**The Clinton Manual for Self-Enrichment**

Democrat Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT) used campaign funds to pay her family to manage “personal passwords and calendars.”

The Daily Caller [reported](https://dailycaller.com/2022/02/01/fec-records-jahana-hayes-campaign-funds-family-david-crenshaw-asia-clermont/) on Tuesday that Hayes paid her two children more than $36,000 from her campaign fund since taking office in 2018.

During Q4 2021, Hayes used her campaign fund, called “Friends of Jahana Hayes,” to pay her son $15,118.54 since entering Congress.

During Q4 2021, “Friends of Jahana Hayes” paid Hayes’ daughter Asia Clermont $2,551.41 from her campaign fund in increments of $359.25 each, and since entering Congress, she has paid her daughter $21,299.03.

These payments were marked under “payroll,” according to Federal Election Commission records.

After the initial report, Hayes actually claimed that her two children work on her reelection campaign. More recently, Hayes doubled down on the “deeply important” campaign work her two children do, which includes managing “personal passwords and calendars.”

Hayes [told](https://www.wtnh.com/news/politics/some-raise-questions-about-rep-jahana-hayes-decision-to-hire-her-two-children-as-campaign-staffers/) local news:

The positions that you’re asking about are handling of my personal passwords and calendars and things that are deeply important, so to have someone stay on after the election season and have the consistency and also the trust… again it’s not uncommon.

Hayes’s Republican challenger, George Logan, said the payments indicate a “culture of entitlement.

“They may allow it but that doesn’t mean it’s right,” Logan [said](https://www.wtnh.com/news/politics/some-raise-questions-about-rep-jahana-hayes-decision-to-hire-her-two-children-as-campaign-staffers/). “We’re asking for two aspects to be looked at right? One is whether the work is real and whether the pay is legitimate.”

“This isn’t about scoring political points. This is about a culture of entitlement,” he added.

“Jahana Hayes would have been better off not admitting she’s paying her children tens of thousands of dollars to write down passwords,” one Republican strategist [said](https://dailycaller.com/2022/02/03/jahana-hayes-paying-family-thousands-campaign-funds-money-spent-manage-passwords/).

**Go Fleece Me**

For years we have been saying that GoFundMe is a money laundering site for the Global Syndicate. Now, the truth has come out. After the radical leftists in San Francisco who operate GoFundMe seized millions of dollars from the Canadian "Freedom Convoy" and announced they would distribute the funds to "credible charities" (like Black Lives Matter, Greenpeace, and Planned Parenthood Matter), the internet went absolutely ballistic Friday night about the crowd-sourcing platform's decision.

GoFundMe was stealing the money, earning thousands of dollars per week in interest on the money, and they got caught red handed. The operation has now been shamed into refunding all the money to each and every donor. Of course, each refund costs $15 in processing, which should be paid by the GFM folks. Dollars to doughnuts says they deduct it from the donation and take their sweet time doing it, so they can earn a few more free dollars on the money.

Hours later, around 0200 ET yesterday, GoFundMe released another hastily crafted statement that said, *"due to donor feedback, we are simplifying the process and automatically refunding donations."*

The audacity that GoFundMe thought they could redistribute the money elsewhere is shocking. It is a wake-up call for freedom-loving people who band together to take their funding operations elsewhere (ever hear of BTC or ETH?). GoFundMe's poor judgment to only now automatically refund donors has shown their true liberal colors (this blunder has sparked a trust issue with the platform).

All donors received this emailed statement early yesterday morning:

*We are automatically refunding your Freedom Convoy 2022 donation.*

*Now, I want you to pay close attention to the propaganda here: GoFundMe supports peaceful protests and we believe that was the intention of the Freedom Convoy 2022 fundraiser when it was first created. However, as a result of multiple discussions with local law enforcement and police reports of violence and other unlawful activity, the Freedom Convoy fundraiser has been removed from the GoFundMe platform.*

*The update we issued earlier enabled all donors to get a refund and outlined a plan to distribute remaining funds to verified charities selected by the Freedom Convoy organizers. However, due to donor feedback, we are simplifying the process for you. We will automatically refund your contributions directly - you do not need to submit a request. You can expect to see your refund within 7-10 business days.*

GoFundMe did not hesitate to pay money to organizations that killed cops, innocent people, burned federal buildings to the ground, and destroyed entire city blocks of private property. They did not stop funding the Summer of Love riots in Seattle. They did not stop funding the sacking of Kenosha. They actually tweeted their official statement. The tweet was immediately 'ratioed,' which means replies outnumbered retweets and likes, indicating the tweet was very unpopular.  It’s a shadow banning technique Twitter uses to prevent the public from reacting to a statement they want to protect.

The world's richest person, Elon Musk, and a supporter of the truckers tweeted a meme comparing the amateur thieves robbing railcars in Los Angeles to "professional thieves" at GoFundMe. The tweet went out to 72 million of his followers.

Here's what others are saying:

The damage is already done. It's only a matter of time before an alternative crowd-sourcing platform is discovered and or created.  Enter GiveSendGo.

\* \* \*

Despite [initially refusing to cave to pressure from Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and his allies](https://www.zerohedge.com/political/ottawa-city-councillor-demands-government-seize-7-million-raised-canadian-truckers), GoFundMe announced late Friday evening that it had decided not to disburse any more money to the "Freedom Convoy" and its supporters gathered in Coutts, Alberta, and Ottawa. Users will now need to request a refund of their donation, or risk the possibility that the company will instead reroute it to an "approved" charity.



As Rebel News Editor-in-Chief Ezra Levant reported in a tweet, GoFundMe has decided to take - or some might say steal - the roughly CAD$9 million that was supposed to be used to pay for supplies like gas, food and other necessities for the truckers and instead dole that money out to charities of the company's choosing, unless donors fill out a request form.

Why the company has decided on this policy, instead of instating automatic refunds for donors, isn't clear. But as Levant joked, "what a windfall" for Black Lives Matter, Greenpeace and Planned Parenthood."

GoFundMe claimed that the fundraiser is in violation of "Term 8" of its terms of service clause, and also explained that it often works with local authorities to "make sure we have a detailed understanding...of facts on the ground."

The decision was made in order to ensure GoFundMe "remains a trusted platform".

Others wondered how any of this is legal.

The Ottawa police, meanwhile, insist that demonstrators in the city are acting "unlawfully". Several have been arrested (mostly for charges that may seem serious but actually aren't) for making threatening statements on social media and for other issues.

Ottawa Police have also warned that they will be collecting as much digital and financial information as they can from both the truckers and anybody who donates to support them. In a threatening statement, the police implied that supporters of the Freedom Convoy could face prosecution just for donating.

At this point, there's really nothing else for users to do but request their refund (so that GoFundMe doesn't simply take their money) and never donate to another fundraiser on the platform again.

Readers can find the link below:

After all, there are plenty of other crowd-raising platforms out there. **GiveSendGo**

Christian-owned funding platform [GiveSendGo is hosting a new fundraiser](https://archive.fo/https%3A/www.givesendgo.com/FreedomConvoy2022%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for the Canada Freedom Convoy after its initial fundraiser was shut down by far-left funding platform GoFundMe.

GiveSendGo is currently difficult to access, struggling under increased traffic and cyberattacks from left-wing activists.

The company says it is facing attacks from bots and Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS), a technique used by cybercriminals to take a website offline by overloading it with artificial traffic.

Despite this, the GiveSendGo fundraiser is gaining momentum, with over $2 million pledged to the truckers on the platform as of 6:30 p.m. ET tonight.

[The fundraiser, which was set up by Freedom Convoy organizers after GoFundMe froze its funds, can be accessed here.](https://www.givesendgo.com/FreedomConvoy2022)

GoFundMe released $1 million in donations to the truckers, but after the truckers’ protest gained momentum, froze approximately $9m in further donations that was destined for the truckers to pay for fuel, food, and ground support services.

This is not the first time that GiveSendGo has stepped in after GoFundMe censored a conservative cause.

In the wake of the Kenosha riots, GoFundMe, which hosted a fundraiser for the violent, far-left CHAZ occupation in Seattle, and for convicted rioters and cop-assaulters, shut down a legal fundraiser for Kyle Rittenhouse.

GiveSendGo quickly stepped in, hosting its own fundraiser for Rittenhouse. Supporters of the Kenosha teenager used the platform to raise over $600,000 for his legal fund.

Then, as now, GiveSendGo was targeted by left-wing cybercriminals, [who the media characterized as “transparency activists.”](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/apr/16/us-police-officers-public-officials-crowdfunding-website-data-breach) Despite these cyberattacks, the money still reached Rittenhouse’s legal defense fund. Rittenhouse has since been cleared of all charges.

Sen. Ted Cruz is calling on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the online crowdfunding platform GoFundMe after it ended a fundraiser that brought in $10 million for the Canadian trucker convoy protesting vaccine mandates and started refunding the proceeds.

"Today I sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission asking that the FTC open an investigation into GoFundMe into whether they've committed deceptive trade practices," the Texas Republican said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures."

"When people gave money, they gave it under the promise it would go ot the Freedom Convoy, not to whatever left-wing political ideology GoFundMe and other Silicon Valley companies support. They are deceiving consumers and it is wrong."

**State of Emergency**

Protesters camped out in the Canadian capital outnumber the police and control the situation, the city's mayor said on Sunday, as a demonstration against vaccine mandates entered a 10th day and the government said it would not back down on the issue.

The "Freedom Convoy" began as a movement against a Canadian vaccine requirement for cross-border truckers but has turned into a rallying point against public health measures and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government.

"The convoy can disagree, but they're not above the law and there should be a peaceful resolution to this as quickly as possible," Canadian Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said on CBC television.

"We put the question of vaccines and vaccine mandates on the ballot ... in the (2021) election and we're simply carrying out the promise that we made with the support of the vast majority of Canadians."

Protesters have paralyzed downtown Ottawa for the past nine days, with some participants waving Confederate or Nazi flags and some saying they wanted to dissolve Canada's government.

Amid incessant horn blaring and occasional fireworks, a polished supply chain -- including portable saunas, a community kitchen and bouncy castles for children -- has sustained the protesters to the fury of residents who blame police for inaction.

"The situation at this point is completely out of control because the individuals with the protest are calling the shots," Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson said on a local radio station. "They have far more people than we have police officers."

Ottawa police relocated some protesters and put up fresh barricades on Sunday, saying they are "collecting financial, digital, vehicle registration...and other evidence that will be used in criminal prosecutions."

Trudeau, who is isolating after testing positive for COVID-19 last week, has ruled out using the military to disband the protest. Due to security concerns, Trudeau and his family left their downtown home last weekend and his location has not been disclosed.

The prime minister has said the convoy represented a "small fringe minority" and the government would not be intimidated. About 90% of Canada's cross-border truckers and almost 79% of the population has had two COVID-19 vaccine shots.

Convoy organizers said they would refrain from using their horns on Sunday for four hours "as a gesture of goodwill."

"Out of respect for the Lord's Day, for members of our military who have sacrificed and who continue to sacrifice so much for our freedom, for the men and women in blue who are doing such a superb job protecting us ... members of our convoy will desist from the blowing of horns," the group said in a statement.

Police said they had charged four people with hate crimes and were investigating threats against public figures jointly with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The well-organized blockade has relied partly on funding from sympathizers in the United States, police said. GoFundMe took down the Freedom Convoy's donation platform, angering some U.S. Republican lawmakers who pledged to investigate the website's move.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump and Tesla CEO Elon Musk have praised the truckers.

A senior member of the Liberal government said the ease with which the convoy shut down the area around the parliament and the seeming impotence of police was a "national humiliation."

**War or Die**

We are finally having an effect on the sound pressure of the war drums. Virtual Joe and his gang of criminals knows Ukraine has the evidence of his decades of money laundering, child trafficking, and influence peddling. We know there are many witnesses to the illegal drug and child trafficking operations that operate out of that region with the Biden getting a piece of the action. We suspect they need a war to destroy all that evidence, and the witnesses, and send a message to anyone else who might be thinking of stopping him.

The extent to which Virtual Joe will not tolerate any dissent against its war propaganda on Russia was revealed when US press secretary, Jen Pissaky, on Wednesday **condemned a sitting member of the United States Senate as a Russian propagandist for simply questioning the drive to war over Ukraine**.

Jen Pissaki accused none other than presidential hopeful, Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of **"parroting Russian talking points"** for sending a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken questioning the drive for war. "Well, if you are just digesting Russian misinformation and parroting Russian talking points, you are not aligned with long-standing, bipartisan American values," Pissaki told reporters at a regular White House briefing.

Those values are "to stand up for the sovereignty of countries like Ukraine … their right to choose their own alliances and also to stand against very clearly the efforts — or attempts, or potential attempts — by any country to invade and take territory of another country," she said.

Pissaki added: **"That applies to Senator Hawley, but it also applies to others who may be parroting the talking points of Russian propagandist leaders."**  The word "others" is ominous. It can be taken to mean any other member of the U.S. Congress, U.S. independent media **or ordinary Americans**.

Such vilification is designed to take agency away from American elected officials, journalists or private citizens — who are schooled in the American world view and not Russia’s — to think for themselves, examine evidence and come to their own conclusion.

**Smearing government critics as agents of a foreign power is the oldest trick in the book.** Anti-Vietnam War protestors were labelled apologists for Hanoi and critics of the 2003 invasion of Iraq as Saddam stooges.

