**Measuring Consciousness**

***Summary:****Researchers recorded the electrical activity in over 1000 neurons around 100 sites of the brain during different states of consciousness in monkeys. The results were analyzed by machine learning. Results pointed away from the prefrontal cortex, an area monitored to safely maintain general anesthesia, and toward areas at the back of the brain. The study reveals deep brain and areas toward the back of the brain are more predictive of states of consciousness.*

***Source:****University of Wisconsin Madison*

**Millions of people are administered general anesthesia each year in the United States alone, but it’s not always easy to tell whether they are actually unconscious.**

A small proportion of those patients regain some awareness during medical procedures, but a new study of the brain activity that represents consciousness could prevent that potential trauma. It may also help both people in comas and scientists struggling to define which parts of the brain can claim to be key to the conscious mind.

“What has been shown for 100 years in an unconscious state like sleep are these slow waves of electrical activity in the brain,” says Yuri Saalmann, a University of Wisconsin-Madison psychology and neuroscience professor.

“But those may not be the right signals to tap into. Under a number of conditions — with different anesthetic drugs, in people that are suffering from a coma or with brain damage or other clinical situations — there can be high-frequency activity as well.”

UW-Madison researchers recorded electrical activity in about 1,000 neurons surrounding each of 100 sites throughout the brains of a pair of monkeys at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center during several states of consciousness: under drug-induced anesthesia, light sleep, resting wakefulness, and roused from anesthesia into a waking state through electrical stimulation of a spot deep in the brain (a procedure the researchers described in 2020).

“With data across multiple brain regions and different states of consciousness, we could put together all these signs traditionally associated with consciousness — including how fast or slow the rhythms of the brain are in different brain areas — with more computational metrics that describe how complex the signals are and how the signals in different areas interact,” says Michelle Redinbaugh, a graduate student in Saalman’s lab and co-lead author of the study, published today in the journal *Cell Systems*.

To sift out the characteristics that best indicate whether the monkeys were conscious or unconscious, the researchers used machine learning. They handed their large pool of data over to a computer, told the computer which state of consciousness had produced each pattern of brain activity, and asked the computer which areas of the brain and patterns of electrical activity corresponded most strongly with consciousness.

The results pointed away from the frontal cortex, the part of the brain typically monitored to safely maintain general anesthesia in human patients and the part most likely to exhibit the slow waves of activity long considered typical of unconsciousness.

“In the clinic now, they may put electrodes on the patient’s forehead,” says Mohsen Afrasiabi, the other lead author of the study and an assistant scientist in Saalmann’s lab. “We propose that the back of the head is a more important place for those electrodes, because we’ve learned the back of the brain and the deep brain areas are more predictive of state of consciousness than the front.”

And while both low- and high-frequency activity can be present in unconscious states, it’s complexity that best indicates a waking mind.

“In an anesthetized or unconscious state, those probes in 100 different sites record a relatively small number of activity patterns,” says Saalmann, whose work is supported by the National Institutes of Health.

UW-Madison researchers recorded electrical activity in about 1,000 neurons surrounding each of 100 sites throughout the brains of a pair of monkeys at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center during several states of consciousness. Image is in the public domain

A larger — or more complex — range of patterns was associated with the monkey’s awake state.

“You need more complexity to convey more information, which is why it’s related to consciousness,” Redinbaugh says. “If you have less complexity across these important brain areas, they can’t convey very much information. You’re looking at an unconscious brain.”

More accurate measurements of patients undergoing anesthesia is one possible outcome of the new findings, and the researchers are part of a collaboration supported by the National Science Foundation working on applying the knowledge of key brain areas.

“Beyond just detecting the state of consciousness, these ideas could improve therapeutic outcomes from people with consciousness disorders,” Saalmann says. “We could use what we’ve learned to optimize electrical patterns through precise brain stimulation and help people who are, say, in a coma maintain a continuous level of consciousness.”

This research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health (R01MH110311 and P51OD011106), the Binational Science Foundation, and the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center.

**It Takes Someone Who Escaped Poland**

HOLLAND, Mich. — A Michigan restaurateur was arrested early Friday morning over alleged violations of state Made-4-TV virus orders, her legal adviser told Breitbart News.

Rick Martin said Marlena Hackney, purveyor of Marlena’s Bistro and Pizzeria in Holland, was arrested one block from her home by Michigan State Police.

Hackney has refused to close her establishment despite multiple orders from the state to close after reopening last summer. She was told by a judge to surrender by Thursday, which she declined to do.

According to Martin, Hackney is on her way to Lansing — 100 miles away — to appear before a magistrate.

*Michigan Capitol Confidential* [reported](https://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/she-fled-communism-for-freedom-now-faces-jail-for-not-closing-restaurant?fbclid=IwAR329I34l526s7khU3X4iJENSvd59MZOQqlxbTtFIFrf8vxqMXa4m--l6QM) Hackney fled communist Poland as a teenager and came to America for freedom:

Marlena Hackney has lived under a threat of imprisonment since March 4, when Attorney General Dana Nessel and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development petitioned a court to enforce a shutdown order targeting Marlena’s Bistro and Pizzeria. The reason: noncompliance with emergency COVID rules on restaurant capacity, mask-wearing and physical distancing.

In an interview with Michigan Capitol Confidential, Hackney said in March 2020 she closed the business she has owned for nearly two decades, after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a COVID emergency and imposed a first round of business lockdowns.

“I work hard. You work hard and you can accomplish many things. My employees depend on me,” she said.

“I’m the one who has to pay the bills. The city is not giving me a break on my property taxes,” Hackney told *CapCon*.

“It takes someone escaping communism to show Americans how to be American,” Martin told Breitbart News.

UPDATE:

Hackney, an immigrant who fled communist Poland as a teenager, was arrested Friday on a misdemeanor contempt of court charge. She was denied bond and remains in an Ingham County jail.

Her restaurant, Marlena’s Bistro and Pizzeria in Holland, was told to close by governor’s order, like many did at the height of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s (D) executive order spree. But Hackney reopened last summer and faced orders to close by state agents.

She repeatedly refused and was ordered to turn herself in Thursday. When she ignored that demand, Hackney was arrested early Friday and taken to a Lansing jail, some 100 miles away from Holland.

Supporters lined the roadway and filled the parking lot of her eatery:

**Killing the Middle Class**

The Made-4-TV virus has dominated all of our lives in recent months. Although tens of millions of Americans contracted the disease, less than 25 thousand people without comorbidities died of it. The Trump Economy was roaring and showed signs of ushering in an age of prosperity that the Middle Class had not seen in 100 years. This was their chance to buy a house, start a business, pay off debts, and secure the American dream, no matter what country they lived in. The Global Syndicate has one enemy, throughout time. That is us. Within days of the most sweeping trade agreements with China ever were signed, the M4TVV was unleashed on the world.

