|  |
| --- |
| Jihad Report Sep 01, 2018 -Sep 07, 2018 |
| Attacks | **29** |
| Killed | **132** |
| Injured | **223** |
| Suicide Blasts | **3** |
| Countries | **10** |

**Hypersonic Weapons**

China has launched ahead of the United States with “several dozen successful hypersonic missile tests that Washington cannot ignore,” Missile Defense Agency commander Lieutenant General Samuel Greaves [warned](https://sputniknews.com/military/201809051067758622-china-carries-out-hypersonic-tests/) Tuesday.

***“The Chinese have now done several dozen successful hypersonic (missile) tests… we just cannot (ignore),”*** Greaves briefed a group of government officials held by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance.

Under Secretary of Defense for Management and Engineering Michael Griffin also acknowledged that China had alarmingly carried out dozens of successful hypersonic missile tests and warned that Russia was not far behind the Chinese in hypersonic missile development.

***“Hypersonic missiles [are] being developed by both China and Russia. We are concerned about both … When they have done dozens of tests we have not done that is a concern,”*** he said.

In August, China [allegedly](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-08-08/china-just-tested-hypersonic-missile-us-cant-defend-against) showed one the tests via footage from a new missile test that would likely make a mockery of US missile defense systems in battle. The experimental “waverider” vehicle, China’s first, rides the shock waves generated during hypersonic flight. It could one day carry multiple nuclear warheads to North America undetected.

According to the China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA), an aerodynamic research institution in Beijing and part of the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASTC), the hypersonic missile test was conducted in northwestern China.

The CAAA released a statement last month, indicating the Starry Sky-2 missile was carried into space by a solid-propellant rocket before separating.

China has successfully tested its new aircraft, the Starry Sky-2, which can even be used to carry nuclear missiles at a speed never seen before. Recently China & [#Russia](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Russia?src=hash) showed the world their new toys. For whom they display it? What intention is behind that? [#defense](https://twitter.com/hashtag/defense?src=hash) [#Military](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Military?src=hash)

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](https://support.twitter.com/articles/20175256)

After separation, it descended to lower altitudes as it autonomously conducted extreme turning maneuvers, reaching Mach 5.5 (hypersonic speeds) for more than 400 seconds, and reached a top speed of Mach 6, or 7,344km/h (4,563mph), the CAAA WeChat statement said.

**The test was deemed a “complete success,”**stated CAAA, which posted a series of behind the scenes images of the experiment on social media. “The Starry Sky-2 flight test project was strongly innovative and technically difficult, confronting a number of cutting-edge international technical challenges.”

Although the missile is still in development stage and probably a few years out from series production, waveriders could be used to carry conventional and or nuclear warheads undetected through the world’s most advanced anti-missile defense systems.



Last month was the first time China had officially confirmed its development of “waverider” technology, though it has been working on hypersonic glide vehicles since 2014. China, Russia, and the US are the main contenders in the hypersonic race and are engaged in what some see as a new arms race based on the technology.

Earlier this year, Gen. John Hyten, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, [told](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-03-21/stratcom-general-warns-us-powerless-against-hypersonic-missile-attacks-china-russia) the Senate Armed Services Committee that the US is extremely vulnerable to future attack by hypersonic missiles.

***“The first, most important message I want to deliver today is that the forces under my command are fully ready to deter our adversaries and respond decisively, should deterrence ever fail. We are ready for all threats. No one should doubt this,”***Gen. Hyten said in his opening statement.

However, in a follow-on conversation with Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Oklahoma, Hyten cautioned:

*“we [US] don’t have any defense that could deny the employment of such a weapon [hypersonic missiles] against us.”*

Admiral Harry Harris, former head of the US Pacific Command and now the ambassador to South Korea, said in February, “China’s hypersonic weapons development outpaces ours… we’re falling behind.”

**To make up for lost time, the Pentagon awarded Lockheed Martin with approximately $1.5 billion in contracts this summer to develop a hypersonic missile for the Air Force.**

While many believe American Hegemony is here to stay, there is a strong possibility that it could be somewhat displaced in the coming years as China gains access to hypersonic technologies.

**The CEO Wars**

Nike's unexpected move this week to feature Colin Kaepernick in a major ad campaign met instant condemnation in some circles, with critics destroying their Nike garb in protest. The reaction was hardly surprising following boycotts of Dick's Sporting Goods by NRA supporters due to its gun control stance and of Macy's and other stores over carrying Ivanka Trump's now-defunct clothing line.

There is even precedent within Nike's sector for customer blowback, with some consumers burning their New Balance shoes after a company executive lauded US President Donald Trump's trade policies and Under Armour garnering criticism when its chief executive praised Trump.

Despite the backlash, Nike's embrace of civil rights activist Kaepernick was seen as deepening the brand's appeal to millennials and non-white consumers. They saw it as a method to expand and shift their customer profile to people of color. Correct me if I’m wrong, but haven’t they been doing that since the Chicago Bull’s were national champions? Many marketing experts saw it as a shrewd cost-benefit calculation in a politically divided, Trump-era United States.

Companies are increasingly "willing to lose a few to gain a lot," said Scott Farrell, leader of the brand reputation group at Golin, a public relations firm. Brands have long tailored images and phrases to appeal to core consumer groups, implicitly ranking some parts of the population higher than others.

But companies also have a tradition of seeking the broadest possible audience, a practice that still governs many brands, even as others -- like Nike -- speak out in ways that are almost certain to alienate some customers.

"Whereas in the past, marketers would always look for win-win situations, that is practically an impossibility today," Farrell told AFP.

"That is just a needle that is too difficult to thread," he added. "You are going to be dealing almost all of the time in some degree of a win-lose situation and the lose part of it has to be part of your strategy as well."

Corporations were becoming more socially focused prior to Trump, with campaigns geared to consumers who care about gay rights, climate change policies and some other causes. But the trend has accelerated since the November 2016 election of a US president who has unapologetically eschewed the traditional role of national unifier and instead courted his political base full time.

Technology behemoths like Apple and Microsoft have been outspoken critics especially of Trump's immigration policies, fighting measures that would see "Dreamers" -- immigrants who were brought illegally to the United States as children -- deported.

Much rockier has been the reception facing Dick's Sporting Goods, which announced in February after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida that it would remove assault-style rifles from stores and end all gun sales to consumers under 21.

Dick's cited "negative reactions from our customers and vendors" following the announcement as a reason for a "continuing decline in our hunt business," according to a quarterly securities filing.

But Dick's executives have also said the stance on guns attracted new customers who may benefit company sales in the long-term. Their assault on assault weapons lost them tons of business and led to online commercials for Cabellas still selling guns because they are not dicks.

Delta Air Lines also found itself under fire from gun rights supporters after it ended a travel discount program for NRA members following Parkland. Politicians in the Georgia legislature yanked a tax break that could have saved Delta about $40 million a year.

However, in a victory for Delta, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal announced in July he would halt collection of the tax. The company's chief executive, Ed Bastian, was also hailed by Fortune magazine among the "world's greatest leaders" for the Parkland response, in which he said, "Our decision was not made for economic gain, and our values are not for sale."

Major brands continue to take action on guns, with Levi's this week pledging financial and volunteer support for gun control efforts, saying business leaders "simply cannot stand by silently when it comes to issues that threaten the very fabric of where we live and work."

David Armano, global strategy director at Edelman, said he urged brands to think hard before taking on hot-button issues directly, something many companies are still leery of.

"Most of them are hesitant," he said, adding that "there's an appetite for how can we more clearly act and communicate about the bigger things in life that we feel are right for our brand to talk about."

Such an approach can often lead brands to favor spots that are "culturally relevant without being culturally divisive," he said.

Brand reputation expert Farrell is currently reviewing ad campaigns for two companies with consumer products, advising the clients on whether to tweak the ads and how to prepare for any negative reaction. Both campaigns "speak to diversity," Farrell said. "We've been asked to look at the creative through the lens of this polarized environment."

"In another time and place, they would be rather neutral," he said of the ads. "In today's environment, they're edgy by definition." In my mind, they are idiots. Tossing out Peter hoping to win Paul’s business is dumb. There has to be another reason. We will talk about this later.

**The Wall**

## In an interview published Friday, President Donald Trump revealed he is mulling plans to use the military to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. As discussed on X-Squared Radio over a year ago, the Army Corps of engineers could be used to build the wall, and no Congressional authorization would be needed. They could easily bring in 10-20 contractors and have 70% of the wall in the most trafficked areas finished in less than two years. And, they would build high-speed roads on the US side of the wall as well. Less border enforcement personnel could protect more area, and it would reduce disease, crime, and political assault by virtually 100%.

Traveling from Billings, Montana to Fargo, North Dakota aboard Air Force One, President Trump [told](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6144837/Trump-says-use-MILITARY-build-wall-Congress-wont-fund-DHS.html) the Daily Mail he possesses “two options,” when it comes to building the border wall: “We have military, we have homeland security,” he said.

