**Time is Speeding Up?**

I know what you’re thinking. Time is speeding up. It feels like that because so much is coming at us all at once. Perhaps it is a function of the 24-hour news cycle. Perhaps it is the electric environment with extended daytime provided by lights and multi-time-zone access to live events. Is time is moving at the same rate it has moved for thousands of years?

Perhaps, what is really happening is a compression of awareness that occurs we have more of a database from which to draw for comparison. “Where did the time go?” middle-aged and older adults often remark. Many of us feel that time passes more quickly as we age, a perception that can lead to regrets. According to psychologist and BBC columnist Claudia Hammond, “the sensation that time speeds up as you get older is one of the biggest mysteries of the experience of time.” Fortunately, our attempts to unravel this mystery have yielded some intriguing findings.

In 2005, for instance, psychologists Marc Wittmann and Sandra Lenhoff, both then at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, surveyed 499 participants, ranging in age from 14 to 94 years, about the pace at which they felt time moving—from “very slowly” to “very fast.”

For shorter durations—a week, a month, even a year—the subjects' perception of time did not appear to increase with age. Most participants felt that the clock ticked by quickly. But for longer durations, such as a decade, a pattern emerged: older people tended to perceive time as moving faster. When asked to reflect on their lives, the participants older than 40 felt that time elapsed slowly in their childhood but then accelerated steadily through their teenage years into early adulthood.

There are good reasons why older people may feel that way. When it comes to how we perceive time, humans can estimate the length of an event from two very different perspectives: a prospective vantage, while an event is still occurring, or a retrospective one, after it has ended. In addition, our experience of time varies with whatever we are doing and how we feel about it. In fact, time does fly when we are having fun. Engaging in a novel exploit makes time appear to pass more quickly in the moment. But if we remember that activity later on, it will seem to have lasted longer than more mundane experiences.

The reason? Our brain encodes new experiences, but not familiar ones, into memory, and our retrospective judgment of time is based on how many new memories we create over a certain period. In other words, the more new memories we build on a weekend getaway, the longer that trip will seem in hindsight.

This phenomenon, which Hammond has dubbed the holiday paradox, seems to present one of the best clues as to why, in retrospect, time seems to pass more quickly the older we get. From childhood to early adulthood, we have many fresh experiences and learn countless new skills. As adults, though, our lives become more routine, and we experience fewer unfamiliar moments. As a result, our early years tend to be relatively overrepresented in our autobiographical memory and, on reflection, seem to have lasted longer. Of course, this means we can also slow time down later in life. We can alter our perceptions by keeping our brain active, continually learning skills and ideas, and exploring new places.

If we were to take an extended vacation or to actually escape and retire someplace where there is not much happening like southern Mexico or Ecuador, and our psyche slows down to meet it, you may never be able to return to Earth at the current velocity.

Now, it may be a little unfair for me to analyze this for everyone. Although I have always felt as though I am America, my thought process is different that 98.6% of humans. Since I returned from the Sierra Nevadas in the summer of 1965, I have formed a transitory relationship with mortal experience.

That is to say, all experiences exists in multiple planes of perception at the same time. Humans have a small lens through which they look at the fabric we pass over at the rate of life. I know that is quite a bit in one sentence. Let me CTRl-Scroll for you. The fabric of the average reality, into which we weave our own thread of energy, is hard to explain in words, but the word is the key the natural high. It emits music from those who do not play, and paintings from those who do not paint. With it, the power of the mind is infinite.

When we have only one, very young mortality upon which to stand, you can only fly close to the fabric of spacetime. As we age, we are able to relate one discipline to another and then another. Herman Hesse wrote a book called *The Glass Bead Game*, which later was republished under the name *Magister Ludi*. Having Carl Jung as his psychologist, he was guided by a master of symbolism. Since the time when we only had one language, all mortals could share idea with words.

When the languages got scrambled, humans incorporated symbols into their writing and art to make sure the meaning was universal. We are not sure if the effort to destroy these meanings came from God or from Lucifer; nevertheless, the language of the symbols was destroyed. The meaning of the symbols was not destroyed. They each mean something. The cross, the spiral, the circle, the cube, triangle and star all excited something that reaches back into many mortalities on all worlds where we might have existed.

So, in Hesse’s book, there is a school called Castalia. At this school, all arts and sciences are taught. As a student progressed through mathematics, the student would receive a glass bead. One for multiplication, algebra, geometry, calculus, etc. After each course, the student would trade in the two or three beads for each subdiscipline for a single bead that represented the accomplishment of the total discipline. Obviously, you would know about multiplication, trigonometry, and algebra if you mastered calculus.

One did not stop there. The student was also taking music theory. They were learning to play one or more instruments as a solo and as part of grand symphonic group. The weaving of the instrument through the musical compositions made a total sound that was orders of magnitude more powerful and meaningly that any individual instrument. Again, each time the student would master a few pieces, the beads were exchanged for a combination master bead. Then poetry and languages would be added. Then, physics and chemistry, geology, biology, and on and on until all the sciences had been resolved into one bead.

Finally, at the end of the journey, the student had exchanged all their beads from all of their studies for one, single, all-powerful bead. The one bead that contained all known knowledge.

I read this book 50 years ago. It altered the way I store knowledge in my memory. Add to this the ability to recall experience, technology, beauty, music, the stars and travel through the Cygnus star system, of which there are many suns and dozens of planets, and many free floating planets upon which live civilizations who travel with that planet through the galaxy, and the fabric is deep and rich with more information that a hundred lifetimes could report at a convention of lifetimes. It isn’t all-knowing, but one glance at my resume will put you in a state of disbelief that such beings exist.

We do. I am not alone on this world. There are a few in every age, but right now there are thousands of us here. We haven’t all met one another. We don’t need to. That’s not our purpose.

The galactic war is nearly the same in all galaxies. Some have been conquered, and some have been liberated of their darkness. That is the nature of universes, of which there are more than can be counted.

Lest I take you to far from this mortality, let me share this with you. Humans are supposed to carry a god-class spirit. As spirits are created through the square root of Source, some choose not to follow the light into mortality, but rather long before this world was formed, they chose to follow the will of darkness. Those spirits were blocked from coming to this world through the seed of Adam and Eve. The spirits of darkness, by way of the skill and timeless knowledge of Lucifer, are able to come here as mortals another way. They bypassed the enmity placed in their way, but accessing Lucifer’s DNA to come here.

This has turned Earth into the grand battlefield for the success of this universe. Civilizations on other worlds have also been conquered the way Earth was conquered, but they do not have a path to victory, except through the Akashic record of Earth. Jesus, the Christ, established the resurrection on this world. All other worlds waited for Him to be born, live, and die, and resurrect on this world. Our pathway is also their pathway.

To everything there is a season. To seasons there are ages. The end of the Age is upon us. The time for the transition of Earth is upon us. Bearth is upon us. It requires two things to be completed before the transition is complete.

**The first is the Grand Separation.** Jesus taught this through several parables. The first one I want you to think about is the wheat and the tares. Wheat is a plant, the seed of which is the staff of life. The symbolism of wheat permeates throughout the ages. We use it to this very minute as a symbol of award and exaltation. The seed is full of power and sustenance. Tares are worthless. They are a weed, sucking the nutrients and life-giving water from the soil. The odd thing is that the wheat plant and the tares look identical when they are young. Before they come of age, they appear identical.

So, when the corruptor planted tares in among the wheat, the temptation was to burn the fields. Jesus explained that the gardener, the creator, cautions against burning everything, because in doing so, the wheat will be destroyed as well. He planted the wheat. He wants to harvest the wheat.

So, he lets the tares grow among the wheat to maturity. At the end of the Age, harvest time, the wheat and the tares are separated. The Grand Separation takes place at the hands of immensely powerful beings who carefully beckon the wheat to come forth out of the field.

In another parable, Jesus tells of when the shepherds drive their flocks together into canyons with steep sides on all side with a small opening at one end. All of the sheep happily enter the canyon, in the center of which is a large, grassy meadow where they gather as one group, leaving one or two shepherds guarding the entrance against wolves that might enter and killed the defenseless sheep. All the other shepherds go to town to trade for food and supplies for the rest of the journey.

When the days are done trading, one by one the shepherds come came to the canyon and call out their sheep. When asked how this can happen without mayhem and confusion, without all the sheep running out of the canyon at once, or a shepherd withdrawing sheep that belong to another flock, Jesus answered saying, “… and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. [**4**](https://biblehub.com/john/10-4.htm)And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. [**5**](https://biblehub.com/john/10-5.htm)And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. [**6**](https://biblehub.com/john/10-6.htm)This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.”

The second thing that must occur is **The Gathering**. This is done L’Olam, which translates *for worlds.* Do you get that? Humans are nearly as timeless as the universe itself, for we were created as the universe was formed. Trillions of spirits nearly identical, two by two, in a square root function as Source divided itself to form an individual soul address for each of us.