Hawley’s[letter](https://www.hawley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/2022-02-01%20Hawley%20Letter%20to%20Secretary%20Blinken%20on%20Ukraine%20FINAL2.pdf) to Blinken was actually hawkish in tone, talking about Russian 'threats' — hardly a Moscow "talking point." He wrote:

"The United States has an interest in maintaining Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. And we should urgently deliver to Ukraine assistance it needs to defend itself against Russia’s military buildup and other threats. Our interest is not so strong, however, as to justify committing the United States to go to war with Russia over Ukraine’s fate. Rather, we must aid Ukraine in a manner that aligns with the American interests at stake and preserves our ability to deny Chinese hegemony in the Indo-Pacific."

Hawley asked Blinken for **"clarity about the Biden administration’s support for Ukraine’s prospective membership in NATO,"** which to remain "viable" must have European members  "increase defense spending above two percent of GDP … especially as the United States shifts resources" elsewhere in the world.

The U.S. is facing some degree of resistance to war from France, Germany and even Ukraine itself. Germany refuses to send arms to Ukraine, Emmanuel Macron is talking to Vladimir Putin and wants to include Russia in a new European security arrangement, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky **says there’s no imminent invasion**. The U.S. can hardly use the undiplomatic language of accusing all three of "parroting Russian talking points."

The White House putdown of Hawley shows how the administration is shutting down debate on the issue most deserving of it in a so-called democracy, namely the question of peace or war. **That the White House target is a member of the Senate, which is constitutionally charged with declaring war, is even more alarming.**

**Meddling in the 2016 Election**

It turns out there was actually foreign meddling I the 2016 US Election. Three days ago, long-time Trump associate Felix Sater filed a [cross-complaint](https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.nysd.512427/gov.uscourts.nysd.512427.356.2.pdf) in a New York federal court. The complaint alleges that Russian and Kazakhstan-connected individuals and entities conducted “a shadow intelligence operation against Sater and Trump for the purpose of manufacturing information to harm Donald Trump politically,” including by providing Christopher Steele a PowerPoint presentation riddled with lies Steele later fed to the FBI.

Sater’s cross suit comes nearly three years after the City of Almaty, Kazakhstan, and BTA Bank filed suit against Sater, two of the companies he owned, a former business associate, and that associate’s LLCs, in *City of Almaty, Kazakhstan v. Sater.*

In that lawsuit, filed in May 2019, Almaty and BTA Bank alleged that Sater and the other defendants helped Mukhtar Ablyazov, the former chairman of the BTA Bank, and Viktor Khrapunov, the former mayor of the City of Almaty, launder money the duo had stolen from the plaintiffs. In the case, the plaintiffs sought recovery of millions of dollars in stolen funds, based on claims of fraud, conspiracy, unjust enrichment, and conversion.

While that case has been pending in a federal district court in New York since spring 2019, on Thursday Sater filed for the first time counterclaims against Almaty and BTA Bank. In yesterday’s filing, Sater also added the Republic of Kazakhstan and Arcanum (Asia) Ltd. as parties.

In his lawsuit, Sater claimed that in June 2015, BTA Bank, Almaty, and Kazakhstan, referred to as the Kazakh Parties throughout the court filing, entered a “confidential assistance agreement” or “CAA,” in which they agreed to pay Sater (through his company, Litco) $100,000 per month, plus a percentage of the funds recovered, for Sater’s help in recovering assets stolen by Ablyazov.

The CAA, however, was merely a “guise,” Sater alleged, with Arcanum and the Kazakh Parties instead conspiring “to leak false and defamatory information about Sater to media outlets including ABC News.” “This was part of a concerted effort to falsely (and absurdly) portray Sater, a longtime business partner of Donald Trump, as a Russian agent and Kremlin stooge,” the lawsuit alleged.

Until January 2021, Sater had no reason to know that Arcanum and the Karakh Parties were working against Sater and Trump, according to the lawsuit. It was only then, when the FBI released the 302 interview summary of the FBI’s interview with Steele, that Sater claimed he learned the truth.

In the 302 summary of the FBI’s September 18, 2017, interview of Steele, the agents reported that Steele said that his firm Orbis “was involved in some Kazakhstan-related” work and “some of the material from that work obviously falls within the bounds of the Special Counsel.”

Here, Steele said he “was working on a Kazakh-related project involving an individual by the name of Ablyazov, embezzlement from BTA Bank, pyramid schemes, and connections to Felix Sater and Trump Soho.” According to the interview summary, “Steele said that they want RICO up and running in the United States.”

The agents then noted that “Steele brought along a PowerPoint presentation from the company Arcanum explaining the Sater connection.” The 302 summary added that “this information was slated to be provided to the US Department of Justice and the FBI as it involves a corrupt American official.”

Shortly after Sater became aware of the FBI 302 interview summary of Steele, Sater retained co-counsels John Snyder and Tom Sima in the spring of 2021. According to Snyder, Sater retained the two New York attorneys because they had previously handled sensitive [matters](https://nypost.com/2014/03/18/kazakhstan-presidents-kin-goes-to-war-over-plaza-pad/) involving Kazakhstan and because Sima speaks fluent Russian and has 20 years of experience and contacts in Kazakhstan.

The FBI 302 interview summary of Steele was a “real eye-opener,” Snyder said in an interview, with Sater claiming in his lawsuit that he “was shocked to learn that the Kazakhs [Parties] and Arcanum engaged him under the CAA in bad faith.”

“From the beginning, Arcanum (a private intelligence firm staffed by former officials from the Clinton administration,” Sater alleged, “and their attorneys Boies Schiller (a Democratic Party law firm) intended to use the CAA as a pretext for gathering intelligence against Sater, with the intent of harming Donald Trump’s presidential campaign.”

Sater further alleged that after he learned of the FBI 302, he “investigated further and learned that the Kazakh plot against Sater was coordinated by Karim Massimov, Chairman of the Kazakh KGB and his henchman Kenes Rakishav.” Both “Massimov and Rakishev were actively seeking influence with American politicians” during this time, according to the lawsuit.

The complaint continued: “In 2016, they believed that they would be rewarded for helping the Hillary Clinton campaign (who was considered certain to win the election) by smearing Sater and Trump.” Their “effort to curry favor with prominent American politicians included,” according to Sater, “lavishing money on Hunter Biden, who called Rakishev a ‘close friend.’”

In the middle of 2021, the complaint then explained, Sater “reached out to the Kazakhs [parties] to discuss the FBI 302 and Arcanum’s plot against Sater and Trump.” The parties then proceeded to engage in mediation and settlement discussions, until, according to Sater, unrest in Kazakhstan led to Massimov’s arrest for high treason and Rakishev fleeing the country to Paris. At that point, Sater learned the Kazakhs were walking away from settlement negotiations.

With his attempts to resolve his differences with the Kazakhs Parties and Arcanum privately stalled, Sater resorted to filing the present lawsuit, according to yesterday’s filing, which set forth five separate claims.

In Count I, Sater alleged Aranum defamed him when it drafted a PowerPoint and other communications that falsely claimed: that Sater was involved in embezzlement from BTA Bank; that Sater was involved in pyramid schemes; that Sater was involved in official U.S. corruption; that Sater committed misconduct with respect to the Trump SoHo project; that Sater had committed RICO violations; and that Sater, a married man, was “involved” with Ablyazov’s daughter.

Count II charged the Kazakh Parties with controlling and directing the activities of Arcanum, including its preparation of the PowerPoint presentation about Sater, which Arcanum then provided to Steele, with the intention that Steele then submitted it to the FBI.

The third count alleged a breach of fiduciary duty claim against Arcanum and the Kazakh Parties. Here, Sater argued he “had a confidential relationship with Arcanum, the Kazakh Parties, and their counsel Boies Schiller,” and that “Arcanum, the Kazakh Parties, and their counsel Boies Schiller had a duty to maintain confidentiality with respect to information supplied by Sater.” Sater then alleged that “Arcanum and the Kazakh Parties breached their fiduciary duty by obtaining information from Sater on false pretenses, then disseminating such confidential information (together with false information) to Christopher Steele and others.”

Sater’s fourth claim alleged a “Fraudulent Misrepresentation” count against Arcanum and the Kazakh Parties. They “falsely represented their purpose and objective,” to “gain[] access to confidential information about Sater, his contacts around the world, his dealings with Donald Trump, and many other subjects.”

“This fraudulently obtained information was weaponized against Sater and Trump,” the complaint then alleged, adding, “as evidenced by the fact that Arcanum assembled a dossier on Sater, which was turned over to Christopher Steele and the FBI.” “The same information was then leaked to ABC News,” according to the complaint.

The fifth and final claim alleged a breach of professional ethics against Arcanum and the Kazakh Parties. It was premised on the defendants’ allegedly fraudulent concealment of “the fact that the Kazakh KGB, Arcanum, and Boies Schiller were actively paying for and conducting an opposition research project against Sater and Trump, . . .”

In an email comment received yesterday evening, Matthew L. Schwartz, a partner at the law firm of Boies Schiller Flexner and counsel for BTA Bank and the City of Almaty, Kazakhstan, said, “Felix Sater’s filing is nothing more than conspiracy theories and desperation dressed up like a lawsuit.” “Before it was filed,” Schwartz continued, “we explained in excruciating detail why it is factually, legally, and ethically baseless—including being contradicted by Sater’s own sworn testimony.” The BTA Bank and City of Almaty attorney added that they are “confident that the court will see through his tactics.”

Schwartz and his legal team will need to file formal responses to Sater’s lawsuit, which will surely elaborate on this theme. But, in addition to BTA Bank and Almaty, the newly sued third-party defendant Arcanum, once properly served, will also need to answer the complaint.

Don’t you find it strange that CIA and MI6 forces attacked Almaty last month and tried to burn the evidence of this corruption, just as this lawsuit was being filed? Don’t you find it even more amazing that Tokayev called Putin and requested CSTO troops to come and kick out the paramilitary forces trying to overthrow the government? They came. They restored order and arrested 4,000 troops and jailed the Kazak Minster of Security for treason. The lawsuit will expose the Global Syndicate, again.

Then what? The stakes will go higher. The Syndicate will never let this evidence reach the public and will never let a judge rule against them. The region is a nuclear tinder box, and no one had better drop their guard.

**Tankers**

Over the years much has made about the lobbyists and advisors who prowl the corridors of power in Washington D.C. Many seek publicity profiles in the hope it will convince potential clients and countries that they have high-level "access." Others cultivate their cable news appearances as pundits and commentators, relishing the limelight. Since Trump was elected, the lobbyists have no quarter. They were essentially banned from the White House.

They like to operate in the dark. The more blood and compromise, the better. The greater the media exposure, the less these individuals play a role in actually affecting the nation's policies and politics.

**

**Consider the role of Michael Podhorzer.**

According to published reports, Mr. Podhorzer is **a long time senior advisor to the president of the AFL-CIO, one of the most powerful labor federations in the nation.**

There are some 57 unions under its umbrella and they represent some 12.5 million people. His fellow Democrats are reputed to call him a "wizard" for his skill in leveraging technology on behalf of the union's public policy agenda as well as their chosen candidates. Marry that communication technology with a field force of millions of union men and women and Mr. Podhorzer has a potent national weapon to wield in determining [who will implement](https://elamerican.com/mike-podhorzer-architect-electoral-conspiracy/) America's foreign and domestic policies and who might even be trying to undermine our Constitution ([here](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2021/08/06/bidens_unprecedented_attack_on_the_constitution_146205.html), [here](https://time.com/6140308/domestic-terrorism-justice-department-unit-joe-biden/) and [here).](https://thehill.com/opinion/judiciary/492365-joe-biden-fails-to-understand-the-constitution-on-military-matters)

Until a recent [*Time magazine exposé,*](https://time.com/5936036/secret-2020-election-campaign/) **he was very much out of sight, and deliberately so, as he provided strategic direction to the union**.

According to the *Time* profile he was also a key member of a group that applied enormous organizational and computing power to the task of electing their preferred candidates. They thrived on blackmail and subterfuge. He was the Jeffery Epstein of DC. He could provide the reality to your fantasy, no matter what it involved.

It was immediately obvious that President Donald J. Trump was [not](https://time.com/5936036/secret-2020-election-campaign/) their preferred candidate. He didn’t have any vices to feed. He didn’t take bribes. He did not care for special interest groups.

Efforts have made to confront "dark money," where large amounts of cash are put into campaigns by individuals cloaked in deliberate anonymity. Dark Money, [according to](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/01/29/us/politics/dark-money-takeaways.html) *The New York Times*, "is notoriously hard to track. Dark money is driving a privatization of politics, funding ads, voter turnout and lawsuits — things once left to campaigns and parties. One entity on the left, the Sixteen Thirty Fund, spent $410 million in 2020 — **more than the Democratic National Committee. "** When investigators get too close, they end up dead.

**In a digital era, however, when secretive online campaigns using mega data driven by algorithms can meticulously manipulate election outcomes, the threat to our republic comes from a new and far more dangerous direction. Aided by powerful A.I. they can apply counterfeit ballots in exact proportions to tilt an election with just a few votes in the right precinct.**

Podhorzer utilized a calculated strategy to ensure that Joe Biden would win on Election Day. Far removed from oversight, or the give and take of traditional American election oversight, he applied massive computer power for the purpose of affecting voter behavior and tally outcomes. He is a skilled professional working far from public scrutiny. Virtual Joe’s presence in the White House underscores just how effective he and his colleagues were in 2020. One can only imagine their plans for the mid-terms. They simply will not accept defeat, no matter how bad we think it looks for them.

