dating sites like Tinder, Bumble, OKCupid [**IAC, +0.21%**](https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/stock/IAC?mod=MW_story_quote) and Match.com. A high credit score can help predict whether someone is trustworthy. Similar credit scores are “highly predictive” of whether couples stay together, according to another [2015 paper](https://www.marketwatch.com/story/we%20find%20that%20the%20couples%e2%80%99%20average%20level%20of%20and%20the%20match%20quality%20in%20credit%20scores,%20measured%20at%20the%20time%20of%20relationship%20formation,%20are%20highly%20predictive%20of%20subsequent%20separations.%20This%20result%20arises,%20in%20part,%20because%20initial%20credit%20scores%20and%20match%20quality%20predict%20subsequent%20credit%20usage%20and%20financial%20distress,%20which%20in%20turn%20are%20correlated%20with%20relationship%20dissolution.%20Credit%20scores%20and%20match%20quality%20appear%20predictive%20of%20subsequent%20separations%20even%20beyond%20these%20credit%20channels,%20suggesting%20that%20credit%20scores%20reveal%20an%20individual%e2%80%99s%20relationship%20skill%20and%20level%20of%20commitment) by researchers at UCLA, the Brookings Institution and Federal Reserve Board, Washington, D.C. “Initial credit scores and match quality predict subsequent credit usage and financial distress, which in turn are correlated with relationship dissolution,” they wrote. “Credit scores reveal an individual’s relationship skill and level of commitment.”

“Previous studies have documented the various traits by which individuals sort themselves into committed relationships, including race, educational attainment, and earning capacity, parental wealth, social caste and physical appearance,” they wrote. “Credit scores are arguably the most prominent individual-level characteristic lenders use to underwrite credit.” These three digits, therefore, help give single people a bird’s eye view into a person’s ability to meet future financial (and familial) obligations.

By showing an interest in these three digits, people are probably being smart rather than shallow, says Jeffrey Hall, associate professor of communications at the University of Kansas. “Finances, education, and job prospects all factor into the value of a potential mate,” he says. “Assuming that people can actually interpret a credit score meaningfully, it makes sense they would think a credit score is useful in evaluating mate value.”

What people do and say in the early days of dating might have an impact later on. People are combining their finances when they marry, after all, and that can impact their future happiness. In fact, the higher your credit score, the less likely you’ll separate from your partner — and a lower score often means you’ll be less lucky in love. More than half of Americans (58%) said they [wouldn’t marry someone with significant debt](https://www.marketwatch.com/story07D899AA-0548-11E7-B141-CD6D21341D76), according to a study released in March 2017 of more than 2,300 adults from legal industry site Avvo.

While knowing someone’s credit score doesn’t necessarily reveal whether that person has a medical or student debt or even their annual income, it does indicate whether they are eligible for a loan. A bank will look at each person’s middle scores— from the three major credit bureaus, Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion — and then take a couple’s average score to determine their overall credit worthiness. And a low credit score doesn’t necessarily mean that you are irresponsible with money or even have no money. Credit scoring models look at the amount a consumer owes versus the total amount of credit available, [known as the credit “utilization ratio](https://www.marketwatch.com/storyE7110554-10D2-11E7-B856-B6DAC0B0B2A4).”

Low credit scores can deny one access to a mortgage or increase the costs of credit by thousands of dollars, says Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America, a consumer advocacy group. Credit scores are likely to increase the finance charges on a $20,000, 60-month car loan by more than $5,000.

For those who are interested in talking about this during a candle-lit dinner, they should know [what it means](https://www.marketwatch.com/storyF3FA8706-08A3-11E5-971E-11C57B18DFE4). A score between 661 and 780 is considered good credit and between 781 and 850 is regarded as excellent credit, according to financial website Credit.com. The site rates fair credit as between 601 and 660, poor credit between 501 and 600 and bad credit as anything below 500.

Visa blacklisted Andrew Torba, Gab's CEO, simply for being associated with Gab, a social media alternative that's committed to the principles of free speech. Actually it is not free. To post on Gab costs money. But the posts are not censored. VISA’s action show that US corporations have started to create their own version of China's "social credit score" metric in the US.

If you're deemed "politically incorrect", you will be silenced, cut off from access to capital, fired and harassed by major corporations, journalists and "activists" who claim to be committed to social justice and equality. As Torba explains, because he refuses to censor what the Socialists feel is hate speech on his platform in keeping with his commitment to making Gab a censorship-free platform, Visa has targeted him, and accused him of "breaking the law" - even though "hate speech" is protected under the First Amendment. Hate speech is simply speech that does not support the Socialist agenda of ending private property rights, indoctrination centers instead of schools, and of course, voting for Donald Trump.

Visa has effectively cut Torba off from the dollar-based financial system. His easiest means of transacting digitally, at this point, probably involves crypto. This level of prosecution should make Christians and conservatives nervous, as they have seen these tactics from the left before. And the results last time around...well...they weren't pretty...[no matter what American millennials might believe.](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-03-03/millennials-and-their-scary-support-socialism-communism)

As many of you already know we learned last week that Visa blacklisted Gab and they are now unable to process credit and debit card transactions. We learned more information this week and I think it’s important that I share it as a warning for others.  
It’s not just Gab that is blacklisted. It’s also my family.

In China there is something called the Social Credit System, which was developed by the Communist Chinese Party as a “national reputation system.” This system tracks the “trustworthiness” of individuals, businesses, and organizations. “Trustworthiness” here means total and complete submission to the Chinese Communist Party. If the Communist Party deems you to be untrustworthy, you are denied access to plane tickets, train tickets, opening and operating businesses, and more.

As of June 2019, according to the National Development and Reform Commission of China, 26.82 million air tickets as well as 5.96 million high-speed rail tickets have been denied to people who were deemed “untrustworthy (失信)” (on a blacklist), and 4.37 million “untrustworthy” people have chosen to fulfill their duties required by the law.