In the beginning, we are very nearly identical. As mortality is a process of completion of the sprit to become Source again, these spirits diverge. That is to say, in a very short number of mortalities, no two spirits are identical anymore for a long long period. Many many ages pass, and we change and grow and learn and die and live again. Then, close the end of all ages, when we have overcome everything, we become very much alike again. Completeness is completeness, except for one thing. The desire of the completed being will determine if it become light or darkness. A completely dark soul, and completely light soul, are nearly identical in every way, except the they cannot exist in the same space.

Hence, when the age is complete, as Jesus in answer to the disciples:

“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2024%3A3-14&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23964a)] and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

The end of the age is here. The Grand Separation is nearly complete. They call it the cancel culture, but that is just their name for it. We know the voice of our shepherd. You have heard it, or you would not be here tonight. If you are not sure you have heard it, then you haven’t. If your heart swells with compassion for the children who are being killed every day in the name of darkness, then you may have heard it. When you cover your mouth in abhorrence as evil leaders with dominion, as they suppose, sweep through the land and plunge you into poverty, or silence your voice, or mercilessly attack your protectors, you may have heard the voice.

The fabric is a canvas of average reality that flows beneath you as you run or fly to the end of time. Time is a perception created by the sentient beings in this universe to slow down the universe so that it will exist. At the speed of light, it is still the singularity. Our consciousness is what has slowed it down so we can behold it.

Now, overlay the disciplines. Lay math over music. Lay the beauty of physics and love carefully over the stars and the birth of a child. Breathe in the flower and feel the Earth. Press the glial cells of your mortal body against those of another body in harmony with your own. Move across the fabric with your heart open and listen for the voice that will gather you together, far away from the darkness.

**The Gathering**  is in the early stages, and most of you have already been separated from the rest of humanity. Many of you have lost friends, family, jobs, businesses, social groups where you have otherwise been welcomed for many years. Fear not. You are not alone.

Consider the parable of the ten virgins, 5 of whom had their lamps full and were ready when the groom called. 5 were not ready and tried to rush out and fill their lamps, but could not find the necessary fluid. The scripture says it is oil for the lamp, but I believe that tears are what fill the lamps. Tears that are shed for the oppression and deception of humankind by global forces who seek to enslave us and destroy us. Do not hesitate to cry for them, for this is what will make you ready, when He calls.

When you hear the voice, you will come to gather, because there is but one shepherd and one voice.

**Hope is On the Way**

The LA County Coroner said that they've had more suicides in the past 9 months than in the previous 30 years combined.  This is my friend, David Paulides' video about the loss of his 29 year old son, who was so distraught over not being able to be with his Krishna group because of the lockdowns that he killed himself about 3 weeks ago.  I read recently that the most hard hit people by the lockdowns are preteens and teens who cannot go out or be with any of their friends - saw a story about a 12 year old boy who killed himself a couple of weeks ago as well.

This is one of the reasons why these days shall be shortened. Mankind is at risk of being utterly destroyed by Virtual-Joe and his masters with the Global Syndicate. When it has become clear that no amount of voting will fix this problem, another solution will be made available. There is a time when good men and women must make a stand. We have to save the very most vulnerable and delicate of our society, or we will all be lost.

We must do more than resist. We must be smart and ally with one another so we support one another. Look for the local merchant who needs our business. Walk away from the globalists. When you get ready to buy, think village. Smaller markets. Smaller restaurants. Smaller stores. Dress shops, groceries, gas stations, and entertainment.

This is how we beat them. Shut off their money. No more ads bought on social media. No more buying online, if you can help it. Spend a little more, and let’s get our country back. Support those businesses who don’t demand the mask for entry. They are out there.

Let’s do it.

**ESA Is Recruiting Astronauts**

For the first time in 11 years, the European Space Agency (Esa) is recruiting new astronauts. Applications will open on [March 31 2021](https://www.esa.int/Newsroom/Press_Releases/Call_for_media_ESA_seeks_new_astronauts_-_applications_open_31_March_2021) for eight weeks, followed by a six-stage selection process to identify the next generation of European astronauts.

By 2030, humans will once again walk on the surface of the Moon, travel to Mars and potentially enjoy sub-orbital holidays. The new space era will provide enormous benefits to all of us. It will push technologies as we find ways to live sustainably beyond planet Earth, it will create exciting jobs and it will generate new socioeconomic opportunities.

Recruiting new astronauts is the first step into this new era of human space exploration. Many people may have dreamed of becoming an astronaut since childhood, but do you have what it takes?

Becoming an astronaut is not simple, nor is it easy. Esa is looking for candidates with different profiles and backgrounds. However, there are some [minimum requirements](https://www.esa.int/About_Us/Careers_at_ESA/ESA_Astronaut_Selection/Join_the_new_era_of_exploration_as_an_ESA_astronaut).

The candidates should be knowledgeable in scientific disciplines, with a university degree in physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering or medicine. They must have demonstrated operational and leadership skills and, preferably, have flying experience. However, there are many other skills that can be a real asset to selection, such as wilderness experience, teamwork and adaptability, self-control and ability with languages.

This time, Esa’s opening up its criteria regarding the physical ability of applicants, encouraging those with physical disabilities to apply if they otherwise fit the bill. This is part of a project looking into how best to adapt space travel [for disabled astronauts](https://www.esa.int/About_Us/Careers_at_ESA/ESA_Astronaut_Selection/Parastronaut_feasibility_project).

**The physical challenges**

Advancements in technology have allowed us not only to deliver humans to space, but also to live in space.

However, these longer space missions will present much greater challenges to human health and performance than the challenges currently faced by astronauts. Unprecedented distance, duration, isolation and increasingly autonomous operations will be combined with long exposure to a different kind of gravity to Earth – such as weightlessness or the partial gravity on the Moon and Mars.

Space is a hostile environment [for human health](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167779921000111?dgcid=author), with temperature extremes, lack of atmospheric pressure, microgravity, solar and galactic cosmic radiation and high speed micrometeorites.

[Radiation is considered](https://www.nasa.gov/hrp/5-hazards-of-human-spaceflight) one of the most menacing of the space hazards. On Earth, the planet’s magnetic field and atmosphere shield us from the majority of particles that make up the space radiation environment. Even brief exposure to space radiation can be extremely dangerous to health. It has been shown that radiation increases cancer risk, damages the central nervous system, alters cognitive functions, reduces motor control and affect behaviour.

Transitioning from the gravity of Earth to another is also trickier than it sounds. Exposure to non-terrestrial gravity leads to dramatic structural and functional changes in the human physiology, including alterations in the [cardiovascular](https://go.redirectingat.com/?id=92X1588396&xcust=space_us_1071235492620081200&xs=1&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nature.com%2Farticles%2Fnpjmgrav201631&sref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.space.com%2Feurope-is-recruiting-astronauts-heres-what-it-takes), [neural](https://go.redirectingat.com/?id=92X1588396&xcust=space_us_1192023466526880500&xs=1&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nature.com%2Farticles%2Fnpjmgrav201623&sref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.space.com%2Feurope-is-recruiting-astronauts-heres-what-it-takes) and [musculoskeletal systems](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28649630/).

Upon entry into microgravity, for example, pressure is removed from the bodily tissues, causing a migration of fluids from the legs toward the upper body and head – you might have noticed astronauts’ [puffy-looking faces](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4284461/). As a result, vision gets worst due to the pressure changes in the brain. Changes have been noticed in the muscles, which shrink and absorb extra tissues from their lack of use, and in the bones, which lose around 15% of their structural density.

**The mental challenges**

Among the most critical problems faced by humans in long duration spaceflight are the [cognitive, psychological and psychosocial challenges](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0094576512003232). Living in a confined space, far from home, in microgravity, for long periods with other people is not an easy task.

Dealing with microgravity is extremely difficult for the human brain. During their first few days of weightlessness, between 40% and 60% of astronauts experience a condition called [space adaptation sickness](https://www.jstor.org/stable/24531450?casa_token=NHjtCl8vvhgAAAAA%3AbXXgzJWk8qZCs9JJA4je_wjUoUzfM4raO3SXUBzb7PT8xg6bouRUZ1Db0K4mKlfcfRVQAnIj4U2cjRjJPf88wlueTGWtqaMv_DliBhUI7IfjIRpgCIpLng&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents). This causes symptoms of dizziness, vertigo, headaches, cold sweating, fatigue, nausea and vomiting. Consequences range from mild discomfort to impaired cognitive performance. For this reason, no [extra-vehicular activities](https://www.nasa.gov/content/extravehicular-activities) or [space-walks are allowed](https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/what-is-a-spacewalk-k4.html) during the first few days of space missions.