Someone made a phone call. Within hours, 187 countries began locking down healthy citizens and shutting down their economies. It was like a Great Depression was ordered up and delivered whether people wanted it or not. No one could resist. Anyone who spoke out against it was smashed, instantly. Bank accounts cancelled. Ad campaigns ended. Social media banishment. You simply went from prosperous to poverty within hours. To this day, no one knows who made that call.

Although the Made-4-TV virus is a fabricated plandemic, it is a challenge for us. We must maintain a holistic view of world events. **Just as there are allegedly epidemiological factors to consider in this crisis, the design is also economic, social, cultural, and political.**

It is precisely these other factors that are so often forgotten in the panicky reporting, in the constant, manic, meaningless, and inflated tracking of the current infection numbers is coupled with slick marketing and copywriting to subconsciously equate infection with death. Never forget that the main function of this campaign is to crush the middle class. Although the M4TVV is supposed to make the fear apocalyptic, is has one focus.

**Monetary policy is also a primary tool, alongside fiscal policy, used by governments to influence economic activity.**When a crisis hits, an economy is stimulated either by the state budget – which arises from the taxpayers – or silently through monetary expansion. By either lowering interest rates, issuing government-backed securities, or even purchasing corporate bonds the central banks increase the money supply in the economy. Ever since the beginning of the crisis, the U.S. Federal Reserve has done all of the above. Why do you think that is?

Normally, we use the price of gold or silver to judge whether government has gone too far in printing money. But the banks have sold hundreds of thousands of short contracts on those metals in their vault, specifically to keep the prices artificially low. The canary in the mine has an inside source of oxygen. You’re dying, and you don’t even know it, because you’re listening to the song of a happy golden bird.

I am going to reveal to you that there is a lens you can use to watch what the Global Syndicate is doing to you. It and economist’s tool called M1. It consists of the most highly liquid assets. Like gold and silver, these are the most easily exchangeable assets used as payment for goods and services. You can buy stuff with gold and silver. Consider it a black market currency. As [Trading Economics](https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/money-supply-m1#:~:text=Looking%20forward%2C%20we%20estimate%20Money,according%20to%20our%20econometric%20models) data shows, that behind the backs of the Middle Class, the Fed has created 39% of all the “dollars” in the economy in 2020.

**To put it on its head, in 2020 the Fed has created more money than in almost a hundred years of its existence. You think holding onto cash is smart? Well, it used to be. Now, it’s very risky. Trust me when I say this, the Syndicate is moving money into liquid assets. Lots of it. All of it. Monetary policy is being used to set up the Middle Class, just like it was in 1928.**

Equity markets have relentlessly rallied over the past 12 months, pushing valuations to extreme levels based on traditional metrics. In this report, we analyze the two common arguments by equity bulls why this time is different and current valuations are justified. We find that markets are either currently mispricing gold or equities, as either of these arguments would imply that gold should outperform stocks.

 Nominal GDP would have to increase by whopping 86% to bring the total market cap to GDP ratio back to 100% ($40tn), or by 63% to bring it to 120% ($35tn). Let us also assume that the US economy grows by 2% in real terms over the long run once it has returned to pre-covid levels. Over a period of 5 years, that would bring the nominal GDP to just $23.6tn. The Global Syndicate is relying on inflation to fill that gap. Thus, inflation would have to be averaging at 10% to bring equity prices in line with GDP in 5 years. And that would require equity prices to stay flat for the next 5 years. That is why gold prices have not gone up. They have to hold the liquid asset prices down, so they can move tomorrow’s money at the low-interest rates of today.

As good as it might seem at first glance, **creating money “out of thin air” doesn’t bring prosperity. Simply sending $1,400 checks out to “working class people,” is having exactly the effect they want. It suppresses worker attendance by up to 15%. Do you know why you cannot buy a new refrigerator at Lowes? Because they cannot even order any until April 23rd.**

**The factories cannot make them to meet even modest demand, because there are not enough people in the factory to make the product. Get it? The Global Syndicate is competing for the same worker, by sending him money to stay home, playing video games. Don’t believe me? Check Zenga’s stock price lately? They are a publicly traded company that owns hundreds of online video games like Candy Crush. Seen TV commercials for it, lately? Selling mind-numbing online video games to you via TV? Seriously? Yeah. Dead serious.**

IN the meantime…

It is true, inflation is like water behind the dam, right now. It hasn’t start banging on our doors. But looking no further than the asset prices, we can clearly see that the low inflation rate is masked by the asset price inflation. Don’t just look at gas prices. Look at dried mushrooms, bread, soup, ice cream and other foods. They have seen a 50% increase in prices, where you don’t often notice it. Take out your grocery bill from just a year ago, when the Trump economy was still strong. Notice the items you normally buy. Look at the prices. That’s where inflation shows up.

Even with the evacuation of the GDP for nearly 6 months last year and an unemployment rate that stands more than double the rate before the crisis started, the S&P 500 is more than 10% higher than on the day the pandemic rolled around. This also shows who profits from the economic response to the Made-4-TV crisis. Look around. You know who it is. It is the people ***with assets, i.e. those already wealthy anyway.***

The middle and lower classes, meanwhile, get wiped out because they only know to keep cash in the bank for a rainy day. The typical working poor cannot produce $500 in cash on a moment’s notice right now. The typical investor class American cannot write a check for $2 million cash, either. Why? Because all their wealth is in liquid assets, besides stock and bonds. Jewels, gold, silver, platinum, and even real estate; although that is not considered a liquid asset. The M4TVV has closed the businesses where the Middle Class spend their money. The children of the middle class and working poor are not in school, because the teachers are in Puerto Rico on the beach spending taxpayer dollars. The Syndicate’s children never missed a day. Their schools never closed.

**Thus, the exact same Global Syndicate institutions who say publicly they are fighting for equity between the classes, continue to increase economic inequality thrusting the Made-4-TV virus right in our faces when we resist.**

There are 150 million Americans who are ready to stop this. They are standing by, listening to me tonight. They may have never done anything before, except perhaps vote. But we all saw how fruitless that effort was. They saw a man with barely 18 million votes walk away from the table with the presidency. They see a woman, who never got a single vote, never raised a single dollar, never won a single debate, and never won an election against a real opponent standing by with her sinister smile and chilling laugh, to step up the seal and order us to kneel. No one voted for her. No one trusts her. No one wants her, and yet there she is. You know it. I know it.

I am shouting once again, down the halls of the empty schools and the empty malls, to bring out the leadership. Where are you? The world sees the most lethal military of all time, kneeling in shame. The world sees the most armed and free people in the world, willingly strapping their faces into solitary confinement to avoid embarrassment at the grocery.