To most Americans this sounds horrifying, and it is. I now know from first-hand experience because this social credit system exists in the United States. While it may not be sanctioned by the United States government, it most certainly has been deployed by US corporations who today have in many ways more power, data, and control over our lives than our government does. Many of these corporations also happen to be endorsing and raising money for communist organizations, revolutionaries, and the domestic terrorists burning down our cities.

We were told this week that not only is Gab blacklisted by Visa as a business, but my personal name, phone number, address, and more are all also blacklisted by Visa. If I wanted to leave Gab tomorrow (something that isn’t going to happen) and start a lemonade stand I wouldn’t be able to obtain merchant processing for it. Simply because my name is Andrew Torba. If my wife wants to start a business she won’t be able to obtain merchant processing because she lives at the same address as me and would be flagged by Visa.

This is obviously very concerning. We have done nothing wrong. Gab is and always has been a legally operated business. We sell hats, shirts, and a software subscription service that unlocks new features on Gab. My personal credit score is in the 800’s. I pay my bills. I have a wife and daughter to provide for, yet we are all being punished and defamed because someone at Visa has it out for me.

We were told that Visa has someone camping on our website watching our payment processing. As soon as we get a new processor up they find out who it is on their end and contact them. They tell the processor that Gab is flagged for “illegal activity” and if they do not stop processing payments for us they will be heavily fined.

When the processor inquires about this alleged “illegal activity,” Visa tells them that Gab has been flagged for “hate speech.” “Hate speech,” is of course not illegal in the United States of America and is protected by the First Amendment. As I have written, it’s not real and I refuse to acknowledge it as term. Visa doesn’t agree with me.

The reason I share all of this is that I hope it serves as a wakeup call and as a warning. If they can do this to me, they can do it to you and they likely will.

Christians need to be especially concerned and aware of this. The Communist revolutionaries taking over the United States are coming for us all. It’s only a matter of time before the Bible is labeled as “hate speech” and churches start to experience what I am going through right now.

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:17

**Vega Rocket Returns to Space**

An Arianespace [Vega rocket](https://www.space.com/40602-vega-rocket.html) is ready for an epic return to flight, as the European booster prepares to carry 53 satellites into orbit tonight (June 28).

Weather permiing, the [Arianespace](https://www.space.com/36332-arianespace.html) Vega rocket will launch a huge rideshare mission From the [Guiana Space Center](https://www.space.com/33949-guiana-space-center.html) in Kourou, French Guiana at 9:51 p.m. EDT (10:51 p.m. local time; 0151 GMT on June 29). The rocket carries satellite payloads from 13 nations. You can [watch the launch live here on Space.com](https://www.space.com/17933-nasa-television-webcasts-live-space-tv.html), courtesy of Arianespace, or directly via Arianespace on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRn9F2D9j-t4A-HgudM7aLQ).

It will be the first flight of a [Vega rocket](https://www.space.com/40602-vega-rocket.html) since a launch failure almost a year ago. On July 10, 2019, [Vega suffered a "major anomaly"](https://www.space.com/vega-rocket-failure-major-launch-anomaly-falconeye1.html) that destroyed a United Arab Emirates Earth-observation satellite, along with the rocket itself. The incident was Vega's first failure after 14 consecutive successful flights since its debut in 2012.

Today's planned launch has been delayed since June 18 due to bad weather and could be postponed again if the weather doesn't cooperate tonight, Arianespace has said. The latest launch attempt was on Saturday (June 27), when high winds prevented the launch.

"Subject to a favorable evolution of the weather conditions, another attempt will be made on Sunday, June 28," Arianespace representatives [said in a statement](https://www.arianespace.com/press-release/vv16-new-postponement/). "The Vega launch vehicle and its 53 spacecraft payloads are in stable and safe conditions"

This new mission will be an evolution of Vega's capabilities. The four-stage rocket will launch a proof-of-concept flight for its Small Spacecraft Mission Service (SSMS), which will send dozens of satellites into space for 21 customers.

The service is Arianespace's response to a larger industry pivot away from launching single, large satellites into space. While some large satellites do still launch on the company's rockets, the demand for tiny satellites has increased exponentially in recent years as computers and small satellite components become ever smaller and cheaper. In a description of the mission, [Arianespace noted](https://www.arianespace.com/mission/vega-flight-vv16/) the launch would "address the nano- and microsatellite market sub-segment, serving both institutional and commercial needs."

The [European Space Agency](https://www.space.com/22562-european-space-agency.html) (ESA) funded the SSMS hardware development and (in collaboration with the European Union) the proof-of-concept flight. ESA [said in a separate statement](http://www.esa.int/Enabling_Support/Space_Transportation/Rideshare_service_for_light_satellites_to_launch_on_Vega) that more customers are already eager to take part in the next Vega rideshare opportunity, given that the large number of satellites per launch lowers individual costs for participants.

"This [demand] gives us a lot of confidence that this new service will become a vital element of the Vega launch service," Renato Lafranconi, Vega exploitation program manager at ESA, said in the statement.

The hefty satellite haul includes 46 [cubesats](https://www.space.com/34324-cubesats.html) and seven microsatellites, deployed in a special dispenser that has two sections. The lower section can hold up to six nanosatellites or up to a dozen, slightly larger cubesat deployers. The upper section is for microsatellites, minisatellites and small satellites. Another dispenser configuration could see a large satellite in the top section and many satellites occupying the bottom section, ESA said.

Among this large launch group, here are some of the payloads:

* Canadian startup GHGSat Inc., which launched its first satellite in 2016, has a new satellite riding on Vega. Called GHGSat-C1, the satellite will monitor [greenhouse gas emissions](https://www.livescience.com/37821-greenhouse-gases.html).
* The first Slovenian microsatellite, NEMO-HD, will launch to perform Earth imaging. This satellite is for the Slovenian Centre of Excellence for Space Sciences and Technologies and was built at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies' Spaceflight Laboratory.
* UPMSat-2 is an educational technology demonstration microsatellite led by the research institute of Universidad Politécnica Madrid (Technical University of Madrid). Its purpose is to "give students the competences for designing, analyzing, building, integrating, testing and operating the platform," Arianespace said.
* Maritime tracking satellite ESAIL will be the first commercial microsatellite developed under an ESA program for monitoring ships. The satellite was built by Luxembourg's LuxSpace for a Canadian company called exactEarth, which operates a ship-tracking satellite constellation. Ships automatically transmit signals visible from orbit, showing information such as a ship's nationality and port of origin.

