|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attacks | **26** |
| Killed | **107** |
| Injured | **301** |
| Suicide Blasts | **4** |
| Countries | **11** |

**Type and a Shadow**

Does China believe that we are on the verge of a major global crisis?  The communist Chinese government has always been very big into planning, and it appears that they have decided that now is the time to hoard food, gold and other commodities.  Of course in recent days the fact that China is completely cutting off U.S. agricultural imports has made headlines all over the globe, but at the same time China is dramatically increasing the amount of food that it is importing from the rest of the world.  The end result is actually a substantial surge in Chinese imports, and this is starting to show up in the official numbers.  For example, we just learned that Chinese soybean imports in July were actually up [8 percent](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-economy-trade-soybeans/china-july-soy-imports-hit-nearly-one-year-high-on-better-crush-margins-idUSKCN1UY0IL) compared to last year…

*China’s soybean imports in July rose 8% from a year earlier, to their highest level in almost a year, customs data showed on Thursday, as importers increased their purchases of Brazilian beans on higher crush margins.*

As I discussed [the other day](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/worst-year-ever-the-chinese-ban-on-u-s-agricultural-products-will-be-a-death-blow-for-countless-u-s-farms), China had already been drastically reducing soybean imports from the United States even before this recent announcement that U.S. agricultural imports were being cut off completely.  So American farmers were definitely not benefiting from this Chinese import boom, and now that China has decided not to buy any of our crops it is going to be a  [“devastating blow”](https://www.cnbc.com/2019/08/06/china-agriculture-us-economy.html) for our farmers…

*With China officially pulling out of buying U.S. agricultural products, American farmers are losing one of their biggest customers. It could be a devastating blow in an already tough year for crops and commodity prices. It may also dent U.S. gross domestic product and hurt companies like Deere, whose business is directly tied to farming in the Heartland.*

*“Sales have already been lower this crop year because of the existing tariffs. If we went all the way to no China exports whatsoever, that would of course result in even larger market and price impacts,” said Pat Westhoff, director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri. “Cutting China completely out of the market would be a very big deal.”*

Needless to say, China has had to turn to other sources to supply their needs, and last month we learned that China had decided to substantially increase wheat and soybean imports [from Russia](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-china-agriculture/china-approves-wheat-soy-imports-from-russia-idUSKCN1UL275)…

*China has approved wheat imports from the Russian region of Kurgan, the Chinese customs office said on Friday, bringing Russia a step closer to its goal of dramatically increasing grain exports.*

*It also approved soybean imports from all parts of Russia, the General Administration of Customs said in a separate statement on its website, having all but halted U.S. soy imports as the trade dispute between Beijing and Washington deepened.*

This is yet another sign that Russia and China are drawing closer, and this is something that we have been anticipating.

Meanwhile, China is also hoarding gold.  In fact, July was the eighth month in a row in which the Chinese [increased their reserves](https://markets.businessinsider.com/commodities/news/china-bought-more-gold-to-prepare-for-the-trade-war-2019-8-1028427737)…

*China bought nearly 10 tons of*[*gold*](https://markets.businessinsider.com/commodities/gold-price?utm_source=markets&utm_medium=ingest)*in July, marking the eighth consecutive month the country increased its reserves,*[*Bloomberg reported*](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-07/as-trade-war-runs-hot-china-scoops-up-more-gold-for-reserves)*Wednesday morning.*

*The purchase is another signal from China that it’s gearing up for a prolonged trade conflict with the US. Gold serves as a historic safe-haven investment, and its price typically rises when markets and other currencies see increased volatility or prolonged weakness.*

In addition, [Bloomberg is reporting](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-08/china-goes-big-on-commodities-purchase-amid-shifting-trade-war) that Chinese commodity purchases of all types were very, very strong in July…

*Commodity purchases by China rebounded strongly in July. Imports of soy to coal and crude oil gained, signaling demand in the world’s biggest buyer remains solid even as a trade spat with the U.S. escalates.*

So why are the Chinese suddenly stocking up on everything?

Well, the truth is that the answer to that question is quite obvious.  The trade war between the United States and China is rapidly escalating, war in the Middle East could erupt at any time, the global economy has been steadily slowing down, crops are failing all over the planet, and everywhere we look we seem to see rising political instability.

In fact, we even see it in China’s own backyard.  After weeks of unprecedented political protests in Hong Kong, it looks like we could be right on the verge of a brutal crackdown.  The following comes from [the New York Post](https://nypost.com/2019/08/03/beijing-is-prepping-for-a-massacre-in-hong-kong-time-for-the-west-to-put-human-rights-ahead-of-free-trade/?fbclid=IwAR3AYYfmji48byc55BFWgNx6bPsSanojHbJmLkTcTW9V00sVyWh7se7aaOU)…

*After eight weeks of huge Hong Kong street protests against Beijing’s rule, the People’s Republic is massing police and soldiers just across the border. Message: If the protesters don’t quit, a bloodbath is coming.*

*Beijing has also started denouncing the protests as the work of American provocateurs. That’s so the regime can paint its Tiananmen Square-style crackdown as a battle against “foreign influence,” not a smashing of Chinese people who decided all on their own that they’d rather be free.*

The relative stability that we have been enjoying for the past several years is ending, and it appears that the months ahead could potentially be quite chaotic.

Normally I would never suggest that anyone should emulate the Chinese government, but in this case they appear to be doing the wise thing.  Now is the time [to get prepared for what is coming](https://amzn.to/2KozwGT), because the road ahead promises to be quite tumultuous.

Most people don’t realize it, but U.S. relations with China have already passed the point of no return.  Things are going to become increasingly tense between our two nations, and that is going to have very serious implications for all of us.

**Venezuela Military Secrets Hacked**

A cyber-espionage group known as "Machete" has been observed stealing sensitive files from the Venezuelan military. The group, known to have been active since 2010, has historically gone after a wide range of targets from all over the world. However, starting with this year, Machete has primarily been focusing its hacking efforts on Venezuela.

During a period between March and May 2019, at least 50 infected computers contacting the Machete command-and-control (C&C) servers have been detected and reported. Around 75% of these infections were located in Venezuela, and more than half of the infected computers belonged to the Venezuelan military. My sources tells me that they suspect this is the work of Cuban hacker cells operating inside the country. Possibly, these are Chinese equipped efforts to take over the Venezuelan banking and finance system and to access the vast oil reserves that once made the country the wealthiest, most modern country in South America.

"The attackers exfiltrate specialized file types used by geographic information systems (GIS) software," said ESET security researcher Matias Porolli. "The group is specifically interested in files that describe navigation routes and positioning using military grids." It appears that the system is used to locate the actual permitted oil wells and the best routes for getting and protecting that oil to the shipping ports.

This is the same tactic used to strip Tibet of their resources, although Tibet did not have a power or internet grid to take over. The routes in Tibet that lead to Nepal and points beyond were built using Tibetan slave labor by hand. I was there, and I saw it with my own eyes. Tibetan citizens dressed in street clothes, without any personal safety equipment live gloves, safety glasses, safety vests, or even work shoes were using sledge hammers to break up rocks into gravel to be used to make the roads through the mountains.

Besides Venezuela, the Machete group has also targeted neighboring countries. The internet grid used by the Ecuadorian military has also been a target as well. Ecuador also has major shipping ports, and their entire economy operates on the American dollar.

**SPEAR-PHISHING WITH RADIOGRAMS**

The group's tactics aren't even that original. They rely on the old tactic of sending spear-phishing emails with malicious files as attachments.

All cyber-espionage groups operate this way. The only novelty here, according to ESET, is that Machete uses real documents that have been stolen from previous attacks. The group has a taste for using radiograms (radiographs), which are specific documents used for communications within militaries around the world.

The documents, when opened, will infect victims with the group's malware, a backdoor trojan. The group has been using a new version of its malware for over a year, different from the previous one seen in previous attacks, as documented by [Kaspersky](https://securelist.com/el-machete/66108/) and [Cylance](https://threatvector.cylance.com/en_us/home/el-machete-malware-attacks-cut-through-latam.html) in 2014 and 2017, respectively.

"The malware described by Kaspersky has many similarities to what we have seen this year. The malware that we describe in our paper is a new version and we are pretty certain that we are not talking about copycats here - it is indeed the same group."

