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| Jihad Report Jun 01, 2019 -Jun 07, 2019 |
| Attacks | **30** |
| Killed | **154** |
| Injured | **192** |
| Suicide Blasts | **4** |
| Countries | **14** |

**Beyond the SQL**

Researchers of the Schliesser Lab at the Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, have pushed the precision of force and position measurements into a new regime. Their experiment is the first to surpass the so-called "Standard Quantum Limit," or SQL, which arises in the most common (and successful) optical techniques for ultra-precise position measurements. For more than 50 years, experimentalists have raced to beat the SQL using a variety of techniques, but to no avail. In their recent work, the researchers at the Niels Bohr Institute have done the trick with a simple modification of the standard approach, which enables the necessary cancellation of quantum noise in the measurement. The result and underlying experiment have potential implications for gravitational wave astronomy techniques, as well as force microscopy with biological applications. The work is now published in the prestigious scientific magazine, *Nature Physics*.

**The trouble with quantum noise**

Quantum actions have [quantum](https://phys.org/tags/quantum/) consequences. In the context of [measurements](https://phys.org/tags/measurements/), this often means that the very act of measuring a [quantum system](https://phys.org/tags/quantum%2Bsystem/) disturbs it. This effect is referred to as 'backaction," and is a consequence of fundamental quantum uncertainties, first conceived by Werner Heisenberg during his stay at Niels Bohr's Copenhagen Institute in the 1920s. In many instances, this sets a limit to how precise a measurement can get.

Gravitational wave telescopes like LIGO, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, whose discoveries were awarded the 2017 Physics Nobel prize, bounce laser light off a mirror to measure its [position](https://phys.org/tags/position/), in an optical configuration known as an interferometer. The "imprecision" of this measurement can be improved by increasing the laser power, but eventually the random kicks of the laser photons will disturb the mirror position, leading to a less-sensitive measurement which leaves faint or distant astronomical objects undetected. By optimally balancing the imprecision noise and backaction, one can reach a minimum amount of extra noise, establishing the "Standard Quantum Limit' (SQL). This minimum noise level sets the best precision possible by any conventional interferometer.

A thin silicon nitride membrane (white) is stretched tight across a silicon frame (blue).  The membrane contains a pattern of holes, with one small island in the center, whose vibrations are measured in the experiment. Credit: Niels Bohr Institute

To get around this limit, one must modify the interferometer in some way to avoid these quantum noise sources. In the 50 years since the SQL was established, various proposals have been put forth, and recent years have brought several proof-of-principle experimental demonstrations. So far, no experiment has actually measured the position of an object with a precision which beats the SQL. But this is precisely what the Copenhagen team has accomplished, thanks to advanced optical and nanomechanical techniques.

**Better than the gold standard**

"The SQL is something of a gold standard for the quality of a measurement. It is nothing that can't fundamentally be overcome, but as far as force and position measurements are concerned, it turned out to be very hard. Even LIGO isn't there yet. But with our system we thought we should stand a chance," explains Prof. Schliesser, who led the team. This system is an experimental platform developed in Schliesser's group over the last years. Just like LIGO, it uses a laser-powered interferometer to measure a position, in this case that of a membrane made of the ceramic silicon nitride. While very thin (20 nanometers), the membrane is several millimeters wide and easily visible by the naked eye. The 'trick' employed by the researchers to go beyond the SQL involves making a special measurement of the light reflected off the membrane. In this configuration, the detector is able to simultaneously measure both the imprecision and backaction in a way that lets these noise sources cancel each other out. In other words, what remains is a "clean" measurement.

**30 percent improvement is very good news for practical applications**

"Once we knew we could get very close to the SQL, the modifications required to beat it were actually rather straightforward," explains Dr. David Mason, a US postdoc in Copenhagen, and lead author of the study. "We are using quantum effects that arise in the measurement setup itself, so the extra technological effort is actually limited. That is good news for potential practical applications." Using this technique, the group at NBI was able to measure the position of their membrane with a precision nearly 30 percent better than what the SQL would allow. This marks a watershed moment for quantum measurements of mechanical objects, highlighting how far the state-of-the-art has been advanced, and suggesting a bright path ahead. Opto-mechanical systems like the one studied here are poised to continue aiding the development of techniques related to gravitational wave astronomy, while also applying their extreme sensitivity in other arenas. Devices from the Schliesser Lab are already being integrated into state-of-the-art force-sensing applications, where they may enable MRI-like images at a nanometer scale, perhaps imaging individual HI or influenza viruses.

**NORK Bomb**

A new study of a 2017 NorthKorean nuclear test determined the blast was probably about two-thirds more powerful than U.S. officials previously thought — and 16 times the size of the bomb detonated over Hiroshima in 1945, the [**American Geophysical Union reported**](https://news.agu.org/press-release/2017-north-korean-nuclear-test-order-of-magnitude-larger-than-previous-tests-new-study-finds/).

Earlier data put the yield somewhere between 30 and 300 kilotons, with U.S. intelligence agencies figuring 140 kilotons — topping a 2016 test by about an order of magnitude, AGU reported.

But a new look at seismological data suggests the blast was between 148 and 328 kilotons, and probably around 250 kilotons.

“In 2006, when there was this little rumble, many people were quite dismissive that North Korea had the technology to do this properly, but I think from the progression we’ve seen with the increases of yield, it’s been a very well-executed weapons development program,” Steven Gibbons, a geophysicist and a researcher unaffiliated with the new study, told AGU.

“When you got to 2017, there’s no question that this is an incredibly destructive weapon. Even at the lower end of this uncertain yield, it’s a horrific weapon.”

The research was published in the[**Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth**](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2019JB017418).

“The very early events looked like they didn’t work very well, because they were unusually small. And then in one year they jumped up to 250-ish kilotons,” Thorne Lay, a seismologist at the University of California Santa Cruz and an author of the new study, told AGU.

“The scary thing is that this was such a big device.”

**The Clinton Character**

Gary J. Byrne has devoted his life to serving his country, and risked it to do the same — as a member of the US Air Force, a uniformed White House Secret Service officer, and a federal air marshal. And he believes it is his patriotic duty to do anything he can to prevent Hillary Clinton from becoming president of the United States.

As someone who guarded the Oval Office during the Clinton presidency, Byrne, in an exclusive interview with The Post, tells how he witnessed “the Clinton machine leaving a wake of destruction in just about everything they do.”

He says he has also seen Hillary’s “dangerous,” abusive, paranoid behavior.

“It’s like hitting yourself with a hammer every day,” Byrne, pounding a fist into his open hand, says of the former first lady’s explosive anger.

In his new book, “Crisis of Character: A White House Secret Service Officer Discloses His Firsthand Experience with Hillary, Bill, and How They Operate,” out Tuesday, Byrne makes no apologies for his anti-Clinton motivations.

“ ‘America first’ is in my blood,” he writes, sounding very similar to another presidential hopeful.

For one, he thinks the Clintons’ own behavior bred an immoral White House culture. Byrne revealed to The Post during the interview that Clinton staffers used cocaine on the job.

“There were some drug issues,” Byrne says. “Some people would come in to work in the morning, and they were barely walking, they would drop stuff off at the office, and go to the restroom where they would come out minutes later happy as a clown.”

“In the beginning of his first administration, when President Clinton was jogging outside, women who were dressed as if they were going clubbing or working out, started showing up at the southeast gate,” Byrne explains. “The agents . . . would get the women’s names, and run them to see who they were. If the women wouldn’t cooperate, they would be ushered out of the jogging group.

“Agents … insinuated that this list was used by President Clinton to try to meet these women,” Byrne says.

The book details how the president had as many as three mistresses during the same time period, including former Vice President Walter Mondale’s daughter, Eleanor, whom Byrne once discovered “making out on the Map Room table” with Bill Clinton.

What bothered Byrne more than the infidelity was the way Bill Clinton programmed the entire White House to accommodate his cheating ways.

Hillary, meanwhile, was a human minefield. The Secret Service was convinced Hillary posed a physical threat to her husband, and even gave him a black eye, Byrne writes.

She also cursed out her security detail, and she and Bill would often try to evade the Secret Service, making it difficult to protect them and putting agents at greater risk, Byrne says.

But what sticks most in Byrne’s mind is the personal destruction the Clintons wrought in his own life — the fear and turmoil he had to endure as authorities subpoenaed and harassed him as they investigated the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

It all could have been avoided, Byrne maintains, if Bill Clinton had simply told the truth.

Byrne’s revelations have come under fire recently, with some critics doubting he had the access to the Clintons he claims he had, and that his book details do not align exactly with his testimony to prosecutors nearly two decades ago.

Hillary Clinton’s spokesman has ripped the book, telling Page Six: “Gary Byrne joins the ranks of Ed Klein and other ‘authors’ in this latest in a long line of books attempting to cash in on the election cycle with their nonsense. It should be put in the fantasy section of the bookstore.”

“I know what the public image of the Clintons is and I know what the real image is. And the real one’s dangerous.”

 “Anybody who asserts that what I’m saying is not true,” Byrne says, his voice cracking with emotion, “they don’t know any better or they’re flat-out lying.”

Yet, he confesses, “I’m not completely comfortable telling the story, but I am telling it.”

He says a number of people could vouch for his access, including George Stephanopoulos, the former Bill Clinton communications director; John Podesta, Hillary’s campaign chairman, who worked in the Clinton White House; and Jennifer Palmieri, Hillary Clinton’s current campaign communications director, who worked near Byrne in the White House.