I resigned my membership at Planet Fitness 3 days ago. I worked out there for 10 years. Two young staffers assaulted me, demanding that I strap on a mask, even though we have been working out there since last Fall without one. I have a medical exemption in the computer system. He said I could either strap on a mask, or cancel my membership. I told him he left me no choice. I signed the cancellation. The truth is, he pulled it up so fast I the computer system that it looked like he had been doing it all day. I wrote to Planet Fitness and told them what happened. They said, “We are sorry for your inconvenience.”

I looked around before I walked out of the gym that day. Those eyes. All those eyes on the bikes and elliptical machines looking back at me in sadness. A broken people in the prison of submission to the State. I wish I could have led them all out that day. Okay, so now I work out at home, instead of the gym. That is a minor sacrifice. I stood my ground, and I will go back when the next company buys out Planet Fitness when they broke. I will not kneel. I am a free American, and I choose liberty. I choose truth. Now, where is the leader who will command us? It will take someone with a voice and a love for America. Where are you?

**Charm of Favor: Chapter 8**

Jack Rousseau’s senior year gym coach was also the social studies teacher. But Kenneth Thomas Larsen was no ordinary coach, and he certainly was no ordinary teacher. Mr. Larsen was the golf coach and the veteran son of a retired three-star general. While his father’s command group moved from one facility to another, Mr. Larsen showed his incredible talent for golf by teaching the officer’s wives how to better play the game. It began at the age of 19 when his father moved to an Air Training Command base in Denver, Colorado. While riding the shuttle bus one day from the Airman’s club, after drinking a couple of pitchers of beer, he boasted of his expertise at golf.

The base golf pro happened to be on that same bus. Within a few brags back and forth, the bus had a nice pot of about $300 to see the two battle it out on the beautifully manicured base golf course. Mr. Larsen had never seen the course, was wearing shorts and sneakers, and had to rent a set of clubs. Nevertheless, within 9 holes, the wagers changed hands, and Lowry Air Force base had a new golf instructor.

The talented Mr. Larsen also knew his American government. Jack liked him, because he would sit on a stool in the front of the class and take his class to places in history like a time traveler. It wasn’t just Thomas Jefferson hand writing the Declaration of Independence. It was the thinking and pacing that he made before dipping his quill in the ink. Each word of passion and vision was perfectly timed and laid onto that parchment. There were no erasures. There was no pile of crumpled, attempted declarations on the floor. It was perfection of a great man’s soul, inspired of God, and dried on hand-made paper that became the foundation for the oldest Constitution the world had ever known.

He also knew what government had become. It was this that fascinated Jack the most. The vision of Jefferson, Madison, and Adams reached as far as candlelight could take them. They could not see electricity, or aircraft, or the Internet. But they had seen men who thought they were kings. They saw government so powerful that it removed all hope for nearly every living soul of ever seeing anything other than the serfdom their grandparents had seen. They also saw the wake of another intelligence sailing far in front of them in time. They knew it was there, ahead, digging a pit for the people about to be handed the keys to their own government.

“The founding fathers planted a government with three branches. They each had separate powers, with separate weapons, but they were equal in strength. In order for the tree to grow, provide protection, and bear fruit, the three branches had to work together,” said Mr. Larsen.

“It’s no wonder they don’t get anything done,” said Jack without raising her hand.

“It’s called deliberation. The finest steel is made from many blows with the hammer and the refiner’s fire,” said Mr. Larsen.

“Then how come things are so screwed up?” asked Jack.

“I’m glad you asked that question. You see, somewhere along the way, as the story goes, someone snuck into the garden and planted something else alongside. Let’s just call is a graft for now, but it is not really a graft. It took a while, but about 84 years ago, it burst out of the ground after wrapping itself around the roots of our tree. Is has now become a fourth branch,” said Mr. Larsen.

“There’s no fourth branch of government in our book, Mr. Larsen,” said Jack.

“That is a brilliant observation, Miss Rousseau, but that does not change the facts,” said Mr. Larsen. “Allow me to enlighten you with an example.”

The United States Environmental Protection Agency is an agency of the federal government of the United States which was created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 was signed into law by President Nixon on January 1, 1970. The law created the Council on Environmental Quality that answered only to him. The Council required that a detailed statement of environmental impacts be prepared for all major federal actions significantly affecting the environment.

“Nixon appointed a man named William Ruckelshaus as the first EPA Administrator. Now, this was not actually part of the President’s cabinet, but this new Administrator had cabinet-level power, and it very soon became known in July of that year as the Environmental Protection Agency.”

“Yeah. The EPA. They’re the good guys, right?” asked Jack as though this was a personal discussion between her and Mr. Larsen.

“What you are about to learn here, you may not ever hear again, so I suggest you pay close attention. You should recall we talked about the Nixon impeachment? Well, in April of 1973 the fire under the Watergate kettle was being stoked by Democrats on every TV channel that could spare the time, and the whole thing was about to boil over. Nixon’s Chief of Staff, H. R. Haldeman, and his Domestic Affairs Advisor, John Ehrlichman resigned. Ruckelshaus was pulled out of the EPA and made Acting Director of the FBI and then later that same year was shifted over to Deputy Attorney General. This was where the test of loyalty came in,” said Mr. Larsen as he slid off his stool and began pacing in front of the class room as he continued.

“You see, Nixon knew what they were planning, because he had raided their headquarters. Nowadays, they call that hacking, but in those days it was done by breaking in and going through the files. They knew he knew. So, Nixon ordered Ruckelshaus to fire the Watergate special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, who had been assigned the task of convicting Nixon. Well, he quit rather than follow that order. He was not loyal to the President. He was loyal to someone else; or should I say, to something else.

“After leaving the Justice Department, Ruckelshaus returned to the private practice of law. Very soon after that, he and his wife and five children moved to Seattle, Washington, where he accepted a position as Senior Vice President of Legal Affairs of the Weyerhaeuser Company,” said Mr. Larsen writing with chalk on the board.

“You mean the plywood company?” asked Jack.

“Oh much more than that. Weyerhaeuser owns more standing timber than just about any company on Earth. They have an executive revolving door with the EPA,” said Mr. Larsen. “He also served as director of a company called American Water Development.

“For generations, ranchers and farmers have worked the soil of the high, huge valley between the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountains. Five generations of water rights were now controlled by Ruckelshaus and his small group of powerful businessmen. Water means survival for those who can get it, riches for those who control it and bankruptcy or moving trucks for those left without it. Disputes over water are frequent and often intense.

"More people have been shot over stolen water than over almost any other commodity, so it didn’t take long before Mr. ‘R’ and his friends learned how his neighbors felt about their plan to sells millions of gallons of water from an aquifer below the valley floor to states across the West. It didn’t stop him from becoming one of the most powerful people in the Western United States. You only thought being President makes you powerful. Now, you see what real power is like.”