This new software is highly advanced and clearly developed either in China or Russia, although the Russians are being outpaced by the Chinese in their effort to lock down the country and at least electronically, turn it into a wholly owned subsidiary of the Chinese government.

"Previous versions of Machete had similar capabilities for stealing information and similar infrastructure, but differences in how the malware was delivered, in the cyber code and also in the targets. The previous targest were trying to steal bank accounts, troop movements and capabilities. The new efforts are more focused on finding and extracting the country’s vast wealth in money and resources. It seems that previous versions of Machete were not so targeted in Latin America as they are now," they added.



Image: ESET

Machete's recent campaign is still active to this day, and the hackers have been very successful, exfiltrating gigabytes of confidential files each week.

**STATE-SPONSORED ATTACK**

But while the group has left a trail of amateur hacks all over the world since 2010, researchers are no closer now to identifying who is behind the Machete group. In 2014, Kaspersky said Machete members appear to be Spanish-speaking individuals.

But Spanish-speaking nation-state hacker groups have not been seen targeting these types of assets before. It is clear they have either been adopted or incentivized to use their networks to serve a State agency of some sort. The methods follow a procedure, and are less stylized as though individual hackers are running the operation. Most are cybercrime-focused. This makes it difficult to distinguish between private information thieves selling it to the highest bidder, or an actual State cyber warrior team trying to conquer the entire western hemisphere.

**The Protection Racket**

It is defined as “a situation in which a criminal group demands money from a store owner, company, etc. in exchange for agreeing not to harm them”

It is a game as old as the sword. In ancient times, lords and vassals enjoyed wealth and pleasures from beyond hell, because they had the swords. They had men who enjoyed killing. They were sexually aroused by inflicting pain on the young and the innocent. There was no system of right and wrong for them. There was only hunter and prey.

The power went up the ladder to the crown, because it was expected. And when victory was achieved, the boredom would soon set in. When the taxes were not enough to buy the things or the lands they wanted, they resorted to selling their protection.

It’s an easy concept, actually. The vassals would protect the serfs. The serfs would grow the food and provide the wenches. But power does not come from controlling serfs. It comes from controlling other vassals. It comes from controlling other kings. This is not done through war, but through threats of utter destruction, torture, and of course through spying.

Powerful people, as they suppose, these days control judgment, access to capital, weapons, and legislation. When a desired judgment is required from a judge with a robe and a gavel, then the criminal needs to be able to compromise that judge. They kidnap their child and threaten harm if they tell or if they judge against them. They loan them money, and threaten to call the loan due, or pay off their gambling debt, or they film them touching small children or hurting animals, or having sex with someone. Then they apply the pressure.

But the most common method of compromise in modern times is threatening the reputation of the person who needs to be controlled. There is nothing more dangerous that a man or a company that has nothing to lose, but everyone has something to lose. In the information age, a CEO can lose their job over the publication of something they said 20 years ago.

It is all in control of the deep state and their small handful of tech giants and media moguls. A famous actor, a supreme court justice, and even a president can be attacked with recordings from decades ago. The more terrible the information, the stronger the control. Even Jesus had enemies.

The one thing to Global Syndicate has used for millennia to control their lieutenants and generals is the oath and covenant of deviant sex. Homosexual rituals, child molestation, beastiality, and even snuff sex are among the tools that they have used to coerce their soldiers to silence and obedience. They even require a suicide pact, should they eventually be caught or exposed. All faithful soldier knows the doorway to the dark hell that awaits them in exchange for the life of power and luxury that was provided to them by the Global Syndicate. It is the required method of death for the dark lord who owns their souls.

Let’s take the most recent case of Jeffrey Epstein.

A woman who accused Jeffrey Epstein of controlling her and paying her to be a young teenage sex slave said one of the financier's associates had instructed her to have sex with at least a half-dozen prominent men, according to a court filing unsealed on Friday in a civil lawsuit.

The claim by Virginia Giuffre came in a deposition that was included among roughly 2,000 pages of documents related to her defamation lawsuit against Ghislaine Maxwell, the associate whom Giuffre has said helped Epstein procure girls for sex. You’ll recall that Ghislaine called her a liar in public for testifying against her and Epstein in Florida.

Ghislaine has dropped off the public grid and has been totally unavailable for comment by anyone. She has now become the latest loose end, and reportedly is running for her life at this very moment. The same goes for Virginia, and hundreds of other young female victims of the Epstein empire of sexual blackmail.

Epstein has pleaded not guilty to charges of sex trafficking involving dozens of underage girls as young as 14, from at least 2002 to 2005. He was being held in a Manhattan jail, until the second and ultimately successful attempt on his life early Saturday morning. As predicted on this radio program, Epstein was silenced. There was nothing with which he could hang himself in his cell. Not a bedsheet, belt, or cord of any kind. His surveillance camera was turned off. The guard was removed, and the assassin was allowed to enter the cell. No signs of struggle were reported. Unlike the previous attempt, when the guard arrived too early, the assassin was able to complete the job this time.

Ghislaine Maxwell has not been criminally charged, but it doesn’t matter at this point. The Giuffre deposition and the other documents were released after a federal appeals court in Manhattan rejected Maxwell's bid to keep them under seal. Her words and the many thousands of images, tapes, and documents were unsealed so the DOJ now has everything it needs to prosecute her.

The sad thing is that they could have had saved hundreds of young girls from this life-altering horror if the Syndicate’s compromised federal judge had not sealed the files so no one could see them.

Giuffre claimed in a May 3, 2016, deposition that Maxwell directed her to have sex with people including former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, modeling agent Jean Luc Brunel and financier Glenn Dubin.

The names of these powerful men were already in the files, the films, the pictures, and the flight logs. She was just one of hundreds of greedy young coeds, but Giuffre was a young teenager at the time. She was powerless and voiceless in her situation. She was making money, but she was losing her soul as each day passed in her captivity.

Many others were younger than that. You never heard anything in the public, because the girls made extremely good money. They were promised that their daughters would get modeling jobs, movie parts, and be provided with wealth and glamour. Tens of thousands of mothers every day sexualize their tiny daughters in beauty contests and photo shoots all over the world in hopes of living off the fame and fortune of their children. Hollywood is fueled with more human flesh than you can image, using this very method of recruitment.

And when the rich and powerful men come too touch them or worse, their mothers tell them it will only hurt for a little while. This is what movie stars do. You’re just playing a part. Just read the lines, baby, and be a nice girl to the man with the money.

None of the four men has been criminally charged yet in connection with Epstein. Richardson, Mitchell and Dubin, or their respective representatives, all said the various allegations against them were false. Even if the pictures don’t lie, they know it is just a matter of money and another compromised Syndicate judge to seal the documents again and let the loose ends be cleaned up, one by one. All of these girls, who are now damaged adults from surviving the abuse, are now in fear for their lives.

A spokeswoman for Richardson said the former governor had never met Giuffre. "These allegations and inferences are completely false. To be clear, said the professional liar, “in Governor Richardson's limited interactions with Mr. Epstein, he never saw him in the presence of young or underage girls."

Mr. Mitchell said in a written statement: "The allegation contained in the released documents is false. I have never met, spoken with or had any contact with Ms. Giuffre."

A spokeswoman for Dubin said he was "outraged" by the unsealed allegations, which he considered "demonstrably false and defamatory," and said that he had flight records and other evidence that "definitively" disproved them. A wealthy person always has records showing they were somewhere else, when they are doing something illegal.

Keep in mind that the arrest of Epstein exposes not only powerful American men, it also exposes members of the British Crown. They are indeed outraged that these records have been unsealed. How outraged were they?

Epstein was held in a single man cell under close watch. He is the most powerful and valuable arrest since Osama Bin Laden. And, like him, Epstein could not be allowed to live to reveal anything. Even taking fifth amendment protection would incriminate powerful people all the way to former Presidents, British and Arab princes, police, legislators, judges, and military leaders.

This weekend, they assassinated Jeffrey Epstein in his cell.

After the New York Post captured photos of a draped body, allegedly that of Epstein's, being wheeled into the hospital, the online rumor mill immediately swung into hyperdrive, with distinguished journalists like NYT editorial board member Paul Krugman and many others questioning the official narrative of what happened.