When the upper part of Vega reaches space, the rocket's satellite dispenser will release the satellites in a coordinated sequence, ESA said. The satellites will be deployed in a "sun-synchronous orbit," a nearly polar orbit that allows a satellite to pass over the same part of Earth at the same local time of day. The satellites will orbit at an altitude of 310 miles (500 kilometers).

After the satellites are all deployed, the rocket's upper stage will push the dispenser to a safe reentry in [Earth's atmosphere](https://www.space.com/17683-earth-atmosphere.html), avoiding the problem of the dispenser becoming dead [space junk](https://www.space.com/16518-space-junk.html).

Should this mission be successful, Arianespace said it plans to implement more rideshares on the forthcoming Vega-C launcher, [a lightweight rocket that will eventually replace Vega](https://www.space.com/european-rockets-ariane-6-vega-c-videos.html). Vega-C's first test flight is expected late in 2020.

The new launcher, [Arianespace said in its statement](https://www.arianespace.com/mission/vega-flight-vv16/), "will offer an extra 700 kg [roughly 1,500 lbs.] of capacity and enlarged volume within a wider launcher fairing — at the same Vega launch cost as before." The increased capacity will allow Vega-C to fly more satellites per launch and reduce the cost by weight, Arianespace added.

**Summer Triangle Reappears**

## Looks can be deceiving

The brightest is the bluish-white star [Vega](https://www.space.com/21719-vega.html), in the constellation Lyra, the lyre. Next in brightness is yellow-white [Altair](https://www.space.com/21746-altair.html) in Aquila, the eagle. Finally, there is white [Deneb](https://www.space.com/22915-deneb.html), in the constellation Cygnus, the swan. From our earthly viewpoint, Vega appears twice as bright as Altair and more than three times brighter than Deneb. But as the English idiom "don't judge a book by its cover" cautions: sometimes things are not always what they seem to be. We know, for instance, that Vega clearly is more luminous compared to Altair, because it's situated at a greater distance from us. Altair is 16.7 light-years away, while Vega is 25. Vega is 40 times more luminous than [the sun](https://www.space.com/58-the-sun-formation-facts-and-characteristics.html), while Altair is only 11 times as lustrous.

But Vega actually pales in comparison with Deneb, one of the greatest supergiant stars known. Deneb's distance measures 1,550 light-years from Earth with a luminosity recently computed to be an incredible 196,000 times that of our sun.

If we could swap Vega's placement relative to us with Deneb, Vega would be visible only with a moderately large telescope. But seen from Vega's distance, Deneb would appear to shine about 100 times brighter than [Venus](https://www.space.com/44-venus-second-planet-from-the-sun-brightest-planet-in-solar-system.html); visible by day and casting distinct shadows at night. But because its light takes more than 15 centuries to reach us, Deneb merely appears as a fairly conspicuous but by no means particularly preeminent star.

## Moniker and branding issues

Some believe that the Summer Triangle would be better served being associated with the autumn season as opposed to summer. On the day of the autumnal equinox, the Triangle can be found directly overhead at dusk compared to where we see it now low in the east-northeast. The difference is that the Triangle is visible all night long from now through mid-August. While admittedly in an excellent position right after sunset by late September, at that time of the year the Triangle is dropping out of sight by around 3 a.m. local time. Hence, we associate it with balmy summer nights when it always is in view from dusk until dawn.

There has always been some debate as to who first christened the bright stellar trio of Vega, Deneb and Altair as the Summer Triangle. Some say that the legendary British astronomer Sir Patrick Moore, was the first to coin the term. In his book "Fireside Astronomy" (John Wiley & Sons, 1992) Moore wrote: "During a 1958 television broadcast on the BBC, I introduced the nickname of the Summer Triangle and everyone now seems to use the term, even though it is completely unofficial."

However, several years earlier, in 1952, in his very popular sky guide, "The Stars — A New Way to See Them," Hans Augusto Rey (who was also the creator of the mischievous little monkey, Curious George), also used the Summer Triangle moniker. In addition, on page 54, Rey notes that: "Altair, Vega and Deneb form a huge right triangle, known to all navigators."

There could be some merit in Rey's comment, since others believe that the term was popularized through U.S. navigator training manuals during World War II. Interestingly, Romanian astronomer Oswald Thomas (1882-1963) described Vega, Altair and Deneb as "Grosses Dreieck" (Great Triangle) in the late 1920s and "Sommerliches Dreieck" (Summerly Triangle) in 1934.

## Reappearance of the Milky Way

The appearance of the Summer Triangle also signals the return of the summer [Milky Way](https://www.space.com/19915-milky-way-galaxy.html). During the spring, the Milky Way runs all around the horizon, hidden in low-lying haze. But now as the Summer Triangle gradually ascends the eastern sky in the coming days and weeks, we'll begin to see one of the brightest sections of the Milky Way, cutting almost straight across the Triangle.

Perhaps the most striking visual feature of all here is the great dark rift, which appears to split the galaxy in two with the Triangle. Beginning near Deneb in [Cygnus](https://www.space.com/cygnus-constellation.html) and stretching its way through Aquila above Altair, this obscuring lane creates two parallel branches or streams of stars angling southwestward down the sky.

It is not, however, a region devoid of stars but a tremendous band of dust and other obscuring matter that lies between Earth and the center of our Milky Way galaxy.