[Psychosocial changes](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11865866/) have also been observed in astronauts. Some have shown a reduced ability to communicate, less interactions with other crew members and the tendency to be more focused on themselves. [Motivational decline,](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sophie_Goemaere/publication/289694190_Gaining_Deeper_Insight_into_the_Psychological_Challenges_of_Human_Spaceflight_The_Role_of_Motivational_Dynamics/links/5cf8d0d74585153c3db74652/Gaining-Deeper-Insight-into-the-Psychological-Challenges-of-Human-Spaceflight-The-Role-of-Motivational-Dynamics.pdf) fatigue and social tensions might be easily triggered by isolation and confinement in an extraordinary highly demanding and life-threatening environment.

Not surprising, then, is the attention given by space agencies to cognitive and psychological requirements when selecting new astronauts. Candidates should demonstrate good reasoning capability, memory and concentration, the ability to work with others, low level of aggression, and emotional stability to cope with the level of stress and emergencies that may arise during spaceflight.

Long duration spaceflight has revealed a multitude of challenges to crews operating in space environment. Years of physical and psychological training, as well as in-flight medical and operational support, will equip astronauts with excellent tools to cope with the stresses of the spaceflight environment. It’s not an easy job, but certainly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

**This Country Belongs to Us**

President Donald Trump not only showed the world the way to peace and prosperity, he also exposed the Global Syndicate for who they really are. President Virtual-Joe signed an executive order this week revoking former President Donald Trump’s order providing federal funds to apprenticeship programs created by industries, calling for more government-controlled alternatives.

In 2017, Trump signed [Executive Order 13801](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/06/20/2017-13012/expanding-apprenticeships-in-america), Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs). The policy allowed “trade and industry groups, companies, non-profit organizations, unions, and joint labor-management organizations” to create their own apprenticeship programs that would help workers obtain the skills that the economy needed but that universities are not providing, or are providing at a cost that is unaffordable for many Americans.

“Registered Apprenticeships,” approved by the government, have been part of U.S. labor policy for decades. Under the Obama administration, these received more funding. But critics argued that the government-controlled model, run by the Department of Labor and with the involvement of labor unions, held back the growth of apprenticeships. The Trump order allowed industries (and unions) to develop their own programs, within regulations but independent of government control.

The *Washington Post* — hardly friendly to the Trump administration — [reported](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/06/15/trump-to-tout-apprenticeships-turning-to-an-issue-with-bipartisan-support/) that his new policy had bipartisan support:

Trump signed an executive order that seeks to reorient and expand ApprenticeshipUSA, a grant program that was previously championed by the Obama administration and has been supported by Democrats and Republicans alike.  
The administration’s aim, White House officials say, is to give more flexibility to third parties — including businesses, trade associations and labor unions — to design programs that will offer skills training to those who are seeking jobs for which they are not yet qualified.

Under current rules, the Labor Department is too heavy-handed in crafting the programs, they argue.

But left-wing groups, and some congressional Democrats, objected to Trump’s order. The Center for American Progress [complained](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-postsecondary/reports/2018/01/11/444829/administration-congress-not-undermine-registered-apprenticeships/) that Trump was creating “a parallel track that lacks adequate worker protections” that could allow for “the proliferation of low-quality programs.”

Democrats eventually [frustrated](https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/white-house-scraps-trumps-industry-led-apprenticeship-system) Trump’s new system, as Bloomberg News noted this week: “Democrats in Congress blocked funding and the implementing regulations weren’t finalized until last year.”

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), the Ranking Member on the House Committee on Education and Labor, objected to Virtual-Joe’s change in a [statement](https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=407191):

“President Virtual-Joe’s move to end IRAPs will kill jobs. Period. Doubling down on an inefficient, 80-year-old system that is unresponsive to workers’ needs is not a solution, it is irresponsible.

“In the last four months 131 IRAPs have been created, the vast majority of which are for nursing credentials. Why a party that claims to follow science would limit nursing credentials during a global pandemic is beyond me.

“Instead of catering to union bosses and increasing Washington’s overreach into the private sector, we should support and encourage efforts to cut the regulatory red tape that stops too many employers from filling in-demand jobs. Employer-led apprenticeship programs account for more than 80 percent of all apprenticeship programs nationwide. The success of these programs should come as no surprise, employers know best what skills their employees need to excel in the workplace.

The Virtual-Joe White House [described](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/) his new policy as “expanding registered apprenticeship programs,” with a view to training “diverse, local, well-trained workers who have a choice to join a union.”

The White House claimed that industry-run apprenticeships “have fewer quality standards than registered apprenticeship programs” and that they “fail to require the wage progression” that occurs under union-backed, government-run programs.

So, here’s what we can do about it. Continue the apprenticeship programs on our own. Mentors unite and rebel against Virtual-Joe’s attempt at turning every young person into a ward of the State. Train them in woodwork, metalcraft, electronics, welding, and masonry. Train the artisans of the next generation who can build houses, buildings, aircraft, new energy, and roads.

The Global Syndicate is afraid of people who can take care of themselves and can build cities on their own. Let’s make them afraid. The way they’re supposed to be afraid. We are not domestic terrorists. We are domestic creationists.

**Why Don’t Aliens Just Show Up Already?**

We live in a galaxy populated by hundreds of billions of suns. There are billions of terrestrial planets… So why in this vast space have we not (yet) had contact with extraterrestrial civilizations? Here are 11 possibilities to try to explain it.

Is there life elsewhere than on Earth or are we absolutely alone in the universe? This question worries humanity. Rather, one would tend to think that there are other inhabited worlds, especially considering that there are hundreds of billions of stars in our galaxy – and hundreds of billions of galaxies in it. universe – and that most of them are surrounded by planets …

In addition, 13 billion years have passed since the formation of the Milky Way, which, one may think, leaves quite a long time for life to emerge on a multitude of planets. So, as the famous Fermi paradox states, if there is life elsewhere and extraterrestrial civilizations (Carl Sagan predicted more than 10,000), why haven’t these beings come to find us yet? “But where are they? Cried Enrico Fermi. Here are 11 possibilities that could explain this silence.

**1. There are no aliens**

One possibility would be that we are absolutely (and desperately) alone throughout the universe. There would be no life other than on Earth. All other worlds would be sterile, in short. Or life could have begun and then been annihilated by a cosmic event. It is possible, but it is still hard to believe when we know, according to the statistics, that there are at least 40 billion habitable exoterres, in our galaxy alone.

**2. There is no intelligent extraterrestrial life**

First, how do you define intelligent extraterrestrial life? Are we one of them? After all, there may well be life elsewhere but of a primitive nature … microbial, for example, like the one that developed on Earth for several billion years. Or even plants and animals that would not (yet) have the faculties to communicate beyond their planet (for Earth, this was the case until very recently … at the geological scale).

**3. Aliens don’t use technology**

Extraterrestrial civilizations may well not have technology to communicate with other worlds. Their development may have been very different from ours, so they might not be interested in them. Or, don’t want to use it…

**4. Aliens have much more advanced technology than ours.**

Another scenario: their technology could be much more advanced than ours. It is possible that they use modes of communication that we do not (yet) know and that are impossible to decipher.

**5. Alien civilizations self-destruct**

When we see the challenges facing humanity, especially since the mid-twentieth century, it is permissible to think that elsewhere, on other planets, so-called “intelligent” civilizations may have caused their own disappearance. As far as we are concerned, the threats of collapse and/or extinction are multiple: nuclear fire at the end of a global conflict, severe global warming (famines, droughts, diseases, wars, collapse of Democracies, etc.) combined with the sixth mass extinction, epidemics, etc. Nevertheless, we can hope that Man will be able to avoid such issues …

**6. The universe is a very dangerous environment**

As we saw above, a sixth mass extinction has begun on Earth. While the latter is caused by our species, the previous ones all had a natural origin : natural climate change and also… asteroids, as was the case for the previous biological crisis, 65 million years ago. Today, Homo sapiens knows that asteroids may one day endanger life on Earth and he also knows that there are still other cosmic events that could annihilate it, such as surpernovae, quasars and also, near us, violent solar flares. It is therefore possible that elsewhere, and frequently, life did not have time to develop. Consider, for example, that the red dwarfs around which rocky planets are often discovered (see Trappist-1 and its 7 planets) are clearly stars with a devastating mood. Their repetitive angers greatly reduce the chances that these planets are truly habitable…

**7. The Milky Way Is Very Large**

To explain that contact with an advanced alien civilization has not yet occurred, another possibility is that our galaxy — and even more so, the universe — is so large that it could not yet happen. With a diameter of 100,000 light-years, we can imagine that signals emitted at the other end of the Milky Way take several millennia to arrive. It all depends on the distance and also when it was done. And then, let’s not forget that there are hundreds of billions of stars … we just might not have been spotted (yet).  For example, if they sent a signal 100 years ago and are 10,000 light-years away, then we will still have to wait 9,900 years. Same problem for us, who are (also) looking for interlocutors.