Of the two, the president said he prefers Congress approve the approximately $25 billion in spending that he’s seeking for the wall and have Department of Homeland Security undertake the project. “Politically speaking, I’d rather get it through Congress. If we don’t, I’m looking at that option very seriously,” he [said](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6144837/Trump-says-use-MILITARY-build-wall-Congress-wont-fund-DHS.html).

“The possibility of diverting Pentagon funding and assets to build a border wall is a hole card the president is holding but has never directly acknowledged before. Two Defense Department officials told DailyMail.com in August that the Army Corps of Engineers could take on the task,” [writes](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6144837/Trump-says-use-MILITARY-build-wall-Congress-wont-fund-DHS.html) reporter David Martosko.

Asked if Army Corps of Engineers were equipped to build the wall, one source [told](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6144837/Trump-says-use-MILITARY-build-wall-Congress-wont-fund-DHS.html) the paper, “They build levees that hold back massive walls of water,’ one said of the agency. ‘They can build one to hold back drugs and human traffickers.”

As part of the $1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill [passed](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/immigration/sd-me-border-wall-20180330-story.html) in March, Congress earmarked only $1.6 billion for border security. In what many perceived to have been a broken promise, a paltry $38 million is allowed to be used for “border barrier planning and design.”

At the time, President Trump touted $1.6 billion in spending as a down payment to build the wall. “Got $1.6 Billion to start Wall on Southern Border, rest will be forthcoming,” the president tweeted. “Most importantly, got $700 Billion to rebuild our Military, $716 Billion next year…most ever. Had to waste money on Dem giveaways in order to take care of military pay increase and new equipment.”

Got $1.6 Billion to start Wall on Southern Border, rest will be forthcoming. Most importantly, got $700 Billion to rebuild our Military, $716 Billion next year...most ever. Had to waste money on Dem giveaways in order to take care of military pay increase and new equipment.

President Trump also signaled he’s prepared to shut down the federal government on September 30 if Congress fails to fund his most central infrastructure project. “If it were up – I don’t want to say ‘up to me,’ because it is up to me – I would do it,’ he said aboard Air Force One, ‘because I think it’s a great political issue,” he said.

As Breitbart News’s John Binder and Neil Munro [reported](https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/09/07/gop-has-yet-to-secure-border-wall-funding-ahead-of-midterm-elections/), the Republican-controlled House passed nine spending bills this week — none of which include funds for a border wall. Headed up by Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-KS), the House Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations has [drafted](https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/09/07/trump-faces-ryan-trap-border-wall-funds-wage-raises-for-voters/) a spending bill for 2019 that would provide only $5 billion to construct nearly 200 miles of border wall for the year — 3.4 billion more than the $1.6 billion proposed by Republicans in the Senate.

According to pollsters, GOP midterm voters have [stated](https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/09/07/gop-has-yet-to-secure-border-wall-funding-ahead-of-midterm-elections/) for the previous six months that the issue of immigration weighs heaviest on their mind. While the president has said he will wait until after the midterm election to push the issue of border wall funding, members of the House Freedom Caucus may be gearing up for a fight now. Appearing on the Fox News Channel this week, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) urged his fellow Republicans to draw up plans to fund the wall before November.

“What was probably the single biggest promise Republicans made to the voters in 2016?,” Jordan [began](https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/09/07/trump-faces-ryan-trap-border-wall-funds-wage-raises-for-voters/). “It was the border security wall, so let’s get that done here before the end of the fiscal year.”

“We increase our chances of keeping the majority if we do a simple thing: do what we promised the voters what we were going to do, he added. “And again, this was probably the central thing that the people elected Republicans to do is secure our border, build the border security wall, so let’s get it done on this spending bill.

**AI is The Biggest Threat Since Global Warming**

## I didn’t think global warming is a threat to the world or to America. In reality, the only threat was the Global Syndicate setting up to skim trillions off the tax revenue to further their agenda of oppression of free peoples around the globe.

##  I honestly, don’t think AI is a threat, either. However, A.I. is a bigger concern than terrorism or climate change, according to the new head of the British Science Association.

“Until maybe a couple of years ago had I been asked what is the most pressing and important conversation we should be having about our future, I might have said climate change or one of the other big challenges facing humanity, such as terrorism, antimicrobial resistance, the threat of pandemics or world poverty,” [declared](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2018/09/05/artificial-intelligence-greater-concern-climate-change-terrorism/) Professor Jim Al-Khalili during a briefing. “But today I am certain the most important conversation we should be having is about the future of AI. It will dominate what happens with all of these other issues for better or for worse.”

“If Russian cyber hackers were able to meddle with the 2016 US elections, then what is stopping cyber terrorists from hacking into any future AI controlled power grids, transport systems, banks of military installations,” he continued. “Our government has a responsibility to protect society from potential threats and risks.”

On Twitter, Al-Khalili added that although people had suggested he was “worried about AI,” he was not.

“I’m worried we’re not prepared for AI. Different,” he explained.

Finally here is Telegraph. Although this suggests I'm worried about AI. I'm not. I'm worried we're not prepared for AI. Different.
AI is greater concern than climate change or terrorism, says new head of British Science Association



## Artificial Intelligence is greater concern than climate change or terrorism, says new head of...

Artificial Intelligence is a greater concern than antibiotic resistance, climate change or terrorism for the future of Britain, the incoming president of the British Science Association has warned.

Researchers at MIT [created](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/06/05/mit-creates-psychopath-artificial-intelligence/) a “psychopathic” A.I. it dubbed Norrman in June. During an ink blot test, “a ‘normal’ A.I. perceived ‘a black and white photo of a small bird,’ Norman thought it looked more like a man who ‘gets pulled into a dough machine.’

Other research [shows](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/02/13/a-i-expert-artificial-intelligence-will-be-billions-of-times-smarter-than-humans/) A.I. will be “billions of times smarter than humans,” and London hospitals are expected to [replace](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/05/21/report-london-hospitals-to-replace-doctors-with-ai/) doctors with A.I. in an attempt to better serve patients. I think we need A.I. Congressmen and Senators. The States could prepare and program their own and send it to DC. They will be able to handle a million emails an hour, answer every phone call, and never sleep; with themselves or their neighbor’s wife. They would be fair, incorruptible, and every single action they take will be a matter of record. If they fail to represent their constituents, they can be replaced with the flip of a switch.

I think this is where the founding fathers wanted our nation to go. A government that exists without the physical ability to care one bit about what the people own or earn. To continue the system of greed, corruption, lust, and ego is ridiculous. The sooner we get started, the sooner we will balance the budget, stop all wars, feed all the hungry , and house the homeless. President Trump has showed us what it is like to have a President who works 18 hours a day, every day, to make American great again. Imagine how he would be empowered by an AI congress and Senate who didn’t care one bit about camera time, but which would deliver bills for him to sign all on time, perfectly designed, and succinct in their function.

**Another Loose End is Dead**

[Joseph Mifsud](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/joseph-mifsud/), an elusive professor considered a missing link between President [Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/)’s election campaign and [Russia](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/russia/), may have died during the course of being sought in connection with Moscow’s alleged meddling in the 2016 race, attorneys for the Democratic National Committee claimed Friday. One of more than a dozen defendants named in a lawsuit filed by the DNC in April, Mr. Milfsud “is missing and may be deceased,” attorneys for the committee wrote in a status report filed in Manhattan federal court.

“Plaintiff continues to monitor news sources for any indicia of [Mifsud](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/joseph-mifsud/)’s whereabouts and will attempt service on [Mifsud](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/joseph-mifsud/) if and when he is found alive,” said a corresponding footnote.

“The DNC’s counsel has attempted to serve [Mifsud](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/joseph-mifsud/) for months and has been unable to locate or contact him,” added DNC spokeswoman Adrienne Watson. “In addition, public reports have said he has disappeared and hasn’t been seen for months,” she said in a statement [sent](http://thehill.com/policy/national-security/405672-dnc-lawyers-papadopoulos-uk-contact-may-be-dead) to The Hill following Friday’s filing.

Russian state-sponsored hackers breached the DNC’s computer network and other Democratic targets during the 2016 race and stole emails and other documents later released by outlets including the WikiLeaks website and a pseudonymous internet personal known as Guccifer 2.0, according to U.S. federal law enforcement and intelligence officials.

Separate from the Department of Justice investigating the hacks as part of its probe into alleged Russian election interference, DNC attorneys sued [Mr. Mifsud](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/joseph-mifsud/) along with a cast of co-defendants including the Russian government and WikiLeaks, as well as members of the Trump campaign accused of colluding with either prior to the president’s victory over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

George Papadopoulos, a former [Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/) campaign adviser, recently admitted in a separate criminal case that [Mr. Mifsud](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/joseph-mifsud/) contacted him months prior to the release of the stolen material and told him that Russians had obtained “dirt” on Mrs. Clinton in the form of “thousands of emails.” He pleaded guilty last year to having lied to FBI investigators about his contacts with Russians and Russian intermediaries during the race, and on Friday he was sentenced to serve two-weeks behind bars.

