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| Jihad ReportAug 31, 2019 -Sep 06, 2019 | |
| Attacks | **33** |
| Killed | **175** |
| Injured | **356** |
| Suicide Blasts | **4** |
| Countries |  |

Religion of Peace atrocity of the week. The death of a 21-year-old aspiring makeup artist has activists from around the world calling for justice.

Isra’a Ghrayeb, a Palestinian woman from Bethlehem, was reportedly killed this past Thursday after being allegedly tortured and beaten to death by her brother in a family honour killing.

According to The New Arab, Ghraybeb was killed after posting a video on social media depicting her and her fiance.

Her brother, Ihab — a Canadian citizen — was reportedly angered by the video, believing it was a family dishonour to show herself with her betrothed together before a formal wedding ceremony takes place.

Since 1999 Tracey Ashhas dedicated to new frontier consciousness revolution. Her unshakable global service and contribution is in raising the consciousness of the planet. This formidable service to personal and collective evolution and revolution is ramping-up as we are sacred-called to mobilise, to save humanity and earth. She activates gateways to the central sun resonant with Ancient Intelligence that has been destroyed by the False Matrix. She restores your sovereignty and reality on earth by leading you to your sacred destiny. She has been sacred called since childhood to ancient sites, ancient intelligence systems, ancient teachings and contact.

She is a warrior and creator of projects and training that supports the sacred sovereignty of humanity and the earth. She is dedicated to raising awareness and achieving those dreams in all frontiers of life. She is a pioneer of new frontier, the unconventional, unique and sacred. Her tireless service has quietly supported thousands of individuals and seekers. This TEACHER & WAY-SHOWER takes you on extraordinary and unprecedented inner and outer journeys.

**The Omar Problem**

Many of you know who the Congresswoman from Somalia is. She is recognized. Yes? You are aware that she funneled more than $260 thousand dollars of campaign funds to a married male staffer, and seduced him with sexual favors and gifts to provide her personal access to those funds. This is another in a long line of felonies Ilhan Omar has committed. We wouldn’t even know about this, except that this married staffer’s wife was not happy about Omar having sex with her husband and bribing him to break the law. So, she filed for divorce, and the whole thing became public.

Now, people who are following the Clinton Manual for Self-Enrichment do not like being exposed to the public, and they usually kill or tamper with the witnesses. An angry, red headed ex-wife is not easily tampered with. Which is why this short story should send a chill down your spine.

Dr. Beth Mynett filed for divorce from husband Tim Mynett because he was being offered sexual favors and money from Ilhan Omar. The current Congresswoman of color from Minnesota. The very next day, an Ethiopian national "randomly" killed a girl named Margery Magill while she was innocently walking her dog on a DC street a few blocks away from where Dr. Mynett works and lives.

"I heard a scream and then a 'Oh no!' and then another scream," nearby resident Chris Chambers told News4.

"Came downstairs and came out with my wife and all we saw was a dog across the street with a leash and no human and we knew something was wrong," he said. "We looked down and we found the young lady on the sidewalk in front of our house bleeding."

Margery Magill died on the sidewalk. Police arrested 24-year-old Eliyas Aregahegne on Wednesday. He was charged with first-degree murder while armed. D.C. Police Chief Peter Newsham said Aregahegne appeared to randomly target Magill and that it was not a robbery or an attempted sexual assault. There was also nothing to indicate that Aregahegne was under the influence of drugs or alcohol, according to Newsham. It had every earmark of a perfect execution. There was no escape.

Margery graduated from the University of California, Davis, in 2015. According to her LinkedIn page, she was working in D.C. as a program director at The Washington Center, a nonprofit organization that helps connect graduate students with internships and jobs in the D.C. area. The pay is meager. She had friends and a simple life. She also enjoyed her job walking dogs for Rover, an online marketplace for people to buy and sell pet services, and was walking someone's dog when she was stalked and murdered in cold blood.

"It's absolutely tragic. I still can't wrap my head around it," Magill's sister, Raeann Magill, told News4 in a phone interview. "You know, out walking a dog and to be attacked like that. How can anyone even fathom that? I mean, it's truly tragic and I even think to myself, why her?"

Margery Magill grew up on a small ranch in California, her family said. She loved to travel and visited 22 countries including Tanzania, Nicaragua and Turkey. She also had a passion for animals and once interned at the Jane Goodall Institute.

Her sister says she loved the D.C. environment and enjoyed helping people launch their careers in government.

"She loved the city. She loved the energy. She really wanted to build her career here and thrive off of the energy that was Washington, D.C."

The question is why? Why was this innocent woman killed? Both Dr. Beth Mynett and Margery MacGill are roughly the same age and have curly red hair. Now, you know why this cold-blooded, targeting and killing of Margery caught my attention. I have no doubt it caught the attention of Dr. Beth Mynett as well. Walking sogs is great, but if you sleep with dogs… By the way Ethiopian is a Christian Somali. Now do you see it as well?

BY the way, the adultery of Ilhan Omar, if that is even her last name, also has motivated her current husband to file for divorce. In my opinion, she has displayed behavior unbecoming a US Congressman, and therefore the Congressional body has no choice but to expel her immediately.

**He Who Controls the Moon**

I have often said on this program, he who controls the Moon, controls earth. This week, the new United States Space Command officially makes its debut, emphasizing that space is a vital military domain — one that's critical to America's security and economic well-being. And if it vital to America, it is critical to sustaining freedom and liberty on the Earth.

The Trump White House is seeking to establish a Space Force as a separate military branch. To this end, there is increasing military interest in cislunar space. That's the region extending beyond Earth to the moon. Indeed, the protection of trade routes and lines of communication are traditional military responsibilities, and this will continue to be true as cislunar space becomes "high ground" — a position of advantage or superiority.

## **Phased approaches**

At last June's Space Resources Roundtable, held at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, the military utility of phased approaches to tap lunar water ice and asteroid resources for propulsion and other applications was detailed.

Jason Aspiotis and Aiden O'Leary of Booz Allen Hamilton in Charlotte, North Carolina, presented a stimulating paper: "In-space Water Supply Chain Servicing the U.S. Military: A Preliminary Estimate of Future Potential U.S. Military Supply and Demand for In-space Water-Based Fuel."

"It's a preliminary first-look study to gauge the potential utility of in-space resources, specifically water in the context of U.S. military and intelligence assets," Aspiotis told Space.com.

"It adds a lot of capability in terms of more maneuverable assets. I think the high brass is definitely paying attention and starting to consider what it really means for their own strategic plans for the future," he said.

It's very important for the military to have diverse supply chains, added O'Leary, so that backups can carry the load in the event that any supply chain is cut off. "I believe it has tremendous value for them," he said.

## **New focus**

The U.S. military's cislunar interest is interesting, said Joan Johnson-Freese, a professor in the National Security Affairs Department at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

It is the opinion of Johnson-Freese that cislunar seems to be a "new focus" for the Department of Defense.

"It appears partly driven by the new, open U.S. push toward the weaponization of space … required because virtually everything China does in space is considered a threat — and bureaucratic politics," she told Space.com.