## Our next "guest star?"

A final point concerning the Summer Triangle, of interest to visual and photographic observers: many naked-eye [novas](https://www.space.com/31608-supernovas-star-explosions-infographic.html), or star explosions, have appeared in this part of the Milky Way in the past, and no doubt others will occur in the future.

The last one to appear was in August 1975 in Cygnus, not far from Deneb and appearing nearly as bright. Also, as has frequently been pointed out by professional astronomers, we are long overdue for another [supernova](https://www.space.com/6638-supernova.html) — a massive star near the end of its life that literally blows itself apart. The last to appear in our galaxy was Kepler's Star in 1604; no doubt we are long overdue to see another. Such a cosmic spectacular might well burst in this part of the sky, bringing instant and certain fame to its discoverer.

**BLM: Fake Organization Threatens DC Businesses with Interference of Commerce**

On Friday night,  a group of Black Lives Matter activists began shouting a political script in a Target store in Washington, D.C.

The verbal assault was led by a male with a bullhorn, who read the script in portions which were were then shouted back by the rest of the group.

They yelled, “All black people, living around this neighborhood, because you prioritize money over people, until you stop calling the police, we will continue to shut your business down.”

We are here tonight while you are dining because black people are dying at the hands of the police. So, while you are dining, we are sorry for your inconvenience, but black people are dying today. While you are dining, we’re going to read you some facts about the murder of black people. We are here tonight because black lives matter. We are here tonight because black trans lives matter.

The protesters also chanted, “Free the people. Fight the power. Fuck the police.”

**The Real CCP Stands Up Again**

Ancient scripture recounts periods of time when declaring your faith in God would be a criminal activity. In those days, the penalty was death. In these days, the penalty is persecution in many ways worse than death. China's communist government is warning elderly Christians that they will lose basic benefits if they don't stop praticing their faith.

Bitter Winter, the online magazine about religious liberty and human rights in China, reports the Communist Party is threatening "to take away the last means of survival from elderly believers," the government benefits of "housing, food, clothing, medical care, and funeral expenses."

"A Catholic from Fuzhou city in the southeastern province of Jiangxi has been receiving monthly 250 RMB (about $ 35) from the government since 2018, the year her husband died," Bitter Winter reported.

"At the end of 2019, local government officials threatened the woman, in her 60s, that the subsidy would be withdrawn unless she removes images of Jesus from her home. 'Because the Communist Party feeds you,' they told the woman, 'you must only believe in it, not God.' Two months later, the pension was canceled because she refused to remove the symbols," the report said.

She told Bitter Winter, "It has become difficult to maintain belief in God because of religious persecution."

Reggie Littlejohn, founder and president of Women’s Rights Without Frontiers, said it's "a heartbreak and an outrage that widows and other elderly are forced to renounce their faith in order to receive stipends. For many, they may need these funds to survive."

"It [is] a pathetic act of cowardice to force desperate widows to choose between their survival and their God. This widow, who refused to renounce her faith potentially in the face of abject poverty, is heroic," she said.

"This form of religious persecution is on the rise in the area of China where we have our Save a Widow Campaign. I was just informed that in our area, a government official has instructed our widows to stay home on Sundays and not to go to church. He also ridiculed Jesus, saying, 'The Chinese government gives you 160 RMB (about $23). How much money does Jesus Christ give you?'"

She continued: "Fortunately for the widows in our area, they have a ready answer. Our fieldworkers bring love and compassion to widows, along with practical help: a $25 monthly stipend that makes a huge difference in their lives, providing food and warmth. Our fieldworkers encourage these widows in their faith, and many have found new hope that there is a God who loves them."

Littlejohn for years has fought China's one-child policy, which banned couples from having more than one child. It recently was changed to two children, but forced abortions still are part of the government's enforcement policy.

Bitter Winter noted that just weeks ago, officials in Fuzhou "forced an 80-year-old Christian women to cover up a cross image in her home, again threatening her subsistence allowance."

Authorities also have begun an intensive campaign of "return" inspections "to make sure that people don't resume practicing their faith," the report said.

In one case, government bureaucrats "threatened a Sola Fide believer in a nursing home, who has been paralyzed for eight years, to drive him out of the residence if he continued his belief."

"The officials said that I am supposed to believe in the Communist Party since it feeds me, or else all my social benefits would be canceled," he said. "I won’t give up my faith no matter how the government pursues me. If it cancels my benefits, I will meet God earlier."

In Yingtan city, authorities "deprived a local Christian of her government aid for hosting religious meetings at home, even though the woman was immobile from an illness," the report said. And they also harassed a Catholic, in her 70s, to replace religious symbols with images of President Xi Jingping.

**The CCP Virus Death Count**

More than 50,000 people have died from coronavirus-related illness at the country’s nursing homes for older adults, The New York Times reported Saturday. The Times’s database collected data showing that coronavirus, or COVID-19, has infected more than 282,000 people at 12,000 facilities. Total deaths from such long-term facilities constitute roughly 43% of all COVID-19-related deaths, the paper reported.

Nursing homes constitute only 11% of all COVID-19 cases even though they account for nearly half of all deaths, data show. The NYT compiled a data of coronavirus cases and deaths at nursing homes in the absence of comprehensive information from states. Some states regularly collect and release data on cases and deaths at nursing homes, as well as assisted-living facilities.

New York releases facility-level data on deaths but not about cases, while Wisconsin and Minnesota provide details on cases but not on deaths. Other states report practically nothing, the report showed. The Times based its data on official confirmation from states, along with the facilities themselves.

The data could be undercounted, the paper noted

The virus originated in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 before traveling across the globe, killing more than 300,000 people worldwide. It has reportedly resulted in the deaths of nearly 125,000 people in the United States.

A recent report has highlighted the degree to which regulators have been unable to monitor the country’s nursing homes. More than 82% of the United States’ 15,500 nursing homes were cited for infection prevention and control deficiencies between 2013 and 2017, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) wrote in a blog post in May.