As for his testimony during the Ken Starr investigation, Byrne — who never signed a non-disclosure agreement with the Secret Service — says at the time he gave narrow answers to specific questions, as instructed.

“[I]f my testimony wasn’t true, I would end up doing seven years,” he says.

To prove he’s being truthful, he says, he’s willing to undergo a polygraph test — if Hillary takes one too. Byrne says he is not committed to Donald Trump, despite sharing his slogans.

“The only thing I’ve ever heard about Donald Trump,” says Byrne, “was that he built a lot of buildings and he gave a lot of money away to charity.”

But, he says, he will never vote for a Clinton.

“I know what the public image of the Clintons is and I know what the real image is,” he says. “And the real one’s dangerous.”

**Fetal Research Ban**

The Ultra-Rich want to live forever, and have sex even longer than that. In order to accomplish this, the current technology requires tons of fetal tissue to make the components for the treatments. It is a well-known and public fact that parents are selling their children’s blood for transfusions for the wealthy. A complete blood swap is about $10,000 because it is done in secret. But the recipient can stay healthy with a full libido for weeks afterward. Just look what it did for Hillary after her devastating tenure as Secretary of State.

President Trump made a mighty move to save the lives of the unborn this week by banning the farming of fetuses for this billion-dollar industry. After a nine-month review of all research involving fetal tissue harvested from elective abortions, the Trump administration has canceled a contract that provides government funding to the University of California, San Francisco.

[The Daily Caller reported](https://dailycaller.com/2019/06/05/trump-cancel-fetal-tissue-research-government-funding/) the Trump administration warned USCF last September that its $2 million annual contract with the National Institute of Health would be curtailed to 90 days and possibly canceled altogether.

An official explained the move is part of “a consistent charge to take a pro-life perspective on all policies.”

Senior administration officials told the Daily Caller the contract will be officially terminated Wednesday.

The Department of Health and Human Services, the news site said, also will install ethics boards overseeing all extramural research involving fetal tissue.

Fetal tissue is the focus of research for cures or treatments for diseases such as HIV and pediatric cancer. But an official argued to the Daily Caller that scientists have been claiming for 26 years that fetal tissue research would lead to significant medical breakthroughs.

Yet, “there have been exactly zero miracle cures.”

Government funding of fetal-tissue research was banned in 1988. But during the Clinton administration, Congress lifted the ban and voted for government funding.

A senior official said the Trump administration is considering revisiting such a ban.

 “You can’t rule anything out,” the official said. “It’s in the suite of options.”

The decision to cancel the UCSF contract was made at the president’s direction, a senior official told the Daily Caller, noting it was a source of tension with top HHS officials.

“This was a decision by the president to affirm that this is a strongly pro-life administration, coming after months of frustration that the gruesome practice hadn’t been ended already by the agency,” the official said.

“Promoting the dignity of human life from conception to natural death is one of the very top priorities of President Trump’s administration,” the statement said.

The statement also said that the National Institutes of Health, which is a division of HHS, will no longer be engaging in “intramural research” (within the NIH itself) that uses fetal tissue from abortions.

“Intramural research that requires new acquisition of fetal tissue from elective abortions will not be conducted,” the statement said.

CNSNews.com [first reported on Oct. 17, 2018 about the contract](https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/13799501-federal-contract-requires-uc-san-francisco-obtain-aborted) the National Institutes of Health had with UCSF that required UCSF to make at least two types of “humanized mice” using body parts taken from aborted babies. The contract was called “[Humanized Mouse Models for HIV Therapeutics Development](https://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_details.cfm?aid=8936706&icde=41691107).”

From Dec. 6, 2006 through Dec. 5, 2013, the NIH had maintained a previous contract with UCSF that also required UCSF to make humanized mice using human fetal tissue. That contract was called “[Tissue Based Small Animal Model for HIV Drug Discovery](https://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_details.cfm?aid=7543538&icde=41691178).”

The existing contract that HHS announced it was ending today began an initial one-year term on Dec. 6, 2013 with the NIH retaining an option to renew it for up to six additional one-year terms running through Dec. 5, 2020.

**'Obtain human fetal tissue.'**

The “Statement of Work” included in [the NIH solicitation for this contract](https://redirect.viglink.com/?format=go&jsonp=vglnk_155976526192918&key=2c32fa3abe3d1e2178126c66aebb5890&libId=jwjnwhc80102wzqi000DAsj63omdc5byj&loc=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnsnews.com%2Fnews%2Farticle%2Fterence-p-jeffrey%2F13799501-federal-contract-requires-uc-san-francisco-obtain-aborted&v=1&out=https%3A%2F%2Fcdn.cnsnews.com%2Fattachments%2Fsolicitation-humanized_mouse_models_for_hiv_therapeutics_development-december_31-2012.pdf&ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnsnews.com%2Fnews%2Farticle%2Fterence-p-jeffrey%2Fhhs-extends-contract-make-humanized-mice-aborted-baby-parts-another&title=%2413%2C799%2C501%20Federal%20Contract%20Requires%20UC%20San%20Francisco%20to%20Obtain%20Aborted-Baby%20Parts%20to%20Humanize%20Mice&txt=according%20to%20%E2%80%9Cthe%20statement%20of%20work%E2%80%9D%20included%20in%20the%20contract%20solicitation%20published%20by%20NIH) included a list of its “major functions.” One of these was: “Obtain human fetal tissue.”

The “Statement of Work” also stated that the contractor was expected to make two different types of “humanized mice” both of which would be constructed with human fetal tissue.

“The current contract was awarded in 2006 to the University of California, San Francisco (contract number HHSN266200700002C) and will expire in December, 2013,” said the Statement of Work. “The animal model being used is an immunodeficient mouse engrafted with human fetal thymus and liver (severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)-hu Thy/Liv) and infected with well-characterized isolates of HIV-1.”

“This solicitation is seeking proposals for the SCID-hu Thy/Liv model and for a second humanized mouse model,” the Statement of Work said. “The second mouse model will consist of immunodeficient mice engrafted with human fetal thymus and liver tissue and other cells and/or tissues, such that the model (or mice) has the following characteristics: can be infected by the systemic or mucosal routes, reconstitutes gut-associated and other lymphoid tissues, and develops viremia and disseminated infection in engrafted human tissue.”

When CNSNews.com [reported about this contract in October](https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/13799501-federal-contract-requires-uc-san-francisco-obtain-aborted), it sent [a set of 16 questions to the NIH and UCSF](https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/questions-sent-hhs-and-ucsf-humanized-mouse-contract-response). The University of California responded [with a statement](https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/questions-sent-hhs-and-ucsf-humanized-mouse-contract-response).

"The University of California conducts research using fetal tissue that is vital to finding treatments and cures for a wide variety of adult and childhood diseases and medical conditions,” said the statement from the University of California.

“This research is conducted in full compliance with federal and state law and is in keeping with the university’s education, research and public service missions,” said the statement.

“Since the 1930s, fetal tissue has been a critical component of biomedical science and breakthroughs that fundamentally changed the practice of medicine,” said the University of California. “Its importance to researchers today has not diminished, and it is still essential to ensuring that cells and tissues created from stem cells are correct. Fetal tissue is used for a broad range of research, from cell biology to the development of vaccines, including the polio vaccine that saved hundreds of thousands of lives and merited the 1954 Nobel Prize for Medicine."

The NIH initially gave the UCSF humanized mouse contract a 90-day extension on Dec. 4, 2018. It subsequently gave the contract a second 90-day extension that ran through today.

In October, the NIH told CNSNews.com: “The actual total amount of this contract, including all options, is $13,799,501 for a full performance period through December 5, 2020. We have obligated $9,554,796 to date.”

On Aug. 7, 2018, CNSNews.com [reported that the Food and Drug Administration](https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/fda-acquiring-fresh-aborted-baby-parts-make-mice-human-immune-systems) had signed a $15,900 contract to acquire “human fetal tissue” from Advanced Bioscience Resources, a non-profit organization. “The objective is to acquire Tissue for Humanized Mice,” the FDA’s presolicitation notice for that contract said. In September, [HHS announced that it was cancelling](https://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/terence-p-jeffrey/trump-administration-cancels-fdas-aborted-baby-parts-contract) that contract.

HHS said in a statement at that time that it was “conducting an audit of all acquisitions involving human fetal tissue to ensure conformity with procurement and human fetal tissue research laws and regulations.”

"In addition,” the statement said, “HHS has initiated a comprehensive review of all research involving fetal tissue to ensure consistency with statutes and regulations governing such research, and to ensure the adequacy of procedures and oversight of this research in light of the serious regulatory, moral, and ethical considerations involved.”

In the statement it released today announcing the end of the humanized mouse contract with UCSF, HHS said the audit and review had aided in that decision.

“The audit and review helped inform the policy process that led to the administration’s decision to let the contract with UCSF expire and to discontinue intramural research--research conducted within the National Institutes of Health (NIH)--involving the use of human fetal tissue from elective abortion,” today’s HHS statement said. “Intramural research that requires new acquisition of fetal tissue from elective abortions will not be conducted.”

The HHS also indicated that ongoing NIH projects involving fetal tissue research will not be impacted during their current funding period, but that new projects or existing projects seeking renewal will be reviewed by an ethics advisory board.