All bureaucracies need a purpose, Johnson-Freese said. "Apparently part of the 'need' is protecting U.S. economic/commercial space interests. It would be interesting to know if this protection was requested by commercial countries or merely anticipated," she said.

## **Strategically vital**

Cislunar space is strategically vital because the exploitation of space resources can — and will — alter the balance of power on Earth.

That's the view of Peter Garretson, an independent strategy consultant who focuses on space and defense. A retired Air Force officer, he was previously the director of Air University's Space Horizons Research Task Force, America's think tank for space.

"What is driving the U.S. military to look at cislunar is not some present tactical advantage," Garretson said. "It is fear that China's moves to cislunar space will provide it with a positional and logistic advantage from which it could occupy, constrict, threaten or coerce U.S. interests."

## **Domain awareness**

Listen to what I am saying here. I am aware of the critics who think we should simply jump to Mars and forget about the Moon. That is a pathway to failure. The Moon has water, oxygen, a nearly endless supply of fuel, and the most critical aspect of deep space flight. It has low gravity. It also has a practically endless supply of sunlight, except for a few days each month during the lunar eclipse.

The first military force to control the Moon will checkmate any large military force on or off planet from attacking the earth. It is the perfect world to watch over and protect the planet earth. Without weather in the way, even NEOs can be much more effectively monitored and countered if they threaten the planet below.

The People's Republic of China's military-run space program is positioning itself to be the first in cislunar space. We are behind, and we must catch up," Garretson said. "Cislunar space is already the high ground, and the U.S. is already far behind China in its position and its planning."

## **Lunar industrialization**

Garretson said that China's [Chang'e-4 farside moon mission](https://www.space.com/42676-china-moon-far-side-chang-e-4-mission-pictures.html) and the nation's Magpie Bridge relay satellite at the Earth-moon L2 halo orbit are part of a well-conceived and cumulative plan.

"They have already put in place the first node in a broader communications architecture, and perhaps a cislunar space domain awareness system as well," Garretson said. "Next comes sample return, polar landings and 3D printing of a 'Lunar Palace' with an industrial mission to make economic use of lunar resources."

China is absolutely clear on its strategic intent in cislunar space, Garretson said.

"They intend to build an infrastructure to industrialize the moon, and use its resources and ideal location to build large numbers of solar-power satellites for their own energy supply and to service a $21 trillion energy market," Garretson said.

An industrial-logistical system of that magnitude, Garretson said, would obviously establish China as the dominant power.

"Without an equivalent plan to industrialize the moon, the game may be lost for the United States of America. We will find ourselves having lost without fighting … confronting a juggernaut with an industrial, logistical and maneuver advantage we cannot possibly match," Garretson concluded.

Of course, no one of that will natter if China collapses under the load of a revolt from its people. Add to that the fact that virtually everything made in China will fall apart, due to its poor quality. The bottom line is that if we didn’t think of it, they don’t have it. They either stole the technology, or they were sold the technology by the Democrats trying to stay ahead of the Republicans in campaign finance.

**Beware the Alphabet People**

In an interview with the British magazine *Attitude*, Lucien Greaves, the co-founder of The Satanic Temple in the United States, says that "more than 50% of our membership is LGBTQ," and that is a "conservative estimate."

*Attitude* is a best-selling gay magazine, founded in 1994. The Satanic Temple was founded in 2013 and it promotes a secular humanist agenda. The Temple, based in Salem, Mass.,  denies that there is an actual Satan and it claims that it does not worship the Devil.



Lucien Greaves, co-founder of The Satanic Temple. (Getty Images.)

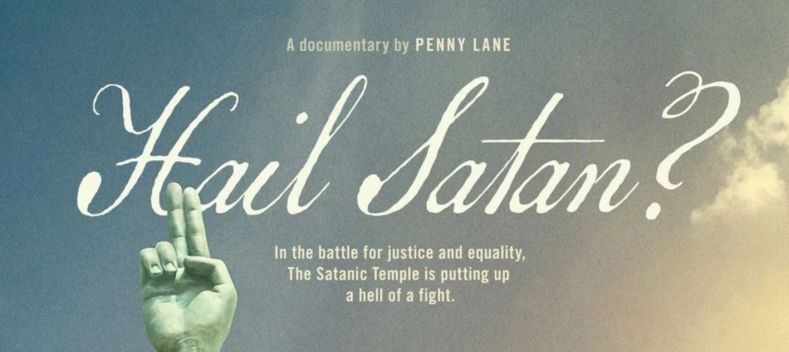
“It would be a conservative estimate to say that more than 50 per cent of our membership is LGBTQ," Greaves told *Attitude*. “I think that’s because they feel disowned and disenfranchised from the traditional religious institutions."

The truth is that every religion is formed to help propagate the human race. It forms community and protects the rights of the unborn, so the human race has a fighting chance to survive on a planet where everything is out to kill them. The alphabet people do not procreate. The only way for the community to grow is to inflict their lifestyle on children and straight people. These are the cold facts.

So, you have a population without any obligations, other than to staying alive and getting rich, that is willing to embrace a religious identification that is boldly willing to destroy any anyone who gets in their way.

“Within the Satanic Temple, we’re all pretty much one and the same," said Greaves. "We’re all Satanists and if you’re not a member of that belief system, you are the enemy. Anything, and I do mean anyone or anything that shames the alphabet or tries to change them back into heterosexual humans must be destroyed.

Greaves, a pseudonym he uses reportedly to protect his family from death threats, went on to say that The Satanic Temple often participates in LGBT Pride parades and supports LGBT initiatives.



A documentary on The Satanic Temple, entitled "Hail Satan?" was recently released.

The LBGT chapters are always involved with Pride parades in the United States, they’re always doing something for the LGBTQ community and they’re always open about tearing down the religious establishment.

He further said that The Satanic Temple supports abortion, as well as the gay agenda, and will fight attempts to roll back *Roe v. Wade* or laws that affect homosexuals.  Of course, if there ever comes a genetic test that identifies homosexuality, and that becomes the target for abortion, then the rules will change.

“We will always fight them," he said.  "We will fight them to the death to ensure that there are equal rights for the gay community.” Parents who want to keep their children safe from the church of Satan now have a common label they can adopt. Homophobe.

If you’re not afraid now, you should be.

**The National day of Mourning**

 Today is the [National Day of Mourning](https://www.nationaldayofmourning.life/), in remembrance of the more than 20 million black lives lost to abortion since 1973, begins today with prayer and a press conference in Richmond, Va.,  and a processional through tomorrow, Aug. 31, with stops in Charlotte, N.C., Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala.

The two-day event is sponsored by several leading pro-life organizations, including Civil Rights for the Unborn, the Douglass Leadership Institute, The Restoration Project, the Thomas More Society, Human Coalition and the Family Research Council (FRC).

“Abortion kills more black lives than all the other leading causes of death combined, and it is by design that black women have access to abortion clinics, federal subsidies to help them kill their babies, and abort at three-and-a-half times the rate of white women," said Patrina Mosley, the director of Life, Culture, and Women's Advocacy at the FRC.  This is exactly what Planned means. It is the planned extermination of the black American by killing their babies, with a priority being placed on female black babies. By the way, statistics prove beyond any doubt that due to the tremendous number of missing black females in America, that black males are far more likely to be homosexual.