By the way, conspiracies that the picture of Epstein being wheeled on a gurney is actually that of Anthony Bourdaine are false. The 61-year-old host of CNN's Anthony Bourdain hanged himself in the bathroom of a room at Le Chambard hotel in Kaysersberg, a village in the Alsace region of France. The picture of Epstein’s body is on a gurney with New York City first responders following resuscitation procedures while walking next to the gurney with signs all around him consistent with a hospital in New York not France.



If we were living in a paranoid fantasy universe, I would be very suspicious about the Epstein suicide, even about whether it was really suicide. And you know what? The Epstein case itself shows that we \*are\* kind of living in a paranoid fantasy universe. Many are questioning whether he is even dead, or just spirited away to freedom, or worse, to a torture chamber where he can really be questioned.

Even attorney general William Barr is questioning the official narrative that he committed suicide while on, or recently on, suicide watch.. He has ordered an investigation.

“I was appalled to learn that Jeffrey Epstein was found dead early this morning from an apparent suicide while in federal custody. Mr. Epstein’s death raises serious questions that must be answered,” Barr said in a statement.

“In addition to the FBI’s investigation, I have consulted with the Inspector General who is opening an investigation into the circumstances of Mr. Epstein’s death,” he added.

Too late, General Barr. The prints have been wiped. The tapes have been deleted. The texts and emails are being deleted as we speak. It never happened. Jeffrey Epstein never existed.

This is a frustrating and irreversible turn of events. Justice for the allegedly enslaved girls and accountability for the monsters who abused them just died with Jeffrey Epstein.

It is certainly getting harder for people to say they’re just conspiracy theories.

[](https://t.co/JkCa94YSh0)

Whatever happened, as one reporter points out, the jail is covered in security cameras that run and record 24 hours a day, so the truth of what happened should come out...at least in theory. I promise all tapes filming the careful and silent assassination of Epstein are gone forever.

Here are some of the comments from people about this event.

Now, will the investigation of Epstein's suicide at least temporarily overshadow the investigation that might have revealed the names of all of his clientele (including those that traveled with him on the Lolita Express?

Pack it up boys, no reason we'll need this stuff any more

A fruitless 2 year investigation of a couple of lazy ass incompetent 3 AM jail guards demanded by Twitter conspiracy kooks will be a dandy cover for shutting down the current Epstein investigation and entombing all the evidence

Anne Coulter has some thoughts...

“You forgot the Masons and Bilderbergs. The Royal family can't even stop Fleet Street from mocking them on a daily basis, and the Clintons couldn't beat Trump with the entire media's help. [https://twitter.com/derekahunter/status/1160200828495552513 …](https://t.co/EUsttOmuQO)

[Jeffrey Epstein is dead. You don't want to cross the Clintons or the Royal Family, and you sure as hell don't want to cross both. You never want to make it a race to see who can get to you first.”](https://twitter.com/derekahunter/status/1160200828495552513%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

Earlier we noted that WSJ reporter Ted Mann questioned how the guards waited until 7:30 am to check up on Epstein, which seems surprisingly lax for a high-profile prisoner who is on suicide watch. He's not the only one who wants to know more about these supposedly 'incompetent' guards.

How was Epstein not on the most intensive suicide watch protocol available???

And John McAfee, of all people, was one of the first to put all the pieces together.

I feel for Epstein's family, but an advantage of his "suicide" is: there is no case, and what might have been revealed at trial goes back into a closet, never to be revealed. The result: panicked politicians can now breathe easily and comfortably return to ravaging we the people. On a side note, the first Epstein suicide parody account has already surfaced...

So, was did Epstein use his MacGuyver-like ingenuity to spare himself from what would likely have been a 'from now on' jail sentence and the brutality that would have come with it (pedophiles are notoriously treated very poorly in jail). Whatever happened, the FBI is reportedly investigating.

I feel for Epstein's family, but an advantage of his "suicide" is: there is no case, and what might have been revealed at trial goes back into a closet, never to be revealed. The result: panicked politicians can now breathe easily and comfortably return to ravaging we the people.

Or was Epstein 'Vince Foster-ed' by a collective of powerful individuals whom he and his harem had serviced and/or blackmailed over the years?

One thing all experts are saying. The chances of a person in a single-man cell under suicide watch actually committing suicide are absolutely zero.

**The Grand Division: Killing America**

The most recent presidential debate has illustrated that Democrats are trying desperately to define their identity in the era of President Trump. Nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than on the topic of trade policy, where some Democrats reluctantly find themselves in agreement with the president.

Democrats have traditionally resisted the idea of free trade in recent decades, but with the election of President Trump, many Republican legislators are now skeptical as well.

On the left, Democratic presidential candidates Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., have historically been against free trade agreements that don’t put America’s interests first, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and for revitalizing American manufacturing.

On the right, former presidential candidate Pat Buchanan and current President Donald Trump have historically been against blanket free trade as well, stressing the need for fair trade while emphasizing the importance of a robust American manufacturing sector. President Trump famously canceled TPP on day one of his presidency.

Consistent with his opposition to globalist, anti-competitive trade deals, President Trump moved early on to protect American companies in the washer industry, detailing import tariffs as high as 50 percent. This was in response to a surge in washing machine imports between 2012 and 2016 that resulted in a multimillion-dollar market share losses for domestic companies like Whirlpool.

Consequently, in May 2017, Whirlpool, an American manufacturer, filed a petition with the bipartisan U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to protest practices by South Korean-based Samsung and LG, which were shifting production to foreign countries not covered by previous legislative actions to combat unfair trade practices. President Trump agreed with the petition and imposed safeguard measures in January 2018 to create a level playing field and make trade fair for the washer industry.

The result? Despite globalist studies arguing that safeguards slow economic growth and harm the economy, the reality of the situation is anything but. Samsung and LG both announced plans to build big factories in South Carolina and Tennessee, which ultimately resulted in the creation of 16,000 American jobs.

On top of that, Whirlpool added another 200 U.S. jobs despite $250 million worth of increasing costs for raw materials such as steel and resin. This allowed our U.S. Treasury to collect an additional $82 million in import duties, highlighting the fact that only American workers pay taxes to America.

Whirlpool employs 22,000 U.S. employees overall and 15,000 in manufacturing. Eighty percent of the products Whirlpool sells in American are assembled in America in one of its nine domestic facilities. The appliance giant is redesigning their product line. They are expanding, automating, modernizing, and yes, they are getting better to recapture their lead in the industry. This is exactly was free enterprise is all about, and the corporations behind Whirlpool should be commended for their investment and ingenuity.

President Trump knows that keeping American companies profitable is vital to America’s prosperity. Whirlpool has invested $1.4 billion in domestic plants since 2010, which would not have happened had we not put a priority on protecting homegrown companies from predatory foreign competitors, of which there is never a shortage.

The message is clear. Manufacturing stimulates economic growth more than any other industry. China smartly focused on manufacturing to transform itself from a third-world nation to the world’s second-largest economy.

The mass loss of manufacturing jobs is why we are on our way to going from the world’s largest economy to the world’s second-largest economy. This all didn’t just happen out of the blue for no reason. It all happened because we practiced free trade with a protectionist China and lost our focus on manufacturing.

Fortunately, many Democrats agree we need to be more protective of our domestic industries. In March 2018, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said President Trump deserved “a big pat on the back” in a speech on the Senate floor regarding a White House plan to apply $50 billion in tariffs on China. Schumer also said Trump is “doing the right thing when it comes to China” as “we have watched China rapaciously take advantage of America: of American jobs, of American workers, and of American intellectual property.”

Sen. Elizabeth Warren had this to say on trade: “What I’d like to see us do is rethink all of our trade policy. And, I have to say, when President Trump says he’s putting tariffs on the table, I think tariffs are one part of reworking our trade policy overall.”

On June 1, 2018, Sen. Bernie Sanders said, “I strongly support imposing stiff penalties on countries like China, Russia, South Korea, and Vietnam to prevent them from illegally dumping steel and aluminum into the U.S. and throughout the world.”

The U.S. should not be seen as a place for China and other foreign countries to dump cheap and state-subsidized products to maintain the desired market share here. America is not some playground for foreign producers eager to fulfill their predatory and injurious economic strategies.

We made a mistake in granting Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to China in 1980. It is time that we reserve it for our own nation. America first.