“But I thought the EPA protected nature from big corporations,” said Jack.

“Oh, see that is what most people think. The truth is that they protect big corporations from competition from small companies, and they use land, air and water to do it. We’re talking trillions of dollars here. In 1983, the EPA was already in crisis due to mass resignations over the mishandling of the Superfund project. This was a gigantic slush fund President Ronald Reagan had set up to clean up environmental messes. I could tell you stories, but the point is that whenever the government starts throwing big money around, big corruption results.”

“So, Reagan calls up good old loyal, Ruckelshaus to serve as EPA Administrator again. This time it was White House Chief of Staff James Baker who was Ruckelshaus's champion in asking him to return to the agency. They gave him maximum autonomy in the choice of new appointees and refocused the agency on its fundamental mission. Within a year, the press and Congress got back in line, and on February 7th, 1985 he retired from the EPA.

“He was quoted as saying, ‘At EPA, you work for a cause that is beyond self-interest and larger than the goals people normally pursue. You're not there for the money. You're there for something beyond yourself,’” said Mr. Larsen.

“Wow. I like when you tell us the history behind the history,” said Jack breaking her stare at the time traveling teacher.

“We have about 5 minutes left of class. I want to give you a glimpse of the real power in the fourth branch of government. I think you will find it surprising,” said Mr. Larsen.

“No sooner did Ruckelshaus retire form the EPA, but he joined Perkins Coie, a Seattle-based law firm. You see, while he was being the noble soldier for the EPA, from 1983, he served on the World Commission on Environment and Development set up by the none other than the United Nations. On top of that, in 1988, he became Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Browning Ferris Industries of Houston, Texas. You might know them as BFI. You see their blue dumpster all over town,” said Mr. Larsen.

“Are talking trash, Mr. Larsen?” asked Jack, and the whole class laughed out loud.

“Trash, indeed. You see, it is long believed that one of the most powerful organized crime activities in America is the collection and handling of trash. Where once there were many, now there is only one. Nearly every can in America dumps into a truck controlled by the largest, multi-national, alternative investment firm in the world, Blackstone Group,” wrote Mr. Larsen on the blackboard. “By the way, they are the world's fifth-largest private equity firm by committed capital, focusing primarily on leveraged buyouts of more mature companies. In other words, they buy up the competition.”

“This guy, Ruckelshaus had it all, didn’t he? I mean, he had the trees, the water, and the trash,” said Jack.

“What would you say if I told you he didn’t stop there? President Bill Clinton appointed him as U.S. envoy in the implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty; he was that from 1997 to 1998. In 1999, he was appointed by Gov. Gary Locke as Chairman of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for the State of Washington.

“And then, in the early 2000s, he was appointed by Pres. George W. Bush to serve on the United States Commission on Ocean Policy. On September 20, 2004, the Commission submitted its Final Report to the President and Congress, An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century. Since June 2010 he has served as Co-chair of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.”

“Mr. Larsen, there is no way we’re ever going to remember all of this, and it’s not in our book,” said Jack finally.

“One more thing. Remember I told you about the executive revolving door at the EPA? Well, Mr. William Ruckelshaus serves or has served as a director on boards of several corporations, including Monsanto, Cummins Engine Company, Pharmacia Corporation, Solutia, Coinstar, Nordstrom, and Weyerhaeuser Company. He controls more than 27 million acres of timber, genetically modified foods, cell phones, and nearly all the fish in the sea that we consume in America and is the director of the Initiative for Global Development,” said Mr. Larsen holding his hands out wide as he could in front of the class.

“He has to be the most powerful man in the world,” said Jack.

“He is certainly one of them. After all, before anyone cast the first vote for any candidate, on April 17th, 2008, he endorsed a virtually unknown man from Chicago who had never had a paying job in his life, named Barack Hussein Obama, for President of the United States, and the rest, so they say, is history,” said Mr. Larsen as the bell rang for class to end.

“I have to know, Mr. Larsen,” said Jack as she shouldered her book bag and walked up to him from her desk. “Why did he pick Obama? I mean, what the hell?” asked Jack.

“We’ll get into more of this tomorrow, but if you’re really interested in knowing about all of this, I think you should become an intern. You’ll get to see some of this up close and personal. I have an application right over here. Just fill it out, and we’ll see about getting you in,” said Mr. Larsen handing her the portfolio.

“My brother works as an asphalt lobbyist. He says they’re all whores over there,” said Jack.

“Well, if that was true, our nation would have been lost a long time ago. They always need good leaders who can take a punch. And in my book, good leaders come from good interns. You can take a punch, can’t you?” asked Mr. Larsen as he looked at the slight bruising under her left eye.

“I’ll check it out. See you tomorrow,” said Jack stuffing the portfolio into her book bag and zipping it closed.

“Good participation today. Be good,” said Mr. Larsen as Jack bounced through the door and into the river of young people in the hallway.

Math was always easy for Jack, so the final hour of school spent in the middle of Algebra class went quickly. She poured over the application to be an intern for the United States Senate and had the blanks filed in by the time the final bell rang. She packed up her things, slid both arms through her book bag, and began the walk for home a mile away. Fair weather days like this, she skipped the city bus and walked to stay in shape. Tae Kwando was later in the evening, now that she was competing in a junior city league. It gave her time to drink a protein shake and change into what she told her mother was her combat gear. She had become a champion, of sorts, mostly because a Rousseau wouldn’t have it any other way, but also because it gave her a feeling of invincibility in front of people. Even during casual conversation with someone, on the outside, she was calm and made easy eye contact, but inside she was imagining a maneuver to catch her opponent’s advance and thrust him to the ground with her heel on his neck.

She arrived at the dojo early, as usual, worked out with her age group, and helped stretch and catch the new students who were learning the sport. Maybe she could have made more money learning golf from Mr. Larsen than history, but she gathered there were not many tour champions who could kick someone’s ass in three jabs and a roundhouse kick to the side of the head.

She knew her father was proud of her, even though he was trapped in a body that couldn’t speak or write. She wondered if he could see the universe changing, because she was in it, and because she intended to grab it and push it around. ‘There are two kinds of people in the world, Jackie,’ he used to say. ‘There are those who are affected by the universe, and those who affect the universe. You are going to change everything.’

She wondered if she was loving him enough and suddenly flushed by the thought of coming up short. She reminded herself to hug him long and hard the first thing when she got home. She stepped up to the heavy bag one more time and spun her hip to snap her long leg around to slap her heel against the leather level with her forehead. It crumpled as the chain above it jingled its complaint. Yeah. ‘You better put some ice on that, asshole,’ she thought.