**8. We have been searching for aliens for too short a time**

Humanity has not been able to pick up signals from an extraterrestrial civilization via radio telescopes for a century yet. It’s been 80 years, and the active search for signals really began barely 60 years ago. It is therefore an extremely short period of time compared to the age of the Milky Way.

Also, there are so many possible directions that we don’t necessarily listen to the right place. As Andrew Fain illustrates in a UniverseToday article, it’s a bit like we’re looking for a friend’s frequency on a CB that has some 250 billion channels …

**9. Aliens emit little or no signals**

It is still possible that extraterrestrial civilizations listen without sending out strong signals, like what we do. On our side, we send some in the direction of a few stars. In reality, we have not yet made ourselves known.

**10. Aliens avoid us**

We do not know their ways of thinking of course. But, we can imagine that in fact we do not interest them at all, nor indeed our planet. The conditions there may be too hostile for them. Unless, too, we seem too dangerous and unfeasible to them. Who knows? Maybe we scare them!

It is also possible that they apply a galactic-scale policy of non-interference with regard to worlds like ours, populated by primitive beings… (as in Star Trek). Perhaps they then feel that contact would be too premature and have deliberately chosen, at least for now, to leave us alone, in our affairs, refraining from interfering.

**11. The aliens are already here**

Last but not least maybe the Visitors are already there and we haven’t even noticed them. So maybe they are watching us discreetly. On the other hand, from there to convince oneself that extraterrestrials have made agreements with the governments of several countries, as the conspirators carry out all the time and at the top of their lungs, that sounds more laughable than likely.

So, are we alone in the universe or not? In any case, according to several astronomers and exobiologists, we should soon know if there is life elsewhere. Researchers are confident of making such discoveries in the coming years. On the one hand, within our Solar System, via probes and landers on Mars, Europe and/or Enceladus. And, on the other hand, beyond that, by studying the atmosphere of the rocky exoplanets that we are always more acutely uncovering…

**The Parent-Teacher Revolt**

Today, heads of the powerful National Education Association union resigned. The public health community has long since concluded that the perils of prolonged school closures are far greater than the risks posed by COVID-19 to students and teachers. This fact has not been lost on parents, who are growing increasingly impatient with teachers who won’t return to the classroom. This frustration will increase exponentially now that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new [guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html) on how schools can and should safely reopen: “It is critical for schools to open as safely and as soon as possible, and remain open, to achieve the benefits of in-person learning and key support services.”

In most red states, public schools opened up last fall for full time in-person instruction or some hybrid of in-person and distance learning. The blue states have, however, been considerably more [dilatory](https://spectator.org/teachers-unions-covid-school-reopening/) about reopening. These states are, of course, governed by Democrats who are bought and paid for by the teachers unions. During the most recent election cycle, for example, the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) [contributed](https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/indus.php?ind=p04) a combined total of $43.6 million to Democrats and outside spending groups that support them. In the reopening debate, money talks and science walks. Ask California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

*In addition to the disproportionate amount of political power they wield, the teachers unions clearly couldn’t care less how much harm they inflict on our children.*

Newsom is facing a recall effort that is steadily gaining steam. “Rescue California” has already [collected](https://www.kusi.com/recall-gavin-newsom-campaign-reaches-needed-1-5-million-signatures/) 1.5 million “raw” signatures (1,495,709 verified signatures are required to put the question before the voters). And there can be little doubt that those signatures include many from parents enraged over the governor’s failure to rein in the teachers unions and reopen the schools. Moreover, the increasing frustration is bipartisan. A lot of progressives have grown tired of their children being held hostage by teachers and their unions. Rebecca Bodenheimer, Ph.D, is an excellent example. In “A progressive parent’s rant about the politics surrounding school reopening,” Bodenheimer [writes](https://rmbodenheimer.medium.com/a-progressive-parents-rant-about-the-politics-surrounding-school-reopening-a816cae963fd):

*I will never understand how the left in this country has decided that advocating for putting kids first is somehow right-wing. I’m hearing from progressive parents all the time who are so infuriated about the Democratic apathy around school reopening — from politicians like Gavin Newsom, who are willing to allow their stances to be dictated by teachers’ unions — that they’re considering supporting the recall effort, maybe even switching parties.… I won’t stay silent while unions ignore the science and the entire public health community, and all the research telling us schools aren’t drivers of transmission.*

The Democrats alienate people like Bodenheimer at their peril. No sane parent is going to put ideology before the education and well-being of his or her children. Nor will such people allow themselves to be distracted by conspiracy theories about Donald Trump or the weird claim that the GOP has been co-opted by QAnon. While their kids languish, they aren’t going to listen to that nonsense. They want their kids back in school, learning in-person and socializing with other children. If the Democrats continue to ignore this reality and provide lip service rather than solutions, people like Bodenheimer will support the politicians whom they believe will fix the problem — including Republicans.

And the GOP clearly intends to remind blue-state parents why their children are falling behind. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) [tweeted](https://twitter.com/Jim_Jordan/status/1361397969619140619) the following on Monday: “The CDC says it’s safe to open schools. So why does the ‘party of science’ want to keep schools closed?” Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) [explains why](https://twitter.com/RepNancyMace/status/1361400765605109763): “The science is unequivocally clear: Schools are safe to reopen. But instead of following the science, the Virtual-Joe administration is caving to teachers’ unions.” One of the few benefits associated with COVID-19 is what it has revealed to the general public about how much power the teachers unions actually wield over the Democratic Party and its policies. As Cato’s Kerry McDonald [writes](https://www.cato.org/commentary/teachers-unions-are-more-powerful-you-realize-may-be-changing):

*Teachers unions throughout the US claim to be looking out for the best interests of teachers and students, but they are deeply political … While the nation’s largest teachers unions have long been deeply connected to the Democratic Party and left‐​wing ideology, this political affiliation has become increasingly apparent in recent months. From hinging their support for reopening schools on outrageous policy demands to launching court battles, threatening strikes, and openly supporting disturbing actions during recent protests, today’s teachers unions are more powerful and dangerous than many parents may realize.*

They are indeed dangerous. In addition to the disproportionate amount of political power they wield, the teachers unions clearly couldn’t care less how much harm they inflict on our children. They don’t care about kids with special learning needs who languish before a computer screen. They don’t care about the children who rely on school lunches for proper nutrition. They don’t care about low-income kids with no internet who get virtually no education at all without in-person instruction. They don’t care about the effect of social isolation and the resultant increases in depression, anxiety, and suicide rates among the children they have abandoned. They just don’t care.

The parents are experiencing this callous attitude first hand. As Liesl Hickey [reports](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2021/02/10/remote-learning-public-school-teacher-union-column/4436558001/) in *USA Today*, some are preparing to sue teachers unions in Arizona, California, Illinois, and Virginia. If teachers don’t go back to work, there will be many more such lawsuits. If that fails, it’s time to start firing teachers. In the end, the inflexibility of the teacher’s unions is a function of its individual members. There is no significant risk associated with in-person instruction. The teachers know it, and the science proves it. Most importantly, the parents know it. If teachers remain intransigent and the Democrats acquiesce in their obstinance, parents will certainly revolt at the ballot box.

**Virtual-Joe Steals the Artemis Program Money for Climate Change Agenda**

It started with a soaring speech at the National Space Council by Vice President Pence that laid out an [ambitious if improbable goal](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/03/26/pence-calls-nasa-send-humans-moon-within-five-years/?itid=lk_inline_manual_2): NASA astronauts would return to the surface of the moon and do it by 2024. Pence’s declaration in 2019 that NASA would accelerate its schedule by four years made big headlines and sent shock waves through NASA and the space industry as he pledged that the agency would meet the mandate “by any means necessary.”

Virtual-Joe sees the money on the table, and he wants it for his Green New Deal. He says the mission to the Moon was never going to work, so he’s taking the money.

Now, Virtual-Joe is saying he may move the moon landing to 2028, Bridenstine had said that the agency would need $3.3 billion in next year’s budget to build the first spacecraft capable of landing astronauts on the moon since the Apollo era of the 1960s. With Pence’s backing, he crisscrossed the country and [the halls of Congress, urging lawmakers](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/09/24/nasa-is-trying-land-moon-biggest-challenge-might-be-congress/?itid=lk_inline_manual_5)to support the agency’s Artemis mission, which, as he pledged in his campaign-like stump speech, would put the “next man and first woman on the moon.”

The Democrat Congress robbed all but $850 million, well short of the full request. And so now, the 2024 goal will not be met.

“In order to make the 2024 goal, everything in the sequence leading up to it had to go right,” said John Logsdon, professor emeritus at George Washington University’s Space Policy Institute. “And in programs like this, that doesn’t usually happen.”

“The 2024 deadline energized NASA and its contractors to put more intensity into what they were doing,” Logsdon said.