“The defendant’s lies undermined investigators’ ability to challenge the Professor or potentially detain or arrest him while he was still in the United States. The government understands that the Professor left the United States on February 11, 2017 and he has not returned to the United States since then,” special counsel Robert Mueller said of Papadopoulos in a court [document](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/aug/18/robert-mueller-says-george-papadopoulos-damaged-ru/) last month.

In addition to Papadopoulos, the special counsel’s office has brought criminal charges against more than 30 other people since Mr. Mueller, a former FBI director, was appointed to investigate the race on behalf of the Justice Department last May, including more than a dozen suspected Russian state-sponsored hackers and other members of [Mr. Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/)’s presidential campaign.

**The Great NYT Anonymous Caper**

Looks like Q is not the only one saying things that affect the future. The noose around the neck of the anonymous author of the infamous NYT op-ed is growing tighter...or at least that's what the Trump administration wants us to think.

After all the furor over Rand Paul's suggestion that everybody in the West Wing with a security clearance should be made to take a lie-detector test, the White House may not need to go to the trouble, if recent stories in [CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/07/politics/white-house-oped-writer-search/index.html) and [the New York Times](https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/07/politics/trump-new-york-times-op-ed-suspects/index.html) are to be believed (which...we'll get to that later). According to these stories, the hunt to expose the **anonymous saboteur behind the NYT op-ed** **detailing the internal "resistance" to President Trump is closing in on a suspect.** **In just two days, the administration has narrowed down the list of suspects from a list of 18 names to just "a few individuals."**

By his own admission, Trump is still "obsessed" with smoking out the author of the op-ed and has mostly ignored pleas from Chief of Staff John Kelly and others to abandon it (Kelly allegedly believes that any more headlines about the op-ed will do little good and only remind the public of its contents). According to [CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/07/politics/white-house-oped-writer-search/index.html), **senior administration figures including Kellyanne Conway believe the author handles duties pertaining to national security**.

**So far, more than 25 senior administration officials, including**[**Vice President Mike Pence (who was one of the earliest suspects)**](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-09-06/one-word-has-people-convinced-mike-pence-authored-scathing-nyt-op-ed)**, have publicly denied being the author.**Still, suspicions persist that **either Pence, or a member of his staff,** was the source. During comments to reporters aboard Air Force One on Thursday, and later during a rally in Montana, Trump has made it clear that he's determined to uncover the source and considers the issue a matter of national security (or possibly an act of treason).



For what it's worth, CNN has said it doesn't know the identity of the report's author.

***CNN is not aware of the identity of the individuals White House aides have zeroed in on.****In an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said Trump believes the individual is someone from the national security sector of the government.*

***The op-ed published Wednesday afternoon, just a day after excerpts from veteran journalist Bob***[***Woodward's new book***](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-09-05/trump-slams-discredited-woodward-asks-why-politicians-dont-change-libel-laws)***, "Fear: Trump in the White House," were published.****The book passages published in The Washington Post and by CNN showed a White House consumed by chaos and disarray, including stories of aides insulting Trump behind his back and going so far as to steal documents off his desk in order to keep him from signing them.*

***The anonymous writer of the op-ed said the resistance inside Trump's administration is not the same as the resistance from the political left.****The author wrote that the resistance inside the government wants "the administration to succeed ... But we believe our first duty is to this country, and the president continues to act in a manner that is detrimental to the health of our republic."*

*"That is why many Trump appointees have vowed to do what we can to preserve our democratic institutions while thwarting Mr. Trump's more misguided impulses until he is out of office."*

While these reports could be genuine, it's interesting that Conway and others had initially suggested that the author's "senior" status might've been an exaggeration, and that the author may instead be a relatively high-ranking staffer from inside one of the federal agencies. If that were the case, the author could be one of potentially hundreds of individuals, Conway had said. This begs the question: **Are these leaks merely a preamble for the administration setting up a patsy**, perhaps Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who will be made to take the fall for the op-ed as an excuse to clean house during one of the most sensitive periods of the Trump presidency?

Whatever the reason, we imagine the White House will produce the "culprit" in short order.

[**PLAY KASICH CLIP HERE**](https://youtu.be/C7p3S2NtW8U)

Maybe it was John McCain who wrote the OpEd. Maybe it was one of his staffers. Maybe it as their way of striking back at the machine that swiftly walked McCain off the plank hours after he supposedly left the hospital.

The mysterious *Times*op-ed is not so much an essay revealing the mind, motives, and actions of an actual public official engaged in real-world duties as it is a string of talking points with the scent of the shopworn campaign slogans of John McCain or Marco Rubio and the effluences of the Bill Kristol Twitter feed.

While the ghostwriting bears the hallmarks of both Gerson and Wehner, the placement of the article in the *New York Times*is a natural fit for Wehner. He is a regular contributor to the *Times*op-ed page. He was perfectly positioned to be both the ghostwriter and the intermediary who arranged publication of the piece.

It’s possible Wehner and Gerson had nothing to do with the *Times*op-ed. Perhaps it’s merely a coincidence that the piece is in lock-step conformity to their oft-expressed mindset.

And I still don’t have a strong sense of who is ze — the person who signed “Anonymous” to the article that was ghosted for zir. But it would make sense if that person were someone with whom Wehner and Gerson were known to meet now and then to imbibe Shirley Temples.

Surely it’s worth finding out:

Who was the ghostwriter?

Who made the placement arrangements with the *Times*?

And it’s worth asking Wehner, Gerson, Kristol, Cohen, and others in their network: What if anything was their involvement in the article’s preparation and publication?

**As Predicted by X-Squared Radio**

What do you do when the phone rings every 5 seconds with another sale? With the Trump administration about to slap tariffs of up to 25% on an additional $200 billion in Chinese goods, new data suggests that the global slowdown has already begun. Confirming our observations from two weeks ago, in which we showed that the latest freight data indicated global trade volumes are slowing...

...on Friday Bloomberg highlighted that the world trade monitor compiled by the CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis showed the rolling three-month trade volumes are not only in decline but have entered into negative territory, an ominous harbinger of economic trouble.

As Bloomberg notes, "the drop is particularly striking given that commodities, one of the largest and most volatile subsets of globally traded goods, have been doing quite well – the CPB’s indexes of fuels and non-fuel commodities both reached the highest levels since 2014 in May."

Instead, confirming the ominous recent developments in Brazil, where a clustering of supply-chain linked problems has resulted in a near paralysis in the country's shipping industry, Bloomberg notes that "the weakness is coming not from materials but from manufactured goods, as global supply chains seize up."

With the CPB index printing negative throughout the second quarter of the year, that echoes the numerous reports of a slowdown in the US. Manufactures “reported higher prices and supply disruptions that they attributed to the new trade policies,” according to the Federal Reserve’s July Beige Book, in addition to “higher input prices and shrinking margins.”

Next Wednesday, another Beige Book is due, and it is likely to show more evidence of slowing trade as a result of escalating trade wars.

While the stimulative effect of debt-fueled tax cuts and favorable fiscal policy have created a "Goldilocks economy" in the US, resulting in near record freight volumes in US ports, that temporary sugar high is most likely coming to an end, as a substantial portion of the increased volumes were related to businesses pulling forward consumption from future quarters to beat the tariffs, according to the National Retail Federation, an industry group.

Another shipping market index that tends to be an economic bellwether is the Baltic Dry Index (BDI), a composite of the Capesize, Panamax and Supramax Timecharter Averages rates. The index surged mid-summer thanks to companies getting ahead of tariffs, but following a late-July peak, the index has been steadily declining.

**What’s Going on in Syria**

Syrian state YouTube channels have been shut down this morning just as the Syrian Army's ground offensive has officially begun. It is unclear whether or not the action is part of a broader move among US social media companies to close "Iran-linked" accounts, or if directly connected to events now rapidly unfolding in Idlib.

A number of Syria observers say the account closures could be connected with potential US plans for military action in response to the Syria-Russian forces air and ground attack on Idlib.

This news comes just as CENTCOM chief Gen. Joseph Dunford said on Saturday the Pentagon is preparing "military options" and is in "routine dialogue" with the White House concerning a potential military response. Meanwhile Syrian-British journalist Danny Makki, currently tracking events on the ground in Syria, reports: "Huge bombardment in Idlib today by Syrian Forces, over 60 different locations targeted. Shelling all along the frontlines of North Hama also."

"The Idlib offensive will be one of the most complicated, most followed internationally & potentially one of the bloodiest battles of the Syria war," Makki describes further. Currently, the Twitter accounts for the aforementioned Syrian government channels appear to be active.

Here we go again...

Elsewhere in the country, to the northeast, where American forces are stationed in support of Syrian Kurdish groups, rare clashes have broken out between US-backed groups and the Syrian Army. As Al Masdar News reports more than ten Syrian soldiers were killed Saturday after a series of intense clashes broke out between their troops and the Kurdish forces in Qamishli city.

According to a military source in Qamishli, intense clashes broke out between the Syrian intelligence forces and Kurdish Asayish police in the city, resulting in the death of several involved. The source said that in addition to the 10+ Syrian military personnel lost, at least seven Asayish fighters were also killed during the fierce engagement.