More than 40% of nursing homes were cited for infection prevention deficiencies in 2018 and 2019, the group’s review showed. State surveyors classified nearly every deficiency between 2013 and 2017 as “not severe,” resulting in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) taking action in only 1% of the deficiencies, according to the review.

Nearly half of all coronavirus-related deaths in Europe occurred in nursing homes, according to data the World Health Organization reported in April.

It should also be noted that the number of positive results is inflated due to universal reports that the data is test-based and not patient-based. That is to say that if a patient is tested numerous times, each test is counted as a case, although it is the same patient. That makes almost all the data unreliable in many ways. Multiple negatives inflate the denominator. Multiple positives inflate the numerator.

In al States the number of deaths is falling dramatically, due to cheap and readily available cures for the disease. Do not let your friends die for your hate. Denying them the cure, because you hate America is just plain evil. Envy is the most wicked of emotions.

**TikTok Spying on Iphone Users**

The CCP version of Twitter, TikTok is data mining, spying, and tracking Iphone users. A report published on Friday suggests that the megapopular China-owned social media application TikTok was spying on users through a vulnerability in the latest version of Apple’s iOS smartphone firmware.

According to a [report](https://www.forbes.com/sites/zakdoffman/2020/06/26/warning-apple-suddenly-catches-tiktok-secretly-spying-on-millions-of-iphone-users/#4d4b777934ef) by Forbes, the popular social media platform TikTok may have been spying on millions of users by spying on data copied to their iPhones’ clipboard through a vulnerability in the latest iOS smartphone firmware.

The vulnerability, which allows application developers to access a user’s clipboard, data was modified on June 23 by Apple. Now, users will be prompted with a notification when an application gains access to their clipboard data.

A representative from TikTok told Forbes that the issue occurred as a result of a feature that was implemented to prevent spam on the platform.

According to TikTok, the issue is now “triggered by a feature designed to identify repetitive, spammy behavior,” and has told me that it has “already submitted an updated version of the app to the App Store removing the anti-spam feature to eliminate any potential confusion.” In other words: We’ve been caught doing something we shouldn’t, we’ve rushed out a fix.

TikTok claims that the clipboard access issues were triggered by an older version of the Google advertising SDK.

“The clipboard access issues,” the TikTok representative added, “showed up due to third-party SDKs, in our case an older version Google Ads SDK, so we do not get access to the information through this (presumably they do but we cannot speak to that). We are in the processes of updating so that the third-party SDK will no longer have access.”

Breitbart News [reported](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2020/06/06/study-children-spend-nearly-as-much-time-watching-chinas-tiktok-as-youtube/) at the beginning of June that children spend almost as much time on TikTok as they do on YouTube. The report revealed that children approximately 80 minutes on each application every day.

**Back to the Movies**

As cities and states begin reopening, movie theaters are experimenting with how to continue to provide entertainment while keeping patrons and staff safe.

With many summer releases bypassing the traditional cinema release straight to streaming to avoid pushing back their opening dates, including the children’s animated sequel “Trolls World Tour” and Judd Apatow comedy “The King of Staten Island,” there is a real fear that movie theaters may become obsolete. The ability to get new releases for substantially less than cinema prices, from the comfort of your living room, is appealing to some.

However, many of us love going to the movies for more than just the film on screen. There’s something exciting about going out, buying popcorn and overpriced candy, and watching the film in a dark theatre on a huge screen. You’re forced to be fully in the moment with the movie, as you can’t pause the film, use your phone, or have a side conversation. It turns the act of watching a movie into an event.

Some films decided to press on with theatre releases, waiting until the country reopened so their films could be viewed as they were intended. While most pushed back to the fall, winter, or next summer, a few pioneering films will arrive to theaters within the coming months. Disney’s live-action “Mulan” is set for July 24.

Christopher Nolan’s films are always best on the big screen, and his mysterious “Tenet” will likely be no exception; we’ll see whether or not on July 31. Likewise, “Bill & Ted Face the Music,” a continuation of the cult classic time travel comedy series, pushed its release date up to August 14.

To satisfy audience demand and profit from showings of upcoming films, these large movie-theatre chains have announced their plans to reopen.

**AMC Theaters**

AMC is the largest chain of cinemas in the country, with more than 8,114 screens across 637 theaters nationwide, as of 2019. Four hundred of those theaters will be open for business by July 15. However, these theaters will be at reduced capacity, with a maximum of 30 percent occupancy depending on the local guidelines for each.

Seating will be arranged to allow for social distancing, and every other row will be blocked off. Fewer screenings will allow for the theaters to be cleaned between each showing. Further, masks will be required, although they can be removed to eat and drink.

The movie theaters will still be selling concessions, but with a limited menu to shorten lines. Popcorn and soda will still be available, but large orders will no longer be subject to refills. Likewise, straws, napkins, lids, and condiments will be available, but only by request.

**Regal Cinemas**

Starting July 10, Regal theatres will start showing movies again. Until the fall returns to a regular schedule, Regal will supplement the new releases with classic films and other popular movies. The theatres will only be filled to a maximum of 50 percent capacity. There will be two empty seats between each group, to maintain social distance. After each showing, the theatre and each seat will undergo ULV fogger sanitation.

All employees and patrons will be required to wear face masks, although they can be removed to eat concessions, and only in the auditoriums. Concessions will be available with a limited menu, but every other register will be closed. Vending machines and other self-service concessions will be temporarily unavailable. Restaurants or in-theatre dining will be suspended in locations that previously offered these.

**Cinemark Theatres**

Cinemark Theatres is engaging in a four-phase reopening plan. Part 1 began on June 19, when five theatres were opened in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas as a test run. This weekend, one-third of all Cinemark theaters will be opened, focusing on larger markets. Next weekend, another third will open, with a plan to have all theaters up and running by July 10. Supplementing the upcoming new releases, Cinemark is currently showing old movies at a discount, allowing patrons to experience beloved classics and new favorites on the big screen.