"Today, Planned Parenthood operates nearly 80 percent of its facilities in black and Hispanic communities and has dedicated campaigns to encourage these women to abort their children," said Mosley.

“African-Americans make up less than 13 percent of the U.S. population yet receive [nearly 40 percent of abortions](https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/emily-ward/blacks-make-134-population-36-abortions)," she said. This has been the corporate focus for 46 years. More than 50% of black females over the age of 18 having abortions have already had at least one prior abortion.



Patrina Mosely, director of Life, Culture, and Women's Advocacy at the FRC.

On the National Day of Mourning website, it states, "Planned Parenthood has long targeted Black babies and women under their plan of extermination called The Negro Project. They have used abortion to advance the eugenic cause and their efforts have resulted in the deaths of more than 20,000,000 Black lives."

"Currently, Planned Parenthood has constructed or is constructing three mega (10,000 square feet or larger) abortion centers in Black neighborhoods: one in the Churchill community of Richmond, VA, one in the Cherry neighborhood (the oldest Black neighborhood) in Charlotte, NC and the third in Birmingham, AL just blocks from the historic 16th Street Baptist Church," states the website.

The processional is designed to protest "this new construction and to expose their agenda of extermination," said the National Day of Mourning website.

As CNSNews.com has[reported](https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/emily-ward/blacks-make-134-population-36-abortions), although black Americans comprise [13.4%](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045217) of the U.S. population, they accounted for 36.0% of the abortions in 2015. That was almost identical to the percentage of abortions (36.9%) that year among white Americans, who make up 76.6% of the [population](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045217).

"In some areas of the United States, the percentage of black women who had abortions in 2015 was noticeably, and disproportionately, larger than the percentage of white women who did," according to the CDC, as reported by CNSNews.com.  "In [Georgia](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/dc,ga/PST045217), for example, where blacks make up 32.2% of the population and whites make up 60.8%, black women had 62.4% of abortions while whites only had 24.7%.



Margaret Sanger (d. 1966), the founder of the organization that became the Planned Parenthood

Federation of America.

In New York City in 2015, [more black children were aborted than were born alive](https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2015/table09.htm), according to [data from](https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/emily-ward/blacks-make-134-population-36-abortions) the New York Department of Health.

Other states where black children were aborted in disproportionately high numbers in 2015 included Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, Tennessee and Virginia.

“The South isn’t the only place this is happening,” [said Alveda King](https://www.priestsforlife.org/frontlines/trip-home.aspx?tripid=1643) in a statement about the National Day of Mourning. “In New York City, more black babies are aborted than born. It’s not racist to point out this truth. It is racist to perpetuate this genocide.”

“This is an urgent message that bears repeating,” said Fr. Frank Pavone, head of Priests for Life. “The abortion cartel is working to eliminate black people in the U.S. They try to disguise this as compassion for the poor, but the truth is, Planned Parenthood and other abortion sellers are committing mass murder.”

“We need to make the statement loud and clear, that we will not stand for this any longer," said King. "Black lives matter, even in the womb.”

**The False Zero Sum Game**

* **Unfortunately, the European mindset refuses to face the reality, as if the challenge is too severe to be addressed.**
* "The conference took place under the theme 'Penser l'Europe' ['Thinking of Europe']... There, I was disturbed to hear Tariq Ramadan speaking of Europe as dar al-Shahada, i.e. house of Islamic belief. The attending audience was alarmed, but did not get the message of the perception of Europe... as a part of house of Islam. If Europe is no longer perceived as dar al-Harb/house of war, but viewed as part of the peaceful house of Islam, then this is not a sign of moderation, as some wrongly assume: it is the mindset of an Islamization of Europe". — Bassam Tibi, Professor Emeritus of International Relations, University of Goettingen.
* **It is a false Marxist notion among young people here in Europe that if you are successful or comfortable, it can only have been at the expense of humanity**: "If I win, somebody else must lose." There seems to be no concept at all of "win-win" -- "If I win, all of you can win too: everyone can win!" -- which underpins the free economy and has lifted so much of the world so spectacularly out of poverty.
* It is important to... reject the current fashion of self-abasement. Europe seems to be afflicted with a skepticism about the future, as if the decline of the West is actually a justified punishment and a liberation from its faults of the past.... "For me, today," notes Alain Finkielkraut, "the most essential thing is European civilization".

Europe presents itself as the vanguard of the unification of humanity. Europe's cultural roots, as a result, have been put at risk. According to [Pierre Manent](https://www.causeur.fr/christianisme-civilisation-europe-identite-pierre-manent-164630), a renowned French political scientist and a professor at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris:

*"European pride or European self-consciousness depend on the rejection of European history and European civilization! We want nothing to do with the Christian roots and we absolutely want to be perfectly welcoming to Islam".*

Manent delivered these words to the French monthly, Causeur. He cited, as an example, Turkey:

*"It was very clear that not only was its massively Islamic character (even before Erdogan) not an obstacle but a sort of motive, a reason to bring the Turkey into the EU. It would finally have been the definitive proof that Europe had detached itself and freed itself from its Christian dependence".*

[**Europe's southern border**](https://www.nationalreview.com/magazine/2019/08/26/the-coming-migration-out-of-sub-saharan-africa/)**is now the front line for this mass-migration;** Italy risks becoming that refugee camp. In the last few months, Italy has faced a succession of boats from Africa, [challenging its policy](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2019/07/05/ngo-ships-present-challenge-to-salvinis-closed-port-policy_ac8e3dd0-707a-4e0f-a086-c105e9f53c57.html): first the [Sea Watch 3](https://www.france24.com/en/20190626-migrants-sea-watch-rescue-boat-enters-italian-waters-despite-salvini-threats-netherlands), then the [Open Arms](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-49412390) and finally the [Ocean Viking](https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/latest-urges-europe-500-stuck-migrants-64941597). Until just before Italy's March 2018 elections, migrants were crossing the Mediterranean at the [rate](https://www.hoover.org/research/european-demographics-and-migration) of 200,000 a year.

Since European security ministers [failed](https://www.dw.com/en/eu-interior-ministers-fail-to-find-compromise-on-mediterranean-refugee-rescue/a-49629337) to agree on the Mediterranean refugee crisis, Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, willing to stand virtually alone, chose to [close](http://www.ansa.it/english/news/politics/2018/09/12/i-closed-ports-legally-salvini_aaa1d829-346e-434d-8f59-518d063689ac.html) Italian ports. Although Italian court tried to charge him with "[kidnapping](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/24/court-in-italy-rules-matteo-salvini-should-be-tried-for-kidnapping)" migrants, Salvini's policy worked and landings [plummeted](https://www.adnkronos.com/aki-en/security/2019/03/01/migrant-landings-plummet-this-year-salvini_Sm6EqD522ZZanQzf3ySiHI.html). In the first two months of [2019](https://www.wsj.com/articles/migration-from-libya-to-italy-once-europes-gateway-dwindles-after-clampdown-11552219204), 262 seaborne migrants reached Italy, compared to 5,200 in the same period last year, and more than 13,000 in the same period of 2017.