**Chinese May Dump Securities**

The one thing that can collapse a country faster than anything is lack of liquidity. No cash on hand. What good does it do for you to have a portfolio full of high value stocks, if you cannot pay your rent? Exactly. But, what happens in a fire sale?

The vultures move in. They buy everything you have to sell for as little as you can get. Did you ever see the movie Trading Places? What Murphy and Ackroyd did to the orange juice futures, is exactly what Trump is about to do to the Chinese.

Things started moving very rapidly after President Trump ratcheted up trade friction with China on August 1 by announcing 10% tariffs on the remaining roughly US$300bn of imports from China to the US.

After markets first plunged realizing that the trade war was going to continue well into 2020 - and likely beyond the next presidential election - China initially responded by instructing SOEs to suspend imports of US agricultural products and then allowing the CNY to devalue past the 7.00 level for the first time since 2008, as the trade war became a currency war.

Almost immediately, in response to the CNY devaluation, the US Treasury designated China a currency manipulator for the first time in 25 years under section 3004 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988; the escalation remains open ended with policy makers indicating the potential for further retaliation, although no further tariff or non-tariff actions have yet been specified.

Meanwhile, China's currency devaluation has resulted in a negative feedback loop, in which higher tariffs lead to more yuan devaluation, leading to even higher tariffs, and even more devaluation, and so on, until some exogenous events breaks this cycle.

It is therefore not at all surprising that markets moved quickly to price in the ratcheting up of US/China trade tension, with the past 5 days resulting in the most violent moves in the stock market this year, with the biggest one day drop of 2019 followed by the most rapid three day rebound YTD. According to an FT analysis, the S&P 500 on Friday morning fell as much as 1.2%, marking the eighth straight session the index traded in an intraday range of more than 1 percentage point. It was the longest streak since a 29-day run that ended on January 10, when the market was convulsed by bouts of sharp selling and subsequent buying.

Yet while US stocks closed the week barely changed, down just 0.5% since last Friday's close, China was less lucky and in just four trading days following the tariff announcement, Chinese offshore equities tumbled over 6%, Hong Kong equities dropped nearly to the same extent and the regional index fell 5.5%. The relative performance of the other regional markets was in line with their fundamental exposure to the trade factor, with the north Asian markets of Korea and Taiwan falling 3-5%, Australia (which is sensitive to China through commodity exports) declining 4%, and so on, with the ASEAN markets generally giving back 2-3%.

Trade concerns also cascaded through the currency markets, and the focal move was the 2% CNY weakening through the 7.0 mark for the first time in 11 years, which subsequently prompted the US Treasury to designate China a currency manipulator. The Korean won and Indonesian rupiah also declined over 2%, reflecting high macro sensitivity and carry-trade positioning unwind, respectively. The only regional currency to strengthen was the Thai baht.

Finally, as a demonstration of the market’s now dismal view on trade relations, Goldman's trade deal odds barometer (which was introduced less than two months ago) declined to pricing just a 12% probability of a trade deal compared with the recent post-G20 peak of 25%.

Even 12% may be optimistic, because as Bloomberg reports this morning, now that the trade war has shifted to a currency war, several former Chinese central bankers warned Saturday that there is no end in sight to the conflict between the world's leading superpowers.

Chen Yuan, former deputy governor of the PBOC, said that the U.S.’s labeling of China as a currency manipulator “signifies the trade war is evolving into a financial war and a currency war,” and policy makers must prepare for long-term conflicts.

The U.S. currency-manipulation charge is part of its trade-war strategy, and it’ll impact China “more deeply and extensively” than the trade differences, Chen said Saturday. While China should try to avoid further expanding the disputes, policy makers must be prepared for long-lasting conflict with the U.S. over the currency.

And in a striking warning from the former central banker, he effectively admitted that dumping US Treasuries is certainly a possible retaliation: “The U.S. believes, in a geopolitical point of view, it’s being contained by China with China’s holding of its sovereign bonds,” Chen said,. “That means the U.S. is not completely without weakness.”

He also said that China should work to increase the use of the yuan in global trade such as the purchase of commodities.

Speaking at the same venue - the China Finance 40 meeting in Yichun, Heilongjiang - former PBOC Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said that conflicts with the U.S. could expand from the trade front into other areas, including politics, military and technology. He called for efforts to improve the yuan’s global role to deal with the challenges of a dollar-denominated financial system. Of course, the conflict that is most concerning is the military one. Luckily, that barrier has not been crossed yet, but it is only a matter of time before the US and China clash somewhere in the South China Sea with deadly consequences.

Sure enough, one of the other PBOC officials at the meeting signaled that tensions with the U.S. could increase. Zhu Jun, director of the PBOC’s international department, said “more ensuing measures are likely coming.” She didn’t elaborate.

Finally, ensuing that "more measures are coming", the Communist Party’s flagship newspaper People’s Daily said in a commentary Saturday that the U.S. move is an "appalling" act to gain an advantage during trade negotiations and is doomed to fail.

Oh yes, and speaking of more devaluation - with Citi, JPM and SocGen now expecting the yuan to tumble to 7.35 or lower - Yu Yongding, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said in Yichun, said that while markets haven’t reacted too strongly to the weakening yuan this week, it is possible that "the yuan could weaken further on unexpected shocks in the future."

Now, let me paint a full picture for you. Obama mortgaged more than 700 million acres of American territory in exchange for $10 trillion in debt financing. For what? To build his Islamic State and to weaken and destroy America. That much we know. China and the establishment Congress and Senate agreed to the terms. He even released hundreds of billions of dollars to Iran, which US Banks were holding and earning interest from. He even shipped them in January of 2016 a large portion of the cash the CIA had in warehouses in Brussels normally used to bribe warlords or to fund ISIS operations. It wasn’t discovered until June of that year and unwillingly reported by the Fake Stream News.

Enter, President Trump. He begins the daunting task of dismantling Obama’s Islamic State and correcting the crippling trade deficit with China. This is where the true genius come in. I mean it. True genius. The President placed tariffs against Chinese goods coming into the US market unless China lowers or eliminates its tariffs on American goods sold in China. The prices go up on Chinese government subsidized goods, which makes other country’s products, like Vietnam and South America, more competitive.

China fights back by putting tariffs on American farm products. But, China’s economy begins sucking the life out of the government. There are simply too many people that have been too successful for too long. They want everything, and they want it now. The communist form of government is running up against the inner human will to be free and to have liberty.

China lowers its currency a stunning 8% to attract more foreign investment and purchases in retaliation. Within days, the lack of buying power for 1.2 billion Chinese is felt. How would you feel if prices went up by 8% overnight, just because the President said so?

But the Chinese own something that is very valuable. They own trillions in US debt. We are making interest payments to them on that debt, in dollars. They are ready to dump those debt securities on the world market, so they can get cash back into their choking economy.

That, earth explorers would normally scare the hell out of Americans. But, this is where the genius comes in. If China dumps the securities, the price will be heavily discounted. The most powerful buyer on earth for those heavily discounted securities is America. We buy back our own debt at 30-40 cents on the dollar. China loses trillions. The American debt gets cut by 60-70%, and the American tax burden for interest on the Obama debt disappears. Taxes begin paying back the debt at record rates, and the country become debt free, just like nearly all of Donald Trump’s businesses.

 China loses big. America wins bigly.

**America the Retired**

Baby boomers, ages 55-75, have been migrating to Southern states for the past 10 years for their retirement years. They sell their high-equity properties in the north and pay cash for comfortable spreads with breathtaking views in the south. They leave behind crime, pollution, and of course, taxes.

Now a new study shows wealthy Generation X, ages 40-54, are doing much of the same. Most of them are not ready for retirement yet. They are moving themselves and their businesses south. SmartAsset.com, a financial technology company that operates a website that offers financial advice, published a new study reveals how wealthy Gen X-ers are moving to Southern states.

According to the study, six of the top ten states where wealthy Gen X-ers are moving to the South, with Washington as the outlier. Northeast has become widely unpopular with wealthy Gen X-ers. Most of the outflow is coming from Northeast states, four of which are New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York.

To determine the relocation of rich Gen X-ers, SmartAsset examined inflow and outflow data of people ages 35 to 54 with adjusted gross incomes of at least $100,000.