“Hey, Mr. Larsen. I finished that application. Here you go,” said Jack.

“Why am I not surprised? I made a couple of calls last night. My father thinks you would fit nicely over at the Pentagon,” said Mr. Larsen taking the application portfolio from her.

“The Pentagon?” asked Jack with a tone of disbelief. “I thought we were talking about the capitol. I even did some online shopping for clothes. You know. Dresses and shit. Oh, sorry,” she said covering her mouth.

“You can wear slacks at the Pentagon, and believe me, it is full of plenty of politics,” said Mr. Larsen.

“Well, just let me know,” said Jack as she slung her book bag under her desk and sat down.

“Today, I want you to consider the possibility of the end of private property,” began Mr. Larsen. “Most of you don’t watch the news; not on purpose anyway. Your parents probably watch it. Some watch the main propaganda channels, and some watch programs that are less of a slick sales job. Still, you are not getting the truth, most of the time.”

“Let’s say I gave you a special credit card. One of the best features about this card is that someone else makes the payments on the card. What would you do?” asked Mr. Larsen putting his hands together under his chin like he was praying for a moment.

“Go shopping,” said Jack without hesitation. The class laughed.

“Exactly. That is exactly what you would do. But, let me tell you about one of the bad features of this card. You have to buy everything with it. Food, housing, transportation, health care; everything must be bought with this card. Oh yes, one more thing. The card is paid off once a year. Now what would you do?” asked Mr. Larsen.

The class was silent for a moment, until someone raised their hand. Mr. Larsen pointed. “How much of a limit is there on the card? I mean, is there enough to get through a whole year? That’s a lot of stuff,” said the student.

“Well, a smart person would sit down and make out a budget, right? I assume you want three meals a day. I assume you want some clothes, a decent car, perhaps a date or two with your friends. Let’s say 50 grand,” said Mr. Larsen.

“50 grand? Hey the party’s at my house,” said another boy.

“We be talking live music, Mr. Larsen,” said another.

“Now, you’re starting to think like a bureaucrat,” said Mr. Larsen sitting up on his stool in front of the class.

**Back to Funding Terrorism**

Imagine this scenario for a moment...a man who lives in another state, who you know hates you, steals your car, kills your family, defecates on your porch, and then brags about it, even threatening to do it again.

Then imagine this person, years later asks you to borrow $100,000. Would you do it?

This should be a no-brainer. No! The answer is no. I don't even need to think about that one.

If that's the case and it's common sense, then why do we as a country do this?

President Trump worked very hard to pull funding from anywhere that he knew would end up falling into the hands of terrorist organizations, but not with Biden in the White House, he is undoing what President Trump did.

Biden just authorized the release of $3 billion to Iran. Why?

According to [Al-Arabiya](https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/03/07/Iran-says-US-approved-release-of-3-bln-of-Iran-s-funds-in-Iraq-Oman-S-Korea),

The United States has agreed to the release of $3 billion in Iranian funds that have been frozen in Iraq, Oman, and South Korea due to Washington’s sanctions, Iranian trade official Hamid Hosseini told the semi-official Fars news agency on Sunday.

Hosseini, board member of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, had tweeted on Friday that Washington approved the release of frozen Iranian assets at the Trade Bank of Iraq, without mentioning the value of the assets.

Hosseini on Sunday confirmed that the US agreed to the release of $3 billion in Iranian frozen assets in the three countries.

US sanctions imposed by former President Donald Trump have prevented Iran from accessing tens of billions of its assets in foreign banks.

Iranian frozen assets in Iraq amount to more than $6 billion, according to Iranian officials.

The head of the Iran-South Korea Chamber of Commerce said in October Iranian frozen funds in South Korea are worth $8.5 billion and added that their release depended on the outcome of the US presidential election.

What we're seeing is basically Obama-like policies when it comes to foreign policy, but with everything else, he's just doing the radical left's bidding.

**The Other Pipeline**

We need to do a little catchup here. You recall in November of 2013, President Putin contacted President Yanukovych of Ukraine to stop him from signing a trade deal with the EU. The deal would have made Ukraine the bitch of the EU overlords in a finance tactic they had beee using for decades to take over the third world. Without admitting Ukraine to the EU, they would have been able to move NATO assets right up to Russia’s southern tip, once the Ukraine defaulted on the loans. They would have had a tax-free pipeline to Russian gas and oil that Soros would control.

Instead, Putin lavished Ukraine with a bailout package worth at least $20 billion in December of 2013, trumping the West in a Cold War-tinged struggle that keeps the former Soviet republic in Moscow's orbit. The pact, one of the richest ever offered by Russia to another country, came just weeks after Kiev turned its back on a trade deal with the EU that Moscow had strongly opposed.

Of course, Obama was building something else with ISIS. He did not want Europe to have access to Russian gas, one way or the other. He wanted the gas to come from the Golan Heights through a pipeline that he and Iran would control. So, Obama sent in Johns McCain and Kerry to wreck the deal.

Within days of Yanukovych refusing to enter a trade agreement with the European Union, McCain and Kerry, under the direct leadership of Joe Biden, plunged the country into staggering violent protests against the President’s decision. They worked tirelessly for weeks organizing the protests and then by ordering riot police advanced upon the protesters’ stronghold.

The anti-government activists have been defending a stage which has become the nexus of their message. As of this morning, according to *The New York Times*, [the stage remains intact](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/20/world/europe/ukraine.html)—and ringed by a series of fires lit by the protesters as they burn their tents and sleeping bags as a last line of defense. Not enough people were dying to draw the attention of the international press. So, they called in Victoria Nuland. She organized a charge of more than 100 Ukrainians against the police forces to push them back. Then she ordered American Army snipers in position on the rooftops to shoot them dead in the streets, while the ABC cameras were rolling. John McCain and John Kerry handled the rest.

While Russia, a proclaimed ally to Ukrainian president Viktor F. Yanukovych, issued a statement condemning the “criminal activities of radical opposition forces” and blaming the anti-government activists for causing the bloodshed, the United States has reached out directly to Yanukovych to urge him to pull back. From *The New York* *Times*:

Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. telephoned Mr. Yanukovych to “express grave concern regarding the crisis on the streets” of Kiev and urged him “to pull back government forces and to exercise maximum restraint,” the vice president’s office said in a statement.

Secretary of State John Kerry urged Mr. Yanukovych to stop the bloodshed. “We call on President Yanukovych and the Ukrainian government to de-escalate the situation immediately, and resume dialogue with the opposition on a peaceful path forward. Ukraine’s deep divisions will not be healed by spilling more innocent blood,” he said in a statement. They forced Yanukovych to flee the country, where he attempted to rule in Exile from Crimea. He is, after all, Crimean.