The attack occurred when three vehicles carrying Syrian soldiers were heading towards the military checkpoints to change personnel; it was at these checkpoints where the clashes began. No one knows why the clashes broke out, but they have since died down, the source added.

**Stargazing Vacations**

Like watching the sunset, seeking out the Big Dipper in the night sky is a vacation ritual. But in the past five years, according to experts, the term astrotourism has evolved to describe more intentional travel to places with dark skies and more visible stars.

“Astrotourism is any kind of tourism that involves the night sky or visiting facilities related to astronomy like observatories, and combining that with a broader sense of ecotourism where interaction with nature is what the visitor experience is about,” said John Barentine, the director of public policy at the International Dark-Sky Association, a Tucson-based nonprofit organization devoted to battling light pollution and certifying dark sky preserves where stars and planets shine brightly.

In its 30-year history, the association has designated more than 60 [International Dark Sky Parks](http://darksky.org/idsp/parks/) in protected areas, such as the Grand Canyon National Park. [International Dark Sky Reserves](http://darksky.org/idsp/reserves/), about a dozen presently, have protected land at their center, such as a national forest, and municipalities in their buffer regions that have agreed to reduce light emissions. Its four [International Dark Sky Sanctuaries](http://darksky.org/idsp/sanctuaries/) tend to be remote; [Pitcairn Islands](http://www.visitpitcairn.pn/) in the Pacific, for example, has applied for sanctuary status.

Similarly motivated by light-pollution abatement, the [Royal Astronomical Society of Canada](http://www.rasc.ca/) designates Canada’s [Dark-Sky Preserves](https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/voyage-travel/experiences/ciel-sky), often in national parks.

Given that anyone looking up from a campfire to spot the constellation of Orion could be considered a stargazer, their numbers are hard to quantify, but anecdotal evidence suggests the pastime has a growing fan base.

In March, the public library in Rancho Mirage, Calif., opened an [observatory](https://www.ranchomiragelibrary.org/observatory.html) with a 23.5-foot dome as well as a 2,000-square foot patio where visitors can attend stargazing events. In June, [Viking Ocean Cruises](https://www.vikingcruises.com/oceans) launched its new ship, the Viking Orion, featuring a planetarium and a resident astronomer who offers lectures, guided stargazing and indoor night-sky tours.

The National Park Service has adapted its slogan “Find your park” to “Find your park after dark” to increase awareness of its [night sky programs](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nightskies/events.htm), which include star parties, festivals, interpretive talks and [children’s night explorer programs](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nightskies/juniorrangernight.htm).

Eclipse pilgrims chasing the path of the 2017 solar eclipse caused traffic jams along the path of totality last August, and destinations from Texas to Maine are already gearing up for a similar migration when the next North American eclipse takes place April 8, 2024. Visitors to South America won’t have to wait that long; on July 2, 2019, one will track across Chile and Argentina.

“The eclipse last summer raised so much awareness — people got really jazzed about looking up from that,” said Samuel Singer, the owner of [Wyoming Stargazing](http://www.wyomingstargazing.org/) who guides public and private stargazing in Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park. Founded in 2014, the company has grown from one high-powered telescope to 10 to meet demand.

“In every culture there’s a myth about the stars and stories there,” he added. “People have always looked up for answers.”

Many of the best stargazing areas in North America lie near popular mountain resorts, ski destinations and state and national parks, adding a cosmic wonder to trips there; along with stargazing events and festivals, they are expanding the galaxy of astrotourism.

## Parks and Attractions

In December, the [Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve](http://www.idahodarksky.org/) became the first International Dark Sky Reserve in the United States, covering a 1,400-square-mile swath of central Idaho in the Sawtooth Mountains, from Ketchum in Sun Valley to Stanley. The International Dark-Sky Association calls central Idaho “one of the last large ‘pools’ of natural nighttime darkness left in the United States” on its [website](http://darksky.org/first-international-dark-sky-reserve-in-the-u-s-designated/).

Ketchum and Stanley are both gateways to the reserve. The [Sawtooth Botanical Garden](http://www.sbgarden.org/) in Ketchum and the [Stanley Museum](http://www.discoversawtooth.org/) both offer periodic astronomy programs. [Idaho Conservation League](https://www.idahoconservation.org/events/events/dark-sky-trek/) has held overnight treks in the reserve.

This summer, National Geographic and AuDiable Vert Mountain Station, a Dark Sky Preserve in Glen Sutton, Quebec, near the United States border, opened [ObservEtoiles](http://www.observetoiles.com/en), the first open-air augmented reality planetarium. The theater, with 184 heated seats, plans to operate nine months each year, providing visitors A.R. headsets featuring digital overlays of 17th-century illustrations that align with the stars and planets overhead (programs cost 45.99 Canadian dollars, or about $35.30).

Walkway Over the Hudson, the bridge-turned-linear-park between Poughkeepsie and Lloyd on either side of New York’s Hudson River, has added [Starwalks](https://walkway.org/walkway-announces-new-starwalk-series-for-2018/) this summer, deploying scientists and teachers along the span to talk about special themes, offer nighttime photography tips and staff the telescopes (free).

## Get the Travel Dispatch Newsletter

Every Saturday, get travel tips, destination coverage, photos from all over the world and more.

Image

This October, Jasper, Alberta, in the Canadian Rockies, will be the site of the Jasper Dark Sky Festival, with telescope tours and stargazing sessions.CreditTravel Alberta

Gatherings of stargazers abound, from star parties in state parks to weeklong star safaris in Australia. The online magazine [AmSky.com](http://www.amsky.com/calendar/events/) lists global cosmic gatherings.

The province of Alberta, Canada, is home to six Dark Sky Preserves. One of the world’s largest, the 4,200-square-mile Jasper Dark Sky Preserve in the Canadian Rockies offers prime stargazing and Northern Lights watches September to May, including ski season. From Oct. 12 to 21, the [Jasper Dark Sky Festival](https://jasperdarksky.travel/) will feature the astronauts and brothers Scott Kelly and Mark Kelly as speakers, in addition to sessions on night photography, telescope tours and stargazing.

For those seeking to take better photos of the night sky, the fourth annual [Astrophotography Conference](http://adirondackpublicobservatory.org/events/Fourth-Annual-Astrophotography-Conference) at the Adirondack Public Observatory in Tupper Lake, N.Y., Oct. 11 to 14, will focus on dark sky photography workshops (fee $150).

As the region explores becoming dark-sky certified, [Manning Park Resort](https://manningpark.com/) in eastern British Columbia’s Manning Provincial Park will hold its first Astronomy Weekend, Oct. 12 to 14, featuring astronomers, sessions for children and more advanced scientific talks (rooms from 99 Canadian dollars; event passes are 25 to 45 Canadian dollars).

Resorts like the [Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa](https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/hawaii/hyatt-regency-maui-resort-and-spa/oggrm) in Hawaii, with three high-powered telescopes on its roof capable of spotting 80 constellations, and [Primland](https://primland.com/) in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, home to its own observatory, have set a high bar for casual astronomy. But even the less equipped are bringing science to night life.

In Mexico, the [Four Seasons Punta Mita](https://www.fourseasons.com/puntamita/) has recently begun offering complimentary stargazing on its driving range where a guide uses a laser to point out stars and constellations overhead (rooms from $695). Private stargazing tours may take place at the beach and include wine and cheese (from $70 per person).

Guests of [Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa](https://www.westingrandcayman.com/) in the Caribbean can newly reserve an oceanfront beach cabana at night in a stargazing upgrade ($45 per person) that include a private firepit with s’more fixings, telescope, night sky map and dinner (rooms from $299).

In Sedona, Ariz., [L’Auberge de Sedona Resort & Spa](https://www.lauberge.com/) has added complimentary “star bathing,” an adaptation of forest bathing, the Japanese concept of meditation in nature (rooms from $399). The guided nighttime version has participants appreciate all that is around them, as well as twinkling overhead.

**The Moon’s Origins**

Light and dark markings swirl over the moon, looking like cream swirled into coffee or clouds against a slate gray sky. These lunar swirls may result from ancient, magnetic lava just below the moon's surface, according to one new study.

A joint study between researchers at Rutgers University and the University of California, Berkeley, pointed to the moon's [internally generated magnetic field](https://www.space.com/37756-moon-magnetic-field-lasted-billion-years-longer.html) and past volcanic activity to explain the lunar swirls.

Researchers [have known for some time](https://www.space.com/32787-strange-moon-swirls-origins.html) that lunar swirls share space with localized magnetic fields and that when those fields deflect particles from solar wind, parts of the moon's surface weather more slowly than other parts. "But the cause of those magnetic fields, and thus of the swirls themselves, had long been a mystery," Sonia Tikoo, co-author of the study and a researcher at Rutgers University-New Brunswick's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, [said in a statement](https://news.rutgers.edu/mysterious-%E2%80%9Clunar-swirls%E2%80%9D-point-moon%E2%80%99s-volcanic-magnetic-past/20180905#.W5J8A-hKjIX). "To solve it, we had to find out what kind of geological feature could produce these magnetic fields — and why their magnetism is so powerful." [[How the Moon Evolved: A Photo Timeline](https://www.space.com/25320-moon-evolution-photo-timeline-gallery.html)]



Sonia Tikoo, co-author of a new study explaining lunar swirls and researcher at Rutgers University's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, looks at moon rock samples in a petri dish. The researchers developed mathematical models for these localized fields, or "geological magnets" as they're described in the statement. These models showed that each lunar swirl must exist above a narrow, magnetic object located just below the lunar surface.