Currently, Cinemark theaters are at 25 percent capacity, although they expect to increase to 50 percent in the coming weeks. Further, Cinemark is staggering showtimes, to minimize traffic in the hallways. While Cinemark is not requiring masks for guests, except where necessary under local or state mandates, they are compulsory for staff and strongly encouraged for patrons.

To protect both the staff and guests, Plexiglass is being added at both the concession stand and the ticket booth, and Cinemark is increasing mobile sales for both to reduce contact. Refillable popcorns and sodas are temporarily suspended; instead, purchase of a previously refillable size will allow a discount on the next purchase.

Annual refillable drink cups and popcorn tubs are likewise suspended. However, if you bring your refillable cup or tub to the concession stand, you will get the requisite discount on a single-use drink or popcorn. The discounts will be extended until March 31, 2021. Moreover, restaurants in theaters will be closed until further notice, and bars will be limited.

**Marcus Theatres**

During lockdown, Marcus Theatres had been offering curbside pickup for popcorn and concessions, and some locations even held makeshift drive-ins in their parking lots. But now, with lockdown coming to a slow close, they are engaging in a phased reopening.

Six locations opened last weekend, showing classic films, movies whose runs were interrupted by the lockdowns, and recent favorites. They will be adding dates to reopen their 85 other locations shortly. The theaters will start by only opening Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, before eventually expanding to the rest of the week. Aside from the new releases arriving in July, all tickets are only $5.

While Marcus staff must wear face masks, they are optional (albeit encouraged) for customers. To preserve social distancing, however, at least two seats must remain between each party in the auditoriums. Showtimes will be staggered to minimize the number of people in any hallway at a given time. After each show, the theatre will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

While tickets and concessions can be ordered via app, both can be purchased in person as well. Bars and lounges will have limited hours, and restaurants will not be opened until a later date.

**The EPA Mafia: The Real Reason Why Cars Cost So Much**

Gas mileage has been a kind of fetish object for the government lo these past 40-something years. But is it really about gas mileage? Or is gas mileage just the excuse for something else — something even more sinister than a handful of people (this is what “the government” is) contravening what buyers want, as expressed by their willingness to buy?

Let’s consider a couple of things that could have easily and inexpensively increased fuel economy; or rather and perhaps better put, made it feasible to go much farther on a gallon of fuel without adding complexity and cost.

Gasoline, for instance.

*There are obvious ways to easily and inexpensively increase gas mileage that are actively discouraged by the government.*

Not 10 percent gasoline … and [10 percent ethanol](https://spectator.org/corn-squeezing/). Which reduces miles-per-gallon because 90 percent gas and 10 percent ethanol contains less energy per gallon. An easy way to increase gas mileage without changing anything about the car would be to put gas — not adulterated gas — in the tank. The increase would be on average about 2 to 3 mpg, which is a larger increase than is achieved by engineering artifices such as replacing relatively simple fuel delivery systems like port fuel injection with high-pressure direct injection, which also adds to the price of the car — negating the smaller mileage benefit achieved.

Going back to gas would certainly save more of it than is achieved by shutting off a car’s engine every time it stops moving (ASS — automated engine stop/start, another expensive engineering artifice).

And — once again — save money, by eliminating the added expense of a high-capacity starter system and shorter-lived battery.

If the benevolent people who are “the government” were seriously “concerned” — their favorite gaslighting word — about gas mileage, they’d put gas back into circulation. Instead, they put more ethanol into circulation. Which, in addition to reducing mpgs and increasing expense, also has the effect of decreasing the life of older cars not designed for it.

Curiously enough, some of these cars achieved very high gas mileage — burning 100 percent gasoline.

Examples include the [Honda CRX HF](https://www.officialdata.org/cars/Honda/Civic%20CRX%20HF) of the mid-late ’80s and early ’90s. It was capable of going nearly 50 miles on a gallon of gasoline. It was not anomalous. There were several cars made during this era that delivered better gas mileage than any car of this era that isn’t a hybrid car — which costs you thousands more to save gas, having two powertrains rather than just the one.

These older cars were designed when was still gas. Their fuel systems weren’t designed for adulterated gas. The more ethanol you feed them, the leaner and hotter they run — if they haven’t got oxygen sensors and the ability to richen their air-fuel mixture to compensate for the less-energy-dense adulterated “gas” of nowadays. A hotter-running engine usually burns up faster than a cooler-running one.

If they have steel fuel tanks — as most cars did back then — the ethanol (which is more corrosive) helps accelerate rust formation; same for the fuel lines — from the inside out.

These cars are thereby retired sooner — and replaced by newer cars that use more “gas.”

But rather than get rid of ethanol — which also lines the pockets of rent-seeking agribusiness cartels who need government force to sell what people would otherwise not buy — the government doubles down on the ethanol adulteration.

Almost.

The “gas” we buy will soon be only 85 percent gas. The other 15 percent will be ethanol. And your car’s gas mileage will go down accordingly.

Well, how about diesel?

Compression ignition engines are inherently more fuel-efficient than spark-ignition engines; they convert more of the potential energy in the fuel into useful mechanical energy. Which is probably why they’ve been systematically removed from the passenger car market and made titanically expensive in the few trucks still available with them.

As recently as five years ago, one could buy a car like the VW Jetta with a diesel engine that exceeded 50 mpg on the highway. Nothing VW sell today approaches that number. If the government — the handful of people with power to enforce what they want — really wanted high-efficiency cars, why did they nail VW to the cross?

Well, the company “cheated” … the government.

Not buyers, who universally loved their diesel-powered cars.

So what really happened was that the government’s authority was affronted — and that always takes precedence over feigned “concerns” about fuel efficiency.

Not content with getting rid of high-efficiency diesel-powered cars, the government continues to work on getting rid of diesel-powered anything — via regulations that have made diesels extremely expensive to buy (for example, the Powerstroke diesel offered as optional equipment with the Ford F250 I [recently test drove](https://www.ericpetersautos.com/2020/06/17/2020-ford-f250-super-duty/) costs more than $10,000) and to fuel. Diesel — via “low sulfur” regulations — costs more than gas (the reverse of what used to be the case) and — because it’s low sulfur — doesn’t lubricate as well, which reduces the life of the diesel engine, which used to be much longer than the life of a gas-burning engine.