Top 5 States For Inflows:

1. Florida

More rich Generation Xers are headed to Florida than to any other state in our study. From 2015 to 2016, the Sunshine State welcomed 20,208 people between the ages of 35 and 54 who earn $100,000 and above. No income tax. No snow. And financial opportunities they never had in the Northeast. Our data shows that 11,110 moved out of the state within that same time period. This resulted in a total net inflow of 9,098 Generation Xers to Florida.

2. Texas

Texas ranks as the second most popular spot to which wealthy Gen Xers are moving. Though Texas had a lower net inflow than Florida, at 22,682 the total number of wealthy Generation Xers who moved into Texas was higher than the number who moved into Florida. I was down there from May to October last year and I can tell you that Texas is absolutely rocking with money. The city of Plano is entirely new. New roads, new buildings, and new shopping centers. Billions upon billions of dollars have been spent to meet the demand for goods and services in Texas. Our data shows that 16,504 people between the ages 35 and 54 with adjusted gross incomes of $100,000 and above left Texas during that time span, resulting in a net inflow of 6,178 people.

3. North Carolina

North Carolina ranks third on our list of states where rich Generation Xers are moving, with a net inflow of 2,622 people from 2015 to 2016, which is roughly 29% of the net inflow of our top-ranking state, Florida. The Charlotte metro is a cyber and banking hub that is drawing professionals from as far away as Silicon Valley and New York. Not much manufacturing is happening, which is unfortunate, but the economy is doing well, and real estate is the hottest market in the USA right now, rising at a healthy 12.5% in value every year. In total, 10,299 wealthy people aged 35 to 54 moved to the Tar Heel State during that time span, and 7,677 moved away.

4. Washington

Washington State is the only state in the top five that's not in the South. The Pacific Northwestern state welcomed an inflow of 8,905 rich Gen Xers from 2015 to 2016. During that time period, 6,591 individuals between the ages of 35 and 54 moved out of the state. I highly doubt these numbers, because I have friends who live there. People retire there for the scenery and the wine. The State has high taxes, high crime, and is absolutely flooded with Liberals. My sources tell me that there may be people moving in, but the money is moving out. This resulted in a net inflow of 2,314 people, making Washington State the fourth-most popular state to which wealthy Generation Xers are moving. In my estimation, these are people leaving California. California is falling like a chunk of concrete to the depths of the sea.

5. South Carolina

With a net inflow of almost 500 people less than its northern neighbor, South Carolina saw a net inflow of 2,142 rich Generation Xers from 2015 to 2016. According to our data, 5,291 people moved into the state. Another 3,149 individuals between the ages of 35-54 and with an AGI of at least $100,000 moved away. There are two things about South Carolina that make it a huge winner for me. Last year’s numbers are nothing compared to this year’s numbers. Manufacturing is absolutely exploding in South Carolina. Engineering services, medical, educational, and construction is on an explosive growth curve that pound for pound beats any State in the country. If you are not a banker or a hacker, but want to make good money and own a nice house in a stunning part of the country full of mountains, lakes, trees, and of course the Clemson Tigers, then head to South Carolina.

**Armed Highway Robbery with a Badge**

Contributed to by Chris Calton via The Mises Institute,

In 1984, as part of Ronald Reagan’s renewed war on drugs, the Drug Enforcement Administration launched Operation Pipeline. This program was inspired by the strategies employed by state troopers in New Mexico who, after pulling somebody over, asked specific questions designed to determine whether the driver might be a drug trafficker. Combined with the financial incentives of federal grants for drug enforcement and civil asset forfeiture laws, state and local police had strong new incentives to find reasons to stop vehicles and search for drugs. Operation Pipeline was meant, in part, to train officers how to legally harass drivers.

The problem, of course, was the pesky Fourth Amendment, which explicitly protects Americans from warrantless searches without probable cause. The “probable cause” requirement for warrantless searches is conspicuously open to interpretation, but it imposed important constraints on police harassment by placing the burden of proof on the officer to produce specific facts to justify his suspicion.

Driving while black is a probable cause. Driving alone in an expensive sports car or SUV is a probable cause. Driving after midnight is a probable cause. Looking like a vehicle involved in a crime is a probable cause. Speeding, having a tail light out, or driving without headlights on is a probable cause for search and seizure.

In 1968, however, the Supreme Court granted the first exemption to this constraint by establishing the “stop-and-frisk” rule. In Terry v. Ohio, the Court ruled that as long as a “reasonably prudent man” would believe that a suspect might be armed, the burden of proof to show probable cause is unnecessary.

The ruling was justified out of concern for officer safety, but it paved the way for Operation Pipeline sixteen years later. The shift from “probable cause” to “reasonable suspicion,” a criterion officers could more easily meet in court, was a sufficient precedent for strategically designed traffic-stop questions to establish legally valid suspicion for vehicle drug searches. Theoretically, the courts could still strike the practice down as unconstitutional, but the Terry case proved this unlikely.

Still, there were many constitutional questions for the Supreme Court to work out. Unsurprisingly, the court served as “loyal foot soldiers” in the Drug war, as Justice Stevens put it, by sanctioning virtually every tactic the police invented, no matter how egregiously it violated civil liberties.

The first important ruling on roadway privacy came in 1991. In Florida v. Bostick, two officers boarded a Greyhound bus in Fort Lauderdale and woke up a sleeping passenger named Terrance Bostick. When the officers asked permission to search Bostick’s bags, he complied, despite possessing a pound of cocaine. However, when Bostick went to court, his attorney’s argued that the police officers had neither probable cause nor reasonable suspicion to justify the search of Bostick’s luggage, and therefore the cocaine should be inadmissible in court.

Florida’s State Supreme Court ruled in Bostick’s favor, claiming that bus searches are inherently unconstitutional because the police did not allow passengers to leave the bus during the raid. The case went to the US Supreme Court who reversed the decision, claiming that even though the officers were effectively holding Bostick and other passengers hostage, “a reasonable person” would have felt perfectly comfortable denying armed police officers the right to search his luggage. Really? Would you? What if you didn’t have cocaine, but knew you had $2,000 in cash you were living on while traveling, and you knew the cops would take it from you?

With this ruling, the loose “reasonable suspicion” requirement expanded officer prerogative in any situation in which they could show that their searches were voluntary. This changed the way officers were trained to give orders. Like contestants on Jeopardy, officers were taught to give their orders in the form of a question— “Will you put your hands against the wall while we search you?” for example. The courts made this easier by interpreting silence as consent, establishing “consent searches” as standard and legal police practices.

Although Florida v. Bostick took place on a bus as part of highway monitoring activities, the ruling removed critical legal boundaries for traffic stops. This came five years later in the case Whren v. United States. After pulling Michael Whren over, a police officer arrested him for possession of crack cocaine. By the officer’s own admission, he pulled Whren over because he suspected him of possessing drugs, but officially, the stop was justified because Whren failed to use his turn signal. The defense argued that the Fourth Amendment prohibited the use of a minor traffic violation as a pretext for a drug search, so the drugs should be inadmissible in court.

The Supreme Court unanimously upheld Whren’s conviction, though, establishing two important precedents. First, they declared that the officer’s intentions are irrelevant as long as there are any objective criteria that could justify the traffic stop — and given the endless list of traffic laws, this ruling effectively grants officers unlimited discretion in pulling drivers over. Second, the decision settled the legal debate over “pretext stops,” the use of minor traffic violations as a pretext for vehicle drug searches.

Even after the Whren ruling, civilians still theoretically have the right to refuse searches, based on the absurd notion that a “reasonable person” would feel free to deny an officer’s request, as established by Bostick. A few months after Whren, though, the Ohio court implicitly rejected the Bostick ruling. After Robert Robinette was pulled over for speeding, he consented to a search of his vehicle— illustrating the tactics of both pretext stops and consent searches in the Drug War.

When officers discovered a small amount of cannabis and a single amphetamine pill, they arrested Robinette. Because Ohio v. Robinette reached the state court prior to the final Whren ruling, the pretext stop controversy was still an open question, which made the case viable. But what made the Robinette case important was that the Ohio court pushed back against the Bostick argument by stipulating that for a reasonable person to feel comfortable denying consent to a search, the officers had to inform the driver that they had the right to refuse. It was this stipulation that took Robinette to the higher court, at which point SCOTUS overturned the ruling for being “unrealistic.”