“No current extramural research projects (research conducted outside NIH, e.g., at universities, that are funded by NIH grants) will be affected during their currently approved project period,” HHS said.

“For new extramural research grant applications or current research projects in the competitive renewal process (generally every five years) that propose to use fetal tissue from elective abortions and that are recommended for potential funding through NIH’s two-level external scientific review process, an ethics advisory board will be convened to review the research proposal and recommend whether, in light of the ethical considerations, NIH should fund the research project—pursuant to a law passed by Congress,” HHS said.

“HHS will also undertake changes to its regulations and NIH grants policy to adopt or strengthen safeguards and program integrity requirements applicable to extramural research involving human fetal tissue,” said HHS.

“Finally, HHS is continuing to review whether adequate alternatives exist to the use of human fetal tissue from elective abortions in HHS-funded research and will ensure that efforts to develop such alternatives are funded and accelerated,” it said.

**China Controls the US Senate**

Many Americans are frustrated that President Trump cannot get his agenda completed. There is something in the way. It turns out that China has been buying influence at the highest levels. It seems leader McConnell has been compromised by his exchange of American technology in exchange for campaign funds.

He recently stepped out against President Trump’s efforts to force Mexico to protect their own country from being overrun by the global Syndicate’s forced migration campaign. More than 100 countries have sent their soldiers through Mexico to the southern border to invade America. Now, it seems, the President has to exercise more power to make sure America is safe. That appears to place the branches of government out of balance, even though the power to set tariffs for this purpose is entirely in the wheel house of the White House.

"There is not much support in my conference for tariffs, that's for sure," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) told a news conference  on Tuesday, just hours after President Donald Trump said Republicans would be "foolish" to oppose tariffs on Mexico aimed at forcing a crackdown on illegal immigration.

"We had an opportunity at lunch to talk to a number of representatives from the White House about this particular strategy," McConnell said.

"I think I can safely say most of us hope that this Mexican delegation that's come up here to discuss the challenges at the border and what the Mexicans might be able to do to help us more than they have will be fruitful, and that these tariffs will not kick in."

President Trump plans to impose escalating tariffs on Mexico, starting next week, until the massive flow of Central Americans is stopped at Mexico's southern border with Guatemala. Trump, speaking in London on Tuesday, said he expects the first round of 5-percent tariffs to take effect next week.

"What I'm telling you is, we're hoping that doesn't happen," McConnell told the news conference. He said it appears the talks with the Mexican delegation is "going well," and "our hope is that the tariffs will be avoided."

McConnell said although Republicans are not fans of tariffs, "it's way past time the president's requests for assistance from our government be met.”

He noted that Democrats just stripped money for the humanitarian crisis at the southern border out of a supplemental spending bill.

"So look, they need to take their heads out of the sand and work with us on our side of the border to address the humanitarian crisis that their resistance has contributed to. So we have a problem here, not only with the Mexicans not doing as much as they could do to prevent this onrush of people, but our own government and Democratic resistance to addressing the humanitarian crisis down at the border.

"So we have two problems. The Democrats in Washington and the Mexican government. We need to address both," McConnell said.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said he thinks the Republican-controlled Senate will try to block Trump's imposition of tariffs on imports from Mexico.

"I think there will end up being a vote on this," Paul told CNN on Tuesday. "And I really do think that there may be enough numbers of people who think that we shouldn't be allowing one person to make this decision, that we actually may have enough to override a veto on this.

"So I think it sends a bad signal when we're trying to get a trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, which the Trump administration has actually been successful with, that then to go back and say, oh, by the way, we'll heap on other tariffs outside. I think this goes a long way towards destroying the trade deal that they were so proud of."

Paul said tariffs should originate in Congress, not in the Executive Branch:

In his announcement of tariffs, Trump said:

To address the emergency at the Southern Border, I am invoking the authorities granted to me by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act [(IEEPA)]. Accordingly, starting on June 10, 2019, the United States will impose a 5 percent Tariff on all goods imported from Mexico. If the illegal migration crisis is alleviated through effective actions taken by Mexico, to be determined in our sole discretion and judgment, the Tariffs will be removed. If the crisis persists, however, the Tariffs will be raised to 10 percent on July 1, 2019. Similarly, if Mexico still has not taken action to dramatically reduce or eliminate the number of illegal aliens crossing its territory into the United States, Tariffs will be increased to 15 percent on August 1, 2019, to 20 percent on September 1, 2019, and to 25 percent on October 1, 2019. Tariffs will permanently remain at the 25 percent level unless and until Mexico substantially stops the illegal inflow of aliens coming through its territory.

But Paul told CNN, "I think you can't just declare emergencies on spending, on tariffs, also on arm sales. They are now saying that they are going to sell arms to Saudi Arabia despite the objections of Congress.

"And so I think what you may be finding, if we try to run government by emergency, is it may solidify opposition.

"Even people like myself, who are largely supportive of President Trump, largely supportive of his initiatives, I can't be for letting the president have all the power that the Constitution gave to Congress," Paul added.

**The Clinton School of Self Enrichment**

The wife of House Oversight Chairman Elijah Cummings funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars from her charity into her for-profit organization, potentially deriving an "illegal private benefit" for the Washington power couple, reports the Daily Caller's Andrew Kerr.

The previously undisclosed cost-sharing arrangement between the two entities controlled by Maya Rockeymoore Cummings was detailed in audited statements obtained by Kerr.

Maya Rockeymoore Cummings’s charity, the Center for Global Policy Solutions (CGPS), paid her for-profit venture, Global Policy Solutions LLC, over $250,000 in “management fees” between 2013 and 2015, according to the charity’s audited financial statements covering those years. The management fees were paid in addition to a cost-sharing agreement where the charity pays for its share of equipment, personnel and other expenditures. -Daily Caller

"It’s self-dealing. It’s taking the charity’s resources and turning them into personal profits," according to Tom Anderson in a statement to the Caller. Anderson is an investigator with the National Legal and Policy Center (NPLC), who added "IRS law doesn’t allow a charity for this purpose. This isn’t for the public interest, this is for her personal interest. You can’t do that."

Audited financial statements for the charity run by the wife of House Oversight Chairman Elijah Cummings show that her charity paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in "management fees" to her for-profit LLC.https://dailycaller.com/2019/06/05/elijah-cummingss-wife-charity/ …

Rockeymoore runs two entities, a nonprofit group called the Center for Global Policy Solutions and a for-profit consulting firm called Global Policy Solutions, LLC, whose operations appear to have overlapped, according to the IRS complaint filed by watchdog group the National Legal and Policy Center on Monday. The complaint states that the arrangement may have been used to derive "illegal private benefit."

Global Policy Solutions received more than $6.2 million in grants between 2013 and 2016, according to tax records. Several of the nonprofit group’s financial backers — which included Google, J.P Morgan, and Prudential — have business interests before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Cummings has served as Democratic chairman of the committee since January and previously served as ranking member.

The largest contributor to the nonprofit organization was the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a company that is regulated by Cummings’ committee. The foundation, which gave a total of $5.5 million to Rockeymoore’s consulting firm and $5.2 million to her nonprofit group, ceased supporting her groups in 2017.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation was established by Johnson & Johnson founder Robert Wood Johnson but is not officially affiliated with the pharmaceutical company. The foundation owns 13 million shares of Johnson & Johnson stock worth over $1.7 billion, making it one of the company’s largest shareholders. Currently, five board members of the foundation are former senior executives at the pharmaceutical giant, including the foundation’s Chairman of the Board of Trustees Roger Fine, who previously served as corporate vice president and as general counsel of Johnson & Johnson.

In recent months, Cummings has been a vocal opponent of Johnson & Johnson, targeting the company as part of the House Oversight Committee’s probe of drug price inflation.

Under Cummings, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has wide authority to regulate business industries, including pharmaceuticals, banking, mortgage brokers, and technology. In recent years, Prudential, JP Morgan, and Johnson & Johnson have had business interests before the committee.

Tom Anderson, director of the National Legal and Policy Center’s Government Integrity Project, which has been investigating the nonprofit arrangement and provided research to the Washington Examiner, said the potential for corruption is “off the charts.” He said Rockeymoore declined to let his organization view her nonprofit organization’s most recent public financial records as required by the IRS.

“When a powerful chairman of a committee of the House of Representatives has a wife that is bringing in money from entities with interests before his Committee and she is not providing the transparency mandated by the IRS, there's a serious problem,” said Anderson. “The potential for corruption in this situation is simply off the charts and can't be understated. We hope Chairman Cummings works with his wife to end the stonewalling and provide the public with what's legally mandated all charities provide.”

Both Cummings and Rockeymoore refused to discuss the allegations with the Washington Examiner. Cummings did not answer questions about the overlap between companies with interests before his committee and donors to his wife’s foundation. Rockeymoore did not respond to request for comment.

The complaint asked the IRS to investigate the “shared leadership,” “integrated operations,” and “shared address and physical facilities” of her two companies. Rockeymoore’s nonprofit and the LLC have mutual clients, donors and projects, and were located at the same address and share a phone number.

According to its website, the Center for Global Policy Solutions is a nonprofit group that seeks to “create healthier communities, strengthen Social Security, and close racial wealth disparities." The for-profit consulting firm, Global Policy Solutions LLC, describes itself as “a social change strategy firm dedicated to making policy work for people and their environments.” The complaint states that they “appear to operate almost as a single entity, allowing for an illegal private benefit for Maya Rockeymoore Cummings and her husband."