Bridenstine, whose leadership [inspired an online fan club](https://www.jimbridenstinefan.club/), was praised for his work to build bipartisan support for Artemis. And unlike other unfulfilled promises of the Trump administration — a [border wall that didn’t get fully built](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/trump-border-wall-push/2020/09/29/689bc740-f8f5-11ea-a510-f57d8ce76e11_story.html?itid=lk_inline_manual_14) or the failure to [replace the Affordable Care Act](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-health-care-affordable-care-act/2020/09/24/e1cd928a-fe6b-11ea-9ceb-061d646d9c67_story.html?itid=lk_inline_manual_14) with a viable alternative — the effort to return astronauts to the moon is likely to continue under the Virtual-Joe administration, Republicans and Democrats say, though on a different timeline.

After stealing the election with the help of the CCP and billions in propaganda work from the Tech Giants, Virtual-Joe has said nothing about his plans for the space program. The transition team has not yet announced who it would nominate for administrator, though Democrats have said it is likely to be the first woman to ever occupy the position. Under Virtual-Joe, the agency will focus more on the Green New Deal, party officials said, and [note that its party platform says](https://democrats.org/where-we-stand/party-platform/), “We support NASA’s work to return Americans to the moon and go beyond the Mars, taking the next step in exploring our solar system.”

In an interview, Bridenstine, who stepped down from NASA on Jan. 20, said that given the shortfall in funding, NASA “is going to have to go back to the drawing board.”

Still, the Artemis program “is on solid footing. It is absolutely true that we didn’t get every dollar we requested, and that will make us reevaluate what the plan ultimately looks like,” he said. “But the fact that in the midst of a very challenging year, Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate said we want to fund a human landing system at $850 million — that’s a solid victory.”

In addition to lobbying lawmakers, Bridenstine has successfully courted several international partners in the effort, such as Japan, Australia and Canada, which are committing resources and signing a document known as the Artemis Accords that governs behavior on and around the moon. A broad international coalition, such as the one that governs the International Space Station, will provide continuity from one administration to the next, said Wayne Hale, a former NASA flight director, who now chairs an advisory committee.

“This administration has very smartly [instituted the Artemis Accords](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/10/13/artemis-moon-mining-agreement-signed/?itid=lk_inline_manual_22), which binds us with other nations,” he said. “And that I think is going to continue to motivate the administration that follows to carry on that project.”

NASA has also [highlighted the astronauts who would fly](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/12/09/pence-space-council-artemis/?itid=lk_inline_manual_24) on the Artemis missions — giving a face to the program and a hint of who the first woman to walk on the moon might be. But there are still numerous challenges that the Virtual-Joe administration will inherit.

The Space Launch System, NASA’s massive rocket that would fly astronauts to the moon, has never flown. And while it has in recent months made significant progress, it has over the years suffered many[setbacks and delays and billions of dollars](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/03/22/nasa-rocket-becomes-boeings-latest-headache-trump-demands-moon-mission/?itid=lk_inline_manual_25) in cost overruns. If all goes well at a major test of its engines Saturday, the rocket’s first flight, known as Artemis I, is expected to come late this year, propelling the Orion spacecraft, without any astronauts on board, in a mission around the moon. If the test is successful, NASA would then work to put a crew of astronauts in orbit around the moon for Artemis II, before the Artemis III landing.

Given that the Space Launch System is a massive, complex rocket, the most powerful ever built, and has never flown before, the current schedule may be very optimistic.

“NASA announces, without any kind of doubt, that Artemis I, II and III are going to go off without a hitch. If you look at SLS, it is a very complicated rocket,” said Homer Hickam, the author and a member of the National Space Council’s advisory committee. “The odds are it’s not going to work perfectly on the first launch. And if it doesn’t work perfectly, are you really going to put a crew on the second time?”

NASA has already [awarded nearly $1 billion in contracts](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/04/30/jeff-bezos-elon-musk-win-contracts-spacecraft-land-nasa-astronauts-moon/?itid=lk_inline_manual_30) to three companies for the initial development of spacecraft capable of landing astronauts on the lunar surface. A team led by Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin that includes Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Draper won $579 million, the biggest amount. (Bezos owns The Washington Post.) Dynetics, which teamed with Sierra Nevada Corp., was awarded $253 million, and Elon Musk’s SpaceX got $135 million.

Those contracts run out in February, and the second phase, in which NASA is expected to eliminate at least one of the bidders and continue with the others, would come shortly afterward. But some fear that will be delayed, as Democrats take office and assess NASA’s programs.

Bridenstine said that delays could hinder the momentum the program has and that he hoped that would not happen.

“I don’t think that would be in the interest of the agency or the program,” he said. “I haven’t heard that’s what they’re planning to do. But the goal is to go fast. That’s how you create a program that’s successful.”

Once again, the Establishment Party has robbed a generation of Space industries and scientists of the chance to bring new sources of energy and frontiers to explore. Once again, the taxpayers have their dreams and their pursuit of happiness put at the back of the Global bus to smell the fumes coming from the potty, which we so affectionately call the swamp.

**The Pelosi Plot to Stop the Debate**

The Capitol Police have over 2,000 sworn officers. A police force dedicated to protecting Capitol Hill has more personnel in its service than the police forces of most of the country.

Congress' private cops are the 19th largest police force in the country. It’s a larger force than the police forces of Atlanta, Baltimore, Denver, or Milwaukee with a massive $460 million budget.

It’s the only legislative federal force in the country that is answerable exclusively to Congress.

While Democrats advocated defunding the police, their private police force budget shot up from $375 million in 2016 to $460 million in 2020. After the Capitol Hill riot, expect it to go higher.

Much higher.

The media claimed that the Capitol Police were overwhelmed by a massive riot. Except that the number of violent rioters was, at most, in the hundreds, while the Capitol Police could deploy a force the size that protects entire cities to protect a few buildings from hundreds of people.

Media narratives have blamed President Trump for not calling out the National Guard, but the military should not have been needed to supplement a police force as big as those of Atlanta or Denver, but was not tied down with an entire city to police, and really only had one simple job.

And it catastrophically failed at that one job.

When Black Lives Matter rioters, incited by Democrats and the media, besieged the White House, 60 members of the Secret Service’s Uniformed Division were injured holding the line while President Trump and his family were taken to a bunker. 11 members of the Service were hospitalized due to the violence of the BLM riot that Democrats falsely claimed was peaceful.

Much of the heavy lifting was done by the Park Police, another one of the innumerable mini police forces swarming the city, which has only 641 sworn officers spread across three cities.

65 Park Police officers were wounded in the BLM riots and 11 had to be hospitalized.

This roughly matches the 60 Capitol Police and 58 D.C. cops injured in the Capitol riot.

Attorney General Barr listed a figure of 150 officers injured in total in the BLM riots in D.C.

That puts the lie to the false Democrat claim that those riots were peaceful and these weren’t.

The only objective metric for measuring what is and isn’t a riot is the amount of violence involved. Both sets of riots targeted a center of government, the White House for BLM and Capitol Hill for the alt-right, and the BLM riot was objectively more destructive.

In the Capitol riot, Brian Sicknick, a pro-Trump veteran, was struck on the head, suffered a brain clot and died. During the BLM riots, law enforcement officers suffered concussions. None died, but that’s a matter of luck, not restraint on the part of BLM thugs using clubs and bricks.

Despite the heavy toll on the injured officers from the Secret Service and the Park Police, Democrats and the media falsely accused both forces of violently assaulting “peaceful protesters”. Instead of condemning the violence which included bricks, bottles, fireworks, and bodily fluids being thrown at law enforcement officers, Democrats formed a lynch mob.

Rep. Grijalva demanded that White House fencing come down and that the head of the Park Police come down to testify. The Park Police were attacked for using tear gas. The *Washington Post* assailed a Secret Service officer for using mace against a BLM rioter attacking him.

Unlike the Capitol Police, the Park Police and the Secret Service did not kill a single BLM rioter despite provocations and bodily injuries. The same can’t be said of Congress’ keystone cops who managed to kill an unarmed woman who was not physically assaulting them at the time.

During the BLM riots, Democrats and their media considered mace against a violent assailant an overreaction, but think that shooting an unarmed woman who was not attacking anyone to be an underreaction proving that it’s not about policing, but that leftist lives matters, others don’t.

But the tactical question is why the Capitol rioters got into Congress and the BLM rioters never made it inside the White House. Intruders have gotten into the White House before, but the Secret Service and the Park Police kept the violent racist mob from getting through.

The White House has better security, but the question is why is Congress’ security so bad?

It’s not for a lack of money or manpower. The Capitol Police force is ridiculously huge. It has a massive budget. But it also has virtually no oversight except from a corrupt congressional system. The last time anyone paid attention to the Capitol Police, they were bungling [the Awan investigation](https://www.conservapedia.com/Democrat_IT_scandal) under pressure from Congressional Democrats. But that’s what the ‘Caps’ are for.