The Italian government [collapsed](https://www.wsj.com/articles/italian-prime-minister-to-resign-declaring-end-of-government-11566310341) on August 20; there is now the great possibility that a new pro-immigration Socialist Partyist coalition will take its place. A ship attempting to bring to Italy [356 migrants](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-oceanviking/ocean-viking-rescue-ship-awaits-port-access-in-latest-migrant-standoff-idUSKCN1VC0CO) from Africa, more than all who came in the first two months, has been stranded at sea since it picked up the migrants between August 9-12, while awaiting permission to land. In one standoff after another, NGOs have been attempting to break Salvini's barricade against illegal immigration.

One ship already did. One of the captains of the Sea Watch 3, a German citizen, Pia Klemp, was even [honored](https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2019/08/21/world/europe/21reuters-europe-migrants-skipper.html) by the city of Paris for breaking the Italian blockade. [According](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-italy/german-captain-becomes-anti-populist-heroine-in-italy-migrant-standoff-idUSKCN1TT1GN) to the other German captain, Carola Rackete: "My life was easy... I am white, German, born in a rich country and with the right passport" -- as if her determination to help migrants would be, in her own words, related to the comparatively privileged life she has lived in the West.

**It is a false Marxist notion among young people in Europe that if you are successful or comfortable, it can only have been at the expense of humanity: "If I win, somebody else must lose." There seems to be no concept at all of "win-win"** -- "If I win, all of you can win too: everyone can win!" -- that underpins a free-market economy and has lifted so much of the world so spectacularly out of poverty. Many of the young people see only barriers to be broken down. Pascal Bruckner called it, the "[tyranny of guilt](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/the-tyranny-of-guilt-an-essay-on-western-masochism-by-pascal-bruckner-trans-by-steven-rendall-1951335.html)".

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/4064_0.jpg?itok=CmEmSv80)

**Unfortunately, the price for cultural relativism has become painfully visible in Europe. The disintegration of Western nation-states is now a real possibility. Multiculturalism -- built on a background of demographic decline, massive de-Christianization and cultural self-repudiation -- is nothing more than a transitional phase that risks leading to the fragmentation of the West.**Among the reasons for that, the historian David Engels [listed](http://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/societe/david-engels-le-declin-de-l-occident-n-est-pas-un-accident-de-parcours-20190802?redirect_premium) "mass-migration, the aging of the population, Islamization and the dissolution of nation states".

Mass-migration has already undermined the unity and solidarity of Western societies and -- combined with demonizing Israel in the hope of obtaining inexpensive oil and preventing terrorism -- has destabilized the post-1945 political consensus.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's policy of open doors -- "Wir schaffen das" ("We can do it") -- led to a right-wing party in her parliament. The Alternative for Germany (AfD) is now [leading](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-afd/german-far-right-party-ahead-in-east-before-regional-votes-idUSKCN1UU06O) the polls in regional elections in the former East Germany. The French Socialist Party, which governed the country under President François Hollande, is now [disappearing](https://www.economist.com/europe/2018/06/21/the-incredible-disappearing-french-socialist-party). The diktats of Brussels on immigration and quotas have broken the unity of Europe and resulted in the virtual "secession" of the [Visegrad](http://www.visegradgroup.eu/) countries (Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia). The migration utopia in [Sweden](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/09/despite-making-gains-swedens-far-right-party-remains-out-of-power) brought a populist right-wing party into parliament, and the arrival of half a million illegal immigrants pushed the once-marginal League of [Matteo Salvini](https://www.thelocal.it/20190527/italy-european-election-resullts) to the top of Italy's political establishment.

This list does not even include Brexit, the British vote to leave the EU. According to German journalist Jochen Bittner, [writing](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/26/opinion/is-merkel-to-blame-for-brexit.html) in The New York Times last year:

*"In late 2015, the Leave campaign started putting up placards which showed the exodus of refugees from Syria and other countries through the Balkans, and adorned them with slogans like 'Breaking Point' and 'Take Back Control'. With Ms. Merkel declaring an open-door policy, the message hit home for millions of worried Britons and Europeans. Not coincidentally, it was around this time that support for Brexit began to tick up".*

**Instead of crying at "populism" and "nationalism" all the time, might Europe rethink its decision?**

Currently, the Europe that promised to avoid building more walls after 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down, is raising one after another one to defend itself from an unprecedented situation. There is the 15-meter [Spanish barrier](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/26/hundreds-storm-border-fence-spanish-enclave-north-africa-ceuta-spain-migration) in Ceuta and Melilla; the [Hungarian wall](http://www.ansa.it/english/news/politics/2019/05/02/salvini-visits-orbans-migrant-wall_b62ddf71-cb21-4423-a44d-51e4c45fe849.html) of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán; one at [Calais](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-37294187) in France; an [Austrian fence](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-brenner/austria-plans-fence-to-stop-migrants-at-major-border-crossing-with-italy-idUSKCN0XO1HS) planned at its border with Italy, a fence [Slovenia](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/12/world/europe/slovenia-border-fence-migrants-refugees.html) wants to build at its border with Croatia and [North Macedonia's fence](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35687257) for its border with Greece.

Whether one likes it or not, Europe seems to be feeling an existential cultural threat from these great migratory flows. There is not only the pressure of illegal immigration; there is also pressure from legal immigration. More than 100,000 people applied for asylum in France in 2017, a "[historic](https://www.france24.com/en/20180108-france-record-100000-asylum-requests-2017-migrants-macron)" number, and more than 123,000 applications in [2018](http://premium.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/plus-de-123-000-demandes-d-asile-en-france-en-2018-bilan-definitif-20190424). In Germany, there were 200,000 requests for [asylum](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/09/germany-merkel-agrees-to-200000-refugees-cap-in-bid-to-build-coalition) in 2018.

This mass immigration is changing Europe's internal composition. In Antwerp, the second-largest city in Belgium and the capital of Flanders, [half](https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20160302_02161849/voor-het-eerst-meer-dan-de-helft-moslims-in-antwerpse-scholen) the children in elementary schools are Muslim. In the Brussels region, you can get some idea of the change by studying the attendance of religion [classes](http://www.o-re-la.org/index.php/analyses/item/2635-la-frequentation-des-cours-de-religion-et-de-morale-apres-l-introduction-de-l-enseignement-de-la-philosophie-et-de-la-citoyennete) in primary and secondary schools: 15.6% attend Catholic classes, 4.3% Protestant and Orthodox classes, 0.2% attend Judaism classes, and 51.4% attend Islamic religion classes (12.8% attend secular "ethics" classes). Is it clearer now what will happen in the capital of the European Union? We should not be surprised that immigration tops the [list](https://plus.lesoir.be/240894/article/2019-08-08/limmigration-preoccupation-principale-des-belges) of worries of the Belgian population.