Even stranger, researchers think that these subsurface magnetic objects are ancient, long, narrow lava tubes formed by flowing lava or lava dikes, which are vertical sheets of magma in the crust of a moon or planet. Past experiments have shown that, when heated above 1,112 degrees Fahrenheit (600 degrees Celsius) in a zero-oxygen environment, certain minerals in moon rocks break down and release metallic iron, making the rocks extremely magnetic.

So, when the moon was erupting lava over 3 billion years ago, these magnetic lava tubes or lava dikes were likely created and became highly magnetic as they cooled down, according to the statement.

"No one had thought about this reaction in terms of explaining these unusually strong magnetic features on the moon," Tikoo said in the statement, referring to the lava becoming magnetic moon rock under the surface and causing lunar swirls. "This was the final piece in the puzzle of understanding the magnetism that underlies these lunar swirls.

**The Orion Spacecraft Module is Ready**

Technicians recently completed construction of a lightweight capsule made to carry astronauts back to the moon.

The capsule, also known as a pressure vessel, is part of NASA's Orion Exploration Mission-2 (EM-2). NASA plans to send crewed missions in the 2020s to the moon, and the capsule's spacecraft, the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, is built to take them there; EM-2 will be the second test-flight of Orion with NASA's Space Launch System rocket and the first test flight with a crew.

Technicians welded seven large aluminum-alloy pieces together over the last seven months to produce the capsule, according to a recent statement from Lockheed Martin, the contractor building the vessel for NASA.

Lockheed Martin has historically had a large presence in aerospace, from the earliest transcontinental flights to current NASA satellite and spacecraft missions. The company also manufactures weapons, and according to its website, the majority of Lockheed Martin's business is with the U.S. Department of Defense and other U.S. federal government agencies.

The vessel, according to the contractor's statement, is designed to transport a crew safely through the deep space beyond near-Earth orbit.

On Aug. 24, the EM-2 capsule arrived at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Lockheed Martin representatives said the vehicle traveled overland from New Orleans, where technicians and engineers worked on it inside the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility. The EM-2 capsule is now located within the Neil Armstrong Operations and Checkout Building at Kennedy Space Center. There, the mission will enter the final assembly phase for the full spacecraft.

**The Coup**

Responding to an anonymous Op-Ed in the New York Times detailing an active resistance within the Trump White House, former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon told Reuters that President Trump is facing a "coup" the likes of which haven't been seen since the American Civil War.

“What you saw the other day was as serious as it can get. This is a direct attack on the institutions,” Bannon said while flying to Italy. “This is a coup, okay”.

The Wednesday column in the New York Times slams Trump's "amorality" and claims that "Many of the senior officials in his own administration are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations."

Bannon told Reuters that the last time a sitting US president had been challenged like this was during the American Civil War when Democratic General George B. McClellan went after Republican President Abraham Lincoln.

"This is a crisis. The country has only ever had such a crisis in the summer of 1862 when General McClellan and the senior generals, all Democrats in the Union Army, deemed that Abraham Lincoln was not fit and not competent to be commander in chief," said Bannon - whose departure from the White House was in large part over a fallout with Trump's "establishment" advisers. Bannon said at the time that the "Republican establishment" sought to nullify the results of the 2016 election and effectively neuter Trump.

“There is a cabal of Republic establishment figures who believe Donald Trump is not fit to be president of the United States. This is a crisis,” Bannon said in Rome.

“I am not a conspiracy guy ... I have said there is no deep state. It is an in-your-face state.” -Steve Bannon

On Friday, President Trump called on the Department of Justice to investigate who wrote the piece, citing national security. On Thursday night, Trump told a crowd in Billings, Montana that the Times should publish the name of the author at once.

But for the sake of our national security, the New York Times should publish his name at once. I think their reporters should go and investigate who it is. That would actually be a good scoop.

That would be a good scoop. Unelected deep state operatives who defy the voters to push their own secret agendas are truly a threat to democracy itself. And I was so heartened when I looked

Bannon warned liberal progressives within the Democratic Party that they would suffer the same fate as Trump. For an example, look no further at how establishment Democrats shunned Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after her upset primary victory over the 4th most powerful Democrat in the House, Joe Crowley.

"Don’t think it will be any different if you take power," Bannon warned outsider liberal candidates like Bernie Sanders. "Because this is the established order dictating that they know better than the people."



**DNC: 170 years of Destroying America**

The “Resistance” has morphed into the “Lynch Mob.” Having successfully been gaslit into believing Donald Trump is everything from a bad joke to a Russian spy, the Progressive left in the U.S. are embracing all the totalitarian impulses their grubby little hands can find as they climb the Cliffs of their Insanity to remove him from office.

This putsch is orchestrated by a now open conspiracy of members of FBI, CIA, MI-6, DNC, the U.S. corporate media and Trump’s own staff in the Oval Office as evidenced by the recent and infamous New York Times op-ed. This expose from a Trump staffer reads like a cross between the Neoconservative Manifesto and a Little League parent complaining his kid doesn’t get enough play time.

My money is on the NYT itself. It was written by a sycophant junior journalist. The sheer crudity of the thing was embarrassing to anyone who makes their living crafting words. But, when constructing a narrative built on a lie, that lie only has to be one IQ point higher than the average target audience to get the intended response. Maybe. And since it’s demonstrably true that the more people gather into groups the dumber they get….

Well, ok, that rules out 99.9% of the people in the Trump Administration. If there is one person inside the White House that harbors this much stupidity and this much hatred, they would stand out like a tie-dyed T-Shirt and flip flops. To think of “dozens and dozens” of these soldiers of the resistance is just not reality.

So, while David Brock and George Soros openly pay people to protest on Capitol Hill, Alex Jones personally confronts his tormentors speaking inconvenient truths to power. So, they finally banned him completely from public sight. From the outside the opera of American politics must look like someone threw a stink bomb on stage while the fat lady was singing.

What this really does in undermine faith in the U.S. political system; everyone’s faith. Russians and Europeans are laughing their asses off. I mean, Ocasio-Cortez is like a cartoon character that just keeps on giving the ridiculousness. Whether the Democrats win back the House doesn’t matter as much as having her on the House floor making speeches every day. Wouldn’t that be the most hilarious thing? Remember Trafficant? “Beam me up Scotty, there’s no intelligent life here.” He was smart, though. And, he was right. Neither of those can be said about Cortez.

And while to a libertarian like myself this is definitely an occasion that warrants a big bowl of popcorn, it should also loosen your bowels a little. Like all good comedy should.

Because the world financial system is predicated on confidence, specifically confidence in U.S. institutions. Because confidence in U.S. political and financial institutions is the basis for global confidence in the U.S. dollar and by extension that confidence forms the backbone of the entire world economy.

Currencies are a reflection of confidence in the governments which print them. So while people starve in Venezuela “The Lynch Mob” screams “capitalism is failing” from their custom-colored iPhones.

Financial markets look calm today but they aren’t. Global capital is confused. A rising U.S. share market is a mix of the good from Trump’s reforms and a loss of confidence in his Presidency.

Capital doesn’t know whether to jump East or West. This is why the euro refuses to collapse. At this point all capital knows is that the emerging markets which made them a lot of money in an age of zero-bound interest rates on the dollar are no longer sustainable. So, they are all crashing at the same time.

The fuse has been lit on debt bombs sitting on the balance sheets of insolvent European banks. And when that bomb explodes, it will expose the nakedness of the Emperors of global institutional confidence – The Federal Reserve, The European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

And all of that capital that flowed out of the U.S. and Europe over the past decade searching for yield in a world where risk was suppressed to save the banks is coming back like a Tsunami.

And guess who’s ox that gores?

The people who stoked and cultivated The Resistance to climb up those cliffs of Fortress America to destroy Trump. So, while to the “Lynch Mob” Trump’s presidency may seem like a bad joke, the punch line is if they are successful at destroying Trump by illegally removing him from office, they not only destroy America by causing a Constitutional crisis but likely take the entire world economy with him by causing a Constitutional crisis.

And in the end no one profits from this. You only survive it. At this point no one in the power circles of D.C. are thinking much farther than the end of their nose and the size of their lobbyist kickbacks. They want the gravy train to keep chugging along and protect themselves from their corruption being exposed to the world.

Their weakness is being exploited by people like Robert Mueller to isolate Trump, leave him without competent legal representation and force him through sheer force to resign in disgrace.

But Trump is:

 1) too smart for that and

2) too damn stubborn to give in. He knows they have nothing of substance on him. He’s masterfully destroyed the media’s credibility while endearing himself to those that value the military, police and first responders which in their minds keep the lights on and the roads safe.