Kerry and McCain installed their own leadership to oppose the Putin deal, and resumed building ISIS to force the gas pipeline from the Golan heights. As you recall, President Trump wiped ISIS out and stopped the southern pipeline, which allowed Russia to become the largest gas and oil supplier to the EU.

Now, you know Obama is back in power as Virtual-Joe was installed during the 2020 Coup. How long has it been? Oh, how can we forget. It’s been barely 62 days since Virtual-Joe took the oath of office. They have resumed, right where they left off.

All contacts between Russia and NATO were suddenly and completely cut-off yesterday, just hours after the United States "warned" all entities working on the NORDStream-2 pipeline, that restarted its construction within days of President Trump eviscerating ISIS, to "immediately abandon all work or face US economic sanctions."  The NORDStream-2 is a gas pipeline under construction to supply natural gas from Russia to Europe.

**The Nord Stream 2 Pipeline WOULD HAVE transported natural gas into the European Union to enhance security of supply, support climate goals and strengthen the internal energy market. It would have made war between Russia and the EU a virtual impossibility. It would have rendered NATO obsolete.**

The EU’s domestic gas production is in rapid decline. To meet demand, the EU needs reliable, affordable and sustainable new gas supplies. The Nord Stream 2 Pipeline would have provided this by transporting gas from the world’s largest reserves in Russia to the EU internal market.

But Nord Stream 2 allows Euro buyers to bypass the SOROS-created bottleneck in Ukraine. McCain is dead. John Kerry is back in power. Virtual-Joe is holding the place for Obama to resume building his Islamic State. Iran stands to make trillions off the deal. Saudi Arabia and the Emirates can already see the world war coming. Now, you can see the real forces lining up, while we are distracted with the CCP human rights violations. Obama knows that a Russian pipeline would make his Islamic State powerless to control Europe. So, he wrote this as though Virtual-Joe was saying it.

*"As multiple U.S. administrations have made clear, this pipeline is a Russian geopolitical project intended to divide Europe and weaken European energy security. The sanctions legislation Congress passed in 2019 and expanded in 2020 has significant support from a bipartisan Congressional majority,” he added, and said the administration is committed to complying with the legislation"*

Within literally three hours of the US issuing this statement and telling everyone to "abandon" the work on the NORDStream-2 pipeline, Russia cut-off all contacts with NATO and a Russian Kilo-class submarine "Disappeared" off the coasts of Lebanon/Israel (story [HERE](https://halturnerradioshow.com/index.php/en/news-page/world/russia-kilo-class-submarine-has-ahem-disappeared-off-coasts-of-lebanon-israel)).

Thursday of last week, of course, Virtual-Joe caused a Diplomatic furor when he referred to Russian President Putin as a "killer" who has "no soul" - after which Russia recalled its Ambassador to the United States, for consultations.  The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed hope to change "irreversible deterioration" of US-Russia relations (Story [Here](https://halturnerradioshow.com/index.php/en/news-page/world/biden-calls-putin-killer-moscow-recalls-ambassador-cites-irreversible-deterioration-of-us-relations))

Well,, right on queue, violence is making the news. Yesterday,  **"fierce clashes"** between the Ukrainian army and forces from the Russia-favoring-Breakaway states of Luhansk and Donetsk.  These forces have not been using heavy guns or rockets against one another since Trump was elected. He is the one who boosted the lethality of the Ukrainians to defend themselves by sending Javelin anti-tank weapons.

It appears the balance has been tilted as**"Intense"**battles are said to be "raging" in eastern Ukraine. If it spreads to the isthmus, the region could be plunged into conflict not easily halted. Once the body count reaches a certain point, there will be no forgiveness on either side. These are the most capable fighters in the world, and they have been fighting for thousands of years.

This morning, Tanks from the Russian Army began crossing the border from Russia into Ukraine.  In case you think this was an invasion; it wasn’t. Those tanks were INVITED in by the governing body of Donetsk and Luhansk, to protect the people there from Ukraine government troops, massed on the western borders of those two states. The patch on the shoulder of the government troops looks a whole lot like the old Nazi SS patch. They also use Al Quaeda fighters who will fight for a paycheck.

The Communist people of Luhansk and Donetsk want to leave Ukraine and become part of Russia. Ukraine says "no."

Over the past two weeks, Ukraine has built up its armed forces on the western border of those two States to take them back by force, if necessary. They don’t want to see them join Russia the way Crimea did.

With the entry of Russian Army tanks today, it is now explicitly clear that Russia itself will militarily engage any Ukrainian or NATO troops trying to attack Luhansk and Donetsk.  BY the way, NATO has oh-so-coincidentally begun military drills in the Black Sea and the countries surrounding Ukraine. You know how those drills go. Troops show up to practice, and just in time to be used for actual fighting the area. This is very close to the starting point of every major war in Europe.

This is exactly what the Global Syndicate wants. They calculate that no one is going to build a gas pipeline through an area covered in shoulder-fired rockets and 20 mm gatling guns. Obama’s deal with Iran to bring the pipeline from Golan to Europe was delayed when Hillary lost the 2016 election. George Soros may just be the most powerful anti-American force in the world today, again. He bought governors, secretaries of State, DA’s, and judges. There is still time to save the world, but not much. It has been 62 days. Every day that passes, it become exponentially harder to recover the Republic. The only man in the world who can stop this is Donald Trump, and he is an enemy of the State, just like you and me.

**Will the Real Obama Agenda Please Stand Up?**

Ever wonder why Valerie Jarrett gave Obama everything he needed to get through college? Ever wonder why she had secret service protection? Ever think about her having supper every night with him? Her parents were rich and deep into the Muslim Brotherhood of Iran. And now, Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is warning that if the Biden administration's policy on Iran continues, the rogue Islamic regime "will, one day, hold the world hostage to its nuclear ambitions."

"You can feel it. The Biden administration is preparing to underwrite the Iranian regime and appease its mayhem and murder on the same theory that it did in 2015: 'Pay Them and Enter the JCPOA or There Will Be War,'" [he said in commentary for the American Center for Law and Justice](https://aclj.org/middle-east/the-regime-in-iran-will-change-only-when-it-is-at-risk), where he is senior counsel for global affairs.

The JCPOA is the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the nuclear deal brokered by the Obama administration and other nations in which billions of dollars in frozen assets was released to the Islamic regime.

"This asserted logic provided a seemingly powerful message for Americans who didn’t want their sons and daughters fighting in the Middle East," he said of the agreement. "It was repeated over and over and over by John Kerry, Wendy Sherman, and Robert Malley until many came to wrongly believe this binary set of American policy options represented the only two ways to prevent Iran from achieving a nuclear weapon."