[Marseille](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/05/world/europe/france-extremism-doudi.html), the second-largest city in France, is already 25% Muslim. [Rotterdam](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/13/world/europe/netherlands-election-muslims.html), the second-largest city in the Netherlands, is 20% Muslim. [Birmingham](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/fastest-growing-religion-birmingham-revealed-16105391), the second-largest city in Britain, is 27% Muslim. It is estimated that in one generation, a third of the citizens of [Vienna](https://www.krone.at/581659) will be Muslim. "Sweden is in a situation that no modern country in the West has ever found itself in", [observed](https://www.hoover.org/research/european-demographics-and-migration)Christopher Caldwell. According to the [Pew Research Center](https://www.pewforum.org/2017/11/29/europes-growing-muslim-population/), Sweden might well be 30% Muslim by 2050; and 21% Muslim in the unlikely event that the flow of immigrants stops altogether. Today, 30% percent of Sweden's babies [have](http://www.micheletribalat.fr/440085135) foreign-born mothers. The city of [Leicester](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/proportion-muslims-living-leicester-rises-184235) in the UK is presently 20% Muslim. In [Luton](https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/london-parliament-attack/luton-u-k-commuter-town-reputation-jihadi-breeding-ground-n740511), out of 200,000 inhabitants, 50,000 are Muslim. Most of the population growth in France between 2011 and 2016 was driven by the country's large urban areas. At the top are Lyon, Toulouse, Bordeaux and the Paris area, according to a [study](https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3682672)published by the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies. In [Lyon](https://www.lejdd.fr/Societe/A-Lyon-quelque-chose-a-change-pour-la-communaute-musulmane-810307), there are about 150,000 Muslims out of a population of 400,000. According to one [article](https://rmc.bfmtv.com/emission/18percent-des-nouveaux-nes-portent-un-prenom-arabo-musulman-on-a-la-carte-de-visite-de-la-france-de-2017-a-2019-1642180.html), 18% of the newborns in France carry a name that is Muslim. During the 1960s, the [number](https://www.valeursactuelles.com/societe/la-part-des-prenoms-arabes-passee-de-1-18-depuis-les-annees-1960-104411) was 1%.

**In the most**[**extreme scenario**](https://www.pewforum.org/2017/11/29/europes-growing-muslim-population/)**, the percentages of Muslims in Europe in 2050 are estimated to be: France (18%), UK (17.2%), Netherlands (15.2%), Belgium (18.2%), Italy (14.1%), Germany (19.7%), Austria (19.9%), Norway (17%).**2050 is just over the horizon. What, then, is to be expected in two or three generations, when the late historian Bernard Lewis said that Europe would, "[at the very latest](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/weekly-standard/islamic-europe)", be Islamic ?

Unfortunately, the European mindset refuses to face the reality, as if the challenge is too severe to be addressed. "The unstoppable progression of this system makes me think of a tea on board the Titanic", prominent French philosopher Alain Finkielkraut [writes](https://www.causeur.fr/alain-finkielkraut-foot-feminin-progressisme-the-dansant-union-des-droites-162971).

*"It is not by turning a blind eye to tragedy that it will be prevented from happening. What will be the face of France in fifty years? What will the cities of Mulhouse, Roubaix, Nantes, Angers, Toulouse, Tarascon, Marseille and the whole Seine Saint-Denis department look like?"*

**If the population changes, the culture follows. As the author Éric Zemmour**[**points out**](https://books.google.it/books?id=WC7vDAAAQBAJ&pg=PT17&lpg=PT17&dq=#v=onepage&q=)**, "after a certain number, quantity becomes quality".**

While the power of European Christianity seems to be falling off a demographic and cultural cliff, Islam is making giant strides. It is not just a question of immigration and birth rates; it is also one of influence. "In September 2002 I participated in a meeting of the cultural centers of the leading European Union member states in Brussels", the German-Syrian intellectual Bassam Tibi, Professor Emeritus of International Relations at the University of Göttingen, [wrote](https://books.google.com/books?id=Y4x8AgAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Political+Islam,+World+politics+and+Europe+tibi&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=ramadan&f=false).

*"The conference took place under the theme 'Penser l'Europe' ['Thinking of Europe'] while being given the title 'Islam en Europe'. There, I was disturbed to hear Tariq Ramadan speaking of Europe as*dar al-Shahada*, i.e. house of Islamic belief. The attending audience was alarmed, but did not get the message of the perception of Europe in an Islamist mindset as a part of house of Islam. If Europe is no longer perceived as*dar al-Harb*/house of war, but viewed as part of the peaceful house of Islam, then this is not a sign of moderation, as some wrongly assume: it is the mindset of an Islamization of Europe..."*

**The good news is that nothing is set in stone. Europeans could still decide for themselves how many immigrants their societies need.** They could put in place a solution that is coherent rather than chaotic. They could still rediscover their humanistic heritage. They could resume having children and they could launch a real program of integration for the immigrants already in Europe. But none of these steps, necessary to avoid the transformation of large parts of the continent and its falling apart, is taking place.

It is important to listen to Pierre Manent's prognosis and to reject the current fashion of self-abasement. Europe seems to be afflicted with a skepticism about the future, as if the decline of the West is actually a justified punishment and a liberation from its faults of the past. Yes, many faults may have been terrible, but are they truly so much worse than the faults of many other countries, such as Iran, China, North Korea, Russia, Mauritania, Cuba, Nigeria, Venezuela or Sudan, to name just a few? More important is that at least the West, as opposed to many other places, has tried to correct its faults. Most important is to avoid over-correcting and ending up in a situation worse than before.

**Democracy: The Enemy of the Republic**

The national Socialist Party has a hot new cause: getting rid of the Electoral College.  Their cudgel? Democracy. And if the Socialist Party succeeds in doing away with that venerable institution, its next target, the U.S. Senate, will fall like a dried apple.

As is so often the case with Socialist Party’s causes these days; the spearhead is Rep. Alexandria Ocommunist-Cortez of New York; being social-media-savvy and a photo-fox, she’s the star of the Socialist A-Team.

Way back on [October 6, 2018](https://twitter.com/AOC/status/1048667886527627265?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1048667886527627265&ref_url=https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/08/20/video-ocasio-cortez-mocks-middle-america-effort-delegitimize-electoral-college/), AOC was tweeting:

It is well past time we eliminate the Electoral College, a shadow of slavery’s power on America today that undermines our nation as a republic.

Just on [August 20](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/08/20/video-ocasio-cortez-mocks-middle-america-effort-delegitimize-electoral-college/), Cortez ripped into the Electoral College again, calling it a “scam… racial injustice,” which “effectively weighs white voters over voters of color.”  What was needed instead, she continued, is a “one person, one vote system,” in which “all our votes are counted equally.”  AOC was pointing to such possible “reforms” as a [national popular vote](https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/), which would do away with, of course, the Electoral College.

Then, on [August 23](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/08/24/ocasio-cortez-electoral-college-is-affirmative-action-for-rural-americans/), she launched a further tweet-storm against our Republic:

If the GOP were the “silent majority” they claim, they wouldn’t be so scared of a popular vote.  They \*know\* they aren’t the majority.  They rely on establishing minority rule for power.

AOC concluded:

The Electoral College isn’t about fairness at all; it’s about empowering some voters over others.  Every vote should be = in America, no matter who you are or where you come from.  The right thing to do is establish a Popular Vote. & GOP will do everything they can to fight it. I guess she forgot that neither Kennedy nor Clinton would have won their elections without the Electoral College.