The diesel engine is also now more complex than a gas-burning engine — it used to be much simpler — increasing maintenance costs, which reduces the value proposition. All combined, it makes people less willing to buy diesels.

And so they use more gas.

Perhaps you discern a pattern?

There are other obvious ways to easily and inexpensively increase gas mileage that are actively discouraged by the government — which practically requires that new vehicles be much heavier than they would otherwise be, ostensibly to make them “safer.” But if — as they say — as mileage is so very important, then wouldn’t you think they’d promote lightness and its everyday advantages in terms of saving gas versus the largely theoretical advantages of the “safe” car, which its owner will probably never crash?

Or at least allow buyers the option to choose the high-mileage car over the mediocre-mileage “safe” one?

But that answers the question about what the government’s real concern is.

And gas mileage isn’t it.

**CERN Update**

Modern physics knows a great deal about how the universe works, from the grand scale of galaxies down to the infinitesimally small size of quarks and gluons. Still, the answers to some major mysteries, such as the nature of dark matter and origin of gravity, have remained out of reach.

Caltech physicists and their colleagues using the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, the largest and most powerful particle accelerator in existence, and its Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment have made a new observation of very [rare events](https://phys.org/tags/rare+events/) that could help take physics beyond its current understanding of the world.

The new observation involves the simultaneous production of three W or Z bosons, subatomic "mediator particles" that carry the weak force—one of the four known [fundamental forces](https://phys.org/tags/fundamental+forces/)—which is responsible for the phenomenon of radioactivity as well as an essential ingredient in the sun's thermonuclear processes.

Bosons are a class of particles that also include photons, which make up light; the Higgs boson, which is thought to be responsible for giving mass to matter; and gluons, which bind nuclei together. The W and Z bosons are similar to each other in that they both carry the [weak force](https://phys.org/tags/weak+force/) but are different in that the Z boson has no electric charge. The existence of these bosons, along with other subatomic particles like gluons and neutrinos, is explained by what is known as the Standard Model of particle physics.

Caltech graduate student Zhicai Zhang (MS '18), a member of the High Energy Physics research team led by Harvey Newman, the Marvin L. Goldberger Professor of Physics, and Maria Spiropulu, the Shang-Yi Ch'en Professor of Physics, is one of the principal contributors to the new observation, working together with other team members.

The events producing the trios of bosons occur when intense bunches of high-energy protons that have been accelerated to nearly the speed of light are brought into a head-on collision at a few points along the circular path of the LHC. When two protons collide, the quarks and gluons in the protons are forced apart, and as that happens, W and Z bosons can pop into existence; in very rare cases, they appear as triplets: WWW, WWZ, WZZ, and ZZZ. Such triplets of W and Z bosons, Newman says, are only produced in one out of 10 trillion proton-proton collisions. These events are recorded using the CMS, which surrounds one of the collision points along the LHC's path. Zhang says these events are 50 times rarer than those used to discover the Higgs boson.

"With the LHC creating an enormous number of collisions, we can see things that are very rare, like the production of these bosons," Newman says.

It is possible for the W and Z bosons to self-interact, allowing W and Z bosons to create still more W and Z bosons; these may manifest themselves as events with two or three massive bosons. Still, this creation is rare, so the more bosons that are produced, the less frequent the production happens. The production of two massive bosons has previously been observed and measured with good precision at the LHC.

The creation of these bosons was not the specific goal of the experiment, Newman says. By collecting enough data, including many events with boson triplets and other rare events, researchers will be able to test the Standard Model's predictions with increasing precision and may eventually find and be able to study the new interactions that lie beyond it.

"We know from observing the rotation and distribution of galaxies that there must be dark matter exerting its gravitational influence, but dark matter doesn't fit into the Standard Model. There is no room in it for dark particles, nor does it include gravity, and it simply does not work at the energy scales typical of the early universe in the first moments after the Big Bang. We know that there is a more fundamental yet-to-be-discovered theory than the Standard Model," Newman says.

The next three-year experimental run, scheduled for 2021–24, is already being prepared. At the end of that run, the equipment will be upgraded to increase its data-collection capacity 30-fold. "There is a lot of unrealized potential. The masses of data we have already collected still represent only a few percent of what we expect to collect following major upgrades of both CMS and the LHC, at the High Luminosity LHC that is scheduled to run for 10 years beginning in 2027. We are only at the very beginning of this 30-year physics program," he says.

**The Clinton School for Self-Enrichment**

Did you know that the way to cure cancer is to pay executives massive salaries?

I’m not saying we shouldn’t pay them massive salaries to cure cancer. Imagine, for instance, that you’re a vice president at Sanofi and that your division has come up with a treatment that significantly increases the five-year survival rate for an aggressive cancer. While I’m sure the U.K. Guardian, that bastion of the left, would run a scathing piece about your lavish home on the French Riviera and the seven-figure salary that paid for it, I’d write a full-throated defense of your ability to earn that salary while expressing the earnest hope that you would buy another palatial estate.

I’m instead talking about the example set by the Biden Cancer Initiative, a nonprofit founded by Joe Biden when he left the vice presidency in 2017.

“The Biden Cancer Initiative injects a sense of urgency into the cancer research and care systems, and reimagines how the government, academia, nonprofits and the private sector can better collaborate to take on cancer, with the patient as the focus,” the group says on its [website](https://archive.bidencancer.org/faqs/). “The Initiative is a major convening force in driving new actions and collaborations toward ending cancer as we know it.

“The Biden Cancer Initiative works closely with patients and patient organizations, cancer researchers, cancer hospitals and community health centers, research universities, governments, and the private and philanthropic sectors to identify and address the critical issues in cancer prevention, research, and care to achieve these goals. The Initiative brings these groups together to identify barriers, devise solutions, launch pilot projects to test solutions, and disseminate successful solutions in the form of new actions and collaborations.”