**Much has been written about the role of hostile nations seeking to influence American public policy through the use of social media, and masquerading as Americans questioning our values and national direction.** Without firing a shot or launching a missile, our enemies seek to apply [online digital strategies](https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ICA-declass-16MAR21.pdf) to unravel the fabric of our republic, influencing redistricting, ballot harvesting, and the full-scale cheat-by-mail system that was so successful in 2020. We want to aggressively "out" those efforts and confront those who troll the American electorate.

**Yet the *Time* profile is a stunning reminder that the far bigger threat to our democratic future and our Constitution might lie within our own borders.**

As Shakespeare suggested in the play *Julius Caesar*, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves..."

Each year, state lawmakers across the U.S. introduce thousands of bills dreamed up and written by corporations, industry groups and think tanks. Cleverly disguised as the work of lawmakers, these so-called “model” bills get copied in one state Capitol after another, quietly advancing the agenda of the people who write them.

The phenomenon of copycat legislation is so large that it completely eclipses actual law writing by actual elected officials. The Center for Public Integrity identified tens of thousands of bills with identical phrases, then they traced the origins of that language in dozens of those bills across the country. You will never guess what they found.

Model bills passed into law have made it nearly impossible for injured consumers to sue corporations. This means that illegal laws can never make it to the Supreme Court, because there are no lawsuits to get it there. They’ve called for taxes on everything from sugar-laden drinks to rain water falling on your roof. They restrict the rights of protesters and make sure no one can compete against them in small-scale monopolies in dozens of industries from food services to therapeutics to electric vehicles.

In all, these copycat bills amount to by far the nation’s largest, unreported special-interest campaign, driving agendas in every statehouse and touching nearly every area of public policy.

 These fill-in-the-blank bills have in some states supplanted the traditional approach of writing legislation from scratch. They have become so intertwined with the lawmaking process that the nation’s top sponsor of copycat legislation, a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, claimed to have signed on to 72 such bills without knowing or questioning their origin.

For lawmakers, copying model legislation is an easy way to get fully formed bills to put their names on, while building relationships with lobbyists and other potential campaign donors.

For special interests seeking to stay under the radar and using government to protect their high-profit companies from competition, model legislation also offers distinct advantages. Copycat bills don’t appear on expense reports, or campaign finance forms. They don’t require someone to register as a lobbyist or sign in at committee hearings. But once injected into the lawmaking process, they can go viral, spreading state to state, executing an agenda to the letter.

* Models are drafted with deceptive titles and descriptions to disguise their true intent. The Asbestos Transparency Act didn’t help people exposed to asbestos. It was written by corporations who wanted to make it harder for victims to recoup money. The “HOPE Act,” introduced in nine states, was written by a conservative advocacy group to make it more difficult for people to get food stamps.
* Special interests sometimes work to create the illusion of expert endorsements, public consensus or grassroots support. One man testified as an expert in 13 states to support a bill that makes it more difficult to sue for asbestos exposure. In several states, lawmakers weren’t told that he was a member of the organization that wrote the model legislation on behalf of the asbestos industry, the American Legislative Exchange Council.
* Copied bills have been used to override the will of local voters and their elected leaders. Cities and counties have raised their minimum wage, banned plastics bags and destroyed seized guns, only to have industry groups that oppose such measures make them illegal with model bills passed in state legislatures. Among them: Airbnb has supported the conservative Arizona-based Goldwater Institute, which pushed model bills to strike down local laws limiting short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods in four states.
* Industry groups have had extraordinary success pushing copycat bills that benefit themselves. More than 4,000 such measures were introduced during the period analyzed by *USA TODAY/Arizona Republic*. One that passed in Wisconsin limited pain-and-suffering compensation for injured nursing-home residents, restricting payouts to lost wages, which the elderly residents don’t have.

This work proves what many people have suspected, which is just how much of lawmaking has been outsourced to think tanks. The impact of model legislation is far larger than the 10,000 copied bills identified by this report. Because the investigation relied on matching identical text, it flagged instances where legislators copied model legislation nearly verbatim, but it did not detect bills that adapted an idea without using the same language.

Sherri Greenberg, who spent 10 years in the Texas Legislature and is now the Max Sherman Chair in State and Local Government at the University of Texas at Austin, said bills used to spring from lawmakers’ experiences, constituents, or lobbyists representing long-established industries. Model legislation has flourished as gridlock in Congress forced special interest groups to look to the states to get things done, she said.

Allison Anderman, managing attorney at the pro-gun-control Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said model bills are simply how the system works now.

“This is how all laws are written,” she said. “You’d be hard-pressed to find a law where a legislator sits in a chamber until a light bulb goes off with a new policy.”

**Bills promise to protect the public. They actually bolster the corporate bottom line.**

The Asbestos Transparency Act sounds like the kind of boring, good-government policy voters expect their representatives to hammer out on their behalf to safeguard public health.

Better transparency was one reason Colorado state Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg said he introduced the bill in 2017, and again last year, at the urging of a tort reform group called the Colorado Civil Justice League and backed by insurance companies, including Nationwide Insurance.

“Whenever you add transparency to the mix, it helps all consumers,” said Sonnenberg, a Republican.

But the bill had nothing to do with requiring companies to disclose to consumers what products contained asbestos or informing those who had been exposed to the cancer-causing mineral how to get help.

It, in effect, cast corporations as victims of litigation filed by people harmed by asbestos. The model bill requires people battling the asbestos-triggered disease mesothelioma to seek money from an asbestos trust, set up to compensate victims, before they can sue a company whose product might have caused their cancer.

That process can take months or even a year.

Many mesothelioma victims die within a year their diagnosis. Their families can stillsue on their behalf, but for far less money.

“I can tell you for a fact that families don’t have time for all these hoops they want you to jump through,” said Chris Winokur, whose husband Bob was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2015 and died nine months later. “They’re trying to make it more difficult to sue.”

Bob Winokur, who worked for the U.S. Forest Service and served as mayor of Fort Collins, Colorado, never pinpointed where he came in contact with asbestos. And he never filed a claim to help pay his medical bills. The disease progressed too rapidly to allow it, even without the additional requirements proposed by the model bill, Chris Winokur said.

The model legislation was the work of corporations seeking to limit their exposure to billions of dollars in litigation associated with asbestos. Insurance companies Nationwide, AIG, Travelers, Hartford and CNA Financial Corp. together hold more than half the nation’s asbestos claim exposure totaling over $870 million.

The Asbestos Transparency Act, a product of the American Legislative Exchange Council, an industry-supported model bill factory, has been introduced in at least 32 states since 2012.  It became law in 12 of those states.

Sonnenberg, the lawmaker who introduced it in Colorado, said he didn’t write the bill and relied on experts—which is a fancy name for think tanks—to explain it during a February 2017 hearing.

One of those experts was Mark Behrens, who logs thousands of miles a year testifying before lawmakers about ALEC’s model asbestos legislation. He has done so in at least 13 states, where he was billed as an objective authority. That is the basis of the allegation of fraud.

Behrens is actually an attorney with Shook, Hardy and Bacon, which represents corporations being sued by people hurt by their products. He is a co-chairman of ALEC’s Civil Justice Task Force and is a paid consultant for the U.S. Chamber’s Institute for Legal Reform, an arm of the nation’s largest business lobby, which has the stated goal of reducing litigation.

During the hearing, Behrens testified: “The only thing the legislation does is accelerate the timing of when the trust claim is filed. It’s not putting any new burdens on plaintiffs.”

A Democratic legislator pressed Behrens on why the 26-page bill needed technical language that could confuse victims trying to be compensated. She called it, “a gift to defendants,” before voting against it.

Sonnenberg said he was unaware Behrens worked for the Chamber of Commerce when he called him to testify. “I just knew they were experts and they indeed understood the legal issues and process much better than I,” he wrote in an email.

More than 4,000 bills benefiting industry were introduced nationwide during the eight years it reviewed. More than 80 of those bills limit the public’s ability to sue corporations, including limiting class-action lawsuits, a plaintiff’s ability to offer expert testimony, and cap punitive damages for corporate wrongdoing.

“No citizens are saying, ‘Hey, can you make it harder to sue if … low-paid (nursing home) orderlies happened to kill or injure my parents,’ ” Graves said. “That’s not a thing citizens are clamoring for. But you know who is? The publicly traded nursing home industry, and big business in general.”

Many of the bills  were copied from think tank models written by special interests were couched in technical language that obscured their impact. Bans on raising thelocal minimum wage were dubbed “uniform minimum wage” laws. Changes to civil court rules to shield companies from lawsuits were described as ”congruity” or reforms to make laws consistent. Repealing business regulations was disguised under the term “rescission.”

Lawmakers, even sponsors, often don’t read the bills. They are too large, purposefully complex, and contain hidden features that protect corporations in a shield of fascism.

A slightly deeper probe reveals bills tha all came from ALEC, its liberal counterpart ALICE, the State Innovation Exchange, Council of State Governments, Goldwater Institute and other groups that specialize in writing copycat bills. They dealt with cities’ ability to take action against blighted properties, prohibitions on businesses banning guns in employees’ vehicles, and a call for the U.S. president to be elected by popular vote, among many others.

**More than 50 sponsors of model legislation were interviewed nationwide.** Half said they knew they had sponsored model legislation. But 20 legislators said they didn’t know the source of their bill or claimed they wrote at least part of the bill. Those were lies. They didn’t even read, let alone write, the Cliff notes.

Five insisted the bill was their own work, even though the wording of each included multiple passages that matched model legislation nearly verbatim. **Almost all of the sponsors defended the practice of copying model legislation or had no opinion of it. It is think tank copy and paste legislation, and the people have absolutely zero representation in that form of government. It is tyranny, pure and simple.**

In Michigan, Republican state Sen. Joe Haveman said he worked with a lobbyist from a Lansing law firm to draft his state’s version of the law aimed at shielding Crown Cork & Seal from asbestos liability stemming from a corporate merger in the 1960s. The law firm, Clark Hill, has donated $1,800 to his campaigns since 2012, according to state records. That’s where the fascism really gets bloody.

Haveman said he had no issues with relying on model bills and said even though Crown Cork & Seal is not a Michigan company, he said he saw it as a “fairness issue.”He said he was approached by a lobbyist and agreed with the bill when he saw a draft. It’s easy to agree when there is a check paper clipped to the cover letter.

“It really had nothing to do with my passion for anything. They had to do this in all 50 states,” Haveman said. “Somebody targeted me, and I had to do it.”

It’s not just legislators circulating copycat bills. In Pennsylvania, the nonpartisan service that drafts all bills for the state Assembly – the Legislative Reference Bureau – frequently copies directly from model legislation, said director Vincent DeLiberato. But the legislator ultimately decides whether to use it, he said.

In Wisconsin, the Legislature’s nonpartisan legal staff is similarly tasked with converting lawmakers’ ideas into bills. A March 1, 2017, email to that staff from the office of Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos requested that an attached document be “drafted as stated.”

The lexicon search found the identical model was introduced in 13 states, becoming law in Arizona and North Carolina. A similar version passed in Colorado.

The relationship between groups writing model legislation and the lawmakers introducing them is a marriage of convenience. These guys look busy, because they’re getting paid good money. The laws are pure fascism, but no one cares, because special interests give these slimeballs fully conceived bills they can put their names on and take credit for. Kind of like Bernie Sanders’ book. Then, the lawmaker is handcuffed for life to that donor.

Functionally illiterate lawmakers such as Sheila Jackson Lee, or AOC are more likely to use copycat legislation.

Meierling, ALEC’s chief marketing officer, said there are checks and balances on corporate influence within the organization “just like our government structure.”

Progressive groups operate almost 100% on the inputs from think tanks. **Bills sound like they’re protecting people from a problem. They’re actually for promotion, and persuading people to open their wallets.**

The point is seemingly to score political points, draw attention to the organization behind the model, and raise funds off the effort.

**Think Tanks: The True Lawmakers**

Think tank: The term denotes a group of people who are paid to do nothing but read, discuss, think, and write, usually to address and redress a matter of vital importance to humanity.

You can think of a think tank as a research university blessed with a complete absence of students and where, as a consequence, none of its professors has to teach---all they have to do is research, research, research.

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At last count, the United States had 1,984 think tanks---nearly a third of the world's total. American think tanks are constantly researching solutions to a variety of the world's problems, and then arguing, advocating, and lobbying for policy changes at local, state, and federal levels.

Some think tanks, such as the [Brookings Institution](http://www.brookings.edu/) or the [Heritage Foundation](http://www.heritage.org/), have become household names and are cited frequently by major news corporations. Others are cited by outside organizations less frequently, or perhaps not at all, but publish their own articles and books for a select---and at times even sizable---audience.

The institutions on this list make up the 50 most influential think tanks in the United States. What makes a think tank influential? One way to gauge the influence of a think tank is to focus on the scholars active in it, their record of publications and other scholarly achievements, and how deeply these have affected the culture's climate of opinion.

Think tanks are principally in the business of selling their ideas. In this age of the Internet, in which every think tank has a website, we therefore can regard think tanks as in the business of search engine marketing, i.e., as attempting to market their ideas over the Internet and especially through their website.

Enter the tools that online businesses, like ours, use to assess how well websites and their pages are ranking with the search engines (we use several such tools, notably [SEMrush.com](http://www.semrush.com/)). At TheBestSchools.org, we need these tools to determine how well we are doing in attracting and holding visitor traffic---in other words, to determine how *influential* our website is.