The question is whether there are enough of them left on his side to hand him the majority in the Legislature he needs to avert the Constitutional crisis Mueller et.al. are setting up. So, the narrative today shifts to Trump being unfit for the job by spreading rumors and innuendo. That’s what they have been reduced to. Even if some of those things are true, we don’t care.

We elected Trump just the way he is to Drain the Swamp. We already knew he liked beautiful women when he was young and rich. Now, he’s older and rich. We knew what he wanted to do, because he told us for 30 years. Why was it such a surprise when he started doing it without 60 minutes of taking his hand off the bible?

It was plainly evident to a majority of Americans that the drama on Capitol Hill was closer to an episode of Arrested Development than The West Wing. We simply knew inserting our own Michael Bluth into the mix would allow the insanity burble to the surface for everyone to finally be okay with tearing it all down.

The problem is, however, The Lynch Mob has lost their sense of irony. So, now the laughs are all canned because this show ain’t funny anymore. That Trump has been forced to surround himself with Israeli-Firsters and literal scumbags (or do I repeat myself) like Nikki Haley, Mike Pence and John Bolton is a testament to just how deep The Swamp is and how powerful the bureaucracies they control are.

While Trump has made some strides in improving things domestically, the big foreign policy breakthroughs have been cordoned off from him at every turn. It is obvious that many within his administration act independently and undermine him whenever they can. The true believers of neoliberal interventionism are the ones driving the foreign policy bus off that same cliff the Lynch Mob is climbing. And that’s where this whole sordid mess comes crashing to a very ugly, chaotic conclusion.

Because the Neocons and their European counterparts, like The Lynch Mob, refuse to go quietly into the annals of history. They are still suffused with their Trotskyite dreams of world domination and revenge against the dirty Russians who betrayed the revolution nearly a century ago.

They are still aligned with the rapacious psychopathic intelligence running the financial centers that nearly destroyed Russia in the 1990’s. They ruled the world for 5,0-00 years, until the American Constitution and its annoying Bill of Rights got in the way. They want Trump gone, because they know he is the one leading America away from the chutes of conformity described by Aldous Huxley. Once he is gone, America can continue its fall to its knees alongside the NFL millionaires. Just be ready this September 11th. Have some extra food around. Fill up the tank. Make sure you have some cash in your pockets. And, watch your eyes, because the Democrats are not afraid to kill millions to disrupt and accomplish their goal. Don’t worry about World War III. It won’t matter, because we will be too busy fighting in the streets to participate. Europe will be burned to the ground by Jihadis already in place. The globalists never stopped doing what they were doing. You were just distracted by the news actors who kept you focused on their enemy.

**The SCOTUS Wars**

The 2016 election was unique. It was the first time in US history that TWO branches of government were on the ballot at one time. Oh, yes, you could vote 100% of Democrats out of office on November 6th, and the world would thank you. But this is the first time a Supreme Court Justice was also on the ballot. This Constitutional event occurred because Justice Scalia died under suspicious circumstances. No autopsy.

The choice was clear. Trump and his transparent list of Constitutional justices on one side. Hillary Clinton and a liberal determined to repeal the 2nd Amendment on the other side. America chose. What people did not expect was Trump’s second SCOTUS appointment in less that two years. This required special tactics to stop a change in the Court that will last for at least 50 years.

Just before the unruly outbursts that took place earlier this week at the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, three Texas doctors claim that they witnessed the protesters being paid off for their "services."

The doctors were interviewed by Adam Schindler.  He tweeted out photos of what appears to be protesters being paid off.  Perhaps Vinay Krishnan, the guy paying these people off and [**“organizer of civil disobedience,”**](https://twitter.com/nickmon1112/status/1037505949198639109?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1037505949198639109&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.infowars.com%2Fman-caught-paying-off-kavanaugh-protesters-works-for-soros-funded-organization%2F) should be investigated and the [**Soros-funded group**](https://archive.is/ZsDcY) he works for, Center for Popular Democracy, should be investigated for engaging in paying people to be provocateurs.

The same woman that disrupted the proceedings in the courtroom was then led out of the hearing and arrested. She was also paid by one of the men standing outside with a book bag full of cash. “One thing was there were people who had come along… who had a bag of money, and people would hand them a piece of paper, and then they would give them money," said Dr. Tom Schlueter.  "So we know money was exchanged for some of the people to be here, just to protest.”

“The most telling thing was listening to them giving names and addresses, so when they were arrested, they were keeping a record and celebrating who got arrested, without any regard for any open discussion or even the possibility of being convinced of anything, it was just for the purpose of disruption and to have some kind of disruption of the process,” said Dr. Morton Purvis.

In all, at least 70 people were arrested during the hearing.

One wonders why the police did not assert Civil Asset Forfeiture to seize all the cash so the insurrection could be stopped. The statute forbidding printed signs, shirts or even iconic buttons should be extended to the Congress. The fight over where protesters get to protest has been going on for years.

The appeals court judges upheld a 1949 law that forbids demonstrations on the grounds of the high court, on the premise that protests at the court’s doorstep might lead to the perception that the justices are swayed by vox populi rather than the dictates of the law.

“Allowing demonstrations directed at the Court, on the Court’s own front terrace, would tend to yield the opposite impression: that of a Court engaged with — and potentially vulnerable to — outside entreaties by the public,” [wrote U.S. Circuit Judge Sri Srinivasan](http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/D8B3547AD4B7D85685257EAF004F71BC/%24file/13-5250-1570216.pdf), who argued often before the court as a lawyer and is sometimes mentioned as a future ­Supreme Court justice.

*[*[*A question of where protesters take a stand*](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-question-of-where-protesters-take-a-stand/2014/02/16/1bc57ee0-9720-11e3-afce-3e7c922ef31e_story.html)*]*

On days when controversial cases are argued and decided, the 50-foot-wide sidewalks surrounding the court are filled with chanting, flag-waving, bullhorn-toting protesters of all stripes. The Supreme Court itself, in 1983, ruled that these sidewalks — on First Street NE, just across from the Capitol — are open for protests.

But demonstrators are not allowed any closer. The court in its 1983 decision did not address the protest restrictions on the court’s grounds, which include the 252-by-98-foot oval marble plaza, with its fountains, benches, flagpoles and steps leading to the court’s iconic, six-ton bronze doors.

Critics have found the no-speech zone around the Supreme Court ironic if not hypocritical. The current court considers itself a fierce protector of political speech, knocking down restrictions on corporate spending on elections, for instance. The justices also [struck a Massachusetts law](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/court-strikes-down-abortion-clinic-buffer-zones/2014/06/26/99937cca-f1b4-11e3-914c-1fbd0614e2d4_story.html) that limited speech around abortion clinics.

In 2010, because of security concerns, the court said the public was [no longer allowed to enter](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/03/AR2010050302081.html) through the massive front doors. Visitors must go through security checkpoints on the ground floor, although they may exit via the court’s front porch.

The 1949 federal statute makes it unlawful to “parade, stand, or move in processions or assemblages in the Supreme Court Building or grounds, or to display in the Building and grounds a flag, banner, or device designed or adapted to bring into public notice a party, organization, or movement.”

In 2013, U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell struck down the restrictions. “It cannot possibly be consistent with the First Amendment for the government to so broadly prohibit expression in virtually any form in front of a courthouse, even the Supreme Court,” Howell wrote in a 68-page opinion.

Within days, the Supreme Court instituted its own rules that essentially kept the restrictions in place, and the legal fight has continued.

Howell was considering a challenge brought by Harold Hodge of southern Maryland, who was arrested in January 2011 for standing on the plaza wearing a 3-by-2-foot sign that said, “The U.S. Gov. Allows Police to Illegally Murder and Brutalize African Americans and Hispanic People.”

Hodge was represented by the Rutherford Institute, a nonprofit civil liberties group that denounced Friday’s ruling.

“If citizens cannot stand out in the open and voice their disapproval of their government, its representatives and its policies without fearing prosecution, then the First Amendment is little more than window-dressing on a store window — pretty to look at but serving little real purpose,” said the institute’s president, John W. Whitehead. “Through a series of carefully crafted legislative steps and politically expedient court rulings, government officials have managed to disembowel this fundamental freedom.”

But Srinivasan said the court is different from Congress, where people have a right to protest for political action. The plaza is designed as an extension of the court, he said, and restrictions on protests there need only be reasonable and viewpoint-neutral.

 **The Real Genocide**

Democrat senator, Kamala Harris, and Planned Parenthood say that Donald Trump has attacked women's health. Actually, his new proposal removes an Obama-era mandate that forced family planning clinics to discuss abortion and gives more freedom to doctors.

Accurate worldwide abortion statistics are difficult to come by since large portions of the globe do not record or report annual abortion totals. The global abortion estimates on this page come from a variety of sources, including the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Guttmacher Institute (AGI), and the Center for Reproductive Rights. Keep in mind that all of these organizations ideologically support abortion and are working towards its normalization.