According to SCOTUS, it is more realistic for an untrained civilian to know their rights, which are apparently subject to constant change, than it is for professional police officers to inform drivers of their rights to refuse a search. Taking these expectations to a new extreme, the 2001 case Atwater v. Lago Vista ruled that officers had the legal right to arrest drivers who violated misdemeanor traffic stops, even if the punishment for the violation was a fine, rather than jail time. With this ruling, the court’s imaginary “reasonable person” would presumably know that if they refused to consent to a drug search, they faced the risk of being handcuffed for whatever petty infraction got them pulled over. None of this matters in the twisted logic of the criminal justice system, of course.

To complete the remarkable expansion of highway monitoring prerogatives, the 2004 case Illinois v Caballes ruled that it did not legally constitute a search, regardless of consent or pretext, for officers to walk drug-sniffing dogs around a person’s vehicle. Given the precedents established in the previous cases, it may seem that this ruling added no discretionary power the police did not already possess, but this is not quite true. Checkpoints are usually justified as searching for drunk drivers, but they have also been established to randomly verify that drivers have valid licenses, vehicle registrations, and car insurance.

In some cases, as James Bovard has noted, the police had no qualms admitting that the true reason for the checkpoints was random drug searches. But sobriety checkpoints fail to meet even the loose requirements of pretext stops, and every now and then, police run into civilians who actually know their rights and refuse to consent to searches. In the Cabellas ruling, the court claimed that drug dogs do not violate the Fourth Amendment, and if the dog signals the presence of drugs, the officers have probable cause to search the vehicle without consent. Even after a recent case has demonstrated that drug-sniffing dogs have a roughly fifty percent accuracy rate, the courts have continued to uphold the practice.

The result is that the police now enjoy unlimited reign in harassing, searching and seizing money and other valuables as they see fit. Motivated by civil forfeiture laws that empower them to confiscate civilian property without charging the victim with a crime, the police have institutionalized the practice of conducting mass road stops as means of searching civilians for property to confiscate (a practice recently curtailed by a SCOTUS ruling, but not eliminated). Highway robbery has been legally sanctioned and encouraged by all branches of the federal government, so that state and local police forces can only accurately be understood is roadway pirates.

Remember, earth explorers. Cash is the currency of crime. If you are caught with cash, you will have it taken from you by the cops, and you will never see it again. So, if you are traveling with cash, you make sure you hide it where no one can find it. There are a variety of websites that sell automobile lock boxes that are out of sight. If you have a stash of cash somewhere, you are a victim looking to happen, and the perpetrator is most likely to be wearing a gun and a badge.

**The Siege of Hong Kong Begins**

The Battle of Hong Kong, also known as the Defense of Hong Kong and the Fall of Hong Kong, was one of the first battles of the Pacific War in World War II. Many of you probably didn’t know that on the same morning as the attack on Pearl Harbor, forces of the Empire of Japan attacked the British Crown colony of Hong Kong. The attack was in violation of international law as Japan had not declared war against the British Empire. The Hong Kong garrison consisted of British, Indian and Canadian units besides Chinese soldiers and conscripts from both within and outside Hong Kong.

That was then. Yesterday, while the world was spun on the dance floor by the Fake Stream News over the assassination of Jeffrey Epstein, mechanized units began rolling into Hong Kong from China. President Xi is in serious serious trouble after attempting to throw out a parachute to stop the free fall of the Chinese economy by devaluing the Yuan. The effect of Trump’s tariffs is devastating the Chinese economy as the mighty dragon of the Chinese people begins to turn on the Communist dictator.

Yes, he is a dictator. Remember, there are no more elections in China. The people voted Mr. Xi into permanent office until he dies. Negotiations between the US and China are falling apart as Mr. Xi believed he could muscle America into submission with cutbacks in Chinese purchases of American goods. Wrong. The truth is that the Chinese need American purchases far worse than America needs Chinese to buy our stuff. They already don’t buy much anything from America. That is the whole reason why the trade deficit exists in the first place.

American goods will sell anywhere, as long as they are priced on a level playing field, because they are the best right up there with Russian goods. The Communist Chinese have no choice but to reach out to Tibet, Venezuela and other weak nations to strip them of their natural resources to feed the Chinese people. Well, President Trump sees this and has moved to choke off the giant while he is weak. In other words, pick on someone your own size.

Protesters in Hong Kong ended their overnight siege of police headquarters peacefully yesterday, disappointed that their demands for the territory's leader to formally withdraw a contentious extradition bill and police to apologize for heavy handed tactics have gone unmet. The blockade lasted more than 15 hours, according to Reuters.

By daybreak, police had cleared the streets of barriers set up by protesters to snarl traffic in the Asian financial center and only a few groups in the mostly youthful crowd remained. Many slept outside the legislature.

Traffic was again smooth on a major thoroughfare through the government's central complex as the protest movement regrouped to consider next moves. Police said nine female and four male staffers were hospitalized "with considerable delay" during the blockade. The police statement did not say whether they were injured in clashes or had otherwise become unwell.

Around police headquarters, masked and helmeted protesters covered surveillance cameras with masking tape and lashed barriers together with nylon cable ties. They threw eggs at the building and drew graffiti on the walls. Protesters also "splashed oil" and targeted police officers' eyes with laser pointers, according to the police.

Hong Kong has been rocked by major protests for the past two weeks over legislative proposals that many view as eroding the territory's judicial independence and, more broadly, as a sign of Chinese government efforts to chip away at the city's freedoms.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam indefinitely suspended debate on the bills a week ago, making it likely they would die. But protesters are demanding that she formally withdraw the proposed changes to the extradition laws, which would expand the scope of criminal suspect transfers to include mainland China, Taiwan and Macau. Some also want Lam to resign.

The peaceful ending to the last two days of protests drew a sigh of relief in the city of 7.4 million people, after police unleashed tear gas and rubber bullets last week in violent clashes that left dozens injured on both sides.

Since the confrontations June 12, police have eased their approach, hoping to avoid a replay of 2014 protests, when officers unleashed 87 rounds of tear gas at protesters in the same location as the current protests. When the smoke from that response cleared, bigger crowds returned, angrier than before, and didn't leave for nearly three months.

The Communist Party under Chinese President Xi Jinping has been pushing ever more aggressively to quiet independent voices in Hong Kong. Beijing has squelched all press reporting on the protests in mainland media and accused foreign forces of stirring up disturbances in Hong Kong. We, of course know what is going on, because I have sources that cannot be blocked. If I put my abilities toward seeing what is going on, there is nothing on this earth that can stop it.

Under the 1992 U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, Beijing needs to abide by its "one country, two systems" promises to respect the territory's legal autonomy for 50 years as promised under the agreement signed with Britain for the 1997 handover.

It has been 22 years since the policy was passed. Times up, according to Mr. Xi.

Yesterday, rather than fight high tech and armed to the teeth Taiwan, the Chinese began rolling into Hong Kong. Hong Kong is defenseless. They have no army. They have no wall. They are a peaceful people living in freedom and liberty to move about the world at will. The city-country is packed with billionaires, banks, technology, and a very high density of highly educated people.

China is moving professional troops and heavy guns into Hong Kong to obliterate any resistance. Their banks will be stripped of trillions of dollars. Resistors will be shot or sent to camps in China, never to be seen again. We are witnessing the total domination of a sovereign people by Communist China not unlike the Soviet Union in the late forties.

**Trump on Vacation**

As though right on queue, Epstein is assassinated, Indian launches a militarized move against Pakistan, and China invades Hong Kong. On schedule, President Trump goes on vacation. President Trump will begin a 17-day August vacation at his private golf club in New Jersey on Friday, according to The Associated Press.

Presidents typically take their vacations in August, and the AP [reported](https://apnews.com/92e4caccb0194dce81c4b91e1dffb66b/Trump-set-to-embark-on-1st-vacation-since-inauguration) Thursday that Trump will be no exception and will begin his first official vacation at the end of this week. The president had been expected to spend an August vacation at his New Jersey club, which he has already visited on weekends.

The House has already left for its August break, and the Senate is expected to cut back an extended two-week session in August and leave this week.