In response, a few brave Republicans jumped into the social-media melee.  On August 21, [Sen. Joni Ernst](https://twitter.com/joniernst/status/1164203303904980992?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1164203303904980992&ref_url=https://ijr.com/joni-ernst-aoc-abolish-electoral-college-silent-voices/) of Iowa tweeted, “Actually @AOC, eliminating the Electoral College would silence our voices here in Iowa and in many other states across the country.”

Ernst, who is up for re-election next year, then added a further dig: “This is just more evidence of how out of touch the Democrats have become.”

We might pause over Ernst’s words: The Hawkeye State lawmaker is shrewdly juxtaposing “our voices here in Iowa” with “out of touch” Democrats.  So we can see: Ernst is seeking to rally the interests of her small state (six electoral votes) against the views of AOC’s big state (29 electoral votes).

Since Ernst is running *in* Iowa, it’s smart for her to stick up *for* Iowa.  To be sure, [New Yorkers see it differently](http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2019/08/joni-ernst-iowa-no-need-electoral-college-caucuses-aoc.html)—but that’s no surprise.  What *would* be surprising is if anyone in Iowa thought it was in Iowa’s best interest to bow down to New York.

Two days later, [Rep. Dan Crenshaw](https://twitter.com/DanCrenshawTX/status/1165403952411750401) of Texas also tweeted back at AOC:

Abolishing the Electoral College means that politicians will only campaign in (and listen to) urban areas.  That is not a representative democracy.  We live in a republic, which means 51% of the population doesn’t get to boss around the other 49%.

We can admire Crenshaw’s stipulation that the U.S. is a “republic.” He’s quite right, of course, insofar as James Madison’s Constitution explicitly lays out a formula for a mixed government, aimed at thwarting both tyranny and mob rule.  (The nuances of such small “r” republicanism were once the staple of high-school civics classes—that is, the “old-fashioned” education that lamentably disappeared amidst the newfangled quest for relevance and political correctness.)

Yet in the meantime, unhindered by concerns about the Constitution, the anti-Electoral College juggernaut rolls on; other prominent Democrats have come out in support of its abolition, including [Sen. Bernie Sanders](https://twitter.com/BernieSanders/status/1152287912156946432?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1152287912156946432&ref_url=https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/08/20/video-ocasio-cortez-mocks-middle-america-effort-delegitimize-electoral-college/), [Sen. Elizabeth Warren](https://twitter.com/CNNPolitics/status/1107825489299861504?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1107825489299861504&ref_url=https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/08/20/video-ocasio-cortez-mocks-middle-america-effort-delegitimize-electoral-college/), and [Stacey Abrams](https://twitter.com/LizRNC/status/1166524569534025728), the woman who will never admit that she didn’t win last year’s Georgia gubernatorial election.

Also, speaking for our friends in Hollywood, here’s [Barbra Streisand](https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2019/09/04/barbra-streisand-the-electoral-college-an-assault-on-our-democratic-principles/); she, or at least her ghost writer, adds her voice to the anti-Electoral College cause:

The 14th Amendment of our Constitution actualized what many of the Founders wanted, promoting equal protection under the law for all Americans.  If I could, I would end the antiquated Electoral College.  Twice in the last 20 years the popular vote winner was denied the presidency.  This is an assault on our democratic principles, where the dictum should hold true: one person, one vote.

It is, indeed, true that in 2000 and 2016, the Democrat presidential candidate won the popular vote and lost the Electoral College, thus losing the White House.  Indeed, leading MSM observers — writing recently for [NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/how-trump-could-lose-5-million-votes-still-win-2020-n1031601) and the [*New York Times*](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/19/upshot/trump-electoral-college-edge-.html) — have argued that it could happen again in 2020.

Yet if the Electoral College can sometimes go against the national-vote majority, what’s the argument in favor of it?  Why should we support the 18th-century Constitution in light of 21st century popular passions?

[Peter Wallison](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2016/12/06/why_we_need_the_electoral_college_132499.html) of the American Enterprise Institute argues that the Electoral College is permanently valuable because it requires an actual majority to choose a president; it thus confers legitimacy on the victor.  That’s because the College includes a mechanism for a kind of runoff within the Congress, such that the eventual winner must gain a majority of Electoral Votes.  This runoff feature is vital, because it eliminates the possibility that a fringe candidate could sneak through to victory with a mere plurality of the popular ballots cast.

Perhaps even more importantly, it’s also worth emphasizing that the Electoral College was central to our constitutional founding; it was the brilliant political compromise that enabled the forming of a robust union in the first place.  You see, back in 1787, the small states, such as Delaware and Vermont, insisted on the College as the price for ratifying the Constitution and joining the union.  To put that another way, if it were not for the Electoral College, there might never have been a United States.  (As an aside, today, both Delaware and Vermont are strongly Democrat.)

One group making a strong constitutional defense of the Electoral College is the [American Legislative Exchange Council](https://www.alec.org/model-policy/draft-statement-of-principles-for-presidential-elections/); ALEC, an assembly of state legislators from across the nation, argues:

The Electoral College respects and protects states within our constitutional republic.  It has balanced the interests of rural and urban states, requiring serious presidential candidates and political parties to attract support from a genuine cross-section of the American public, for the past 58 presidential elections.

To put that another way, if we were to start revising the 230-year-old precedent of the Electoral College, we’d be at risk of revising everything—and not for the better.

Moreover, we can add an important additional point: *If we got rid of the Electoral College, we’d also be getting rid of the U.S. Senate.*

Yes, the Electoral College and the Senate are linked because they follow related political formulas: Each state, no matter how big or small, gets two Senators, and an Electoral Vote for each Senator.

It is, of course, true that voters in small states have more “Senate power” than voters in big states.  These days, that’s a boon to Democrat Vermont and Delaware, as well as to Republican Alaska and South Dakota.

So if we ever were to change the College, the temptation to change the Senate, too, would be irresistible.  That is, if AOC’s logic on the College—including notions of “one person, one vote”-type rearranging, as outlined in the 1962 Supreme Court case, [*Baker v. Carr*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baker_v._Carr), and since—were embraced, then there’s no reason why the same concept couldn’t or wouldn’t be applied to the Senate.

Needless to say, President Donald Trump is the top target of Democrats in 2020, and yet Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is up there, too, on the target list, and so are the Senators who compose his majority.  So *of course* the Democrats want to deconstruct that majority.

And if *both*the Electoral College and the Senate went away, what would happen next?  One shudders to think, although [Shakespeare](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/troilus_cressida/troilus_cressida.1.3.html) vividly captured the feeling of foreboding: “Untune that string, and, hark, what discord follows!”

So what to do?  How to defend the Constitution and the good order it provides?   Obviously, no amount of constitutional or political argumentation is going to change the minds of AOC & Co.

Thus constitutionalists need a defensive strategy; they need to batten down the political hatches to be prepared for the storm that’s coming.

One preparation is to make sure that all small states are lined up to protect themselves against the AOC-type spiel; specifically, all elected officials from small states should be pledged to defend the Constitution as it is.