Rockeymoore’s consulting firm was preferentially selected for a $1 million federal contract with the General Services Administration in 2017 for work on the “Leadership for Healthy Communities” project to combat childhood obesity, according to federal records. At the same time, Rockeymoore’s nonprofit group “served as the national program office for Leadership for Healthy Communities,” according to its website.

If both groups were involved in managing the project, “the arrangement is ‘self-dealing’ and cannot be ‘arm’s length’” as required by IRS law and “prompt the question of whether its organizers are getting fat off the grants,” according to the watchdog group’s complaint. Rockeymoore did not respond to multiple requests from the Washington Examiner for her nonprofit group’s most recent public financial records. Peter Flaherty, the chairman of the National Legal and Policy Center, said she hung up the phone on him when he asked her for a copy.

When the Washington Examiner visited the listed business address for Rockeymoore’s consulting firm and nonprofit, a doorman said she had moved out of the office building over a year ago, did not leave a forwarding address, and the building has continued to get her companies’ mail. As committee chairman, Cummings, is embroiled in a legal battle to obtain President Trump’s tax returns.

Cummings recently subpoenaed Trump’s financial records, prompting the president to sue him in an effort to block the subpoena. Cummings struggled with serious financial problems after joining Congress over 20 years ago. His house was placed in foreclosure, at one point; he owed $30,000 in unpaid taxes to the IRS; and he was taken to court multiple times for thousands in unpaid debts. Cummings said his financial difficulties were due to his hefty child support payments.

Since marrying Rockeymoore 11 years ago, Cummings’ financial outlook has improved considerably, according to financial disclosure reports and property records. The couple currently owns two rental properties in Baltimore worth between $250,000 and $500,000 each, and last year, they sold their three-bedroom Victorian row house in northwest Washington, D.C. for $896,000.

Cummings disclosed in his financial reports that his wife earns an unspecified salary from Global Policy Solutions LLC; he did not disclose that she receives a salary from her nonprofit organization, which was $152,000 in 2016, according to the group’s tax records from that year.

**Loose Ends**

Arkansas authorities are investigating the death of a former state senator as a homicide. The Arkansas State Police said Thursday that former state Sen. Linda Collins-Smith's remains were found late Tuesday.

Arkansas state Sen. Linda Collins-Smith, R-Pocahontas, listens to testimony at a meeting of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor at the Arkansas Capitol in Little Rock Jan. 28, 2015.

Arkansas state Sen. Linda Collins-Smith, R-Pocahontas, listens to testimony at the Arkansas Capitol in Little Rock Jan. 28, 2015.

CBS Little Rock affiliate KTHV reported the remains were found outside Collins-Smith's home in Pocahontas. Authorities were unable to identify the remains until they were studied by the state crime lab.

It was reported that Collins-Smith’s body had been wrapped in a blanket. It appears (conflicting reports) that her body was found outside of her house since reports have said the body was so badly decomposed that an immediate identification wasn’t possible.

According to Yang, neighbors heard gunshots a day or two before Collins-Smith’s body was found. That raises the question, if those were the gunshots the neighbors had heard, why her body decomposed that quickly. Was Collins-Smith murdered somewhere else and then moved to obscure the site of the murder so that no forensic evidence could be gathered from the crime scene?

The topic Collins was holding hearings on was the corrupt & scandal filled Arkansas Department of Human Services (ARDHS). Collins-Smith wanted to know the reason that only 14% of children, deemed to be at risk in their homes, were not placed with other family members. She was exposing Arkansas DHS because children were removed from their homes and not being given to grandparents or other family. It turns out that many of these children were ending up in child trafficking rings, prostitution, or being abused. There was enormous money changing hands from the taxpayers to these child traffickers. She was getting close to disclosing names. The trail was leading toward the former Governor Clinton’s office.

The state police said in a statement the agency received confirmation the remains were Collins-Smith's Thursday morning. "Special Agents of the state police Criminal Investigation Division along with deputies of the Randolph County Sheriff's Department are continuing their work related to the case," the state police said.

Police didn't provide a cause of death for Collins-Smith, 57. CBS Memphis, Tennessee, affiliate WREG-TV reported property records show the home belonged to Collins-Smith and her ex-husband, retired Circuit Judge Philip Smith.

Smith changed parties from Democrat to Republican in 2011 and was scheduled to testify against the Clinton Crime Syndicate in two weeks as the investigation into the Russia Uranium One scandal cranks up.

Another murder occurred in the same week. Norman police are investigating after former state Sen. Jonathan Nichols was found dead of an apparent gunshot wound inside his home.

Police confirmed in a press release Thursday they discovered the body of the 53-year-old inside his west Norman home after receiving a call Wednesday night of an individual with a gunshot wound.

Police say the case remains under investigation and that they are working with the medical examiner's office to determine the exact cause and manner of his death.

Nichols is a former Republican state senator from Norman who served from 2000 to 2012. After that he took staff positions with the state House, Senate and the University of Oklahoma.

As if that is not enough Clinton death for you, Tony Rodham died Friday. Who was he? An unusual nexus of mining interests, relief work in Haiti, and a former U.S. first family is raising new ethics questions that could affect Hillary Clinton's presidential ambitions.

Clinton's brother, Tony Rodham, was a board member of a North Carolina mining company that enjoyed prime access to Haitian gold deposits in the wake of post-earthquake relief work organized in part by former president Bill Clinton through the Clinton Foundation.

Another board member of the firm, VCS Mining, was former Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, who co-chaired the charitable Interim Haiti Recovery Commission with Mr. Clinton.

The revelation, smacking of cronyism and back-room government dealing, is part of a forthcoming book by Government Accountability Institute founder Peter Schweizer, whose work exposing the investment 'insider trading' habits of members of Congress caused national outrage in 2011 even though the practice was legal. The January 2010 Haiti earthquake killed more than 100,000 people and affected more than 3 million. That disaster was followed nine months later by a cholera epidemic of historic proportions.

The Clinton Foundation raised at least $36 million to help, according to its website.

The Obama administration pledged $3.6 billion. 'Much of the U.S. assistance is provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development,' a department of the State Department that Mrs. Clinton led at the time, according to the department's website.

Rodham's company got its gold mining rights in December 2012, according to the VCS press release. You see, it is a question of convenience. Libya was being looted by the US State Department of billions in gold and tens of thousands of missile, rocket, and grenades. The weapons were sent to Syria to build an army called ISIS. The gold was laundered through the Rodham mining interest in Haiti. Now, the only man who could testify about this, or go to jail for it, is dead.

**ANTIFA Plot Discovered**

The FBI is examining an alleged plot where ANTIFA activists, organized and funded by Obama’s OFA, "planned to disrupt U.S. law enforcement and military security operations at the US/Mexican border."

The activists are accused of seeking to purchase guns from a "Mexico-based cartel associate known as Cobra Commander," according to a December FBI document obtained by the San Diego Union-Tribune. The FBI cautioned multiple agencies that the activists were aiming to “stage an armed rebellion at the border.”

The use of firearms against Federal troops is considered combat, which would subject Obama’s youth army subject to being killed in action, thus starting a civil war. The FBI report was issued to agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Administration, and others. The strategy is to treat these enemy combatants as criminals and not soldiers to be killed by US Marines.

 But so-called Cobra Commander Ivan Riebeling and Evan Duke — both individuals named in the FBI — denied the accusations and said the plot didn’t make sense.

“It doesn’t make any sense that someone in the United States would purchase guns in Mexico,” Riebeling told the San Diego Union-Tribune. “And the Hondurans certainly didn’t bring money to buy guns. It doesn’t make any sense; in fact it’s extremely absurd to say the Hondurans wanted to attack the United States at the border.”

The reason it doesn’t make sense, is that this is a false flag. These are Obama-funded and trained soldiers who are seeking to use Soros money to make it appear that Hondurans are mounting an armed attack on the border. This apparently is a suicide mission, designed to provide the international press with footage of youths gunned won by American military.

Two law enforcement officials said that the investigation is still being conducted. The document was provided to the Union-Tribune by an anonymous source who did not want to be named and did not consent to providing the document online since the investigation is ongoing.

ANTIFA is a militant arm of the Organization for Action, an Obama non-profit organization fully funded with foreign capital. For example, an alleged antifa leader was arrested and charged earlier this year with aggravated assault and ethnic intimidation in connection to an attack on two U.S. Marines. The attacker did not possess a firearm, but did carry a club. He was no match for the Marine.

It is only a matter of time and money before US soldiers are involved in a military-style death of an ANTIFA soldier, which could spark a civil war. It appears this is the main goal of Obama’s OFA.

**The Global Syndicate is Falling**

Felix Sater is a deep state Democrat with ties to the Clintons and the Mueller gang. He’s mentioned over 100 times in the Mueller report but not one mention refers to these connections with Deep State Democrats.

In March, the far left and dishonest Democrat leader Adam Schiff announced that he had invited Felix Sater to provide a testimony before Congress. Sater eventually did not testify as Schiff and his party realized that Sater’s testimony would be detrimental to their Russia-Collusion sham.

A few weeks before Schiff’s announcement on Sater, far Left Buzzfeed released another bogus report stating President Trump’s attorney Michael Cohen was following President Trump’s orders to lie about an unsupported story on Russia. Mueller’s team in an attempt to prevent a leak investigation into its operations came out 24 hours later and said the story was false.