Trump's trip in early August could partially be related to the fact that the government is replacing the heating and cooling system in the White House's West Wing, so everyone who works there will need to leave by the end of the week, according to the AP.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders earlier this week was asked whether Trump would leave Washington this month.

“We’ll continue to keep you guys updated on his August schedule as those details are finalized," she told reporters.

Trump had previously urged GOP senators to cancel their August recess and not leave town until voting to repeal ObamaCare. Senate Republicans failed last week to pass even a "skinny" bill repealing ObamaCare.

GOP senators are [eyeing an early end](http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/344995-senate-gop-eyes-end-to-august-session) to their extended session as leadership works to lock down deals on the few remaining agenda items.

The Senate is currently scheduled to be in Washington through the end of next week, after Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](http://thehill.com/people/mitch-mcconnell) (R-Ky.) announced they would delay the summer break to try catch up on a backlog of nominations and legislation.

That does not mean the President is actually on vacation from the country. His cabinet is going with him. Secretary Bolton knows what China is up to. He knows what North Korea is up to. Attorney General Barr knows that the Deep State got into Epstein’s cell and killed him. Will he find out who did the killing? No. Do they know why? Loose ends.

Many think that because of the effectiveness of the Epstein assassination, the moves by China, and the recent public shootings by Democrat radicals, the President will be on lockdown and in hiding. That is not true. The President is connected and protected, but will be playing golf probably every day, and will be performing his normal 18 hour day making America first. Have no fear in this. President Trump is playing 3-d chess on levels anticipating the moves of the dark side days and sometimes months ahead of them.

**NASA Contest for Moon and Mars**

 While many people out there believe government never stopped going to the Moon or to Mars, NASA has revived an old program. I told the newspaper when I was being interviewed in the 8th grade in Southern California all about my plans to become an asteroid miner. Now, 51 years later, NASA wants to know how I did it. Well, I already wrote about it years ago.

So, it’s your turn now. I am going to leave the NASA links live in the article, so you can submit your ideas directly from my notes. Young minds are being called on to contribute to humanity's future space exploration, as NASA calls for proposals from students for the agency's upcoming [mission to the moon](https://www.space.com/artemis-program.html).

The [Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concept - Academic Linkage](http://rascal.nianet.org/overview/)(RASC-AL) competition is now open and accepting applications from undergraduate and graduate students to develop innovative concepts for NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land humans on the moon in 2024, as well as the [future exploration of Mars](https://www.space.com/4-mars-missions-one-year-from-july-2020-launch.html).

"This year's RASC-AL competition directly addresses the agency's goals for the Artemis program: returning humans to the moon with the intent to prove concepts for sustainably exploring Mars," Douglas Craig, manager of strategic analysis for the Human

Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate's Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) division at NASA headquarters in Washington, [said in a statement](https://www.nasa.gov/feature/wanted-university-students-with-new-concepts-for-moon-and-mars).

The competition spans five themes for aerospace design concepts, including designing a [lunar rover](https://www.space.com/nasa-wants-moon-rover-2023.html) to explore the moon's south pole, developing a Mars mission simulation and planning a short crewed mission to the Red Planet's surface.

The deadline to submit proposals is March 5, 2020. Up to 15 finalist teams will be selected and flown to the RASC-AL forum in Cocoa Beach, Florida, in June. The final two teams will then present their design projects at a major aerospace conference.

"RASC-AL provides an ideal platform for students to do this kind of meaningful, real-world research. It provides us with different perspectives that keep us on our toes, and [it] occasionally has us rethinking our approaches for exploring the wonders of space," Patrick Troutman, human exploration strategic assessments lead at NASA's Langley Research Center, said in the statement.

"Listening to these students present their work and explain their process is always thought-provoking and helps us investigate many unique trade-space scenarios that could be ultimately be included in NASA program planning," he said.

Last year, a team from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez [won](https://www.nasa.gov/feature/students-blaze-new-trails-in-nasa-space-exploration-design-competition) with a vehicle designed to explore the lunar surface.

To enter the competition, participating teams must first notify NASA, by Oct. 15, of their intent to take part by filling out an online [form](https://www.nationalinstituteofaerospace.org/nianet/form26/index.html). Then, teams need to fill out their proposals and a video [submission form](https://www.nationalinstituteofaerospace.org/nianet/form9/index.html) by March 5, 2020.

**Wall Update**

Many of the Leftist’s Fake News Media continuously and falsely claims that no wall is being built. Well,  Workers put in the last panel on a border wall replacement project Friday in San Diego. It is virtually impregnable. The wall measures 18 feet high and is roughly 14 miles long. It stretches from near the ocean to Otay Mountain. The $147 million construction project was approved in 2017 to replace the old border wall that was built with scrap metal in the 1990s.

The total mileage of new border wall constructed on land that did not previously have a barrier built on it at the United States-Mexico border remains unknown, as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has kept the number a mystery.

For months, the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency has touted the construction of a “new border wall system” at the southern border, citing that 38 miles as of March 21 have been built along the nearly 2,000-mile long border.

In a statement provided two months ago, a CBP spokesperson said the 38 miles of newly constructed wall system “provides new capability by replacing ineffective or dilapidated infrastructure, such as Normandy-style barriers designed only to stop vehicles, not people on foot.”

CBP officials also said that the 38 miles of border wall system is part of a 115-mile wall construction project using money from the Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018.

DHS, though, has refused for months to reveal the mileage of border wall that has been constructed at the southern border in areas that did not previously have barriers built. After multiple requests to CBP officials, as well as a high-ranking DHS official, over the last two months, they have yet to confirm the total mileage of new border wall on new land.

Every administration since the early 2000s has replaced border barriers at the U.S.-Mexico border, as the Trump administration has continued doing. The Obama administration, for example, constructed an 18-foot border fence that replaced an existing barrier in the Sunderland Park, New Mexico region.

Meanwhile, large sections of the U.S.-Mexico border have remained open as DHS replaces existing fencing rather than expanding border barriers to new land areas that would otherwise have stayed open. Of course, many of these opens areas are not used by the cartels, because they are vast open desert areas that present a very low chance of survival for people crossing on foot. These are low-priority areas anyway.

In March, National Border Patrol Council President Brandon Judd mislead the public by stating that no new border wall on new land where there were previously no barriers has been built by the Trump administration. To date, Judd said, Trump’s DHS has only renovated existing border fences and constructed border wall that has replaced existing fencing. Fences that were easily climbed or that had damaged sections where people could easily climb through have been replaced with the new impassable design.

This week, a lawyer for the House of Representatives told an Oakland, California judge that less than two miles — 1.7 miles, exactly — of new border wall has been built at the southern border using the $1.57 billion that Congress allocated to the project last year. It reality, more than 100 miles of border wall have been built, and they are completing about 4 miles per day.

At the same time, rumors have circulated that U.S. Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost is expected to leave the agency after only serving officially in the lead position for about a year. DHS did not respond with the total mileage of new border wall on new land in time for this publication.

The system and supply chain has been fully funded and is flowing nicely this summer. Each mile that is completed means manpower can be concentrated on the remaining areas to keep people from invading America uninvited. People from more than 100 different nationalities have been apprehended and sent back. The ones who are gaming the sloppy asylum laws voluntarily check into detention centers. They are not being held against their will. They are free to go any time they wish, and long as it is back to Mexico.

**Boys will be Girls**

Is it right for biological men to directly compete against women in competitive sports … and is it even legal?

That’s the question that the federal Department of Education is now investigating after numerous complaints about transgender athletes at the high school level. At the center of the debate is the state of Connecticut where the Interscholastic Athletic Conference, which governs school sports, has enacted very liberal policies.

According to the CIAC’s handbook, high school students can choose to identify as a member of the opposite biological sex, and then compete in that category. The predictable result? Boys are beating girls in countless events — not just by a bit, but by wide margins that make the events unfair and noncompetitive. Even boys who are not even in the top 10 or 20 in some cases are easily pinning, out running, out jumping, and even knocking out the best girls in the world.

“The result has been domination of girls’ track and field events by biological males, including by one male who couldn’t cut it in male track and then shattered 10 records in female track,” The College Fix reported.

Biology and reality don’t play politics. What students and parents in Connecticut and across the nation are discovering is that there are vast differences in male and female bodies, and those differences don’t magically disappear even if a student identifies as transgender. Male genes allow for a whopping 25% greater muscle density than female genes. Add 20-50% more mitochondria to the muscles, and men have a natural advantage, no matter how feminine they appear.