The Capitol Police are a patronage force. Things have improved since the days when joining meant knowing the right people. But not by that much. The level of professionalism of the various D.C. forces is fairly low, and the Capitol Police are notorious as the worst of them.

There’s very little oversight of the Capitol Police whose leadership is notorious for ignoring information requests and complaints. The massive force answers to Congress and it acts less like a police force than as bodyguards for a fairly corrupt organization with no accountability.

But that’s what it is.

When the FBI raided Rep. William ‘Cold Cash’ Jefferson’s office, there was outrage and Rep. Nancy Pelosi signed on to a statement demanding that the feds return the papers that they had “unconstitutionally” seized from the corrupt Dem’s office. The issue at stake was the FBI, which answers to the executive, was not supposed to operate on Capitol Hill and on Pelosi’s turf.

"Not anyone here is above the law," Pelosi argued. But that was exactly the point. Congress had its own private police and the FBI was not supposed to set foot in her domain.

Now, Pelosi is complaining that the executive didn’t dispatch a force quickly enough to her aid.

President Trump, despite false claims by Democrats and the media, did not tell anyone to attack Congress. Like Pelosi and other Democrats, he supported political protests. The violence began while President Trump was giving his speech and had nothing to do with his words.

It was up to Congress and its private police force to secure the premises and stop the violence.

The Capitol Police failed badly where the Secret Service and the Park Police had prevailed against BLM’s attack on the White House. They failed in ways that are baffling and inexcusable.

The most obvious problem is that some Capitol Police appeared to allow many of the protesters inside. Why this happened is a subject of heated debate, but the range of possibilities include an environment where leftist protesters storming and occupying Capitol Hill had been normalized, sympathy by the police, provocation by some higher authority, or miscommunication. All of this reflects badly on Congress and on its private police force.

The Capitol Police had the manpower and the budget to secure Congress. And there’s no excuse why Congress could not and should not have been secured. There was no brilliant strategy here. And the Capitol Police, despite being praised as heroes, behaved ineptly and showed no coherent plan, some trying to deescalate, while others lashed out violently.

These mixed messages may have been due to the Black Lives Matter effect, a successor to the Ferguson Effect, which left many police officers afraid to resist criminals for fear of losing their jobs and even going to jail. When the White House came under attack, Attorney General Barr and national security officials rallied law enforcement personnel to make a strong stand.

When Capitol Hill came under siege, there was no congressional leadership to respond to it. Instead of taking command of the situation, House members panicked, squabbled, and let their private police flail with the situation while they hid away. The sharp contrast between President Trump and Attorney General Barr in Lafayette Square, and members of Congress waiting for their police force to protect them isn’t just ideological. It’s a basic question of crisis leadership.

Democrats and the media falsely claimed that what happened in Lafayette Square was a photo op for which peaceful protesters were gassed, but it’s how you show leadership in a riot.

Congress waited for their private police force to protect them whose members knew that whatever happened, they would be blamed for overreacting or underreacting to the protest by a leadership that doesn’t understand what they do and is sacrificing them to cover its asses.

President Trump, AG Barr, and administration officials gave clear orders to federal law enforcement to stand their ground. Administration officials then protected officers from the fallout as the same Democrats howling for the heads of Capitol rioters were howling for the heads of Secret Service and Park Police leaders who were holding back the hordes of racist BLM rioters.

Capitol Police members had no sense that Pelosi or that members of Congress were behind them. They were operating in a BLMized law enforcement environment in which violent attacks against police and timid responses to them by the authorities had been normalized. They had no clear orders, they were divided by their own political sympathies and by internal politics.

The Capitol riot should have been just another stressful encounter that would have been contained at the expense of injuring some officers and rioters without breaching Congress.

The media has constructed a false narrative in which the White House overreacted to BLM and underreacted to the Capitol riot. But it wasn’t the White House’s job to protect Congress. That’s why Congress has a force of 2,300 people and a $460 million budget with just one job to do.

The question of why it failed at that job ought to be directed to Pelosi and congressional leaders.

The Capitol riot is Pelosi’s disaster and she’s making the most of it by blaming it on everyone else. Her private police force had the resources and the people to keep out the Visigoths, never mind a few hundred people, and instead turned what should have been a riot into a disaster.

Whether that was intentional or not is a question that pits Hanlon’s Razor “never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity” against Washington D.C. cynicism.

But there is little question that Speaker Pelosi and the Democrats have massively profited from their mismanagement, initiating proposals to impeach President Trump, expel legislators, purge Republicans from social media platforms, and to cut off corporate donations to them.

While the media propaganda blares non-stop, heads are quietly rolling at the Capitol Police, but don’t expect that to do anything except lower morale and water down the force even further.

Meanwhile the party of police defunding will see to it that the Capitol Police budget tops those of most major cities, that its ranks continue to swell, and that it remains as incompetent as ever.

And then the next disaster in Congress will also be blamed on someone who isn’t in Congress.

Why couldn’t Congress’ private police force of 2,000 protect it from a mob of hundreds? Don’t ask Congress. Just pay the $460 million, cry over the headlines, and keep your mouth shut.

**New York House Bill A99 Has a New Section for 2021**

UPON DETERMINING BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE HEALTH

OF OTHERS IS OR MAY BE ENDANGERED BY A CASE, CONTACT OR CARRIER, OR

SUSPECTED CASE, CONTACT OR CARRIER OF A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE THAT, IN THE

OPINION OF THE GOVERNOR, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER, MAY

POSE AN IMMINENT AND SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESULTING

IN SEVERE MORBIDITY OR HIGH MORTALITY, THE GOVERNOR OR HIS OR HER DELE-

GEE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE COMMISSIONER OR THE HEADS OF

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, MAY ORDER THE REMOVAL AND/OR DETENTION OF SUCH

A PERSON OR OF A GROUP OF SUCH PERSONS BY ISSUING A SINGLE ORDER, IDEN-

TIFYING SUCH PERSONS EITHER BY NAME OR BY A REASONABLY SPECIFIC

DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUP BEING DETAINED. SUCH PERSON OR

GROUP OF PERSONS SHALL BE DETAINED IN A MEDICAL FACILITY OR OTHER APPRO-

PRIATE FACILITY OR PREMISES DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR OR HIS OR HER

DELEGEE AND COMPLYING WITH SUBDIVISION FIVE OF THIS SECTION. A PERSON OR GROUP REMOVED OR DETAINED BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OR

HIS OR HER DELEGEE PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets

[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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DETAINED FOR SUCH PERIOD AND IN SUCH MANNER AS THE DEPARTMENT MAY DIRECT

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

4. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY INCONSISTENT PROVISION OF THIS SECTION:

(A) A CONFIRMED CASE OR A CARRIER WHO IS DETAINED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVI-

SION TWO OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED AFTER THE

DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT SUCH PERSON IS NO LONGER CONTAGIOUS.

(B) A SUSPECTED CASE OR SUSPECTED CARRIER WHO IS DETAINED PURSUANT TO

SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED AFTER

THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES, WITH THE EXERCISE OF DUE DILIGENCE, THAT SUCH

PERSON IS NOT INFECTED WITH OR HAS NOT BEEN EXPOSED TO SUCH A DISEASE,

OR IF INFECTED WITH OR EXPOSED TO SUCH A DISEASE, NO LONGER IS OR WILL

BECOME CONTAGIOUS.

**Goliath vs Davids**

On January 1, the stock price of the bricks-and-mortar video game retailer GameStop (stock symbol: GME) was idling at less than $19 a share. Then the stock swelled into a giant bubble, becoming for a time the most traded stock on the planet and reaching, on January 28, an interday high of [$483](https://finance.yahoo.com/chart/GME#-), an increase of more than 2,500 percent. Then the stock fell back to earth again, closing at a mere $40 on February 19.

Along the way, the GameStop parabola received enormous attention, as accusations flew about market manipulation. I told you the hedge fund would go bawling to Congress, and right on queue, they did just that.

February 18, when the House Financial Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), [convened a hearing](https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/gamestop-stock-hearing-keith-gill-reddit-robinhood), given a showy title in advance: “Game Stopped? Who Wins and Loses When Short Sellers, Social Media, and Retail Investors Collide.”

Sure enough, reporters and gawkers were all on hand, virtually. Waters called six witnesses. They were all Goliaths holding their foreheads. She did not want the CEO of GameStop to say a word, so she did not invite him. She wanted to know how she could help her campaign contributors, the biggest hedge funds in the US, recover their losses from having their balls squeezed by the shareholders of GameStop who held the line against their efforts to delist them and make a profit off the blood.