And when we say “pledged,” we should mean, yes, an actual pledge.  Or better yet, *pledges*—pledges to defend the Electoral College and also, relatedly, to defend the U.S. Senate.

**Two Pledges to Defend the Constitution**

The first pledge is to defend the Electoral College.  In a perfect world, every state would staunchly defend the Electoral College.  And yet in this real world, many states won’t, and so constitutionalists, readying their defensive works, might think first about bolstering the [13 smallest states](http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/) (in order from the smallest: WY, VT, AK, ND, SD, DE, RI, MT, ME, NH, HA, ID, and WV).

We can pick the number 13 for a forward-looking reason, not just because it has a nice 1776-ish resonance.  That is, anticipating some future era of Democrat dominance, when Democrats might seek to rush through a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College, we can recall that 13 states are enough to block the ratification of such an amendment. After all, it takes three-fourths of the states—38 of the 50—to ratify an amendment, so 13 states saying “no” are enough to block it.

It’s worth noting that these 13 states are hardly uniformly Republican.  In the 2016 presidential election, eight of them voted Republican, while four voted Democrat (Maine used its quirky system to split its Electoral Votes).

Yet all these states, regardless of partisanship, share an interest in preserving their constitutional rights.  So the citizens of those states should insist on the safeguarding of these rights.  And to simplify this safeguarding, a written pledge could be developed for politicians to sign.  This constitutional pledge need not be complicated; here’s some nice and concise language:

*I pledge to oppose any and all efforts to change or dilute the power of my state’s Electoral Votes.  I will also oppose any change or dilution of the Electoral College as a whole.*

That’s simple enough.

Of course, it could be hard for some small-state Democrats to sign and honor this pledge, because as we have seen, their national party, anchored in big states, is increasingly hostile to the Electoral College.  Thus the Electoral College Pledge would put small-state Democrats—especially those with national ambitions—in a bind; they would have to choose: *Stick with the state and anger the AOC-ized national party, or go along with the national party and risk the wrath of the state folks.*

Yes, the stakes are high.  Small states that wish to defend their powers can’t afford to let their elected officials mumble around on the fate of the Electoral College.  As we know from other issues, many Democrats have proven themselves skilled at talking one way at home while voting another way in the capital.  A pledge, putting it in writing, would cut down such flim-flammery.

The Electoral College Pledge would thus be most useful for state legislators, and if incumbents are reluctant to sign, it could help their pro-pledge challengers.

Moreover, the Electoral College Pledge could be extended to all of a state’s office-holders, since their overall voice, if not their proximate vote, could affect the ratification process.

Of course, we mustn’t forget federal office-holders.  They, too, can defend the Constitution, since any proposed amendment requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate.

And speaking of the Senate—so crucial to the power of small states—we can turn, now, to the second pledge:

I pledge to oppose any and all efforts to change or dilute the enumeration of my state’s Senatorial delegation.Two is the right number, just as the Constitution states.I will also oppose any change or dilution of the U.S. Senate as a whole.

Moreover, since the Electoral College is the first line of defense for the Senate, I reiterate my support for the maintenance and perpetuation of the Electoral College as it is currently established. 

We can see: This Senate Pledge also uses simple language, made only a bit more complicated insofar as it is connected to the Electoral College Pledge.

We might note that in the case of these 13 states, their cumulative senatorial delegations are evenly split: 13 Republicans and 13 Democrats.  (Technically, two Senators, from Maine and Vermont, are independents, and yet they align with the Democrats in all the ways that matter.)

Yet whatever party a small-state lawmaker belongs to, he or she should be resolutely determined to defend small-state prerogatives—right?  After all, surely no small-stater would sell out his or her state to curry favor with the likes of AOC and the national Democrats—right?

As Ronald Reagan, that canny fellow, liked to say about murky situations, “Trust, yet verify.”  So all citizens of these 13 states should humbly, but sternly, request that their lawmakers, state and federal alike, sign these two pledges.

Moreover, beyond those 13 smallest states, there are plenty of other smallish states that have a similarly strong interest in maintaining the integrity of the Electoral College and of the Senate.

One such smallish state is Joni Ernst’s Iowa.  As we saw earlier, Ernst is vigilant about her state’s interests; indeed, the motto on the [Iowa state flag](https://statesymbolsusa.org/symbol-official-item/iowa/state-flag/flag-iowa) reads, “Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.”

So now, as we move towards the 2020 election, it will be interesting to see if Ernst’s Democrat challenger, whoever that turns out to be, is willing to stand up, *in writing*, for Iowa’s liberties and rights.  The voters know they are being targeted for extinction, and they should vote in November 2020 to defend those liberties and rights.

Through such constitution-minded political action, voters in each state can help preserve our Republic.

**Whale Songs**

Sometimes when you travel, you still betray where you came from when you open your mouth. The same thing seems to apply to humpback whales: features of their songs can reveal where they originally came from. What’s more, when whales travel their songs change as they pick up new tunes from whales they meet that have come from different regions.

“Our best analogy is hit human fashion and pop songs,” says Ellen Garland at the University of St Andrews in the UK. The sharing of whale song is a kind of cultural transmission that can give clues about where a whale has travelled on its migration, and where it started out. “We can pinpoint a population a whale has likely come from by what they are singing,” she says.

Garland and her team recorded the songs of humpback whales passing near the Kermadec islands in the South Pacific during September and October of 2015. They also recorded whale songs at spots where whales congregate to feed and breed across the western and central South Pacific, and around eastern and western Australia.

## Three songs

The team broke down each song into units, like notes, that build together to make a phrase, and several phrases that repeat to form a theme. A few themes are sung in a set order to form a song. They found three song types from 52 whales. Song type 1 was dominant in the central Pacific, including the Cook Islands and French Polynesia. Song type 2 was most common in the west, including New Caledonia, Tonga and Niue. And song type 3 was only recorded in the waters near eastern Australia.

Then they compared these songs to those of the whales near the Kermadec islands, a migratory stopover. Here they found two distinct versions of song type 1, which they’ve called 1a and 1b. These songs can morph as whales pass them along, adding a riff or a few notes.

Based on the percentage of similarity between the recordings, the team could pinpoint where the whales at the Kermadec islands originated from. These findings were confirmed with genetic and photographic identification of the singing whales. None of the recordings from the Kermadec islands matched the songs from western Australia, and very few were similar to those from French Polynesia and eastern Australia. Most came from New Caledonia, Niue and the Cook Islands.

Garland says it is likely there are other places, like the Kermadec islands, where whales from different regions can meet and pass on their songs, either on migratory routes or in feeding grounds.

**The Undress Code**

A school in the United Kingdom is facing protests after it banned skirts and made wearing pants a dress code requirement.

The rationale? Officials were weary of checking proper skirt length … and the need to accommodate transgender students.

[**According to the BBC**](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-49599078), the Priory School in Lewes, East Sussex is now dealing with demonstrations as some students want skirts allowed, while others say the dress code results in a waste of money and material.