Now we know that the entire junk report was provided to Buzzfeed by Clinton and Mueller lackey, Felix Sater. Paul Sperry reported that the individual behind the Buzzfeed fake news story lying about President Trump was none other than Sater, a deep state dirt-bag close to the Clintons and Mueller and his gang of crooks:

Sperry was right. Sater was seen in pictures with Bill Clinton – (see above). Sater has also been pictured with far left media reporters pushing the Trump-Russia collusion fairy tale:

Most shocking is Sater’s connections to the Clintons and the Mueller gang of corrupt and criminal attorneys and investigators. It was reported that Sater’s connections began in 1998 [emphasis added]:

Sater pleaded guilty to racketeering in December 1998. But instead of being sentenced, Sater, like 16 other defendants in the case, signed a cooperation agreement with the US government, and his entire case file was sealed.

Signing Sater’s cooperation agreement for the Department of Justice was Andrew Weissmann, then an assistant US attorney and now a key member of the special counsel’s team. Mueller himself would be the FBI director for most of the time Sater served as a source.

The US attorney who oversaw Sater’s pump-and-dump case was Loretta Lynch, later the attorney general under President Barack Obama. While the Senate was considering her confirmation, Sen. Orrin Hatch asked Lynch about how her office handled Sater’s fraud case. In a written response, she said:

“The defendant in question, Felix Sater, provided valuable and sensitive information to the government during the course of his cooperation, which began in or about December 1998. For more than 10 years, he worked with prosecutors providing information crucial to national security and the conviction of over 20 individuals, including those responsible for committing massive financial fraud and members of La Cosa Nostra. For that reason, his case was initially sealed.”

To the government, he was no longer Felix Sater; in public he was referred to as John Doe, while in hundreds of pages of FBI interview reports, his code name was “The Quarterback.”

Really? They intentionally masked his name, so that the conflict could be hidden. THIS is obstruction of justice. None of this stopped the Mueller gang from actually using their long-time friend and loyalist, Felix Sater, as a material witness in their Russia collusion sham.

In the Mueller report Sater is mentioned in the text and footnotes more than 100 times! The Mueller team introduces Sater in the report as a New York based real estate adviser:

In the late summer of 2015, the Trump Organization received a new inquiry about pursuing a Trump Tower project in Moscow. In approximately September 2015, Felix Sater, a New York based real estate advisor, contacted Michael Cohen, then-executive vice president of the Trump Organization and special counsel to Donald J. Trump.

Not once in the Mueller report does the Mueller gang refer to Sater’s connections with the Clintons, Loretta Lynch or with Andrew Weissmann, the suspected drafter of the Mueller report. Today John Sullivan from the Hill released information that another key witness referred to as a Russian is not even Russia:

In Mueller’s report, Ukrainian businessman, Konstantin Kilimnik — the so-called Russian who Paul Manafort shared internal polling data with (gasp) isn’t a Russian, he’s actually as a “sensitive” intelligence source for the U.S. State Department who informed on Ukrainian and Russian matters, reported Solomon.

It looks like Kilimnik is not the only source the Mueller team used to frame President Trump!

The entire Clinton-Mueller cabal is coming undone. The Mueller Report is a joke as more and more lies are unveiled in the Democrats’ attempted coup to remove President Trump from office.

**Logan Acting Kerry**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Russian media on Thursday that former Secretary of State John Kerry approved of Russia’s 2014 annexation of the Crimean peninsula, believing the residents were overwhelmingly in favor of “reuniting” with Russia.

According to Lavrov, Kerry’s main criticism of Russia’s actions was to suggest holding another referendum to reinforce the legitimacy of annexation. Russia’s RT.com summarized Lavrov’s comments to the RBK news service:

I won’t reveal a big secret if I say that John Kerry was telling me in April 2014: ‘Everything is clear. Everything happened the way the Crimean people wanted. But, for form’s sake, hold another one [referendum],” Lavrov stated.

Moscow dismissed the idea as unnecessary.

“If you already understand everything, why make people vote again?” Lavrov said, explaining the Kremlin’s reasoning.

Lavrov, who is one of the longest-serving senior Russian officials, in office since 2004, said he hopes his revelations won’t spoil his relationship with Kerry.

“I hope John will not take offense at me,” Lavrov said, adding that Kerry, in his own memoir, also spilled some of their tête-à-tête conversations. Lavrov and Kerry were on good terms during the latter’s tenure as secretary of state from 2013 to 2017 – their rapport was credited in sealing the 2013 deal on destroying Syrian chemical weapons.

RT.com speculated Kerry is “unlikely to admit he ever recognized the Crimean referendum” because the Obama administration considered the referendum “illegal” and an “illegitimate move by the Russians to annex Crimea,” as President Barack Obama put it. The U.S. and European Union imposed punitive sanctions on Russia after the referendum.

As RT acknowledged, Secretary of State Kerry was publicly critical of the Crimean referendum, calling it “contrived” and “bogus.”

“You just don’t in the 21st century behave in 19th century fashion by invading another country on completely trumped up pre-text,” Kerry said of Russian behavior in the region in 2014.

“Secretary Kerry reaffirmed that the United States considers the ongoing referendum illegal under Ukrainian law and restated that the United States will not recognize the outcome,” the U.S. State Department said after Kerry discussed the referendum with Lavrov.

The State Department said Kerry’s message to Lavrov was that the Crimean referendum **was completely illegitimate,** it would never be recognized by the international community, and Russia would pay a steep price for using it as an excuse to annex Crimea. Kerry told Congress his warning to Lavrov was: “It can get ugly fast if the wrong choices are made, and it can get ugly in multiple directions.”

The Moscow Times somewhat tauntingly noted late Thursday morning that Kerry is currently appearing in public in Normandy for the 75th anniversary of D-Day but “has not yet commented on Lavrov’s claims.”

**The Interest in Interest**

Game over.**The grand central bank experiment of the last 10 years has ended in utter and complete failure.** The games of cheap money and constant intervention that have brought you record global debt to the tune of $250 trillion and record wealth inequality are about to embark on a new round of peddling blue meth again.

Australia has already cut, so has India. The ECB is talking about it, markets are already pricing in multiple Fed cuts. The new global rate cutting cycle begins anew before the last one ever ended. Brace yourselves as no one, absolutely no one, can know how this will turn out.

Absolutely staggering. We are witnessing a historic unraveling here. Everything every central banker has uttered last year was completely wrong. Every projection they made over the last 10 years has been wrong. No wonder Jay Powell wants to toss the dot plot. It’s a public record of failure.

Why place confidence in people who are staring at the ruins of the policies they unleashed on the world and are about to unleash again?

All the distortions of 10 years of cheap money, debt, wealth inequality, zombie companies, negative debt, TINA, you name it, will all be further exacerbated by hapless and scared central bankers whose only solution to failure is to embark on the same cheap money train again. All under the banner to “extend the business cycle” at all costs. Never asking whether they should nor considering the consequences. But since they are not elected by the people and face zero consequences for failure they don’t have to consider the collateral damage they inflict.

I repeat: Structural bears who have predicted that central bankers would never be able to normalize the construct they created and has produced the world’s greatest debt explosion ever were 100% correct. We’re all staring at a colossal policy failure with no accountability.

The awakening here should be easy enough. Wealth only exists in two places. It exists with the value creator, that is to say, the farmer or the factory or the actual service provider. The other place it exists is with the ultimate consumer of that service or product. In other words, the person who grows the food, transports the food, prepares the food, and consumes the food are the main players in the wealth process.

The system of exchange that was created to facilitate this complex process is the problem. Cash or currency has become something else, because of the banks and the people who own the banks. The whole idea of a man or a company owning much more than they could possibly consume is ludicrous. Wealth from the accumulation of money is the illusion. You can’t eat cash. You can convert it into food, or sex, or travel, or clothing, or housing, but there is only so much that a person can consume of those things.

We did a study one time to find out how much a person could possibly consume. It was about $770,000 a year. And yet, we have personal incomes in excess of $50 million a year for decades by some individuals. Now, before you accuse me of income redistribution to people who don’t work, hear me out.

No one who refuses to add value to society should eat three meals a day. Simple as that. If you provide no value, then you are of no value in society. To consume is not adding value. You must produce something. Fogging a mirror is not producing something. You work, you live. You freeload, you starve. That is the simple system of check and balance.

Now, that being said, there is different value for different production. A talented person giving backrubs with a happy ending is still providing a service, but a skilled person who builds an airplane or a performs surgery, or statistical analysis creates more value per hour, so they are rewarded more. Capitalism is all about service to others. If you fulfill no need by service to others, then you cannot succeed.

There is a word for the day. Success. What does it mean to be well off? My definition is being able to go to the grocery to buy all the name-brand items you can consume for the week, and not looking at the receipt when you pay. Simple enough. What does it mean to be successful? Time.

Yes, time. If you spend 120 hours a week for ten years working to accumulate enough reserve so that you can spend the next ten years only consuming, then that would be considered success. The more value you produce in that ten years of hard work, the more time you can take consuming, depending on your burn rate.

Herein lies the problem with the equation. What drives people’s aspirations is to earn enough while working, so that the reserves accumulated can do the work instead. That is to say, the earnings from your money—the return on investments—provides enough income so that you can be a consumer the rest of your life. This is not success. This is wealth. This is not being well-off. This is being released from the burden of societal obligation to provide value.