Yet the witnesses on call provided plenty of entertainment. For instance, Vlad Tenev, CEO of Robinhood, the popular [online app](https://robinhood.com/us/en/) that helped put the air in the GameStop bubble, apologized for his actions last month–that is, when he wasn’t being interrupted by Waters, as happened about 30 seconds into his opening statement, and many times thereafter–when he restricted trading on the stock at the height of its frenzy. Robinhood’s deeds were widely criticized at the time as a favor to financial giants, which had been “shorting” GameStop stock (that is, betting it would go down) and losing billions as activist investors, mostly small fry, relentlessly bid the price up.

One of those financial giants that was losing money—and was at risk of losing a lot more until Robinhood stepped in—was Citadel. Its founder and chief, billionaire Ken Griffin, also called to testify and was told by Waters that his company “may pose a systemic threat” to the financial system. The words “systemic threat,” we might add, are a legal term of art, fraught with legal and regulatory implications for Citadel. Meanwhile, Waters pledged to investigate further and to hold yet more hearings.

Still, if we step back and look at the GameStop episode through an historical prism, we can see that the company’s stock has now joined many other infamous bubbles of financial history, from the [tulipmania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulip_mania" \t "_blank) of the 17th century, to the [South Sea Bubble](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sea_Company) in the 18th century, to the [Credit Mobilier scandal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cr%C3%A9dit_Mobilier_scandal) of the 19th century, to the [1929 stock market crash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wall_Street_Crash_of_1929), which saw the [Dow Jones Industrial Average nearly quadruple](https://stockcharts.com/freecharts/historical/marketindexes.html) from 1922 to 1929—and then fall 90 percent from 1929 to 1933.

In each instance, the story was manic buying, followed then by panic selling.  So in this historical sense, as a study in the manias of human emotion, the GameStop Bubble is nothing new.

Yet even so, the details of this latest bubbling are interesting because we can espy important social and technological trends, destined to reverberate far beyond the stock market, all the way to politics.  Yes if the politicians can come to GameStop, the GameStoppers will find their way to politics.

**Goliath vs. Davids**

The billion-dollar battle over GameStop (stock symbol: GME) has been commonly depicted as a [David vs. Goliath story](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/personal-finance/young-money/article-as-a-blueprint-for-a-lifetime-of-investing-success-the-gamestop-story/). On the Goliath side: big hedge funds such as Citadel, using highly sophisticated institutional trading systems and scoundrel called market makers who spread bad news about the company, forcing the stock to plummet with an avalanche of bad news.  On the David side, *millions of* Davids, using Robinhood and similar apps. We call Robinhood the loser’s board for a reason.

Moreover, the Davids have been creating a new kind of organization.  And that was  through [Reddit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reddit), the online chat site.  Reddit users, known as Redditors, have self-organized into smaller units, known as subreddits, where they hold forth on any and all issues—including, of course, finance.

Thus the subreddit [r/wallstreetbets](https://www.reddit.com/r/wallstreetbets/) boasts 9.1 million members—plus an unknown number of simply visitors.  Together, they’re all a motley crew of day-traders, lurkers, [YOLO](https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Yolo) adventurers, and pontificators, both anonymous and identified, and sprinkled, as well, with celebrities; on February 2, for instance, billionaire [Mark Cuban](https://www.reddit.com/r/wallstreetbets/comments/lawubt/hey_everyone_its_mark_cuban_jumping_on_to_do_an/?stream=top) sat down with r/wallstreetbets for an online AMA (Ask Me Anything); during that session, Cuban praised his audience for “changing the game,” adding, “No disruption is easy or happens in a straight line.  Stay with it.  I am a believer.”  (Did we mention that the founder of r/ wallstreetbets has scored a [movie dea](https://www.wsj.com/articles/reddits-wallstreetbets-founder-sells-life-story-to-movie-producer-ratpac-entertainment-11612440001?mod=wsjtwittertest19&twclid=11360584126571675650)l?)

There’s also a [subreddit devoted just to GME](https://www.reddit.com/r/GameStop/), boasting more than 67,000 members.

From this fiesty matrix has come a new horde of “finfluencers” (a gluing together of “financial” and “influencers”).  Perhaps the most famous, or notorious, of these is one Keith Gill, 34, who has cut a swashbuckling figure online, wearing a bright red headband, using the online handle of “DeepF\_\_ingValue.”  Gill has been instrumental in the GME action, and so he stands out as an [meme stock](https://blog.mywallst.com/what-is-a-meme-stock/) seer, a cyber-leader—or, as some insist, a troublemaker.  On Thursday, he, too, was a witness.

Thus we see that newfangled technology, joined with old-fashioned human nature—including its innovative, showy, even ornery, side—has come together to challenge and perhaps transform the financial markets.

Without a doubt, the old guard of Wall Street sees Gill & Co. as a threat. One such old guarder is the 77-year-old hedge-fund billionaire [Leon Cooperman](https://twitter.com/disclosetv/status/1354862517902827521), who last month denounced the GME stampede as a new kind of class warfare: “It’s a way of attacking wealthy people.”

Meanwhile, other Wall Street veterans have a far different view.  For instance, there’s Chris Arnade, who quit his job in finance to start a new career as a [muckraking chronicler and photographer of the downtrodden](https://www.amazon.com/Dignity-Seeking-Respect-Back-America/dp/0525534733/ref=sr_1_1?crid=230I866B9VAHJ&dchild=1&keywords=chris+arnade+dignity+seeking+respect+in+back+row+america&qid=1612311895&s=books&sprefix=chris+arn,aps,167&sr=1-1).  Summoning up his cynical recollection of industry practices, Arnade [tweeted](https://twitter.com/Chris_arnade/status/1354494122611105793):

Hedge Funds 1) Take big positions, then talk them up in the media & to their friends 2) Put on those position via complex financial products to get the most leverage & exploit weaknesses in markets.  That is exactly what Reddit is now doing to Hedge Funds & so they are upset.

To put that another way, the big hedge funds have been having it their way and doing just fine—and they don’t much like it when interlopers disrupt their profitable inside schemes.

So GME’s rise and fall is a phenomenon worth studying, not only for its financial and legal implications, but also for its *political* implications.  You see, the GME flap further strengthens that most intriguing of political phenomena: *the horseshoe.*That is, the uniting of the populist right and the populist left, at least on some particular issues.

Hence this January 31 *New York Times* [heading](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/31/us/politics/gamestop-robinhood-democrats-republicans.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage): “Lawmakers Look at GameStop Furor and See a Populist Issue to Seize: Ted Cruz. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.  The rush by both parties to side with young traders disrupting the markets reflects the broad recognition of the impulses driving American politics.”

As the article observed, “It’s Occupy Wall Street, the sequel. It’s elements of the Tea Party, again. It’s Bernie bros and MAGA-maniacs.”  The piece quoted Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), offering a [Bryanesque](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5354/" \t "_blank) Great Plains perspective on the East Coast shenanigans:

Big Hedge, with outposts in South Hedge-i-stan (Wall Street) and North Hedge-i-stan (Greenwich, CT), has made trillions shorting great American companies facing a rough patch.  Now they are getting a comeuppance from flash mobs of day traders and are paying dearly.

It’s worth emphasizing that this is a *Republican* talking–admittedly, a different kind of Republican than what we’re used to.

As many Redditors have said, the anger over GME reaches back to the 2008 financial crisis, when the bigs were bailed out, while the smalls were shafted.  One widely read post from [ssauron](https://www.reddit.com/r/wallstreetbets/comments/l6omry/an_open_letter_to_melvin_capital_cnbc_boomers_and/" \t "_blank) recalled:

I was in my early teens during the ’08 crisis. I vividly remember the enormous repercussions that the reckless actions by those on Wall Street had in my personal life, and the lives of those close to me . . . When that crisis hit our family, we were able to keep our little house, but we lived off of pancake mix, and powdered milk, and beans and rice for a year.

In the meantime, ssauron continued in regard to the GME price-surge, “We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to punish the sort of people who caused so much pain and stress a decade ago, and we’re taking that opportunity.”

One needn’t have a refined position on the intricacies of the GME battle to see that a generational struggle—and yes, maybe, too, a class struggle—is playing itself out.

**The Endless Frontier of Online Activism**

In addition to the manifest anger of the young activists, we can add the new power of online technology; the fight over GME is just the latest in a long list of instances in which Internet flashmobs have flared up—and quite often seared someone or something.  For example, back in [2004](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killian_documents_controversy), bloggers led the campaign to uncover the truth about Dan Rather’s phony memos smearing George W. Bush.  Then, in [2011](https://www.breitbart.com/), Occupy Wall Street was social media-driven.  In [2016](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2016/09/06/clinton-campaign-aligns-with-anti-gamergate-developer-brianna-wu-to-attack-breitbart/), we had the fight known as Gamergate.  And in [2019-20](https://variety.com/2020/film/news/sonic-box-office-win-character-redesign-1203505411/), came the fan-driven brouhaha over, yes, the movie *Sonic the Hedgehog*.

The common thread in these and many other “Netcidents” is this: Online activists target something they don’t like, self-organize, and then find some new way to exploit the weakness of their target to try to force change.