Accordingly, in choosing and ranking the think tanks on this list, we employed the following criteria, which look less at the intrinsic merit of a think tank and its intellectual program as at its pragmatic or "cash value" (as the philosopher William James would have put it):

* The popularity of a think tank's official website, ranked against all other websites, as determined by the average number of monthly visitors (specifically, organic search traffic), number of keywords/phrases for which the site ranks, and the monetary value of the traffic as gauged by those keywords. All these numbers come from SEMrush, and this is our master criterion.
* Average yearly revenue (in most cases, over the course of five years) as reported by the think tanks. As non-profit organizations, think-tanks must make their revenue numbers available to the public; the greater its revenue, the more influential the think tank---other things being equal.
* The average number of printed media references per year by outside organizations (according to fair.org and Nexis).
* The number of categories in which a think tank was ranked by the University of Pennsylvania (Lauder Institute) in its [2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index](http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1008&context=think_tanks). This report does not reflect intrinsic intellectual performance or academic accomplishment per se. Rather, it is based on the perceptions of hundreds of journalists, policymakers, and think tank employees.

**The 50 Most Influential Think Tanks in the United States**

**1. [Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/)**

*(Cambridge, MA)*
The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs was established in 1973 with the intent of analyzing arms control and nuclear threat reduction. Thanks to a sizable donation by the Ford Foundation, Belfer is now a permanent research center located at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and has expanded to include research in the subjects of science, technology, public policy, the environment, and natural resources. Today, Belfer works towards a dual mission of “preparing future generations of leaders,” and “providing leadership in advancing policy-relevant knowledge about the most important challenges of ... security and .... other critical issues.”

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 688
* Monthly Traffic: 3.2M
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $7,700,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: Unknown
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #1 (University-Affiliated Think Tank)
* Notable Figures: Graham Allison, Stephen Biddle (former), Robert Blackwill, William Clark

**2.**[**Earth Institute**](http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/sections/view/9)

*(New York, NY)*
The Earth Institute was founded in 1995 at Columbia University in New York. With the belief that currently existing science and technology could be applied to improve the conditions of world populations, the Institute focuses on addressing important global issues such as sustainable development and the needs of the world's poor. The Institute is composed of 18 separate units, all of which conduct their own research and writing. These include the Center for Rivers and Estuaries, the Earth Engineering Center, the Urban Design Lab, and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society, among others. The Institute also regularly partners with similar institutions in order to specifically target various topics. Finally, the Institute maintains the popular blog “State of the Planet.”

* Political Orientation: Centrist
* SEMrush Ranking: 972
* Monthly Traffic: 2.1M
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $5,200,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: Unknown
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #36 (US), #5 (University Affiliated), #26 (Environment)
* Notable Figures: Scott Barrett, Robin Bell, Michael Gerrard

**3.**[**Heritage Foundation**](http://www.heritage.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Founded in 1973, the Heritage Foundation rose to prominence during the Reagan administration and the Conservative Movement of the 1980s. In fact, many of Reagan's policies drew significantly from the “Mandate for Leadership,” Heritage's official policy study. Since then, Heritage has solidified itself as one of the most influential Conservative organizations in the United States. Consistent with its interest in economic principles, Heritage tracks the yearly growth of federal spending, revenue, debt and deficits, and entitlement programs, which it then publishes as the Budget Chart Book and distributes free to the public. Heritage also publishes a number of political theory books, and partners with the *Wall Street Journal* each year to publish the Annual Index of Economic Freedom. Heritage's current Board of Trustees reads like a “Who's Who” of the new Conservative movement, and includes such names as Larry P. Arnn (President of Hillsdale College), Jim DeMint (former Senator and now President of Heritage), and Steve Forbes (President and CEO of *Forbes*).

* Political Orientation: Conservative
* SEMrush Ranking: 4.9K
* Monthly Traffic: 279K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $392,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $112.7 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 1,298
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #9 (US), #17 (world)
* Notable Figures: Michael J. Gerson (former), Rebecca Hagelin (former), Edwin Meese III (former), Walter E. Williams (former)

**4.**[**Human Rights Watch**](https://www.hrw.org/)

*(New York, NY)*
With headquarters in New York and offices in 18 major cities around the world (including Washington, DC), Human Rights Watch is a powerful organization that conducts research and advocacy on human rights. The organization was originally founded in 1978 in order to monitor the Soviet Union's compliance with the Helsinki Accords, but has since expanded to include an Americas Watch, an Asia Watch, an Africa Watch, and a Middle East Watch. Each year, Human Rights Watch publishes hundreds of reports on violations of international human rights norms in an effort to draw attention to abuses and pressure governments to reform. In recent years, the organization has been the subject of a number of controversies regarding its association with polarizing philanthropist George Soros, and accusations that it is too influenced by the agendas of US foreign policy.

* Political Orientation: Liberal
* SEMrush Ranking: 6.9K
* Monthly Traffic: 197K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $301,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $59.3 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Michele Alexander, Carroll Bogert, Kenneth Roth

**5.**[**Kaiser Family Foundation**](http://kff.org/)

*(Menlo Park, CA)*
Founded in 1948, the Kaiser Family Foundation focuses on major healthcare issues in the US and, to a lesser extent, the world. Over the years, it has become a must-read for healthcare devotees and a quality non-partisan source for up-to-date and accurate information on health policy. The Foundation regularly releases facts, polls, and analyses that are in turn used by the media, policymakers, the healthcare community, and the general public. Specific research programs include disparities policy, global health policy, health costs, health reform, HIV/AIDS, Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, the uninsured, and women's health policy. Despite an original association, the Foundation is no longer affiliated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 7.0K
* Monthly Traffic: 182K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $356,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $127 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 874
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Drew Altman, Diane Rowland, Mollyann Brodie

**6.**[**Council on Foreign Relations**](http://www.cfr.org/)

*(New York, NY)*
With offices in New York City and Washington, DC, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is considered by some to be the most influential foreign-policy think tank in the United States. Including names like Fareed Zakaria, Colin Powell, Tom Brokaw, and Madeleine Albright, CFR's impressive membership list has included senior politicians, more than a dozen Secretaries of State, CIA directors, bankers, lawyers, professors, and prominent media figures. CFR is perhaps best known by the general public as the publisher of the widely read bi-monthly journal *Foreign Affairs*. In policy circles, however, CFR is known for its “David Rockefeller Studies Program,” which often succeeds in influencing foreign policy by making official recommendations to the President and diplomatic community, testifying before Congress, speaking with the media, and publishing on issues of foreign policy.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 8.3K
* Monthly Traffic: 147K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $203,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $61.0 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 993
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #4 (US), #8 (world), #4 (Foreign Policy and International Affairs)
* Notable Figures: Madeleine Albright (former), Tom Brokaw (former), Colin Powell (former), Fareed Zakaria (former)

**7.**[**Brookings Institution**](http://www.brookings.edu/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Brookings Institution boasts two major claims when it comes to think tanks: it was likely the first think tank to be founded in the United States, and its studies are the most widely cited by the media. Since its foundation in 1916, Brookings has influenced and contributed to the creation of such historic phenomena as the United Nations, the Marshall Plan, the Congressional Budget Office, and various policies of deregulation, broad-based tax reform, welfare reform, and foreign aid. Despite being founded as a Progressive institution, Brookings states that its scholars “represent diverse points of view.” Consistent with this claim is the fact that Brookings is referenced by Conservative politicians almost as frequently as it is by those who are Liberal. To keep up with its widespread influence, Brookings conducts research and education in a number of social sciences, including economics, metropolitan policy, governance, foreign policy, and global economy and development.

* Political Orientation: Progressive
* SEMrush Ranking: 10.7K
* Monthly Traffic: 113K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $169,000
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 2,434
* Average Annual Income: $107.5 million
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #1 (World), #1 (US), #4 (Defense and Security), #1 (Foreign Policy and International Affairs), #1 (Domestic Economic Policy), #4 (Environmental Policy), #3 (Education Policy), #3 (Domestic Health Policy)
* Notable Figures: Ben Bernanke (former), Jon Huntsman (former), Robert Kagan (former)

**8.**[**Cato Institute**](http://www.cato.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Founded in 1974, Cato Institute moved to Washington, DC, in 1981 in an attempt to become more influential. And become influential it has! Today, Cato is a multi-billion, multi-issue organization consisting of more than 200 faculty and staff members. Named after *Cato's Letters*, a series of pamphlets published in England in the 1720s which helped lay the philosophical foundation for the American Revolution, Cato's mission is “to broaden the parameters of public policy debate to allow consideration of the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, free markets, and peace.” To achieve this mission, Cato publishes numerous policy studies, briefs, books, and periodicals, including the peer-reviewed *Cato Journal*. It also maintains popular websites such as Libertarianism.org, Cato-unbound.org, Overlawyered.com, and Policemisconduct.net.

* Political Orientation: Libertarian
* SEMrush Ranking: 13.2K
* Monthly Traffic: 87.5K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $63,400
* Average Yearly Revenue: $29.1 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 718
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #8 (US), #16 (worldwide), #5 (Domestic Economic Policy), #4 (Education Policy)
* Notable Figures: 10 Nobel Prize--winners in Economic Sciences have worked with Cato, including both Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman; other notable former fellows include Vaclav Klaus (the second President of the Czech Republic, 2003--2013) and *National Review* icon P.J. O'Rourke

**Cato Institute's Friedich Hayek ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#friedrich-hayek)**.**

**Cato Institute's Milton Friedman ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#milton-friedman)**.**

**9.**[**Ludwig von Mises Institute**](https://mises.org/)

*(Auburn, AL)*
Ludwig von Mises Institute is a Libertarian academic think tank that specializes in researching and promoting Classical Liberal viewpoints about subjects such as economics, philosophy, and political economy. Named for the famous Austrian School economist, the Institute's stated mission is to promote “the Misesian tradition of thought through the defense of the market economy, private property, sound money, and peaceful international relations, while opposing government intervention.” As such it has become, perhaps more than any other institution on this list, the darling of myriad Young Conservative groups.

The Ludwig von Mises Institute resists being labeled as "conservative" by any standard. Specifically, their foreign policy views, their position on the US Constitution, and their views on social policy are all either non-conservative or anti-conservative. The only place where conservatives may overlap with them is in market economics, but only in America is that considered to be a "conservative" position.

The Institute publishes a large number of books, journal articles, and online articles each year, including the *Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics* and the *Mises Review*.

* Political Orientation:Libertarian/Classical Liberal
* SEMrush Ranking: 17.3K
* Monthly Traffic: 66.2K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $39,700
* Average Yearly Revenue: $4.7 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Andrew Napolitano, Ron Paul, Murray Rothbard (former)
* [See the Mises Institute's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#Mises)

**Ludwig von Mises ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#ludwig-mises)**.**

**Ludwig von Mises' Murray Rothbard ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#murray-rothbard)**.**

**10.**[**American Enterprise Institute**](http://www.aei.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Founded in 1938, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) seeks to “defend the principles and improve the institutions of American freedom and democratic capitalism” through “limited government, private enterprise, individual liberty and responsibility, vigilant and effective defense and foreign policies, political accountability, and open debate.” In recent years, AEI has become the most prominent think tank associated with Neo-Conservatism, and has succeeded in placing its members in influential government positions---a fact which has made it highly controversial. In fact, more than 20 AEI scholars and fellows served in posts in the George W. Bush administration.

* Political Orientation: Conservative
* SEMrush Ranking: 17.7K
* Monthly Traffic: 62.1K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $53,600
* Average Yearly Revenue: $64.0 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 1,100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #13 (Defense and National Security)
* Notable Figures: Former UN Ambassador John Bolton; former NEH chairperson Lynne Cheney; author and former Dutch parliamentarian Ayaan Hirsi Ali; sociologist and best-selling author Charles A. Murray; and PBS “Think Tank” host Ben J. Wattenberg
* [See the American Enterprise Institute's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#AmericanEnterprise)

**11.**[**RAND Corporation**](http://www.rand.org/)

*(Santa Monica, CA)*
Standing for "Research ANd Development," the RAND Corporation was founded in 1948 by the Douglas Aircraft Company in order to look into the long-range planning of future weapons. Today, RAND is funded by the US government, a private endowment, universities, and major corporations (especially healthcare), and as such has extended its areas of focus to include everything from energy and the environment, to transportation and public safety. On the education front, RAND is home to the Frederick S. Pardee RAND Graduate School, the world's largest PhD-granting program in Policy Analysis. RAND also publishes the peer-reviewed *RAND Journal of Economics.*

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 18.0K
* Monthly Traffic: 64.7K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $121,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $313.2 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 618
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #7 (world), #6 (US), #2 (Domestic Health Policy), #2 (Education Policy), #5 (Energy and Resource Policy), #2 (Defense and Security)
* Notable Figures: 32 Nobel Prize recipients have been associated with RAND in the last 60 years, including John Forbes Nash, Jr., Thomas C. Schelling, and Oliver Williamson

**12.**[**Center for American Progress**](https://www.americanprogress.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Founded in 2003, Center for American Progress (CAP) is one of the youngest---yet most influential---think tanks on this list. With the motto “Progressive ideas for a strong, just, and free America,” CAP deals in major domestic issues such as Economic Policy, Education, Health, Security and International Affairs, and Social Policy. CAP's influence climaxed during the 2008 Presidential election, due in part to its campus outreach group, Generation Progress. In fact, referring to the program's success, *Time* magazine said, “Not since the Heritage Foundation helped guide Ronald Reagan's transition in 1981 has a single outside group held so much sway.” Since then, the Center has remained highly influential with the Obama Administration, especially in the form of appointments. Unfortunately, CAP has undergone a number of recent controversies due to its unwillingness to disclose its contributors. In 2015, the Center released a partial list that included the Ford Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Walmart, Walton Family Foundation, CitiGroup, and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates. CAP's current CEO, Neera Tanden, formerly worked for the Obama and Clinton administrations, and for Hillary Clinton's campaigns.