People might say that your money is providing value to the entities who are borrowing from you. The renter lives in your house. The small business buys their equipment or their land from which they produce a profit, from which they pay you for the use of your money. This sounds wonderful, but it is precisely why the system gets out of balance. The existence of money allows people with excess to remove themselves from the societal obligation to provide value. Value cannot be the money itself. This is where the system gets corrupted, because a central clearing house for that money will become wealthy in and of itself, without providing any value to society whatsoever, and that is called a leech. That bleeds value from everyone. And when government steps up to leech off the central clearing house, and now you have a leech living off a leech living off the true value providers. Now, you have today’s global economy.

Many people are frequently asking whether it is possible to have an economy without money. When I say this, I do not mean an economy where physical currency, gold, silver, etc. will be replaced with electronic equivalents like Bitcoin. I mean no money at all.

So, how do we do that?

The only thing we will ever have is time, and the only decision we need to make is how to spend the moment we have, until there is no more.

In the 1930s, Soviet mathematician Leonid Kantorovich theorized that it could be possible to use a mathematical procedure to determine economic output for the given input.

At the time, it was impossible to calculate this, because of the large number of goods and people involved, but, with the exponential growth of information science, now we have the technology capable of calculating this complex equation in a matter of minutes.

What would that may look like?

First forget the money. For each product we make there are 3 components: effort of a human being, time spent, and technology.

Now, imagine that there is no advance technology; in order to calculate a price expressed with time, we would need to include all middle steps and necessary tools we need to create and knowledge we need to gain in order to achieve this. Therefore, one brick, for instance, could cost around 2 hours, and, with mass production and better organization, we could decrease that time to, let’s say, 30 minutes. But, with better technology, that time could be decreased even further to a few minutes or seconds.

Following the same logic, each product would have a time cost; for instance: a pen would cost 1 minute, a glass 2 minutes, and a computer 37 minutes.

Then, each person would go to a website similar to Amazon or Etsy and select everything he/she desires. At the end, AI would calculate, in combination with all other people “placing orders,” what one person needs to do or learn, and how much personal time and effort he/she needs to spend working, in order to get all the things s/he chose.

So, there are a few questions and possible issues about described system.

First issue is: what if someone does not do what was promised? After all, that is why cash works in society. Cash is just the promise to pay. That all it is. It is a trusted piece of paper that says the holder promises to pay.

Next, as technology is a work multiplier and reduces necessary work involvement or time to zero (especially in the realm of AI), all products will, at the end, cost zero time. At that point we have the following issue: if everything costs zero time, that means that an infinite number of goods are available for every person, and, because we live in a finite world, we know that this is not possible, unless we place ourselves in a virtual environment. This is why we have more than a thousand cryptocurrencies active at any given time. It provides a way of trading in a virtual world without having real-world money. Of course, you cannot keep warm with virtual assets any more than you can eat a digital image of a taco.

Imagine Tesla at the beginning of the “War of currents.” Clearly, you have a man asking for resources, but, in the approval panel is a person who is already a very well established scientist (Edison), he has a closed mind, and he is in favor of DC currents, so he would never approve any further experiments in the field of AC, saying that all attempts in the AC field are just a waste of time.

The key question is whether a society without currency will be a Utopia. The issue never causes a crush at the top of society. No one cares about a few people who only consume and produce nothing at the top. The issue occurs at the bottom of society. Everyone worries about people at the bottom who only consume and produce nothing.

Why? Because at the top of the wealth chain, every single thing they consume is paid for. At the bottom, nothing the poor consume is paid for. At the top, it homes, and livelihood are distributed among hundreds or even thousands of people to provide the food, airplanes, hotels, homes, jewelry, and clothing for the wealthy. At the bottom, no one can afford a clean glass of water.

So, in order for utopia, without currency of any kind to work, everyone must provide value in society. There can be no addicts, alcoholics, lazy people, or people with no desire to do anything for anyone but themselves. We should all do what we love doing, or love doing what other people don’t love doing like hauling trash, treating waste water, or washing dishes. But we should all do something. And if we are doing what we love doing, and that things provides a service or a good to society, then there would never be any problem with the economy.

That is precisely why money will always be needed. And, as long money exists, there will be people who think that money is actually the value in society. You cannot put a limit on the top and you cannot put a limit on the bottom. The limit on the top removes the incentive to succeed. The limit on the bottom is an unfunded mandate that inflates the entire system without adding value. Gee. That sounds exactly like the society we have right now.

**The Reign of the Judges**

Judges have always reigned with blood and horror throughout history. The Pharisees, the Sadducees, the judges in the Book of Mormon, and the judges of today are no different. They use the law to make new law. They accept bribes. They sell their power to powerful forces of evil. Since President Trump took office, federal courts have issued **37 nationwide injunctions** against his policies, [Mr. Barr](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/william-p-barr/) said.

During President Barack Obama’s first two years, the courts issued only **two injunctions. In fact, only 27 were issued during the 20th century**, according to Justice Department data. President Trump has complained about Obama’s activist judges who are responsible for almost every single one of these injunctions.  Chief Justice Roberts even decided to publicly rebuke President Trump for this line saying that in essence all judges are the same.  No judicial branch official has ever publicly rebuked an executive before. This response was definitely uncalled for and out of line by the Chief Justice and President Trump responded.

AG Barr was exactly correct in calling out Federal Judges appointed by Obama earlier in the week for using multiple injunctions against President Trump's lawful policies, as we now have a list of about 40 injunctions used against Trump by these judges. Remember most of these Federal Judges placing these injunctions against President Trump's lawful authority as President are mostly appointed by Obama, and not only are they appointed by Obama but these Federal Judges also donated to Obama before they were appointed by Obama to there current Federal court positions.
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It's obvious President Trump is being politically attacked by shopped, corrupt Judges who are following orders from the Global Syndicate. Judges in Hawaii are stepping far outside their juridictions by issuing injunctions to stop Presidential policies that affect foreign countries, such as the security ban on immigration from 5 nations that have no formal government in power. Judges in California are abusing their power by stopping Executive orders or memoranda issued in Texas or Arizona. These injunctions amount to criminal sedition by Federal Judges controlled by Obama against Trump.

Now you see why the rule of law has become the rule by law. Now you see why the Convention of States must be convened to stop the Reign of the Judges once and for all.

**Biophotons**

Scientists [found](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4267444/) that neurons in mammalian brains were capable of producing photons of light, or “Biophotons”!

The photons, strangely enough, appear within the visible spectrum. They range from near-infrared through violet, or between 200 and 1,300 nanometers.

Scientists have an exciting [suspicion](https://arxiv.org/abs/1708.08887) that our brain’s neurons might be able to communicate through light. They suspect that our brain might have optical communication channels, but they have no idea what could be communicated.



Even more exciting, they claim that if there is an optical communication happening, the Biophotons our brains produce might be affected by quantum entanglement, meaning there can be a strong link between these photons, our consciousness and possibly what many cultures and religions refer to as Spirit.

In a couple of experiments scientist discovered that rat brains can pass just one biophoton per neuron a minute, but human brains could convey more than a billion biophotons per second.

This raises the question, could it be possible that the more light one can produce and communicate between neurons, the more conscious they are?



If there is any correlation between biophotons, light, and consciousness it can have strong implications that there is more to light than we are aware of.

Just think for a moment. Many texts and religions dating way back, since the dawn of human civilization have reported of saints, ascended beings and enlightened individuals having shining circles around their heads.

From Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, to teachings of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity, among many other religions, sacred individuals were depicted with a shining circle in the form of a circular glow around their heads.



If they were as enlightened as they are described maybe this shining circle was just a result of the higher consciousness they operated with, hence a higher frequency and production of biophotons.

Maybe these individuals produced higher level of biophotons with stronger intensity because of their enlightenment, if there is any correlation between biophotons and consciousness. Even the word enLIGHTenment suggests that this higher consciousness has something to do with light.



But one of the most exciting implications the discovery that our brains can produce light gives, is that maybe our consciousness and spirit are not contained within our bodies. This implication is completely overlooked by scientists.

Quantum entanglement [says](https://www.livescience.com/28550-how-quantum-entanglement-works-infographic.html) that 2 entangled photons react if one of the photons is affected no matter where the other photon is in The Universe without any delay. It could be possible that the Spirit of God poured out upon the Earth interacts with these ions in our bodies, thus inspiring us with ideas. Depending upon our consciousness and our past experiences, or past lives, we may react to those ideas uniquely. One person might hear a song, while another sees an architectural creation, while another may find a solution to a complex math problem.

Maybe the real world exists within light, and no matter where you are in The Universe photons can act as portals that enable communication between these 2 places; be they universes, dimensions, or worlds. It appears that our spirit and consciousness communicate with our bodies through these biophotons. The more light we produce the more we awaken and embody the wholeness of our consciousness. The more light we produce, and the more intense we can make it, the further the effect will travel.



This can explain the phenomenon of why the state of a photon is affected simply by consciously observing it, as it is proven in many quantum experiments. We affect the spin for sure. Although the frequency of the photon emitted is locked to the distance the electron moves, like a guitared string, the amplitude of the photon can be changed with consciousness.