That’s largely common sense — just take a look at the differences in men and women’s athletic world records. But the Department of Education has now agreed to investigate whether the “any gender goes” policies violate Title IX, a federal law that bans exclusion based on sex. The only sport where the numbers are very similar, assuming they start on gender specific tees, is golf. It is all about club head speed, when it comes to driving distances.

Students and parents are insisting that the lax transgender rules are unfair against female athletes, and also that the Interscholastic Athletic Conference tried to punish anyone who criticized the transgender policy.

“The agency’s Office for Civil Rights in Boston agreed to open an investigation into the allegations by Selina Soule, two unnamed students and their parents, including that they faced retaliation from CIAC and the Glastonbury Board of Education for advocating against the ‘Transgender Participation Policy,’” College Fix said.

“The investigation will probe whether CIAC and the district ‘denied equal athletic benefits and opportunities to girls’ in violation of Title IX.”

There’s strong evidence that this is exactly what happened. In the claim filed by students and parents, a female athlete testified that she was removed from her sprint relay team and denied college athletic recommendations because she had been replaced by transgender biological males on the team.

“Allowing boys to compete in girls’ sports reverses nearly 50 years of advances for women,” pointed out the Alliance Defending Freedom, a group assisting the frustrated students.

“Selina (Soule) and her fellow female athletes train countless hours in hope of the personal satisfaction of victory, an opportunity to participate in state and regional meets, or a chance at a college scholarship,” ADF continued. “But girls competing against boys know the outcome before the race even starts.”

Soule herself has spoken out on the issue.

“I fully support and am happy for these athletes for being true to themselves,” she said, according to The Blaze. “They should have the right to express themselves in school, but athletics have always had extra rules to keep the competition fair.”

That’s a very good point and one that shows just how silly things have become in the name of liberal politics. Seeking a level playing field is fine, but allowing biological men to slant that field in their favor isn’t true equality. It’s gaming the system. It is time to start being honest about reality, instead of living in a land of make-believe. The vast chemical and musculature differences between the sexes are real, which is of course why serious competitive sports were split by gender in the first place.

Transgender people have the same undeniable human rights as everyone else, but that doesn’t mean that identifying as one gender changes physics. Pretending otherwise is rather unscientific, and the results speak for themselves. If you want to have transgender Olympics or collegiate competitions, go right ahead, but at less than 1% of society, it is doubtful that these psychological constructs will have much of an audience.

**Miss Michigan Gets a New Job**

Days after Michigan stripped their Miss World America contender for supporting President Trump, she got a great phone call. Kathy Zhu may no longer be Miss Michigan, but she’s found a new role where speaking her mind is unlikely to be an issue, with President Donald Trump’s re-election campaign.

Zhu, a University of Michigan student and former beauty queen, announced earlier this month that Miss World America was revoking her Miss Michigan title for “offensive, insensitive, and inappropriate content” on her Twitter feed.

“It is honestly sad that the left refers to statistics and facts as racist and insensitive,” said Zhu, who stands by her past tweets. “I am very glad that I now have the opportunity to speak out about the unjust treatment of conservatives.”

Trump’s 2020 campaign announced it has named Zhu to the Women for Trump Coalition Advisory Board, calling her a “patriot who has continued to stand for American values despite being stripped of her crown. I am so excited to now be part of the #WomenforTrump Coalition Advisory Board,” Zhu said. “Let’s get Trump re-elected for 2020.”

Zhu [garnered national attention in 2016](https://nextshark.com/kathy-zhu-donald-trump-all-lives-matter/) when she abandoned Hillary Clinton for Donald Trump, and [last fall when she admitted](https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/ex-abortion-supporters-convert-to-pro-life-after-watching-gosnell-film-i-fi) that the pro-life film Gosnell led her to “finally understand the horrors of loopholes in late term abortions.”

She is definitely much more than a pretty face. And, according to Joe Biden, she is just as smart as a white kid.

**Blackout**

Candace Owens, founder of the Blexit movement, told Fox News on Thursday that white supremacy isn’t what’s harming black America - it’s “liberal supremacy.”

“The purpose for this is to distract black Americans from the fact that Democrat policies are actually harming the inner cities. They don’t want to talk about the illiteracy rates. They don't want to talk about what’s actually harming black America, because let me tell you, it's not white supremacy. It’s liberal supremacy.

“It’s liberal policies that have infested our inner cities and are destroying our youth that are driving up the gun violence. Nobody cares about gun violence when it happens in theses inner-cities. Isn’t that right? You can see 60 people every weekend being slaughtered in Chicago and Baltimore, and no one talks about it, because liberal policies are the problem,” she said.

Owens debated Democrat strategist Monique Pressley about whether President Donald Trump is a racist. Owens said Trump wasn’t considered a racist until he ran for president.

The purpose for this narrative being run 24 hours a day by the Leftist media is to distract black Americans from the fact that Democrat policies are actually harming the inner cities. They don’t want to talk about the illiteracy rates. From California to Baltimore it is all the same.

 They don't want to talk about what’s actually harming black America, because let me tell you, it's not white supremacy. It’s liberal supremacy. It’s liberal policies that have infested our inner cities and are destroying our youth, that are driving up the gun violence. Nobody cares about gun violence when it happens in theses inner-cities.

Not one single main stream studio features the slaughter happening oin a weekly basis. We only hear about the shootings by Democrats nut jobs who shoot up a store or a bar. Isn’t that right? You can see 60 people every weekend being slaughtered in Chicago and Baltimore, and no one talks about it, because liberal policies are the problem.

That is why black people are walking away from Democrats and from liberal policies. If they vote for Donald Trump, they will be voting themselves out of the city plantations operated by Democrats for the last 100 years. They will be voting for their own freedom.

**Arrival**

Directed by Denis Villeneuve, it is the story of a special woman named Louise, played by Amy Adams. 12 large alien ships come to Earth and position themselves around the world hovering just above the ground. They invite humans inside to communicate with them. 12 ships begin to make progress trying to understand the graphical language, but it is Louise’s special ability that makes the breakthrough.

She has the ability to place her consciousness in the future, and remember it in the past, which is her present mortal life. This is why the aliens come to Earth. They are here to save Earth from self destruction by teaching humans their language that transcends time. Humans call it a weapon, but the aliens actually refer to it like a tool.

There are a few remarkable scenes that escape almost everyone at first viewing. She keeps seeing her little baby growing up, getting rare childhood cancer and dying, with her husband leaving because of the pain of it. We keep thinking it is a memory from the past.

It isn’t. It is a memory from the future. In normal linear time, she hasn’t even met her husband yet, who is played by Jeremy Renner. Then she meets him.

The next major scene is near the end of the movie. She is experiencing a formal celebration by the UN of global peace. She meets General Shang, who walks up to her and confesses the whole reason he is there is to meet her. Why? Because she did something no one, not even his superior could do. Change his mind. He tells her that she called him on his personal cell phone. She questions him about it, and as she does, he shows her his cell phone and the number. He says he does not pretend to know how her mind works, but although this is the future, she will use this number in the past to make that call.

Then he whispers to her what she told him in Chinese on that phone call. As he is telling her, she is actually making the call in the past and reciting the words to him on the phone. It is that phone call that causes him to stand down his order to attack the alien ships with nukes.

That move, along with Shang’s order to share everything they had learned from the alien ship in their region of the world, begins to cascade throughout the world, bringing world peace.

The aliens tell her that they are here to give her the weapon (the tool) so that, humans on earth could save their race, 3,000 years in the future. I am here to tell you, Earth explorers, that there are a few of us here that have been born here from other worlds and we are here to try to save this world.

Please, remember who you are. Let’s meet soon. Write to me. I need to know you are here and ready to go.

By the way, her husband to be says that he thought meeting aliens would be the highlight of his life. It wasn’t. It was meeting her. In that first embrace, he asks her if she would like to make a baby. Remember, that child dies a young girl. She says, “Yes.” Even though she knows how it will turn out, she does not stop that soul’s opportunity to have a beautiful and innocent life of peace and joy. Do not despair, earth explorers. This planet is going to do something totally glorious in the coming years. Why? Because you are here.

Peace and joy,

Brooks