* Political Orientation: Liberal/Progressive
* SEMrush Ranking: 21.0K
* Monthly Traffic: 53.8K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $59,900
* Average Yearly Revenue: $40.8 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 843
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #10 (US)
* Notable Figures: Former Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (former); the late Elizabeth Edwards; former Assistant Secretary of Defense Lawrence Korb (former)

**13.**[**Guttmacher Institute**](http://www.guttmacher.org/)

*(New York, NY)*
As stated in its mission statement, the Guttmacher Institute aims to “generate new ideas, encourage enlightened public debate, promote sound policy and program development and, ultimately, inform individual decision making” about some of the United States' most divisive topics, including abortion, contraception, HIV/AIDS, and bioethics, and other sexual and reproductive health issues. Founded in 1968 as a semi-autonomous division of Planned Parenthood, the Liberal organization has since become an independent institution that has raised more than $22 million in 2013, and $16 million last year. The Institute publishes The *Guttmacher Policy Review* journal, as well as the periodicals *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* and *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health.* All of its publications are researched and written with the goal of ensuring high standards of sexual and reproductive health for all people worldwide. The Institute works both in the United States and globally, evenly splitting its energies between the two.

* Political Orientation: Liberal
* SEMrush Ranking: 22.7K
* Monthly Traffic: 48.2K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $157,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $18 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 279
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Kinsey Hasstedt and Elizabeth Nash

**14.**[**Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**](http://www.cbpp.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) was founded in 1981 by Robert Greenstein, a former political appointee in the Jimmy Carter administration. The Center analyzes the impact of federal and state government budget policies from a Progressive viewpoint, and as such, generally argues for more spending for social programs and fewer tax cuts. The Center has been involved in the establishment of a number of influential government programs over the years, including the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative and the International Budget Partnership. CBPP's Board of Directors includes such names as former Kennedy press secretary Frank Mankiewicz, Brookings Institute senior fellow Henry J. Aaron, and former Social Security Administration Commissioner Kenneth S. Apfel.

* Political Orientation: Progressive
* SEMrush Ranking: 23.2K
* Monthly Traffic: 46.8K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $67,300
* Average Yearly Revenue: $37.6 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 461
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #23 (US), #14 (Social Policy), #20 (Domestic Economic Policy), #49 (Best Managed)
* Notable Figures: Jared Bernstein, Kathy Ruffing, Paul N. Van de Water

**15.**[**National Bureau of Economic Research**](http://www.nber.org/)

*(Cambridge, MA)*
The National Bureau of Economic Research has been committed to “undertaking and disseminating unbiased economic research among public policymakers, business professional, and the academic community.” In fact, NBER is best known for accurately providing start and end dates for recessions in the United States. Not surprisingly, considering its success, an amazing 22 Nobel Prize--winners for economics have been a part of NBER, including Milton Friedman, Paul Krugman, and Joseph Stiglitz. In recent years, NBER has developed additional research programs in subjects such as aging, children, education, and healthcare, among others.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 25.0K
* Monthly Traffic: 46.3K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $60,600
* Average Yearly Revenue: Unknown
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown, though NBER claims it is the second most-cited think tank
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #11 (US), #2 (Domestic Economic Policy)
* Notable Figures: Milton Friedman (former), Paul Krugman (former), Joseph Stiglitz (former)

**National Bureau of Economic Research's Joseph Stiglitz ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#joseph-stiglitz)**.**

**National Bureau of Economic Research's Paul Krugman ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#robin-krugman)**.**

**16.**[**Electronic Privacy Information Center**](https://www.epic.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Electronic Privacy Information Center, known also as EPIC, was founded in 1994 by the Fund for Constitutional Government and Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility. At first, EPIC focused solely on government surveillance and issues having to do with cryptology. Since then, it has expanded to include programs and research on a much wider variety of topics, including government transparency, electronic voting, identity theft, medical record privacy, commercial mining data, and the use of the Freedom of Information Act to publicize documents. Appropriately, EPIC's publications are practically all online. In addition to maintaining websites and groups such as privacy.org, the Public Voice coalition, and the Privacy Coalition, EPIC publishes the online EPIC Alert every two weeks. Other EPIC publications include *Privacy & Human Rights,* *Litigation Under the Federal Open Government Laws*, *Public Voice WSIS Sourcebook,* *Privacy Law Sourcebook,* and *Consumer Law Sourcebook.*

* Political Orientation: Libertarian
* SEMrush Ranking: 27.6K
* Monthly Traffic: 38.1K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $99,200
* Average Yearly Revenue: $805,000
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 275
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Khaliah Barnes, Marc Rotenberg

**17.**[**Peterson Institute for International Economics**](http://www.iie.com/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Founded in 1981 by C. Fred Bergsten, the Peterson Institute for International Economics devotes itself to the study of international economic policy. Though many think tanks declare themselves “Independent,” both the US Congress and various press organizations have rated Peterson truly “neutral” and “nonpartisan”---a rarity. The most recent Global Go To Think Tank Index Report listed Peterson as the 13th-best in the United States; however, it was ranked first as recently as 2008, and in 2011 the British magazine *Prospect* referred to Peterson's as the “Oscars of the think tank world.”

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 28.1K
* Monthly Traffic: 37.3K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $117,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $11 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 260
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #13 (US), #15 (world), #4 (Domestic Economic Policy)
* Notable Figures: Bank of Israel Governor Stanley Fischer; Chevron Corp. Chairman David O'Reilly; Former President of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo

**18.**[**Center for Strategic and International Studies**](http://csis.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is one of the most respected think tanks in Washington. Since 1962, CSIS has maintained its stated mission of “finding ways to sustain American prominence and prosperity as a force for good in the world” by providing non-partisan policy analyses on issues such as international relations, trade, technology, finance, energy, and geo-strategy. Over the years, a number of well-respected figures from every part of the political spectrum have worked with CSIS, including Madeleine Albright, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and former Undersecretary of Defense Michele Flournoy. CSIS regularly publishes books, reports, newsletters, and commentaries targeted at major decision-makers. These publications include *Washington Quarterly*, *Critical Questions*, *Freeman Report Newsletter,* and *New Perspectives in Foreign Policy.*

* Political Orientation: Centrist
* SEMrush Ranking: 28.8K
* Monthly Traffic: 36.2K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $192,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $37.2 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 692
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #4 (world), #5 (Foreign Policy and International Affairs), #1 (Defense and Security)
* Notable Figures: former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (former), former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak (former), former Undersecretary of Defense Michele Flournoy (former)

**19.**[**Urban Institute**](http://www.urban.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Urban Institute was founded in 1968 by the Lyndon B. Johnson administration in order to study the nation's urban problems and evaluate initiatives set in motion through LBJ's “Great Society” laws. Today, Urban conducts nearly 200 individual projects at any given time, the subjects of which range from the cost-effectiveness of crime prevention to the success of immigrant children in US schools. Most of Urban's researchers are economists, social scientists, or public policy researchers, and past Board of Trustee members have included such heavyweights as McGeorge Bundy and Robert McNamara. Though Urban describes itself as “Independent,” a study by the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* on media bias ranked the Institute as the eleventh-most-liberal (right between the NAACP and PETA). Urban has also been described as a “leading liberal think tank” by *the Los Angeles Times*.

* Political Orientation: Liberal
* Average Yearly Revenue: $77 million
* SEMrush Ranking: 29.9K
* Monthly Traffic: 34.6K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $41,700
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 546
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #20 (US), #1 (Education Policy)
* Notable Figures: Harry P. Hatry, Rudolph G. Penner, Robert D. Reischauer

**20.**[**Economic Policy Institute**](http://www.epi.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) is a Liberal think tank that assesses current economic policies and advocates for low- and moderate-income families. EPI deals with 12 main issues (including education, immigration, race and ethnicity, and health), and runs three major programs: the Economic Analysis and Research Network, a nationwide network of advocacy groups; the Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy, which addresses economic inequalities faced by minorities; and the Broader, Bolder Approach to Education, a national campaign that seeks to remedy issues faced by children in education. EPI also publishes *State of Working America,* a regularly published book that breaks down the economy's impact on the living standards of working families.

* Political Orientation: Liberal
* SEMrush Ranking: 30.1K
* Monthly Traffic: 34.4K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $103,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $7 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 555
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #46 (US), #55 (Domestic Economic Policy)
* Notable Figures: Josh Bivens, Daniel Costa, Emma Garcia

**21.**[**Aspen Institute**](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Founded in 1950, the Aspen Institute is dedicated to “fostering enlightened leadership, the appreciation of timeless ideas and values, and open-minded dialogue on contemporary issues.” To do this, the Institute regularly hosts seminars, policy programs, conferences, and leadership development initiatives. Aspen is headquartered in Washington, DC, but has additional campuses in Colorado and Maryland, as well as partner Aspen Institutes in Berlin, Rome, Madrid, Paris, Lyon, Tokyo, New Delhi, Prague, and Bucharest. The Aspen Institute's Board of Trustees is easily the most impressive of the 50 think tanks on this list, and includes such names as Madeleine Albright, Salman Khan, David Koch, Yo-Yo Ma, Queen Noor of Jordan, and Condoleezza Rice. Acclaimed author Walter Isaacson is Aspen's current President and CEO.

* Political Orientation: Centrist
* SEMrush Ranking: 32.1K
* Monthly Traffic: 32.0K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $48,600
* Average Yearly Revenue: $97.9 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 203
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #45 (US)
* Notable Figures: David Devlin-Foltz, Maurice LaMee, Peter Waanders, Damian Woetzel

**22.**[**Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is a DC-based think tank dealing primarily in issues of international development, science and technology, and security and international affairs. Established in 1968 as part of the Smithsonian Institution, the Center named for former President Woodrow Wilson seeks to “commemorate the ideals and concerns of [Wilson] by: providing a link between the world of ideas and the world of policy; and fostering research, study, discussion, and collaboration among a full spectrum of individuals.” Though officially a Centrist organization, most critics tend to agree that it actually leans toward the Liberal or Progressive side (Wilson was one of the first Progressives, while Democrat John Kerry is a current member). The Woodrow Wilson Center Press publishes a number of books each year by fellows and other resident scholars, as well as the Center's journal, *Wilson Quarterly.*

* Political Orientation: Centrist
* SEMrush Ranking: 32.3K
* Monthly Traffic: 31.6K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $23,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $15 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 200
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #5 (US), #10 (world)
* Notable Figures: Lawrence K. Altman, Charles Armstrong, Cynthia Arnson

**23.**[**Hoover Institution**](http://www.hoover.org/)

*(Stanford, CA)*
The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace is a think tank associated with Stanford University. Since its founding by pre-presidential Herbert Hoover in 1919, the Institution has been a leader in Domestic Economic Policy, Security, and International Affairs. It describes itself as “moderate Conservative,” which makes sense once you remember that its namesake once toyed with the idea of becoming a Democrat. Regardless, Hoover has maintained the same basic tenets of “representative government, private enterprise, peace, and personal freedom” for nearly 100 years. Its in-house publisher is Hoover Institution Press (which produces books written by Hoover fellows), as well as the quarterly periodicals *Hoover Digest*, *Education Next,* *China Leadership Monitor,* and *Defining Ideas.*

* Political Orientation: Conservative/Libertarian
* SEMrush Ranking: 35.7K
* Monthly Traffic: 28.1K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $15,500
* Average Yearly Revenue: $56.1 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 335
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #19 (US)
* Notable Figures: Robert Conquest, Richard A. Epstein, Niall Ferguson, Timothy Garton Ash, Victor Davis Hanson, Henry Kissinger, Harvey Mansfield, Allan H. Meltzer, Douglass C. North, Sam Nunn, Condoleezza Rice, George P. Schultz, Thomas Sowell, Shelby Steele
* [See the Hoover Institution's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#Hoover)

**The Hoover Institute's Thomas Sowell ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#thomas-sowell)**.**

**24.**[**Manhattan Institute for Policy Research**](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/)

*(New York, NY)*
The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research is a well-known Conservative think tank that seeks to “develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility.” Specifically, the Institute advocates for free market--based solutions to issues plaguing the economy, energy, education, healthcare, welfare reform, the legal system, crime reduction, and urban life, among a number of other things. To do this, it publishes a number of books, articles, op-eds, and interviews targeted towards politicians, scholars, and journalists. The Manhattan Institute also publishes the quarterly *City Journal*.