Maybe our observation communicates something utilizing our biophotons as light energy scattered throughout our Universe. In fact, if we direct the energy, instead of scatter it, the effect can be targeted and thus more effective. If we do it in a resonant fashion, we can multiply the effectiveness of that observation many times.

This may be the actual message that hides within light.

**The Trump Trading Game**

It would appear that Trump's tariff threat worked.

***"I am pleased to inform you that The United States of America has reached a signed agreement with Mexico,"****President Trump tweeted Friday.*

***"The Tariffs scheduled to be implemented by the U.S. on Monday, against Mexico, are hereby indefinitely suspended."***



Trump had announced the tariff threat in response to a surge in illegal migration to the U.S. through Mexico this year. More than 144,000 people were apprehended after illegally crossing the southern border in May or were refused entry to the U.S. **That’s the most in a single month in at least five years; the number has grown every month since January**.

Mexico has agreed to "strong measures to stem the tide of Migration through Mexico, and to our Southern Border," Trump wrote.

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I am pleased to inform you that The United States of America has reached a signed agreement with Mexico. The Tariffs scheduled to be implemented by the U.S. on Monday, against Mexico, are hereby indefinitely suspended. Mexico, in turn, has agreed to take strong measures to stem the tide of Migration through Mexico, and to our Southern Border. This is being done to greatly reduce, or eliminate, Illegal Immigration coming from Mexico and into the United States. Details of the agreement will be released shortly by the State Department. Thank you!

The State Department [released the following](https://www.state.gov/u-s-mexico-joint-declaration/)"details" (which many said we beyond opaque):

***Mexican Enforcement Surge***

*Mexico will take unprecedented steps to increase enforcement to curb irregular migration, to include the deployment of its National Guard throughout Mexico, giving priority to its southern border. Mexico is also taking decisive action to dismantle human smuggling and trafficking organizations as well as their illicit financial and transportation networks. Additionally, the United States and Mexico commit to strengthen bilateral cooperation, including information sharing and coordinated actions to better protect and secure our common border.*

***Migrant Protection Protocols***

*The United States will immediately expand the implementation of the existing Migrant Protection Protocols across its entire Southern Border. This means that those crossing the U.S. Southern Border to seek asylum will be rapidly returned to Mexico where they may await the adjudication of their asylum claims.*

*In response, Mexico will authorize the entrance of all of those individuals for humanitarian reasons, in compliance with its international obligations, while they await the adjudication of their asylum claims. Mexico will also offer jobs, healthcare and education according to its principles.*

*The United States commits to work to accelerate the adjudication of asylum claims and to conclude removal proceedings as expeditiously as possible.*

***Further Actions***

*Both parties also agree that, in the event the measures adopted do not have the expected results, they will take further actions. Therefore, the United States and Mexico will continue their discussions on the terms of additional understandings to address irregular migrant flows and asylum issues, to be completed and announced within 90 days, if necessary.*

Trump on Saturday also tweeted that Mexico also will buy “large quantities” of agricultural products, a stipulation that wasn’t included in a joint statement. As reported previously, Mexico did commit to deploying National Guard troops to help curb illegal migration and agree to care for Central Americans seeking asylum in the U.S. indefinitely as their cases wind through the system.

Have tariffs become an official weapon for Trump to achieve his geopolitical goals? It would appears so. As Bloomberg notes, US negotiators had been asking Mexico since the election of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador in July 2018 to do more to stop the flow of migrants. **But it was only in the past week, under the threat of tariffs, that they felt Mexico had begun negotiating seriously, according to a U.S. official.**

This also begs the question whether Mexico is in fact - or at least figuratively - "paying for that wall" as Trump had vowed:

*“Mexico successfully avoided the catastrophe of tariffs but will pay a heavy price,” said Duncan Wood, director of the Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. “****Potentially tens of thousands of refugee claimants will have to wait in Mexico while their claims are processed. Mexico will have to house, employ, educate and provide health care for them. This is a huge commitment****” for the government.*

Mexico’s foreign minister, Marcelo Ebrard, who was in the Washington for the talks, said in a tweet that the tariffs wouldn’t be imposed, giving his “Thanks to everyone who has supported us by realizing the greatness of Mexico" and adding previously that the country was prepared to deploy about 6,000 guard troops. And the country already has been hosting asylum seekers while their cases were being processed.

Ebrard also said the resolution was fair. “We reached some middle point,” he said, adding that the two countries will continue discussion for other possible steps in 90 days if needed, an implicit reminder that tensions could flare again if the migrant crisis continues to worsen.

While the U.S. had originally demanded that Central American migrants apply for asylum in Mexico instead of the U.S, Mexico beat back that demand. Also, there was no formal language related to increased purchases of U.S. agricultural products, as Trump promised on Twitter, **but on Saturday he used Twitter to announce, in call capital letters, Mexico’s buying plans without providing details.**

Of course, the past week's drama has left many of those most upset over Trump’s approach, including some Republicans, questioning whether the turmoil of the last week was really worth it.

The whole episode also had a familiar feel: Trump has repeatedly threatened Mexico over immigration only to back off. First, he said he’d immediately close the southern border over migration. Then he abruptly pivoted in April to a new demand: that the Mexican government stop the flow of illegal drugs into the U.S. within a year or face tariffs on automobiles.

As Bloomberg further notes, this was not the first time the president has faced criticism over his stance on tariffs. What made this time different was just how alone Trump was in his position. The list of opponents to the idea was long: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, farm groups, automakers and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who took the rare step of saying publicly he disagreed with the president. Additionally, opposition to the tariff threat was present even within the Trump administration as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin reportedly opposed them, as did Trump’s senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, the New York Times reported.

It would seem Chuck Schumer's claim that Trump's tariffs were a bluff are proved wrong.

Shortly afte rthe announcement, relieved Republicans quickly rallied around the president for securing the deal and suggested this could clear the way for Congress to approve the new trade deal between the U.S., Canada and Mexico, known as the USMCA.

“Trump has proven those who doubted him wrong by getting Mexico to step up their efforts to help us secure our southern border,” the No. 2 House Republican, Steve Scalise of Louisiana, said in a statement. “Tonight’s deal made by President Trump also puts us in a better position to make USMCA a reality.”

**IRaq & WMD**

American troops found nearly 5,000 abandoned chemical weapons in Iraq from 2004 to 2011, but their discoveries were kept secret by the U.S. government, the New York Times reports.

According to the 10,000-word, eight-part interactive report ("The Secret Casualties of Iraq's Abandoned Chemical Weapons") by C.J. Chivers published on the paper's website late Tuesday, at least 17 American service members and seven Iraqi police officers were exposed to nerve or mustard agents in Iraq after 2003.

On at least six occasions, American troops and American-trained Iraqi troops were wounded by the abandoned munitions, but news of the encounters was neither shared publicly nor widely circulated among the troops, the victims told the Times. Others said they were told to be vague or deceptive about what they found.

"'Nothing of significance’ is what I was ordered to say,” Jarrod Lampier, a retired Army major, said of the 2006 discovery of 2,400 nerve-agent rockets at a former Republican Guard compound, the largest chemical weapons discovery of the war.

The paper also published heavily redacted intelligence documents it obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

Among the reasons for the secrecy? "The discoveries of these chemical weapons did not support the government’s invasion rationale," Chivers writes. "After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, [President George W.] Bush insisted that [Iraqi leader Saddam] Hussein was hiding an active weapons of mass destruction program, in defiance of international will and at the world’s risk. United Nations inspectors said they could not find evidence for these claims."

The discovery of pre-Gulf War chemical weapons — most of them "filthy, rusty or corroded" — did not fit the narrative.

“They needed something to say that after Sept. 11 Saddam used chemical rounds,” Lampier said. “And all of this was from the pre-1991 era.”

“I love it when I hear, ‘Oh there weren’t any chemical weapons in Iraq,’” Jarrod L. Taylor, a former Army sergeant, told the paper. “There were plenty.”

The troops began encountering the munitions in hidden caches and roadside bombs.

The paper recounted a harrowing 2004 discovery in Baghdad by two explosives-disposal technicians in detail. Staff Sgt. James F. Burns and Pfc. Michael S. Yandell were transporting what they thought was the remains of a makeshift bomb back to the base when they began experiencing symptoms of sarin gas exposure:

Sergeant Burns noticed a bitter smell and thought, he said later, that “it was rotten vegetables.”

Then he felt the onset of a headache. He told Private Yandell, who was driving, that he did not feel right. Nauseated and disoriented, Private Yandell had quietly been struggling to drive. His vision was blurring. His head pounded. “I feel like crap, too,” he replied.

Dread passed over Sergeant Burns. Maybe, he wondered aloud, they had picked up a nerve agent shell. The chemical shell Sergeant Burns and Pfc. Michael S. Yandell found that day was on the highway to Baghdad’s international airport, called "Death Street" at the time because of frequent insurgent attacks.

Neither man remembers the drive’s last minutes. At the base entrance, they did not clear the ammunition from their rifles and pistols — forgetting habits and rules. As they arrived at their building, Sergeant Burns was sure. In the back of the truck, the shell had leaked liquid. Illumination rounds, he knew, do not do that.

**End of the DOE**

President [Trump](https://m.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/) signed an executive order Wednesday to start pulling the federal government out of K-12 education, following through on a campaign promise to return school control to state and local officials.

The order, dubbed the “Education Federalism Executive Order,” will launch a 300-day review of Obama-era regulations and guidance for school districts and directs Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to modify or repeal measures she deems an overreach by the federal government.