Today, he wrote, it's the "same cast of characters" that appears to be getting ready to "capitulate and permit the funding of Iranian terror, assassination, missile building, and massive antisemitism."

"If it does, the Ayatollah Khamenei will, one day, hold the world hostage to its nuclear ambitions," Pompeo said.

The past four years, he said, have exposed the fact that the JCPOA "was a false set of choices."

The deal, he said, was based on four fundamental false assertions.

"First, if there is no JCPOA, there will be war. We left the JCPOA. There is no war," he wrote.

The second falsehood is that American sanctions alone can't stop Iran from selling crude oil. But U.S. sanctions withheld hundreds of billions of dollars from the regime.

The JCPOA also held that Iran would "come clean about its nuclear program’s history."

But he said Iran still refuses to allow inspections at nuclear sites. "What else are they concealing about their nuclear program?"

Finally, he said, the JCPOA was supposed to lead to a bigger deal, for peace.

Instead, the Iranians "made clear there was never to be nor would there ever be a discussion regarding missiles or terror if the deal is in place," he said.

Pompeo said real progress in the Middle East came when the U.S. pulled out of the JCPOA, and going back won't help.

"Keep in mind, the concessions to Iran may not be pallets of cash this time. That relief could come in the additional lifting of sanctions. Iran’s terror arm in Yemen has already been declared not to be terrorists, and the Trump administration’s successful effort to extend the JCPOA ban on Iranian arms sales and purchase, that was set at just five years, has been jettisoned," he said.

"Or they might allow billions of dollars to flow to the Iranian regime from assets frozen and prohibited from transiting to Iran by the Trump Administration – the Republic of Korea alone has several billion dollars it is anxious to hand over to Iran."

Without "powerful sanctions" alongside "a credible threat of military force," Iran's religious leaders never will give up their plans for nuclear weapons, and regional domination, Pompeo said.

"Capitulation will not change Iranian behavior. Doing so would be a mistake for the security of the American people, our Israeli and Gulf State friends, and, just as assuredly, for the good people of Iran who are looking for the world to act so as to diminish the power of the Iranian regime to steal from them, shoot them, and deny them their most basic freedoms."

**The Administrative State**

Lockdowns should have shown every American just how tyrannical and unreasonable our leaders can be. There are elected leaders have acted as outright tyrants, alienating everyone without regard. Then there are the unelected bureaucrats who wave away our liberties with the stroke of a pen from the secrecy of their massive offices with technocratic efficiency. Then, there are the empowered thugs in our community who feel they have been given authority to command us to obey.

This is all of course a sudden and dramatic curtailing of our freedoms. They are banning the smile. They are placing us in solitary confinement, because they like it. I would not be surprised that with this much public attention, some sort of effort will be made to roll back much of what has been done. **Although lockdowns are certainly an existential threat to our long-term freedoms and system of liberal democracy, there has been another specter out there that many experts have been sounding the alarm on for decades. The growth of the administrative state.**

The chilling narrative about the growth of the administrative state, which is essentially the regulatory apparatus of the executive branch, is usually confined to specialist professions. The ever-present danger of a slowly expanding and unaccountable apparatus of bureaucrats that threatens to sap the life out of American society and drown it in a sea of paperwork is typically a concern that only keeps policy wonks and lawyers up at night.

Although many lawyers probably celebrate this dystopian vision because they benefit from the compliance fees. **The regulatory state not only threatens to make society that much slower and dreary with its excessive onslaught of regulation but it also makes us poorer.**Robert Samuelson writes for the Washington Post [that](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-administrative-state-is-huge-and-its-only-getting-bigger/2017/03/05/bb388e28-003a-11e7-99b4-9e613afeb09f_story.html)

“No one really knows by how much, but “there is ample evidence that regulation has expanded and that this expansion has limited economic growth,” as Ted Gayer and Philip Wallach of the Brookings Institution [recently wrote](https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/prospects-for-regulatory-reform-in-the-trump-administration/). One study estimates that regulation has shaved [0.8 percent](https://www.mercatus.org/publication/cumulative-cost-regulations) off the U.S. annual growth rate, which — if confirmed by other studies — would be huge.”

**The regulatory state refers to organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, the Internal Revenue Service, and all the other three-letter agencies in Washington, DC.** If you would like to see how long the list of agencies is, take a look at the [Federal Register](https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies), to which there are 655.

That number is absolutely mind-boggling when you consider that each one has thousands of employees and each employee gets about $100k a year, and they cannot be fired for any reason. A paper by [Peter Strauss](https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3673&context=faculty_scholarship)at Columbia Law School notes that there are currently over 2 million civilians employed in the federal government alone. He notes that for context,

“The first Congress to meet once the Constitution was ratified created a Post Office and Departments of War, Navy, Foreign Affairs, and Treasury, each in unique ways suited to its responsibilities; this new government employed few civil servants to manage all its affairs. The first serious count of federal civilian employees, in 1816, reported that they numbered 4,837.”

**The drastic expansion of the administrative state began in 1933 under Roosevelt, and has come at a grown to consume almost our entire system of liberty, which is slowly being eroded by a sea of paperwork and regulations, but it also undermines our democracy. It is a law making body, and a tax assessor, but we have no representation in that government.**

According to [Article 1 of the Constitution](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript), the legislative branch or Congress is supposed to be the primary law-making body of our government. That is because if there are bad laws or laws society doesn’t like, we can hold people accountable. However, more and more power has been shifted to the executive branch because of the growth of the administrative state.

Even the judicial system is losing power to the administrative state after the establishment of a legal doctrine known as [Chevron Deference](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/chevron_deference), which binds the court system to defer to the administrative agency’s interpretation of a rule, not the Constitutional interpretation of a sitting judge. It shouldn’t be too hard to assume that the interpretation will probably favor the ambitions of the agency, not the integrity of the Constitution.

These issues and more form the basis of legal scholar Richard Epstein’s [assertion](https://www.law.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/ECM_PRO_060974.pdf) that the administrative state is not congruent with rule of law in this country.

The worst part about all of this is that society continues to tell itself that those in the administrative state are simply humble public servants. Although I’m sure many of them are, the hard reality is that at the end of the day it’s a source of income and advancement for bureaucrats just like jobs in the private sector are for everyone else.

This is the basic insight of [Public Choice Theory](https://www.aier.org/research/what-is-public-choice-theory/), which is the common-sense realization that government agents are not angels, they are humans and follow human nature. That means that although many government agents may think they are serving the country, they are also limited by their own capabilities as humans as well as their desires. This is demonstrated by a phenomenon known as the [Washington Monument Syndrome](https://mises.org/wire/washington-monument-syndrome-strikes-again-trump-imposes-hiring-freeze), which refers to how when a government agency is threatened with a budget cut or hiring freeze, they shun fiscal restraint in order to protect their own self-interests.