Guttmacher's global abortion numbers are speculative and unverifiable. No more than 10% of their global abortion total can be officially accounted for, and only 23% has any basis in empirical evidence.1 The other 77% are assumed based upon a complex statistical model that estimates regional abortion totals based on the number of women of reproductive age, the assumed distribution of those women across five reproductive categories, and the assumed frequency of abortion for each of these categories.

Between 2010-2014, the Guttmacher Institute estimates that approximately 56 million abortions occurred each year around the globe. This is up from an estimated 50 million abortions per year between 1990-1994.

An estimated 64% of all global abortions (35.8 million) occur in Asia. Babies are not the only fatality.

A 2014 study by the World Health Organization estimates that between 2003-2009, approximately 7.9% of all maternal deaths were caused by abortion, at an average of 27,571 maternal deaths per year. Another 2014 study funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation estimates that 14.9% of all 2013 maternal deaths were caused by abortion, totaling somewhere between 38,336-49,843 maternal deaths. More than half of these deaths are believed to have occurred in sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite advances in civil rights and the recognition by most developed nations that discrimination on the basis of sex alone is inherently unjust, a very real and pervasive form of sex discrimination is still permitted and practiced in the world today. Prenatal sex discrimination crosses cultural, ethnic, and national lines. It is practiced with impunity in many countries, including the U.S., via sex-selective abortion – choosing to abort a preborn child based solely on the child’s sex. Prenatal discrimination can also be practiced pre-implantation by destroying embryos based on a pre-implantation sex determination. Undoubtedly, such practices constitute discrimination against a unique human individual based on sex alone, and thus constitute sex discrimination. In order to address this injustice, it is imperative that States and the Federal Government institute selection abortion bans – restrictions on abortions done for reasons of sex selection alone.

Sex-selective abortion is a well-known problem in China and India, where a cultural preference for sons, coupled with political and economic influences, has severely skewed sex ratios at birth (SRBs). Instances of sex discrimination perpetrated via abortion and infanticide are well documented and have resulted in millions of “missing” girls in some societies.[1] In China, for example, men outnumber women to the tune of 33 million.[2] “More than 20 years ago, Amartya Sen (1990) documented that 100 million girls and women were “missing” from the global population as a consequence of neglect, infanticide, and inequalities in care. The figure is now estimated to be in excess of 160 million, with sex-selective abortion playing a major role (Hvistendahl 2011).”[3] Such practices constitute a real “war on women” and have been widely condemned.[4] Those who claim to be concerned with women’s rights can no longer ignore the need to ban sex-selective abortion in order to protect girls from “gendercide.”

Research and personal testimony show that the practice of sex-selective abortion is prevalent across cultures and nations, including the United States.[5] Sex selection in favor of males is practiced in some Asian immigrant communities within the U.S. and other western nations such as the United Kingdom. Current research shows that just a generation ago, sex ratios at birth within certain ethnic communities (specifically “Asian-Pacific”) in the U.S. and UK were within the normal range. Within the last twenty years, the ratio has climbed sharply, resulting in highly unbalanced ratios in favor of males. Such a noticeable change in recent decades implicates the increased use of sex selective abortion.[6]

Sex ratios in the U.S. remain fairly balanced overall. Such a balance is not evidence of the lack of gender discrimination in the U.S., rather, it is an indication of a unique set of ethical dilemmas in the U.S. related to sex selection. Advanced medical technologies traditionally used to diagnose disease – preimplantation genetic diagnosis and noninvasive prenatal testing – are gaining popularity as tools to be used in selecting the sex of offspring. Such methods are generally used for “family balancing” by couples who have a child or children of one sex and desire a child of the other sex. [7] Currently, there is no prohibition on such technology for the purpose of sex selection in the United States. Such technology can easily be used to discriminate against either sex, which is no less ethically problematic.

The glaring policy question and moral dilemma we face when deciding whether or not to implement restrictions on prenatal sex discrimination practices is whether sex-discrimination should be permitted in any form, whether it affects one or one million lives. As Dr. David Prentice, Vice President and Research Director, Charlotte Lozier Institute, recently noted in testimony before the Indiana Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services, “Some opponents of prohibitions against sex-selection abortions state that such abortions are rare, but that is a tacit admission that some sex-selection abortions occur. Even one gender discrimination abortion is too many.”[8] The authors of a recent paper highlighting the growing problem of sex selection in the U.S. via noninvasive prenatal testing procedures agree with this assessment, noting, “We believe that aborting a healthy fetus solely on the basis of its sex for purposes of family balancing is a dubious practice and ethically objectionable… .”[9] As

Americans, as well as citizens of the United Kingdom, overwhelmingly oppose abortions performed for reasons of sex selection. A poll conducted by the Charlotte Lozier Institute in 2012[10] found that 77% of respondents opposed abortion in instances of sex selection (specifically abortion of girls). These results reflect the long-held legal traditions and mores of Americans in support of individual equality without respect to race, ethnicity, or sex.

A 2014 poll from the United Kingdom found that “80% of British adults agreed that ‘where it can be proved that an abortion was authorized on grounds of the baby’s gender, the doctor authorizing that abortion should be prosecuted.’” “The poll, carried out by ComRes, also found that more than four in five adults (84%) agree that ‘aborting babies because of their gender should explicitly be banned by law.’”[11]

American, British, and German citizens are similarly opposed to using Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD, also called Preimplantation Genetic Screening, PGS) technology for nonmedical reasons such as sex selection and selection of physical and/or personality traits of offspring. According to the Ethics Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, “A survey of public attitudes found that 68% of Americans disapprove of the use of PGS for sex selection only. A recent review article cites a German study finding that only 8% approved of the use of PGS for nonmedical reasons. In the United Kingdom, public opposition to sex selection has also been cited to override claims to reproductive autonomy.”[12]

It is a dereliction of duty for representatives in a democratic society to be silent on an issue that is of such grave concern to constituents.

The issue at hand, as you can see by the SCOTUS War, is that abortion is a multi-billion dollar industry that feeds millions to the Democrat Party. In 2018, Planned Parenthood has contributed $307,465 to Democrats and $0 to Republicans. In the past three election cycles, Planned Parenthood’s advocacy and political arms, employees, and their families have spent over $38 million to elect or defeat candidates for federal office who decide how much taxpayers subsidize the nation’s largest abortion provider. In addition, individuals and entities associated with Planned Parenthood contributed a total of $4.7 million over the same four years to candidates, party committees, other political action committees, and outside spending groups or nonprofit “527” groups created to influence elections.

In the 2016 cycle, Planned Parenthood’s affiliated organizations, political and advocacy arms, employees, and their family members gave $5.5 million to Democrats, but nothing to Republicans. They spent $10.4 million against Republicans, according to the most current data, compared with less than $7,000 against Democrats.

Planned Parenthood is “becoming even more political than they have in the past,” Mattox said. “That should be deeply troubling to a lot of people.”

In November 2015, Planned Parenthood Action Fund announced a $20 million campaign [against pro-life candidates](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/11/18/planned-parenthood-launches-2016-20-million-campaign-pro-life-candidates-youre-rude-awakening/) and a $30 million door-to-door field campaign targeted at [millennial](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/08/us/politics/planned-parenthood-voters.html) voters [across six states](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/features/inside-planned-parenthoods-huge-ground-war-to-stop-trump-w443404).

Where did that money come from? From you. The Taxpayers give $500 million a year to Planned Parenthood. This same tax money is being laundered back to the politicians that approve that funding. The conflict of interest is so glaring, it escapes no one.

**The New American Civil War**

If there’s one thing that makes this job difficult it is the endless smokescreens. Filtering out the noise is draining. From the double-speak of politicians to the endless manipulations of financial markets by central bankers the world is awash in fake news, fake prices and fake geniuses.

So, when a series of events occur that bring clarity to the circus that is world politics, my first reaction is to distrust them. It’s that weird moment when the evil-doers rip off their masks and just start telling you what their intentions are. This creates cognitive dissonance in those of us conditioned to reading between the thinnest of lines. But, sometimes things are exactly what they appear to be.

And what is clear to me now is that the Deep State is done whipping the progressive Left into a frenzy over Donald Trump. They are now openly handing them pitchforks and mustering for a hostile takeover of the Oval Office. The anonymous op-ed published by the New York Times timed perfectly with the leaked quotes from moldy old Bob Woodward’s new book “Fear – Trump in the White House” are clarion calls for a challenge of Trump’s competency via the 25th amendment.

We are in the last 60 days before the mid-term elections. The fear of loss by the Deep State is palpable. If Trump survives this election with his base and any form of congressional majority intact he will finally be able to go to town on these people who are a threat not just to the country but to humanity itself.

This narrative about Trump being unstable and insane began during the campaign and those that need to believe in this were always willing to keep this fire stoked. After that it’s simply a matter of repeating the lie over and over until, hopefully, they’ve manufactured a bonfire big enough to roast Trump on the altar of their agenda.