* Political Orientation: Conservative
* SEMrush Ranking: 38.1K
* Monthly Traffic: 26.1K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $44,700
* Average Yearly Revenue: $13.1 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 277
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #39 (US)
* Notable Figures: Claire Berlinski, Theodore Dalrymple, Heather Mac Donald, John McWhorter, Jason Riley, Luigi Zingales
* [See the Manhattan Institute's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#Manhattan)

**25.**[**Center for Immigration Studies**](http://www.cis.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Working under the motto “Pro-Immigrant, Low-Immigration,” the Center for Immigration Studies works to “provide immigration policymakers, the academic community, news media, and concerned citizens with reliable information about the social, economic, environmental, security, and fiscal consequences of legal and illegal immigration into the United States.” The Center has been called to testify before Congress on dozens of occasions, and has even been cited in Supreme Court opinions. They also maintain a popular blog, and publish books and articles relating to both illegal and legal immigration. The Center is highly controversial, and in recent years has been accused by the *Wall Street Journal* and the Southern Poverty Law Center of having ties to white supremacist groups and a eugenics foundation.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 38.4K
* Monthly Traffic: 25.6K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $62,400
* Average Yearly Revenue: $2.44 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 276
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Mark Krikorian, John Miano

**26.**[**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**](http://carnegieendowment.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is a non-partisan think tank that specializes in foreign policy. Though its headquarters are located in the Embassy Row neighborhood of Washington, DC, it also has centers in Moscow, Beirut, Beijing, and Brussels, which make it a unique global network of policy research centers. Each center worldwide houses local experts who produce top-notch work on critical national, regional, and global issues. As intended, these experts often provide national capitals and institutions with a deeper understanding of the circumstances shaping various policy choices. The Endowment remains highly influential, and since 2005 the Endowment's asset amount has increased 44% from $243 million to $349 million.

* Political Orientation: Centrist
* SEMrush Ranking: 39.0K
* Monthly Traffic: 25.1K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $36,700
* Average Yearly Revenue: $26.7 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 371
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #4 (world), #3 (US), #1 (Defense and Security), #5 (Foreign Policy and International Affairs)
* Notable Figures: James Acton, Rachel Kleinfeld, Richard Sokolsky, Michael D. Swaine, Moises Naim, Sarah Chayes, Marwan Muasher, and Dmitri Trenin

**27.**[**Open Society Foundation**](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/)

*(New York, NY)*
The Open Society Foundation was founded in 1993 by George Soros. Affiliated with the Soros Foundation Budapest, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the Soros Foundation New York, the Open Society Foundation releases information and funds to civil society groups around the world in an effort to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. In the US, the Institute has focused recent efforts on advocating for a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants, net neutrality, and the organization of mass protests, including the Occupy Movement. It is also worth mentioning that George Soros remains a very polarizing and controversial figure. Critics on the Left have argued that the Open Society Institute and Foundation serve only to advance a capitalist order, while figures on the Right have claimed the Foundation works with the intention of establishing a unitary global government.

* Political Orientation: Progressive
* SEMrush Ranking: 39.6K
* Monthly Traffic: 24.5K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $14,600
* Average Yearly Revenue: $259 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #8 (Transparency and Good Governance), #29 (Impact on Public Policy), #42 (US)
* Notable Figures: George Soros, Jonathan Soros, Christopher Stone

**28.**[**Freedom House**](https://freedomhouse.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Freedom House was founded in 1941 by a list of DC powerhouses that included Eleanor Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie. Originally established in response to the threat of Nazism, Freedom House has remained consistent in its vigorous opposition to any and all threats to democracy: dictatorships in Central America, apartheid in South Africa, the suppression of the Prague Spring, genocide in Bosnia and Rwanda, and various human rights atrocities worldwide. Today, Freedom House publishes a number of books and reports by both its fellows and prominent statesmen, though it is most famous for its annual "Freedom in the World" report, which ranks each country's degree of political freedoms and civil liberties. This report is frequently cited by political scientists, journalists, policymakers, and those in academia. Other Freedom House--published reports include the similar "Freedom of the Press" and "Freedom of the Net."

* Political Orientation: Centrist
* SEMrush Ranking: 42.5K
* Monthly Traffic: 22.3K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $25,200
* Average Yearly Revenue: $34.5 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #3 (Top Transparency and Good Governance)
* Notable Figures: Daniel Calingaert, Susan Corke, Lawrence Lessig, P.J. O'Rourke

**29.**[**New America Foundation**](https://www.newamerica.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Founded in 1999, the New America Foundation is a relatively new, yet widely cited, think tank that was recently named the 25th-best think tank among “those to watch.” The Foundation seeks to bring new voices and ideas to the public eye by literally investing in exceptional individuals and policy ideas that transcend the political spectrum. Through unique initiatives and its Fellowship Program, the Foundation deals in a variety of research, and often organizes conferences and special events focusing on the most important issues of the time. Its impressive Board of Directors includes *Atlantic Monthly* correspondent James Fallows, Foundation co-founder Ted Halstead, and prominent author and journalist Fareed Zakaria.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 43.3K
* Monthly Traffic: 22.0K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $56,700
* Average Yearly Revenue: $17.3 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 433
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #30 (US), #29 (Social Policy), #60 (Best Transdisciplinary Research), #25 (Think Thank to Watch), #17 (Most Innovative Ideas/Proposals), #53 (Most Visible Impact)
* Notable Figures: Dana Goldstein, Anand Gopal, Emily Parker, Brigid Schulte

**30.**[**Independent Institute**](http://www.independent.org/)

*(Oakland, CA)*
The Independent Institute may be tiny, but in the 29 years since its founding, it has grown into a respected think tank that made UPenn's 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report as the 54th-best think tank in the United States. Originally founded in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Institute expanded in 2006 to include a second location in Washington, DC. The Institute's nearly 150 research fellows research, write, and publish their findings for everything from public consumption, to the basis for conferences, to information for media programs. Its most successful publication is undoubtedly the peer-reviewed *Independent Review*, which includes articles on economics, political science, law, history, philosophy, and sociology. Since 2010, the Institute has run a satellite website called MyGovCost.org, which uses a calculator to individualize for each visitor the personal cost of government spending.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 45.2K
* Monthly Traffic: 20.7K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $33,600
* Average Yearly Revenue: $2.7 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #54 (US)
* Notable Figures: John C. Goodman, Robert Higgs, David J. Theroux, Alvaro Vargas Llosa

**31.**[**Heartland Institute**](https://www.heartland.org/)

*(Chicago, IL)*
The Heartland Institute was founded in Chicago in 1984, and has become a rapidly up-and-coming public policy think tank. The Institute is heavily involved in advocacy and research, especially on such topics as government spending, taxation, healthcare, tobacco policy, global warming, information technology, and free-market environmentalism. In fact, in recent years the Institute has made waves as the primary American supporter of critics of the scientific "consensus" on climate change, and has published countless articles (and even a billboard campaign) pointing out the economic dangers of some of the suggested regulations on the burning of fossil fuels. The Institute has published five books, but is best known for publishing its four monthly public policy newspapers: *Budget and Tax News,* *School Reform News,* *Environment & Climate News,* and *Health Care News.*

* Political Orientation: Conservative/Libertarian
* SEMrush Ranking: 57.6K
* Monthly Traffic: 15.6K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $17,700
* Average Yearly Revenue: $4.7 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #28 (Best New Idea or Paradigm), #40 (Network), #43 (Use of Social Networking), #19 (Think Tank to Watch), #69 (Most Significant Impact)
* Notable Figures: Ben Domenech, Freeman Dyson, Richard Lindzen, Deirdre McCloskey, Lawrence H. White
* [See the Heartland Institute's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#Heartland)

**32.**[**Commonwealth Fund**](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/)

*(New York, NY)*
Founded in 1918 with a $10 million endowment by Standard Oil--widow Anna M. Harkness, the Commonwealth Fund was one of the first foundations established by a woman. Since then, it has expanded into a think tank that promotes a high-performing healthcare system and advocates for low-income families, the uninsured, minorities, young children, and the elderly. Since the introduction of the Affordable Care Act, the Fund has become a main source of information about the law's reforms, enrollment numbers, the effects of insurance reforms and sustainability of insurance marketplaces, and much more. The Fund also hosts an international healthcare policy symposium each year in Washington, DC.

* Political Orientation: Liberal
* SEMrush Ranking: 57.7K
* Monthly Traffic: 15.6K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $34,300
* Average Yearly Revenue: $138 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 227
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: David Blumenthal, Kathleen Regan, Barry Scholl

**33.**[**Discovery Institute**](http://www.discovery.org/)

*(Seattle, WA)*
Based in Seattle, the Discovery Institute is a public policy think tank best known for advocating “intelligent design”: the idea that the neo-Darwinian theory of natural selection cannot account for the complex functionality of living things. Since its founding in 1990 as a branch of the Hudson Institute, Discovery has been a target for controversy. Discovery actively promotes a “Teach the Controversy” campaign, which aims for US public high schools to teach theories of both natural selection and intelligent design in science courses. Discovery Institute has published a number of articles and books through its Discovery Institute Press, including *The Deniable Darwin & Other Essays* and *The Magician's Twin: C.S. Lewis on Science, Scientism, and Society*, among others.

* Political Orientation: Conservative
* SEMrush Ranking: 66.3K
* Monthly Traffic: 12.3K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $26,100
* Average Yearly Revenue: $4.1 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 1,100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: David Berlinski, William Dembski, George Gilder, Phillip E. Johnson, David Klinghoffer, Michael Medved, Stephen C. Meyer
* [See the Discovery Institute's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#Discovery)

**34.**[**Bipartisan Policy Center**](http://bipartisanpolicy.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) was founded in 2007 by former Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole, and George Mitchell. Today, BPC claims it is the only Washington, DC--based think tank that actively works to address key national issues while promoting bipartisanship. To do this, the Center hosts a number of events including “Bridge-Builder Breakfasts,” political summits, and policy discussions. On the research end of things, BCP's main topics of interest include economic policy, healthcare and nutrition, energy, housing, national security, and transportation. Seven state governors serve on BPC's aptly named Governors' Council, while the Center's list of senior fellows has included former US Senator Olympia Snowe, former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, and former US Senator Bill Frist, among many others.

* Political Orientation: Bipartisan
* SEMrush Ranking: 79.5K
* Monthly Traffic: 10.2K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $5,900
* Average Yearly Revenue: $22.4 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #52 (US), #14 (Best New Idea of Paradigm), #12 (Think Tank to Watch)
* Notable Figures: Henry Cisneros, Jason Grumet, Olympia Snowe

**35.**[**Acton Institute**](http://www.acton.org/)

*(Grand Rapids, MI)*
Acton Institute is a Michigan-based think tank that works towards the mission of promoting a “free and virtuous society characterized by individual liberty and sustained by religious principles.” Named for the nineteenth-century English parliamentarian and historian, Lord Acton, the Institute publishes a number of articles, books, periodicals, and papers on subjects that work toward this goal, including the internationally renowned *Journal of Markets & Morality,* *Acton Notes,* *Samaritan Guide*, the Abraham Kuyper Translation Project, an the Acton PowerBlog, to name but a few. Interestingly, Acton has successfully built a network of international affiliations in Italy, Brazil, Austria, and Zambia, all of which further promote and defend human rights and the free market. Acton is widely respected by those in related fields, and in 2012, the Institute was named one of the top 50 American think tanks by the University of Pennsylvania.

* Political Orientation: Conservative/Libertarian
* SEMrush Ranking: 79.8K
* Monthly Traffic: 9.8K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $5,500
* Average Yearly Revenue: $12.68 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Samuel Gregg, Marvin Olasky, Robert Sirico
* [See Acton Institute's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#Acton)

**36.**[**Atlantic Council**](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Atlantic Council can trace its roots back to the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, during which member countries came together to promote public understanding and support for policies with the potential to bring widespread peace. Since its official establishment in 1961, at which time the US citizen groups were consolidated, the Atlantic Council has provided a forum for the world's political, business, and intellectual leaders. Its global network is truly unique, and as such has played an important role in shaping the twenty-first century. Atlantic is headquartered in Washington, DC, though it also consists of 10 centers and programs that focus on specific regions such as Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, among others. Despite its early association with NATO, the Atlantic Council is a separate institution.

* Political Orientation: Centrist
* SEMrush Ranking: 81.9K
* Monthly Traffic: 9.7K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $3,100
* Average Yearly Revenue: $13.4 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #16 (US)
* Notable Figures: Jon Huntsman, Frederick Kempe, Damon Wilson

**37.**[**Public Policy Institute of California**](http://www.ppic.org/main/home.asp)

*(San Francisco, CA)*
The Public Policy Institute of California was founded in 1994 with a whopping $70 million endowment from Redington Hewlett of Hewlett-Packard fame. The Institute deals mostly in research, and topics of focus include population issues, the economy, governance, and public finance. Though it does deal with nationwide issues, the Institute is perhaps best known for its work concerning California. Specifically, the Institute conducts public opinion polls on California public policy, then disseminates the results to state, local, and federal officials, as well as to the media and the general public. In addition to its research and fellowship program, the Institute hosts a summer internship for graduate students and occasionally organizes conferences on specific issues.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 84.1K
* Monthly Traffic: 9.8
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $16,900
* Average Yearly Revenue: $24.8 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 265
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Mark Baldassare, Monica Bandy

**38. [Worldwatch Institute](http://www.worldwatch.org/)**

*(Washington, DC)*
The Worldwatch Institute is a Washington, DC--based think tank devoted solely to global environmental concerns. More than just a research organization, Worldwatch works to develop innovative solutions to issues, advocate for the environment to government leadership and members of private enterprise, and rally for citizen action. Worldwatch's main areas of focus are energy and climate, food and agriculture, and green economy, the latter of which seeks to offer solutions that enhance human well-being while also protecting the planet. Worldwatch publishes the annual "State of the World" report, which is an assessment of urgent global environmental problems paired with innovative ideas for solutions.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 90.6K
* Monthly Traffic: 8.5K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $8,300
* Average Yearly Revenue: Unknown
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #35 (US), #3 (Environmental Policy)
* Notable Figures: Robert Engelman, Christopher Flavin

**39. [Mercatus Center at George Mason University](http://mercatus.org/)**

*(Arlington, VA)*
Originally founded at Rutgers University, Mercatus moved to George Mason University in the mid-1980s after a $30 million donation from Koch Industries, which remains a major source of funding. As is appropriate for a think tank named for the Latin word for “markets,” Mercatus advocates for free-market approaches to public policy, and works with policy experts, lobbyists, and government officials to connect theory with public policy. Mercatus has provided more than 100 testimonies to Congress on topics such as government transparency, subsidies, taxation, regulation, corruption, and Austrian economics. Each year, the Center publishes “Freedom in the 50 States: An Index of Personal and Economic Freedom.”