Some might say that, regardless of ideology, there’s something, well, [Alinsky-ish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rules_for_Radicals) abut the way these cyber-activists are operating.  Others would say, “No, this is just good old-fashioned American ingenuity expressing itself yet again; only this time, the inventors are inventing new online strategies, and the tinkerers are tinkering with their iPhones.”

And more is coming: As Bloomberg News [reports](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-02-01/gamestop-gme-is-old-news-after-reddit-discovers-silver-futures?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_term=210206&utm_campaign=sharetheview), “guerrilla investors” are now moving on to other stocks, to silver, and to cryptocurrencies.

Yes, the future is in our handhelds.

**When the Techtivists Come to Politics**

If we’re seeing this much raw energy and this much tech savvy in the world of stocks, it’s a safe bet that we’ll soon be seeing it, too, in politics, including *electoral* politics.  That is, new activists bursting with new ideas are likely to change electioneering just as surely as the Redditors have changed investing. As a play on “tech” and “activists,” we might call them *techtivists*.

To be sure, Reddit already has plenty of political subreddits, such as [r/politics](https://www.reddit.com/r/politics/), but these are mostly discussions of current issues.  Yet as for subreddits attuned to the populist right, it should come as no great shock that Reddit—it’s Big Tech, after all— banned the subreddit [The\_Donald](https://www.axios.com/reddit-bans-the_donald-forum-as-part-of-major-hate-speech-purge-fbc8a185-0f81-402a-8629-08bec50be4f9.html" \t "_blank) last summer, then putting the kibosh on another subreddit, [DonaldTrump](https://www.axios.com/reddit-bans-rdonaldtrump-subreddit-ff1da2de-37ab-49cf-afbd-2012f806959e.html" \t "_blank), just last month.

So by now it’s no surprise that rowdy MAGA groupings on Big Tech platforms are likely to be cancelled.  Thus new approaches are needed.

One approach, of course, is to migrate to some new platform, although the case of Parler—which was shut down for the better part of a month—shows that it’s hard to escape Big Tech’s hammer.  To stop this, as [this author](https://www.breitbart.com/2020-election/2021/01/24/pinkerton-in-dealing-with-big-tech-the-american-people-need-a-seat-at-the-table/) has written, conservatives, and all Americans, need a political plan for putting themselves at the Tech table.  That is, use direct political power to protect websites, and access to those sites, in the same way that public authorities mandate that utilities serve all customers.  The free market is great, but sometimes, to protect rights and freedom, you have to pass a law.

And if we start thinking about the political power needed to achieve goals, our thoughts must come to *voting*.  So now we might ask: What’s the online version of political activism for the sake of *voting*and actually *winning elections*?

Most obviously, anyone who can build an online group might also be able to build an online *bloc of voters*.  To be sure, politicians and parties have been assembling voter blocs for eons and yet there’s always a new and better way, based on some emerging issue, such as, most recently, GameStop. And there’s always some new emerging technology, such as, most recently, handheld apps.  Can Redditors—or users of other platforms, including the newest newbie, [Clubhouse](https://www.joinclubhouse.com/)—figure out a better way to build a vote-minded platform or ecosystem?

As of now, nobody has figured out a specific political agenda that appeals to cyber-investor activists.  And yet even now, we can see at least some of the possible outlines: It would be oriented toward small investors, toward upward mobility, and toward technological ingenuity.  And it would be against entrenched cronyism.  So far, at least, from a Republican point of view, what’s not to like?

Of course, there’s no knowing for sure where GameStoppish political energy would end up, and what other political or policy ideas these energizer bunnies might have. All we know is that if an appropriate ideological and political platform could be shaped, it could potentially attract the urgency, and the votes, of all those millions of activists.

For instance, we can wonder: Could an Internet flashmob be the next victory coalition in an election?  We might particularly zero in on *primary* elections, where the vote-universe is much smaller—and so a motivated group of voters could organize and win, fair and square.

We can further add: If we could find a way to harness the minds that figured out how to crowdsource such exotic concepts as the [gamma squeeze](https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/what-is-a-gamma-squeeze-2021-01-28), we might then have a potent force on our hands, beyond even its numbers, ready to rumble with the establishment—including the GOP establishment—in ways that we can’t foresee.  That’s the thing about new people and new ideas: they have a way of confounding the wisdom of the wise.

Yes, there are a zillion causes that people might wish to mobilize on behalf of, some old, some new.  And now, as we have seen, they have the power in their own handhelds.

Yet all causes and their champions in any era face the same challenge: They must trek their way through the unknown territory of the future to some new destination. And for that trek, the more tech tools they have, the better.

In politics, as in anything else, victory will come to those who best envision, motivate, gear up, and, most of all, *implement*.  A good idea with no follow-through isn’t worth much.  A good idea *with* follow-through can change the world.

**Where to Now?**

GameStop is making progress and continues to fight off obsolescence, but the retailer isn't in the clear yet. A new generation of consoles will almost certainly provide a temporary boost in revenue and profits both in the remaining part of 2020 and much of 2021. However, it remains to be seen just how much revenue new deals with Microsoft and potentially Sony as well will generate and if it's enough to save the company. Even then, GameStop may still need to innovate in the e-commerce channel to return to its former glory as the premier video game retailer.

Now, they are fueled with tons of fresh cash and very very smart people. They are going to survive, now that they have mortally wounded the short traders. They may do far better than that.

## Reason #1 Consoles

If you know nothing about video games, then you might not be aware that both Sony ([SNE](https://seekingalpha.com/symbol/SNE?source=content_type%3Areact%7Cfirst_level_url%3Aarticle%7Csection%3Amain_content%7Cbutton%3Abody_link)) and Microsoft ([MSFT](https://seekingalpha.com/symbol/MSFT?source=content_type%3Areact%7Cfirst_level_url%3Aarticle%7Csection%3Amain_content%7Cbutton%3Abody_link)) just launched competing video game consoles earlier this month. The Sony PlayStation 5, and the Microsoft Xbox Series X and Series S. You can read my [Sony article on the new consoles here](https://seekingalpha.com/article/4375449-sony-new-consoles-be-catalyst-for-higher-multiple?source=content_type%3Areact%7Cfirst_level_url%3Aarticle%7Csection%3Amain_content%7Cbutton%3Abody_link), and my [Microsoft article here](https://seekingalpha.com/article/4373752-why-new-consoles-are-bigger-deal-you-might-think-and-make-microsoft-must-buy?source=content_type%3Areact%7Cfirst_level_url%3Aarticle%7Csection%3Amain_content%7Cbutton%3Abody_link)to learn more about each console.

GameStop sells these consoles to the end consumer. The consoles cost several hundred dollars each. Sales of both consoles so far have been strong as more people staying at home more often during the pandemic is resulting in strong demand for entertainment. Just about every store you check is sold out, including GameStop.

GameStop will likely see a respectable boost to revenue in Q4 of this year due to the console launches, although both Sony and Microsoft seem to be struggling to meet demand, meaning retailers may not sell as many devices as they'd like. Nonetheless, 2021 should continue to be very strong for console sales as supply catches up to demand over the course of the year.

Given that 2021 will be the first full year of new generation console sales, it is likely GameStop will see a substantial boost in revenue in 2021. This definitely is good news for GameStop, but consoles are fairly low margin items. The real story this time around is GameStop's agreement with Microsoft, and a speculated agreement with Sony that has the potential to boost GameStop's margins significantly.

## Reason #2 New Agreements With Microsoft and Possibly Sony

While we don't know all the details yet, GameStop reached a deal with Microsoft that has GameStop employees using Microsoft devices and software in-store, and GameStop earning a share of digital revenue, or at least that's how some analysts are understanding the agreement. It remains unclear how exactly this will work, but supposedly GameStop will receive some form of revenue share for digital content purchased on consoles after a consumer purchases a console at GameStop. Both Sony and Microsoft have moved toward digital game download sales rather than disk-based sales with consoles that no longer have disc drives.

This could potentially be huge for GameStop. Even a 5% revenue share would not only encourage GameStop to sell more of the discless consoles, but would also actively incentivize GameStop to sell customers on things like Microsoft's Game Pass, which gives gamers access to dozens of games for a monthly fee (essentially the Netflix of gaming).

Furthermore, it appears likely GameStop will reach a similar agreement with Sony for a few reasons. First off, GameStop management has mentioned on calls about reaching deals with several partners, which would imply Sony and possibly even Nintendo ([OTCPK:NTDOY](https://seekingalpha.com/symbol/NTDOY?source=content_type%3Areact%7Cfirst_level_url%3Aarticle%7Csection%3Amain_content%7Cbutton%3Abody_link)) have something in the works. Second, if Sony doesn't strike some sort of deal with GameStop, GameStop will be heavily incentivized to favour selling Xbox consoles over Sony's PlayStation 5 consoles.