“For too long the government has imposed its will on state and local governments. The result has been education that spends more and achieves far, far, far less,” [Mr. Trump](https://m.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/) said. “My administration has been working to reverse this federal power grab and give power back to families, cities [and] states — give power back to localities.”

He said that previous administrations had increasingly forced schools to comply with “whims and dictates” from Washington, but his administration would break the trend.

“We know local communities know it best and do it best,” said [Mr. Trump](https://m.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/), who was joined by several Republican governors for the signing. “The time has come to empower teachers and parents to make the decisions that help their students achieve success.”

Ms. DeVos and Vice President Mike Pence were on hand for the ceremony, which was attended by about 25 people, including teachers, lawmakers and the governors.

The executive order is not expected to have an immediate impact on school districts. Policy changes will follow a report on the findings of the review.

The review will be spearheaded by the Department of Education’s Regulatory Review Task Force, according to the order.

Ms. DeVos already has authority to modify or repeal regulations that are deemed a violation of federal law. The order, however, creates a review for identifying those areas and makes clear her mandate from the president to take action.

Reducing the federal government’s role in K-12 is part of [Mr. Trump](https://m.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/)’s reform agenda, which also includes the expansion of school choice programs.

Among those at the signing ceremony were Govs. Kay Ivey of Alabama, Gary Herbert of Utah, Paul LePage of Maine, Brian Sandoval of Nevada and Terry Branstad of Iowa, who also is [Mr. Trump](https://m.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/)’s nominee for ambassador to China.

Also in attendance were Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Rep. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, the Republican chairs of the two chambers’ education committees.

**I Will Not Comply**

To those who often choose to go against the norm, be warned: The psychiatric profession just dubbed non-conformity a “disorder.”

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, or DSM, defines “oppositional defiant disorder,” or ODD, as an “ongoing pattern of disobedient, hostile and defiant behavior.” Basically, it just labeled anyone who deviates from what is regarded as the norm mentally ill.

Given the ambiguity of the disorder’s definition, almost any behavior perceived by someone else as strange or bothersome might be categorized as a symptom of ODD. For instance, children who often throw tantrums or pick fights with others their age could be declared to have this “illness.” This fails to take into account, however, the fact that disobedience is a common behavior among kids, and not at all a symptom of something akin to a disorder. If that were the case, Thomas Edison or Alexander Graham Bell, for example, whose unconventional behaviors and ways of thinking might have raised some brows in their day, might be declared to have ODD.

Another danger to using the term disorder so loosely is the fact that it could curtail freedom of speech and political dissent. In fact, according to [*Natural News*](https://natural.news/), “the federal government has already tried to declare those who oppose its tyrannical policies, or who simply question them, as having ‘political paranoia,’ a type of mental illness.”

# Psychiatry or tyranny?

In the former USSR, authorities used the medical system to control and regulate citizens’ thoughts. It implemented mental health programs that categorized dissenters as impaired and in need of mind-altering drugs that often had [devastating side effects](https://psychdrugshooters.com/).

“Psychiatric incarceration of mentally healthy people is uniformly understood to be a particularly pernicious form of repression, because it uses the powerful modalities of medicine as tools of punishment, and it compounds a deep affront to human rights with deception and fraud,” explains [a 2002 analysis and commentary on the abuse of psychiatry](https://www.jaapl.org/content/30/1/136.full.pdf) in both the Soviet Union and China that was published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*.

“Doctors who allow themselves to be used in this way… betray the trust of society and breach their most basic ethical obligations as professionals.”

**The Physics of the Soul**

But does the soul exist? Is there any scientific theory of consciousness that could accommodate such a claim? According to Dr. Stuart Hameroff, a near-death experience happens when the quantum information that inhabits the nervous system leaves the body and dissipates into the universe. Contrary to materialistic accounts of consciousness, Dr. Hameroff offers an alternative explanation of consciousness that can perhaps appeal to both the rational scientific mind and personal intuitions.

Consciousness resides, according to Stuart and British physicist Sir Roger Penrose, in the microtubules of the brain cells, which are the primary sites of quantum processing. Upon death, this information is released from your body, meaning that your consciousness goes with it. They have argued that our experience of consciousness is the result of quantum gravity effects in these microtubules, a theory which they dubbed orchestrated objective reduction (Orch-OR).

Consciousness, or at least proto-consciousness is theorized by them to be a fundamental property of the universe, present even at the first moment of the universe during the Big Bang. “In one such scheme proto-conscious experience is a basic property of physical reality accessible to a quantum process associated with brain activity.”

Our souls are in fact constructed from the very fabric of the universe – and may have existed since the beginning of time. Our brains are just receivers and amplifiers for the proto-consciousness that is intrinsic to the fabric of space-time. So is there really a part of your consciousness that is non-material and will live on after the death of your physical body?

Dr Hameroff told the Science Channel’s Through the Wormhole documentary: “Let’s say the heart stops beating, the blood stops flowing, the microtubules lose their quantum state. The quantum information within the microtubules is not destroyed, it can’t be destroyed, it just distributes and dissipates to the universe at large”. Robert Lanza would add here that not only does it exist in the universe, it exists perhaps in another universe.

If the patient is resuscitated, revived, this quantum information can go back into the microtubules and the patient says “I had a near death experience”

He adds: “If they’re not revived, and the patient dies, it’s possible that this quantum information can exist outside the body, perhaps indefinitely, as a soul.”

This account of quantum consciousness explains things like near-death experiences, astral projection, out of body experiences, and even reincarnation without needing to appeal to religious ideology. The energy of your consciousness potentially gets recycled back into a different body at some point, and in the mean time it exists outside of the physical body on some other level of reality, and possibly in another universe.

What do we really know about the intrinsic nature of consciousness and its essential role (if any) in the nature of cosmos? Probably a lot less than many would assume. There is no question that our knowledge of brains has expanded massively in the past century. But what does all this data about brains really tell us about consciousness? Not a great deal, I suspect. Yet mainstream psychology and neuroscience continues to ignore the obvious implications of the question: “Are brains and minds the same thing?”

*At this we should stop and wonder. I think we should feel very sober, and a little afraid, at the power of human credulity, the capacity of human minds to be gripped by theory, by faith. For this particular denial is the strangest thing that has ever happened in the whole history of human thought, not just the whole history of philosophy. It falls, unfortunately, to philosophy, not religion, to reveal the deepest woo-woo of the human mind. I find this grievous, but, next to this denial, every known religious belief is only a little less sensible than the belief that grass is green.*

Strawson is correct. What is it about first-person experience that science is so afraid of? What has created this absurd rejection of the “I”?

We could of course run through the history of science in the past several hundred years, talking about the necessity to challenge religious authority on matters of reason, and the subsequent discrediting of theology or mysticism in providing adequate explanations of most mundane things (it has to be admitted). We could also talk about the rise of more sophisticated ways of knowing such as calculation (e.g. Newton), classification (Darwin), analysis (Comte) and experimentalism (Hemholtz) by the mid nineteenth century. And we could acknowledge the massive impact and success of technologies which arose from that – the microscope, telescope, computer and so on – and how these in turn generated exponential increases in our capacity to “perceive”, collate and analyse data.

Out of all this a new culture, a new paradigm, a new way of looking at life and cosmos emerged. Materialism was a defining feature of this science. In this schema, things – including people, animals and minds – were at their very basis material objects, regardless of what properties or behaviours they exhibited at a macro-level.

All this has been widely discussed by philosophers of science, as have been the many challenges to such a reductionist approach to knowledge. Those challenges have always been around, of course, with perhaps the emergence of quantum physics early in the nineteenth century representing the most pronounced challenge. And yet even today materialism – and the denial of mind – remains strongly embedded in many of our sciences.

clearly the idea is quite compatible with the existence of the non-local mind. If there is at least a little bit of mind found in all things, it helps to explain how it is that minds can perceive of things that are not readily perceptible with the eyes, ears and other sensory organs. I believe the latter is now undeniable. I base that conclusion upon three sources: my own extensive experience with expanded and non-local mind; first-person insights gleaned from the world’s great wisdom traditions and recorded for posterity; and upon the scientific data which has been gleaned from psychic research for more than a century.

What lies at the heart of the debate is the mind-body problem. Even if one rejects the evidence for psychic phenomena and the extended mind, we still have the issue of how we get consciousness from brains. How does conscious experience arise from the firing of neurons? Implicit within the mechanistic paradigm is that consciousness IS the firing of neurons. Because if it isn’t, then what is it?

A key issue is how to explain why it is that our actual experience of mind is so utterly different from what we look at, say, a brain in a vat, or an fMRI scan of neuronal activity. Clearly there is something very qualitatively different between brains and consciousness. What exactly does that difference represent, and what is the relationship between these two things?

It is isn’t valuable, I think, to delineate between the mind and the brain. Although the case can be made that humans are the only creatures in the universe that can perceive time, there is a more amazing thing to consider. Does the universe exist because we humans are observing it. Let me be more clear. Are we just seeing the universe, or are we actually creating the universe?

I believe Plank’s thought experiment tells it best. The ship on the water in the spinning bucket observes curved water and a spinning room, whether it is the bucket or the room that is spinning.

From the photon’s point of view, the entire universe is still the singularity. The Bog Bang never happened. It is our observation that has slowed the universe down, so that we could behold it.