* Political Orientation: Libertarian
* SEMrush Ranking: 109K
* Monthly Traffic: 6.6K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $6,400
* Average Yearly Revenue: $13.9 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #44 (US), #27 (Best Managed), #19 (University Affiliated), #36 (Best Use of Social Networks), #17 (Think Tank to Watch)
* Notable Figures: Peter Boettke, Donald Boudreaux, Tyler Cowen, Christopher Coyne, Vernon L. Smith
* [See the Mercatus Center's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#Mercatus)

**The Mercatus Center's Vernon L. Smith ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#vernon-smith)**.**

**The Mercatus Center's Peter Boettke ranks on our list of**[**The Top 50 Economists from 1900 to the Present**](https://thebestschools.org/magazine/top-economists-1900-to-present/#peter-boettke)**.**

**40.**[**Center for a New American Security**](http://www.cnas.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Center for a New American Security (CNAS) was founded relatively recently, in 2007, but has since become a regular resource to such media outlets as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Pos*t, the *Wall Street Journal*, C-SPAN, NBC, NPR, and a number of others. The Center specializes in domestic national security issues, especially terrorism, irregular warfare, the future of the US military, and Asia's emergence as a global power. While CNAS describes itself as “independent” and “non-partisan,” the Obama administration has hired several CNAS employees for important jobs, including CNAS co-founders Kurt Campbell (Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs) and Michele Flournoy (Undersecretary of Defense for Policy). Most of what CNAS publishes are thorough reports meant to assist and inform policy-makers and national security leaders.

* Political Orientation: Centrist
* SEMrush Ranking: 110K
* Monthly Traffic: 7K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $31,400
* Average Yearly Revenue: $4.2 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 186
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #14 (US)
* Notable Figures: Shawn Brimley, Jennifer Couture, James Estramonte

**41.**[**Competitive Enterprise Institute**](https://cei.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Believing that people are best helped by a free marketplace, and not government regulation, the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) promotes Libertarian ideas through analysis, education, advocacy, and coalition-building. The Institute itself is composed of five individual centers---the Center for Advancing Capitalism, the Center for Economic Freedom, the Center for Energy and Environment, the Center for Law and Litigation, and the Center for Technology and Innovation---all of which produce their own policy papers, testify at governmental hearings, advertise, and publish books and open letters.

* Political Orientation: Libertarian
* SEMrush Ranking: 132K
* Monthly Traffic: 5.5K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $2,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $6.4 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #59 (US), #43 (Environmental Policy), #47 (Best Advocacy Campaign)
* Notable Figures: Michael Greve, Christopher Horner, Steven Millow
* [See the Competitive Enterprise Institute's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#CompetitiveEnterprise)

**42.**[**The Russell Sage Foundation**](http://www.russellsage.org/)

*(New York, NY)*
Founded in 1907, the Russell Sage Foundation has become what is likely the foremost institution for research in the social sciences. It is also one of the oldest, having been established in 1907 by Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage, the widow of railroad magnate Russell Sage. Located in New York City, the Foundation conducts research, funds scholars at a number of academic institutions, and publishes books and other work through its own imprint. Currently, the Foundation works exclusively to “strengthen the methods, data, and theoretical core of the social sciences as a means of improving social policies.” Favored topics include labor markets, immigration, social inequality, behavioral economics, the US Census, and the Great Recession.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 143K
* Monthly Traffic: 5.0K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $5,400
* Average Yearly Revenue: $34.1 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #19 (Social Policy)
* Notable Figures: Natasha J. Cabrera, Kathryn Paige Harden, Victor Nee

**43.**[**Reason Foundation**](http://reason.org/)

*(Los Angeles, CA)*
Though founded in 1978, the Reason Foundation has only recently become a Libertarian powerhouse. It deals with a wide range of policy research areas, including air traffic control, land use, school choice, government reform, housing, eminent domain, medical marijuana, and much, much more. Unlike nearly all of the other think tanks on this list, Reason's research, analysis, and articles are all aimed at the general public. Though they publish *Reason* magazine, they are most successful through Facebook, on which they have nearly 300,000 followers.

* Political Orientation: Libertarian
* SEMrush Ranking: 144K
* Monthly Traffic: 4.9K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $3,000
* Average Yearly Revenue: $9.3 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #41 (US)
* Notable Figures: Drew Carey, Nick Gillespie, David Koch, Matt Welch
* [See the Reason Foundation's ranking among The Top 50 Places to Study Classical Economics](https://thebestschools.org/features/top-places-to-study-classical-economics/#Reason)

**44.**[**Inter-American Dialogue**](http://www.thedialogue.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Inter-American Dialogue (IAD) is a unique think tank that specializes in policy analysis, exchange, and communication issues in the Western Hemisphere, specifically in Latin America. In order to most successfully combine accurate research and effective solutions, IAD consists of a Board of Directors that includes more than 100 public and private leaders from the US, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Barbados, and Panama. Of these members, 16 served as president of their country, more than 20 served at cabinet level, and 17 have held congressional seats. Besides research and the publication of various articles and policy analysis, IAD routinely organizes briefings and large conferences on topics such as Haiti, Cuba, the threat to freedom of the press in Latin America, Latin American trade and investment, and migration.

* Political Orientation: Liberal
* SEMrush Ranking: 184K
* Monthly Traffic: 1.9K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $5
* Average Yearly Revenue: $2.37 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 196
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Michelle Bachelet, Carla Hills

**45.**[**Stimson Center**](http://www.stimson.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
The Stimson Center uses analysis and outreach in an attempt to enhance international peace and security. Upon its founding in 1989, Stimson focused exclusively on arms control. Since then, it has expanded to include a wide range of security issues, including international peace organizations and nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Stimson also runs the "Security for a New Century" seminar series, through which it works actively with the US Congress. The Center publishes a number of books, articles, and studies each year, the most well-known of which is the “Spotlight” series, a bi-weekly commentary on current foreign policy issues.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 186K
* Monthly Traffic: 3.4K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $198
* Average Yearly Revenue: Unknown
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #24 (US), #41 (Defense and National Security Policy), #26 (Best New Idea)
* Notable Figures: Lincoln P. Bloomfield Jr. (former), Thomas R. Pickering (former), Condoleezza Rice (former)

**46.**[**James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy**](http://bakerinstitute.org/)

*(Houston, TX)*
Named for a former US Secretary of State, and directed by a former US Ambassador to Israel and Syria, the James A. Baker III Institute at Rice University has become a well-respected producer of public policy research. Baker is officially non-partisan, and conducts research with the aim of narrowing the gap between theory and practice in public policy. Areas of current research include Arab media and politics, drug policy, homeland security and terrorism, space policy, and projects on the Americas, China, and Mexico, to name but a few. The institute employs scholars and researchers from a variety of backgrounds, and its Board of Advisors includes named such as William Barnett, Colin Powell, Madeleine Albright, and Rice University President David Leebron.

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 191K
* Monthly Traffic: 3.5K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $609
* Average Yearly Revenue: $6.76 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #18 (US), #4 (Energy and Resource Policy)
* Notable Figures: George Abbey, Regina Buono, Edward P. Djerejian, Allen Matusow

**47.**[**Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs**](http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/index.html)

*(New York, NY)*
Andrew Carnegie was nothing if not ambitious, and the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs is a great example of that ambition. Originally founded in 1914 as the Church Peace Union, the Council brought together leaders in religion, academia, and politics in an attempt to achieve the lofty goal of making war obsolete. Though its mission has been slightly altered, today's Council still seeks to be “the voice for ethics” in international affairs. Its scholars research the ethical dilemmas in issues such as deadly conflict, human rights violations, globalization, economic inequalities, and the role of religion in politics, among other things. Many of these findings are presented in regularly scheduled forums and/or published in the Council's quarterly scholarly journal, *Ethics & International Affairs.*

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 222K
* Monthly Traffic: 2.9K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $1,100
* Average Yearly Revenue: $5.4 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): <100
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #17 (US)
* Notable Figures: Barbara Borst, Jeffrey D. McCausland, George Rupp

**48.**[**Third Way**](http://www.thirdway.org/)

*(Washington, DC)*
Named for the political position that tries to reconcile right-wing and left-wing politics, Third Way is a think tank organization founded in 2005 by former Clinton Administration staffers. The think tank develops policy ideas, conducts public opinion research, and hosts issue briefings on the subjects of economics, national security, clean energy, and social policy and politics. Despite its young age, Third Way has become internationally recognized for its advocacy of “vital center policies.” In fact, in 2013, Third Way was named “North American Think Tank of the Year” by British current affairs magazine *Prospect*. Recently, Third Way has been directly involved in policy issues such as the economic benefits of green energy, deficit reduction, proposals to reform Medicare and Medicaid, the repeal of “Don't ask, don't tell,” and new trade accords with Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

* Political Orientation: Liberal
* SEMrush Ranking: 247K
* Monthly Traffic: 2.4K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $5,200
* Average Yearly Revenue: $9.3 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): Unknown
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: #7 (Best New Idea or Paradigm), #55 (Use of Social Networking), #23 (Think Tank to Watch)
* Notable Figures: John Dingell, Thurgood Marshall, Jr., Kathleen Sebelius, Bill Schneider

**49.**[**Claremont Institute**](http://www.claremont.org/)

*(Claremont, CA)*
The Claremont Institute, founded in 1979, aims to “teach the practical application of the principles of the American Founding,” in order to “establish a limited and accountable government that respects natural law, private property, promotes a stable family life, and maintains a strong national defense.” Not surprisingly, Claremont is a favorite amongst a number of Classical Liberal and Young Conservative organizations. In addition to research, Claremont runs the Publius Fellows program, which hosts young Conservatives for seminars on political thought; presents the Ronald Reagan Freedom Medallion; hosts regular debates with the Ludwig von Mises Institute; and runs the Lincoln Fellows program, an internship for young professionals serving elected officials. The latter program is especially impressive, and has turned out such notable alumni as former California State Assemblyman Chuck DeVore, political commentator Carol Platt Liebau, cartoonist Michael Ramirez, Delaware politician Christine O'Donnell, and radio talk show host and best-selling author Mark Levin. The Institute also sponsors several books series in conjunction with other publishers through its various "Claremont Institute Series" imprints, as well as publishing the quarterly *Claremont Review of Books*---the American right's own cerebral answer to the *New York Review of Books.*

* Political Orientation: Classical Liberal/Conservative
* SEMrush Ranking: 262K
* Monthly Traffic: 2.3K
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $422
* Average Yearly Revenue: $6.1 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 156
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Christopher Flannery, Charles R. Kesler, William Voegeli, Ryan P. Williams

**50.**[**Lexington Institute**](http://lexingtoninstitute.org/)

*(Arlington, VA)*
The Lexington Institute was founded in 1998 in order to promote America's ability to project power around the world so that “we can not only defend the homeland of democracy, but also sustain the international stability in which other free-market democracies can thrive.” Its three main issues are national security, education reform, and US relations with Cuba. Lexington's fellows and researchers are widely cited by the media, especially when it comes to the issue of Cuba. Though the Institute officially refers to itself as “independent” and “non-partisan,” many think tank watch groups and media sources have labeled it as “Conservative.”

* Political Orientation: Independent
* SEMrush Ranking: 580K
* Monthly Traffic: 740
* Monetary Value of Monthly Traffic: $36
* Average Yearly Revenue: $2.4 million
* Average Media References per Year (by Others): 203
* 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Rankings: None
* Notable Figures: Constance Baroudos, James Andrew Courter

**Skinwalker ranch**

The thrum of a propeller precedes thearrival of a black helicopter at Skinwalker Ranch. The ranch’s new owner, Brandon Fugal, and his brother are on board. His brother Cameron, the pilot, lands the helicopter, disturbing the otherwise quiet scenery with a cloud of dust. Fugal steps out onto the helipad, the one he had built specifically for his regular visits over the last six months. He has no reason to suspect this visit will be any different. They walk the perimeter under a punishing sun, now accustomed to the gruesome sight of animal entrails ceremoniously draped over the fenceline. Then, there it is above the mesa, where there had been only cloudless sky an instant before. Wide and flat like a saucer and gleaming silver, an object hovers in the air, moving at angles and trajectories that defy logic or explanation. The group of men freezes, staring, transfixed. The disc moves in the blink of an eye, like a bullet unhindered by physics, and vanishes.

The Uintah Basin in Northeastern Utah is no stranger to the strange. It’s home to hundreds of reported sightings of UFO (or UAP, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, which is now the official, government-approved terminology) and the notorious Skinwalker Ranch, the alleged center of the unexplained activity in the Basin. The ranch has had three owners since the early ’90s, and its last two owners have dedicated time, money and untold resources to unearthing its secrets. The owners before them were cattle ranchers trying to get by while immersed in the high strangeness.