**The Washington Monument Syndrome gets its name because when the National Park Service was faced with budget cuts, instead of streamlining its finances like a normal private company they protested by shutting down the Washington Monument rather than taking sensible steps to cut costs.** In the private sector there is a natural check on how much workers can demand, such as the threat of going out of business. In the public sector there are no such restraints. This is part of the reason why the bureaucracy simply grows and grows and grows, taking our freedom as well as our treasure as it does.

Finally, there is the dark fact that there are ambitious people in the administrative state who want to make a name for themselves at the expense of their fellow countryman. If there aren’t any problems to solve, hotshot regulators are trying to move up the food chain by creating problems to solve by either targeting innocent private actors or trying to pump up their resumes with unnecessary sanctions.

This problem is well known when it comes to the criminal justice system, as [prosecutors leverage plea bargains](https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/end-mass-incarceration/changing-incentives/prosecutorial-reform)to increase their incarceration statistics regardless of the guilt of the defendant and without ever having to take a case to trial, which is a constitutional right. However, this system of perverse incentives to simply rack up wins at the expense of society is present in the regulatory state as well as agencies bringing the government’s boot down on businesses just trying to provide a good service.

I had a personal experience with this dynamic when I interned at a law firm providing pro bono services to private entities that were being pursued by trigger-happy regulators. The case I worked on was [FTC vs D-Link Systems](https://causeofaction.org/settlement-in-federal-trade-commission-v-d-link-systems-includes-no-finding-of-liability/), which was settled finding no liability for any violations. The FTC in this case levied a claim that D-Link Systems was engaging in deceptive practices. However, upon investigation there were no rules that they violated, nor were there any widespread complaints from consumers to be found.

The FTC was essentially going out of its way and leveraging vague rules to pursue a responsible corporation likely in the name of career advancement. That is because there are no rewards for doing nothing, even though that’s what the government should be doing when its citizens are being responsible. Sadly, not every private business has the resources to fight back against overzealous government regulators. Even worse, there is little being done to check the powers of the administrative state. In fact, many elected politicians simply see it as a way to shift blame away from themselves.

**Key Takeaway**

**If lockdowns were a sudden and brutal assault on our liberties, the rise of the administrative state would be the silent killer.** It keeps itself away from the public spotlight, only raising alarms for the communities it directly affects and policy wonks who enjoy ranting about taxes and federal codes all day. To the average person, the administrative state is not a problem until it is.

Every year it grows and grows with little incentive to care for the trouble it has caused for the rest of American society. It is the true embodiment of the [leviathan](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hobbes-moral/) illustrated by Hobbes. Although there is certainly a time and place for regulatory agencies, today they have so greatly outgrown their bounds to the point they are becoming an unelected judge, jury, and executioner.

What was a handful of executive agencies at the beginning of the republic has now become an expansive list of alphabet soup abbreviations, some with their own [SWAT teams](https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/36343/from-nasa-to-amtrak-these-are-all-the-government-agencies-with-tactical-teams) and [court systems](https://www.fjc.gov/history/courts/executive-agency-courts). **The administrative state not only saps our treasure and stifles our creativity but it drains our spirit. If left unchecked it will surely turn this country of ambitious innovators and entrepreneurs into one of paper pushers and clerks.**

**WHY** CALL A CONVENTION OF STATES?

Simple: to bring power back to the states and the people, where it belongs. Unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. shouldn’t be allowed to make sweeping decisions that impact millions of Americans. But right now, they do. So it all boils down to one question: Who do you think should decide what’s best for you and your family? You, or the feds? We’d vote for the American people every single time

## WHAT’S A CONVENTION OF STATES ANYWAY?

Article V of the U.S. Constitution gives states the power to call a Convention of States to propose amendments. It takes 34 states to call the convention and 38 to ratify any amendments that are proposed. Our convention would only allow the states to discuss amendments that, “limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints, and place term limits on federal officials.”

HOW IT WORKS

## SO ARE YOU MAKING ANY PROGRESS?

You better believe it! Since the Project launched in 2013, we’ve been spreading like wildfire. With over 3 million supporters nationwide, we have petition signers in every single state house district across America. We’re actively working in all fifty states to pass the Convention of States Application!

[Georgia March 6, 2014](https://conventionofstates.com/news/georgia-becomes-first-state-in-history-to-pass-the-convention-of-states-application)  
  
[Alaska April 19, 2014](https://conventionofstates.com/news/florida-and-alaska-officially-pass-convention-of-states-application)  
  
[Florida April 21, 2014](https://conventionofstates.com/news/florida-and-alaska-officially-pass-convention-of-states-application)  
  
[Alabama May 22, 2015](https://conventionofstates.com/news/alabama-joins-florida-georgia-and-alaska-and-passes-the-convention-of-states-resolution)  
  
[Tennessee February 4, 2016](https://conventionofstates.com/news/tennessee-becomes-the-5th-state-to-pass-the-article-v-convention-of-states-resolution-to-rein-in-the-federal-government-video)  
  
[Indiana February 29, 2016](https://conventionofstates.com/news/indiana-becomes-6th-state-to-call-for-a-convention-of-states-to-rein-in-the-federal-government)  
  
[Oklahoma April 25, 2016](https://conventionofstates.com/news/oklahoma-becomes-the-7th-state-to-call-for-a-convention-of-states-under-article-v-to-restore-the-balance-of-power-between-the-federal-government-and-the-states)  
  
[Louisiana May 25, 2016](https://conventionofstates.com/news/victory-louisiana-becomes-the-eighth-state-to-call-for-a-convention-of-states)  
  
[Arizona March 12, 2017](https://conventionofstates.com/news/arizona-is-9-state-legislature-votes-to-call-a-convention-of-states)  
  
[North Dakota March 24, 2017](https://conventionofstates.com/news/north-dakota-is-number-10-legislature-passes-convention-of-states-resolution)  
  
[Texas May 4, 2017](https://conventionofstates.com/news/texas-is-11)  
  
[Missouri May 12, 2017](https://conventionofstates.com/news/missouri-passes-convention-of-states-application-becoming-12th-state-to-do-so)

[Arkansas February 14, 2019](https://conventionofstates.com/news/arkansas-becomes-state-13-to-pass-the-convention-of-states-resolution)

[Utah March 5, 2019](https://conventionofstates.com/news/utah-wins-state-legislature-becomes-14th-nationwide-to-call-for-convention-of-states)

[Mississippi March 27, 2019](https://conventionofstates.com/news/mississippi-is-15-state-legislature-calls-for-convention-of-states-to-limit-federal-government)

**States where the Convention of States application has passed in one chamber but not the other (all time):**  
  
New Mexico, Iowa, South Dakota, Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, New Hampshire.