Trump, at times, doesn’t help himself with some of his antics. It’s no secret that Trump has little respect for the ‘proper way to do things in Washington.’ And I’m sure stories about him making fun of H.R. McMaster’s suits have more truth to them than fiction. This might rub some of his staff the wrong way, but ever Trump supporter I know likes the raw Trump. They actually hate politicians and love the pure, unfiltered Trump. They want the status quo maintained.

But, what these careerists refuse to understand is this is exactly what we elected him for. Their way is over. The hardcore progressives are crushing incumbents in their primaries. Populism is now bi-partisan. People like it. Not because of the name ‘populism,’ but because Trump does not stick his finger in the air every time he opens his mouth. He doesn’t speak to the applause meter. He tells it like it is.

The neocon party line is only going to endear him to us that much more. The more they attack him, the more we the people feel attacked. Trump’s enemies have become the enemies of the people. But like all arch enemies, they can’t touch the super-hero. So they go after the ones he loves. Trump loves us even more than we love him. So, naturally, Bob Mueller is openly threatening anyone on Trump’s side to turn on him either by staying quiet or lie.

Trump is surrounded by neocons and globalists. They hate his skepticism about U.S. foreign and trade policy. They are only there because that’s what’s available from the pool of candidates for many of these jobs. It is an unfortunate reality.

But, from a procedural level, these are the people who make the D.C. political trains run on time. It makes you wonder if the Coen Brothers’ brilliant movie about the D.C. cocktail party circuit, Burn After Reading, is more documentary than farce.

And that creates a foundation to build a case against him in the court of public opinion, the only court he can be tried in since Bob Mueller’s investigation has failed completely to find any evidence of collusion between Trump and the Russians.

In fact, all Mueller has done is expose the lengths to which members of the FBI, CIA, MI-6, the DNC and John McCain (or do I repeat myself) went to spy on him with the intent to frame him.

This is the real civil war that has been brewing for two years now. It has had no small amount of skirmishes, and thank God they have not turned terribly deadly. What we don’t need right now is a shot heard around the world. What the Democrats need is a shot hear around the world. They are willing to send innocent college kids out there to take that bullet. They are willing to fabricate an anonymous source while writing a factory propoganda piece to attack Trump.

What the New York Times fake news hit piece did was to try and shift the blame for staffer disobedience onto Trump. This is the essence of the Deep State, the unelected bureaucracy that acts independently of the wishes of the President and other elected officials. In the same way that last week the same New York Times tried to spin the FBI’s purchasing of the Steele Dossier about Trump as a way to ‘flip’ Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

All of these stories are ludicrous. And Trump is right to call the Times out to reveal its ‘source’ within the White House on “National Security” grounds. The real danger for Trump is passivity. I’ve said many times that spooks start civil wars but militaries end them. And it’s no shock then that the juiciest of the leaked quotes from Woodward’s book revolve around the two generals on Trump’s staff, James Mattis and John Kelly.

It’s also no shock that both men, who respect the chain of command, vehemently denied the quotes.

Trump needs to go on the offensive here. He needs to give his base who are in the trenches everyday burning Nike shoes, eating In-and-Out Burgers and canceling their NFL Sunday Ticket Packages something to fight for.

They’ll go through the wall for him. Because now is the time to strike. Trump’s enemies have over-extended themselves. Their arrogance and, frankly, desperation have placed them firmly at odds with a clear majority of Americans.

They have revealed themselves as agent provocateurs and traitors. The sad spectacle that is the Brett Kavanaugh hearings will do nothing but alienate more of the center. The Left is cannibalizing itself as the Democrats move hard left. Blacks and Hispanics are walking away from them. The Uniparty is in retreat with retirements and primary upsets on both sides of the political party. These mid-terms are shaping up to be an extension of the 2016 Presidential election, a clear choice between America’s future by dismantling its insane kleptocracy or returning to the past and enshrining it into stone is on the ballot.

**The Sleeper Cell**

If you have read Charm of Favor, you know all about the sleeper cell model. You maybe got a little scared as the plot to detonate a small nuclear device to inflict damage on the US power grid developed. It wasn’t meant to scare you. It was meant to open your eyes to the reality we face. The Deocrats are being backed into a political corner. There is no way out for them. They don’t have the money to fight President Trump’s national Congressional campaign. They don’t have a a personality, although they have rebooted the Obama hates America show. They don’t have a venue to get their platform of impeachment, open borders, higher taxes, and the repeal of the 2nd Amendment out there to the voter.

There only choice is to sponsor and facilitate—a typical Democrat Party tactic—a large scale act of terror on American soil and blame its occurrence on the President’s policies. That appears to actually be happening as we speak.

Iranian-backed militants at this very moment are operating across the United States mostly unfettered, raising concerns in Congress and among regional experts that these "sleeper cell" agents are poised to launch a large-scale attack on the American homeland, according to testimony before lawmakers. They have been facilitated by Obama’s $1.8 billion cash payment that is in completely untraceable money.

Iranian agents tied to the terror group Hezbollah have already been discovered in the United States plotting attacks, giving rise to fears that Tehran could order a strike inside America should tensions between the Trump administration and Islamic Republic reach a boiling point.

Intelligence officials and former White House officials confirmed to Congress on Tuesday that such an attack is not only plausible, but relatively easy for Iran to carry out at a time when the Trump administration is considering abandoning the landmark nuclear deal and reapplying sanctions on Tehran.

There is mounting evidence that Iran poses "a direct threat to the homeland," according to Rep. Peter King (R., N.Y.), a member of the House Homeland Security Committee and chair of its subcommittee on counterterrorism and intelligence.

A chief concern is "Iranian support for Hezbollah, which is active in the Middle East, Latin America, and here in the U.S., where Hezbollah operatives have been arrested for activities conducted in our own country," King said, referring the recent arrest of two individuals plotting terror attacks in New York City and Michigan.

"Both individuals received significant weapons training from Hezbollah," King said. "It is clear Hezbollah has the will and capability."

After more than a decade of receiving intelligence briefs, King said he has concluded that "Hezbollah is probably the most experienced and professional terrorist organization in the world," even more so than ISIS and Al Qaeda.

Asked if Iran could use Hezbollah to conduct strikes on the United States, a panel of experts including intelligence officials and former White House insiders responded in the affirmative.

"They are as good or better at explosive devices than ISIS, they are better at assassinations and developing assassination cells," said Michael Pregent, a former intelligence officer who worked to counter Iranian influence in the region. "They're better at targeting, better at looking at things," and they can outsource attacks to Hezbollah.

"Hezbollah is smart," Pregent said. "They're very good at keeping their communications secure, keeping their operational security secure, and, again, from a high profile attack perspective, they'd be good at improvised explosive devices."

Others testifying before Congress agreed with this assessment.

"The answer is absolutely. We do face a threat," said Emanuele Ottolenghi, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies who has long tracked Iran's militant efforts. "Their networks are present in the Untied States."

Iran is believed to have an auxiliary fighting force or around 200,000 militants spread across the Middle East, according to Nader Uskowi, a onetime policy adviser to U.S. Central Command and current visiting fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

At least 50 to 60 thousand of these militants are "battle tested" in Syria and elsewhere.

"It doesn't take many of them to penetrate this country and be a major threat," Uskowi said. "They can pose a major threat to our homeland."

While Iran is currently more motivated to use its proxies such as Hezbollah regionally for attacks against Israel or U.S. forces, "those sleeper cells" positioned in the United States could be used to orchestrate an attack, according to Brian Katulis, a former member of the White House National Security Council under President Bill Clinton.

"The potential is there, but the movement's center of focus is in the region," said Katulis, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress.

Among the most pressing threats to the U.S. homeland is Hezbollah's deep penetration throughout Latin America, where it finances its terror activities by teaming up with drug cartels and crime syndicates.

"Iran's proxy terror networks in Latin America are run by Tehran's wholly owned Lebanese franchise Hezbollah," according to Ottolenghi. "These networks are equal part crime and terror" and have the ability to provide funding and logistics to militant fighters.

"Their presence in Latin America must be viewed as a forward operating base against America's interest in the region and the homeland itself," he said.

These Hezbollah operatives exploit loopholes in the U.S. immigration system to enter America under the guise of legitimate business.

Operatives working for Hezbollah and Iran use the United States "as a staging ground for trade-based and real estate-based money laundering." They "come in through the front door with a legitimate passport and a credible business cover story," Ottolenghi said.

The matter is further complicated by Iran's presence in Syria, where it has established not only operating bases, but also weapons factories that have fueled Hezbollah's and Hamas's war on Israel.

Iran's development of advanced ballistic missile and rocket technology—which has continued virtually unimpeded since the nuclear deal was enacted—has benefitted terror groups such as Hezbollah.

"Iran is increasing Hezbollah's capability to target Israel with more advanced and precision guided rockets and missiles," according to Pregent. "These missiles are being developed in Syria under the protection of Syrian and Russian air defense networks."

In Iraq, Iranian forces "have access to U.S. funds and equipment in the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and Iraq's Ministry of Interior," Pregent said.

In the next 60 days, the risk of an attack is higher and more critical to the Democrat election strategy than at any time in US history. They have been responsible for the death of millions of Americans to achieve their goals. A few more is no problem.