The current owner, Brandon Fugal, a Utah-based commercial real estate executive and chairman of Colliers International, bought the property in 2016. “I was immediately taken aback by how striking the property was,” he says of his first visit to the ranch. Skinwalker Ranch is 512 acres of manifold landscape, from a red rock mesa plateau that runs the expanse of the property to natural waterways and cave systems, dotted with old pioneer homesteads. “It’s surprisingly beautiful,” says Fugal.

Fugal professes, even though he acquired the property with the intention to research the unexplained activity, he’s more of a Scully than a Mulder. He was a skeptic of its paranormal significance, which he retained on that first visit. “I found nothing unusual about the property, other than, on that first tour, we noticed something unusual about the fence line perimeter,” he says. “These body parts were hanging from the fence line. Animal bladders that were blessed and hung for the purpose of keeping the demonic spirit entities on the property.” Fugal ascribes the act to people living on the nearby reservation. But, despite the efforts to keep any entities from *leaving* the property, visitors to the ranch have reported that unknown entities *followed them home* after they left the ranch. The disturbing tableau aside, Fugal’s skepticism remained until he had an unexplained experience of his own.

**THE ‘X-FILE’**

Years before the ranch passed into Fugal’s hands, he read about the strange happenings on the property in a book called *Hunt For The Skinwalker*, written by Dr. Colm A. Kelleher, a biochemist, and journalist George Knapp. It details the efforts by the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) to study and document the strange activity on the ranch as well as the accounts of Tom and Ellen Gorman (the pseudonyms used in *Hunt For The Skinwalker*), the aforementioned cattle ranchers who used to own the ranch. The founder of NIDS, Robert Bigelow, a Las Vegas millionaire, set up the organization specifically to study UFOs and related phenomena. He bought the ranch from the Gormans in 1996 to study it further but hired them on to maintain the ranch and owned the property until he sold it to Fugal in 2016.

The experiences of the Gormans are what brought Bigelow and NIDS to the ranch in the first place. When the cattle ranchers first moved in, they were surprised to discover there were deadbolts on the inside and outside of the doors of the home. Even the windows were bolted. They were also perplexed by a clause in their real estate contract that stipulated there was to be no digging on the ranch without first notifying the previous owners. After settling into their new home, the Gormans’ strange experiences included several cattle mutilations and the appearance of a massive wolf that mangled a calf but whose tracks disappeared suddenly. They witnessed large black objects hovering above the ranch, orange shapes in the sky that appeared to transport passing objects to some other world and blue orbs that killed three dogs.

When the NIDS team arrived to document the Gormans’ accounts, they began to have experiences of their own. They tell of seeing moving lights with no known source and the mysterious destruction of their surveillance cameras, but the bulk of the unexplained phenomena, as described in *Hunt For The Skinwalker*, continued to occur around the Gormans.

But what about before the Gormans got to the ranch? They bought it from a man named Garth Myers in 1994, who had inherited it from his brother and sister-in-law, Kenneth and Edith Myers, who in turn had bought the ranch in the 1930s, by some accounts. In interviews, Garth Myers has denied that there was any sort of UFO activity on the property while his family owned it, and he also disputes parts of the Gormans’ story, like the deadbolts and the digging clause. While the Myers family might not have experienced any strange phenomena, their neighbors did.

Frank B. Salisbury, who headed the plant science department at Utah State University before he died in 2015, also wrote a book on UFO sightings in Utah, *The Utah UFO Display*. For the 2010 edition of the book, he included interviews with people whose land neighbored Skinwalker Ranch. One neighbor, John Garcia, saw an orange object, as large as a house, floating above his fence before it shot up into the sky and zoomed away. Another, Charles Winn, was out one night when he saw a bright light that he compared to an arc-welder—white and bright, but not hot. The light came for him, and, fearing for his life, he dropped down into a ditch full of water and covered his head with his arms. Others in the area saw orbs in the sky, blue on the outside and orange at the center, giving off slow sparks.

Salisbury, along with his collaborator, Joseph Junior Hicks—a fastidious record-keeping school teacher in Roosevelt—interviewed witnesses and collected first-hand accounts of hundreds of UFO sightings, dating back to the 1950s, in the Uintah Basin. The writers of *Hunt For The Skinwalker* suggest strange events started long before then, back when the Uintah Basin was still part of the Ute Tribe’s ancestral hunting grounds before the U.S. Government relegated them to the reservation (what is now the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation) and opened up the area to white ranchers.

The name “skinwalker” itself is appropriated from the beliefs of some Southwest Native American tribes, in which a skinwalker is often a malevolent magic-user capable of turning into animals. Hicks has collected accounts of people who claim to have seen skinwalkers, often in the form of a large wolf, sometimes capable of walking upright. These beliefs are not just spooky ghost stories or campfire tales for Native Americans whose cultures include those still-living traditions. Traditions that they are often unwilling (understandably so) to share or explain.

**‘I WANT TO BELIEVE’**

One thing that is certain about Skinwalker Ranch and the greater Uintah Basin, the mystery has remained resistant to years of investigation, study and scrutiny, but the same could be said for the broader mystery of UAP in general. Fugal believes the current investigation going on at Skinwalker Ranch could provide the key needed to unlock both mysteries.

When he acquired the ranch, Fugal installed his own team to begin investigating. He says, “As part of our investigation, I have brought forward a team of multidisciplinary professionals. Physicists, engineers, scientists from an array of disciplines in service to better understand what is at work.” Fugal says his team has conducted drone aerial surveys, soil surveys, seismic record reviews, with the purpose of trying to determine whether there was a natural, prosaic explanation for what had been recorded there.

As far as what has been recorded, he says, “We’ve seen everything from daylight to nighttime UAP [events] to extreme electromagnetic anomalies, equipment malfunction, even damage, to acute medical episodes experienced by a number of participants.” None of this is a secret. The current Skinwalker Ranch investigation is the subject of a [HISTORY](https://play.history.com/shows/the-secret-of-skinwalker-ranch/season-1) channel documentary series, *The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch*.

Fugal says he was hesitant to sign off on the show, and the producers (the same guys behind *Ancient Aliens* and other docu-series and reality TV hits) spent a year trying to convince him. Fugal agreed as long as, “Nothing was fabricated or contrived and I could use my own team whom I trusted.” Fugal originally asked for anonymity as well, but felt, in order for the show to be genuine and authentic, “I needed to come forward. As this was my spiritual journey with my group of closely held confidants, I was persuaded to go public as part of the series.” Now the show has aired for two seasons, and they started filming for season three this summer.

Part of Fugal’s desire to remain anonymous was to protect his reputation in his other business ventures. Who wants to be known as the UFO guy? But the response, he says, has been largely one of support and genuine interest. After all, almost everyone has a story about experiencing something they can’t quite explain. It begs the question, why are we not taking the scientific study of UAP more seriously? Well, some people are. The U.S. Government for one. However, those efforts to investigate UAP and other unexplained phenomena have not been quite as public until recently.

**‘THE TRUTH’ IS OUT THERE?**

In 2017, *The New York Times*broke a story on a multi-million dollar “Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program” in the Pentagon’s budget. Since 2007 (as far as we know), the program investigated reports of unidentified flying objects. Funding for the program reportedly ended in 2012, and most of the money was handed to none other than Robert Bigelow (the one-time owner of Skinwalker Ranch and founder of NIDS, which conducted the investigation laid out in *Hunt For the Skinwalker*) and his aerospace research company. Bigelow is a definite Mulder, a true believer in the notion that aliens exist and that they have visited Earth. The writer of the book on the topic of government involvement in UFO research, and *The New York Times* story, investigative journalist Leslie Kean, won’t rule out the possibility of an extraterrestrial explanation but maintains that it is just one of the possible explanations (more on that later).

What we do know, the Pentagon program documented sightings of aircraft that seemed to move at very high velocities or hover with no discernible form of propulsion or lift. It also studied videos of encounters between UAP and military aircraft—including the video of an “encounter” near San Diego between two Navy fighter jets and a UAP in 2004, which was publicly released.

It’s not the first or even the most recent time the government would invest resources in investigating UAP encounters. In 1947, the Air Force began looking into upwards of 12,000 sightings before they officially ended the project two decades later. The project concluded that most sightings had mundane explanations like clouds, conventional aircraft or spy planes, but 701 sightings were never debunked or explained.

This year, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a Preliminary Assessment on Unidentified Flying Phenomena. According to the report, intelligence officials have not found any evidence that 144 recent UAP encounters with military pilots have anything to do with aliens, but they do not offer another explanation.

What the report does conclude is, “if and when individual UAP incidents are resolved they will fall into one of five potential explanatory categories: airborne clutter, natural atmospheric phenomena, USG or U.S. industry developmental programs, foreign adversary systems and a catchall ‘other’ bin.” What the report is saying, without actually saying it, extraterrestrial involvement has not been ruled out, it just falls squarely in the “other” bin.

The report also found in 18 of the incidents, “observers reported unusual UAP movement patterns or flight characteristics. Some UAP appeared to remain stationary in winds aloft, move against the wind, maneuver abruptly or move at considerable speed, without discernible means of propulsion.” In a small number of cases, military aircraft systems also received radio signals associated with UAP sightings.

There also might be more UAP encounters with the military than those of which U.S. intelligence officials are aware. Why? No one wants to be known as the UFO guy. Or, as the assessment puts it, “Although the effects of these stigmas have lessened as senior members of the scientific, policy, military and intelligence communities engage on the topic seriously in public, reputational risk may keep many observers silent, complicating scientific pursuit of the topic.” (Sound familiar?)

But, as Agent Mulder would say, “no government agency has jurisdiction over the truth.” That brings us back to the privately funded Skinwalker Ranch investigation and Fugal, who believes it’s time the scientific community, and the greater public, took the study of unexplained events like UAP more seriously. According to him, “It really adds up to being the greatest science project of all time.”

Thomas Winterton and Erik Bard pour environmentally friendly green dye into water on the ranch for an experiment. Photo courtesy Brandon Fugal.

**‘ARE WE TRULY ALONE?’**

We don’t want to jerk you around. No one knows what’s behind those UAP or the source of the high strangeness in the Uintah Basin or Skinwalker Ranch. But there are theories. Fugal takes a cautious approach, advising everyone who visits the property, beforehand, “to prepare themselves spiritually. To armor themselves. To enter the property with a degree of reverence and humility. For we are dealing with forces that are not only unexplained, but also have proven harmful, potentially.”

Others have developed their own ideas. Salisbury outlined three hypotheses for the phenomena documented in Uintah Basin in *The Utah UFO Display*. The first is that favored by UFO debunkers—that all the unexplained phenomena can be explained within the physical laws of the universe with enough data collected. The second Salisbury calls the “Nut and bolts hypothesis,” which theorizes that UFO are advanced machines “traveling through space from civilizations on planets in other solar systems.” You know, aliens. The third is the “Star Gate” hypothesis. This posits that UFO and other paranormal phenomena represent beings with technology to travel from some “nearby parallel universe or another dimension” or using wormholes to “transport from one part of our universe to another.”

Salisbury recognizes, in some ways, he and the writers of *Hunt For the Skinwalker* come to the same conclusion: “If there are portals or wormholes between alternate realities, all consistent with [natural] laws that we simply don’t yet understand, it would explain many of the outlandish goings-on that so many have witnessed.” Salisbury also flirts with the possibility of the spiritual (some might say “religious”) explanation.

The hypotheses outlined in *Hunt For The Skinwalker* include the possibility of a hoax on the part of the Gormans, delusions on the part of eyewitnesses, a here-to-forth undiscovered advanced civilization here on earth, aliens, ancient aliens and the Tectonic Strain Theory—developed by neuroscientist Michael Persinger hypothesizing that “transient and very localized geophysical forces are a major source of phenomena that have been traditionally labelled as haunts and poltergeists.” He also suggested these geophysical forces could affect the human temporal lobe, causing people to report more paranormal experiences.

***“I WAS RAISED TO BELIEVE THERE WERE WORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER“***

Brandon Fugal

Whether or not this line of study is being pursued at Skinwalker Ranch is unclear at the moment, but Fugal hinted that further expansion of the investigation would include human consciousness studies. He describes the phenomena as being “precognitive, sentient, nonhuman intelligence.” He says, “It can anticipate and even be aware of your thoughts and consciousness and react according to your intention that you bring to the property.” This supposed entity or, perhaps, multiple entities, has remained evasive in revealing its nature or intentions to Fugal’s team. He believes they’re observing a “diversity of origins and agendas” and suggests that there are “malevolent, benevolent and benign” forces at work.

Fugal also believes Skinwalker Ranch holds the answers to much more than just what is happening on the property itself. “If we can approach the ranch as a sort of living laboratory for verifying that we are not alone in the universe, whether that means we are interacting with extraterrestrials, interdimensional phenomena or spiritual entities, it is all extremely compelling,” he says.

So, after years of frequent visits to the ranch, which does he believe could be the cause? A) Extraterrestrial? B) Interdimensional? C) Spiritual? “Why not ‘D,’ all of the above,” he says, and some of that goes back to his faith and LDS upbringing. “I was raised to believe that there are worlds without number. That there is an intelligent and divine design to our existence. And I believe what we are witnessing and documenting at Skinwalker Ranch is proof of that.”

Could this “science project,” as Fugal calls it, at a remote ranch in Northeastern Utah really be the key to unlocking the secrets of the universe? Whatever they’ve found has made Fugal a true believer. He says, “We have to gain the most compelling evidence regarding the reality of the phenomenon on the planet, that we’re not alone, that our reality is more complex than it may seem and that there is more at work in our world than we know.” In other words, “There are more things in heaven and earth, Dana Scully, than dreamt of in your philosophy.”