How they accomplished this, at least when it came to the allocation of resources, is … curious. According to a Thursday report from the [Washington Free Beacon](https://freebeacon.com/2020-election/biden-cancer-nonprofit-paid-its-top-execs-millions-little-on-mission-to-eradicate-cancer/), tax documents from the Biden Cancer Initiative — released by ProPublica — show that almost 65 percent of money the group spent went to staff salaries, including for executives who pulled down six figures.

Guidance from charity watchdogs generally advises nonprofits to limit administrative compensation and fundraising expenditures to 25 percent. The documents show that in [2017](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display_990/821610708/02_2019_prefixes_81-84%2F821610708_201806_990_2019020416060107) and [2018](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display_990/821610708/01_2020_prefixes_81-82%2F821610708_201906_990_2020012817080669), the organization raised and spent a combined $4.8 million. A bit more than $3 million of that went toward compensation. Then there was the $740,000 spent on meetings and conferences of various sorts.

**Bottom of Form**

**Grants? Not a single one to be found.**

However, Biden Cancer Initiative president Greg Simon pulled down impressive six-figure salaries in both of those years, with $224,539 in remuneration in 2017 and $429,850 in 2018. (By comparison, a 2013 [analysis](https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=content.view&cpid=1641) by Charity Navigator found mid-to-large nonprofits pay their chief executives an average of $126,000 a year.)

Both Simon and Danielle Carnival, the initiative’s vice president, were previously from the Obama administration’s Cancer Moonshot program, so Biden clearly looked far and wide for people who would best fit the organization. Carnival, for the record, took in a combined $391,897 in 2017 and 2018. Three other six-figure executives were added in the organization’s second year.

The initiative was stopped in July 2019, according to [The Associated Press](https://apnews.com/97adeafe979943808a3abe963e089135), right around the time that Biden presented his health care plan. The group also presented some potential conflicts for Biden.

A sample from the AP’s reporting: “In January 2018, Biden spoke at a San Francisco conference sponsored by a health tech firm whose chief medical officer is Biden’s son-in-law, who was also on the Biden cancer nonprofit’s board. During that speech, Biden also hailed a medical device entrepreneur who has helped raise funds for Biden’s campaign. Both firms lobby with the federal government.”

Indeed, many of the biotech firms they partnered with — inasmuch as the [Biden Cancer Initiative](https://www.westernjournal.com/view-already-expecting-covering-joe-bidens-failure-cure-cancer/) was doing much partnering — have decided interests in currying the favor of the federal government. That becomes a lot easier if they have immediate access to the guy in the Oval Office.

Arthur Caplan, a bioethics professor at New York University, told [the AP](https://apnews.com/b38b45df035246cb9d2272a7ebb22752) that he had concerns regarding whether the partnerships the initiative relied on meant the “Biden administration would give favorable treatment for anyone who supported his foundation in the past.”

One of the things I’d like to point out is I’m willing to grant the Democratic presidential nominee that the Biden Cancer Initiative isn’t a grift on his part. His interest in the subject isn’t just because having a nonprofit dedicated to cancer research rings pleasantly in the ears of voters.

Biden lost his son Beau, a veteran and rising star in Delaware politics, to brain cancer in 2015. Inasmuch as Joe Biden can devote his time to philanthropic activities outside of his career, this is a personal one for him.

Instead, I’m going to point out an unpleasant possibility: This is how [Joe Biden](https://www.westernjournal.com/strzok-notes-suggest-obama-biden-got-involved-fbi-investigation-flynn/) manages things. This is a microcosm of what it’ll look like if the American voters put the Bidens in 1600 Pennsylvania.

There’s a fairly long list of people who’ve made money off of knowing Joe Biden.

[Hunter Biden](https://www.westernjournal.com/hunter-biden-reaches-final-child-support-settlement-months-stonewalling/) falls decidedly in this category. The ne’er-do-well progeny of the presumptive Democratic nominee has been taken out of the news by other, more pressing things, and rightly so. That said, Hunter is a man who owes a great deal of his employment history to his last name.

While in a questionably functional state, Biden was pulling down $50,000 a month to sit on the board of a Ukrainian gas company despite the fact he had no experience in Ukraine and no experience in natural gas.

[Other well-remunerated jobs](https://www.westernjournal.com/bidens-used-influence-help-son-found-us-not-just-europe/) on Hunter Biden’s resumé also seem to have obvious connections to his father’s career.

Then there’s James Biden, Joe’s brother. According to [The Intercept](https://theintercept.com/2019/10/09/joe-hunter-biden-family-money/), he had joined a construction firm which won a $1.5 billion contract to build homes in Iraq. This wasn’t just when Joe Biden was vice president, it was while he was overseeing Iraq policy.

This is how Joe Biden does things.

Democrats allege [Trump’s family](https://www.westernjournal.com/pelosi-just-called-trumps-family-hold-intervention-president/) and close associates have enriched themselves off the presidency. As a candidate for his successor, they’ve picked a man who either embodies those venalities or has stumbled into them because he’s too darn busy to keep track of who’s profiting off of him.

The very best interpretation of what happened at the Biden Cancer Initiative is that Biden is such a softie that he’s willing to reward people far beyond what they’re worth — and doesn’t get much accomplished in the process, since his initiative spent so much on personnel.

The worst interpretation is that, inasmuch as Biden is fully aware of anything, he’s aware he’s being profited off of and doesn’t mind. Why not? It’s not his money.

Whatever your interpretation is, the [Biden Cancer Initiative](https://www.westernjournal.com/media-accuse-trump-making-10k-untrue-claims-run-piece-biden-curing-cancer/) was woefully inefficient. This was a small organization based on a personal passion of Biden’s. If this is how he manages that kind of nonprofit, it raises a whole lot of questions about how he would manage a nation.