The school’s website says “From September 2019, all Priory students will be required to wear our updated uniform,” according to [**the Independent.**](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gender-neutral-uniform-priory-school-lewes-dress-code-transgender-a9092866.html) Students were told anyone in violation of the code would be sent home.

”This is about children and parents complaining about having to buy completely new uniforms for only a few terms,” one parent said.

[**From the story**](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gender-neutral-uniform-priory-school-lewes-dress-code-transgender-a9092866.html):

*“It is not a good situation especially as it is my daughter’s final year of school and it’s really disruptive.”*

*One parent said they were offered money towards the cost of the new uniform, however, while others were reported to be in discussions with the school about the possibility of a compromise.*

*A spokesman for the Priory School said: “Our uniform is designed to be a practical uniform which encourages students to be ready to focus on their school work and activities.*

*”Our uniform also helps us to dilute the status placed on expensive clothes or labels and challenge the belief that we are defined by what we wear.*

*“There are at least 40 other schools which have a similar uniform requirement.*

*”Our core purpose remains the quality of teaching and learning and we aim to achieve this by maximising the time spent on planning, delivering and evaluating the quality of provision.“*

TV personality Piers Morgan [**tweeted his support**](https://twitter.com/piersmorgan/status/1169984755946987520) for the protesters noting the “gender neutral craze” was “out of control.” He added “Let girls be girls & boys be boys.

**India’s Moon Lander is Dead**

India's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter circling the moon has spotted [the country's lost Vikram lander](https://www.space.com/india-loses-contact-with-vikram-moon-lander-chandrayaan-2.html) on the lunar surface, but there is still no signal from the lander, according to Indian media reports.

K Sivan, chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation, said today (Sept. 8) that the Vikram lander was located by Chandrayaan-2 and efforts to restore contact the probe will continue for at least 14 days, [according to a Times of Indiareport](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/hopes-fading-on-re-establishing-link-with-lander-vikram-isro-scientists/articleshow/71035340.cms).

"We have found the location of Lander Vikram on [the] lunar surface and Orbiter has clicked a thermal image of Lander," [Sivan told the ANI news service in an interview](https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/lander-vikram-located-k-sivan20190908141242/), adding that attempts to communicate with the lander are ongoing.

**Video:**[**The Moment India Lost Contact with the Vikram Moon Lander**](https://videos.space.com/m/azKRSdEE/indias-lunar-lander-may-have-crashed-into-the-moon?list=6DUiA9a3) **Related:**[**India's Chandrayaan-2 Mission to the Moon in Photos**](https://www.space.com/india-chandrayaan-2-moon-mission-in-photos.html)

The Vikram lander went silent Friday (Sept. 6) while attempting a first-ever landing near the moon's south pole. ISRO lost contact with Vikram when the lander was just 1.2 miles (2 kilometers) above the lunar surface, raising fears that [it may have crashed on the moon](https://www.space.com/india-moon-landing-failure-narendra-modi.html). The Vikram lander is India's first moon lander, and is carrying the country's [first lunar rover, called Pragyan](https://videos.space.com/m/PJ3k7o3E/indias-lunar-rover-pragyan-instruments-detailed-in-animation?list=6DUiA9a3).

ISRO officials have not yet released the Chandrayaan-2 image of Vikram on the lunar surface or described the potential condition of the lander. But they have said that despite the lander's presumed failed moon landing, the craft has already demonstrated key technologies for future missions.

"[The Vikram Lander](https://www.space.com/india-chandrayaan-2-moon-landing-explained-video.html) followed the planned descent trajectory from its orbit of 35 km (22 miles) to just below 2 km above the surface," [ISRO officials wrote in an update Saturday](https://www.isro.gov.in/chandrayaan2-latest-updates) (Sept. 7). "All the systems and sensors of the Lander functioned excellently until this point and proved many new technologies such as variable thrust propulsion technology used in the Lander."

As ISRO tries to regain contact with the Vikram moon lander, [the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is doing well in lunar orbit](https://www.space.com/india-moon-mission-not-over-chandrayaan-2.html), the space agency said. In fact, the orbiter could last well beyond its planned one-year mission.

"The Orbiter camera is the highest resolution camera (0.3m) in any lunar mission so far and shall provide high resolution images which will be immensely useful to the global scientific community," ISRO officials said in the Sept. 7 statement. "The precise launch and mission management has ensured a long life of almost 7 years instead of the planned one year."

The [Chandrayaan-2](https://www.space.com/40136-chandrayaan-2.html) orbiter is equipped with eight different science instruments to study the moon from above. Those instruments include: a high resolution camera, a lunar terrain mapping camera; a solar X-ray monitor; an imaging infrared spectrometer; a dual frequency synthetic aperture radar for studying [moon water ice](https://www.space.com/16222-moon-water-ice-shackleton-crater.html) and lunar mapping; a sensor to study the moon's thin exosphere; and a dual frequency radio science experiment to study the moon's ionosphere.

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon after the [Chandrayaan-1 mission](https://www.space.com/40114-chandrayaan-1.html) of 2008 and 2009. An instrument on that first mission [discovered the spectral signature for water](https://www.space.com/41554-water-ice-moon-surface-confirmed.html) across wide swaths of the moon, with big concentrations at the lunar poles, where permanently shadowed craters allow water ice to stay frozen.

"This was a unique mission which aimed at studying not just one area of the Moon but all the areas combining the exosphere, the surface as well as the sub-surface of the moon in a single mission," ISRO officials said in the update. "The Orbiter has already been placed in its intended orbit around the Moon and shall enrich our understanding of the moon’s evolution and mapping of the minerals and water molecules in the Polar Regions, using its eight state-of-the-art scientific instruments."

**The Cosmological Constant**

There is a fundamental problem in physics.

A single number, called the cosmological constant, bridges the microscopic world of quantum mechanics and the macroscopic world of Einstein's theory of general relativity. But neither theory can agree on its value.

In fact, there's such a huge discrepancy between the observed value of  this constant and what theory predicts that it is widely considered the worst prediction in the history of physics. Resolving the discrepancy may be the most important goal of theoretical physics this century.

Lucas Lombriser, an assistant professor of theoretical physics at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, has introduced a new way of evaluating Albert Einstein's equations of gravity to find a value for the cosmological constant that closely matches its observed value. He published his method online in the Oct. 10 issue of the journal [Physics Letters B](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0370269319305088#br0020).

**Related:**[**The Biggest Unsolved Mysteries in Physics**](https://www.livescience.com/34052-unsolved-mysteries-physics.html)

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CLOSE

New Dark Energy Evidence Could Change Understanding of Universe’s History

Volume 0%

## How Einstein's biggest blunder became dark energy

The story of the cosmological constant began more than a century ago when Einstein presented a set of equations, now known as the Einstein field equations, that became the framework of his [theory of general relativity](https://www.livescience.com/32216-what-is-relativity.html). The equations explain how matter and energy warp the fabric of space and time to create the force of gravity. At the time, both Einstein and astronomers agreed that the universe was fixed in size and that the overall space between galaxies did not change. However, when Einstein applied general relativity to the universe as a whole, his theory predicted an unstable universe that would either expand or contract. To force the universe to be static, Einstein tacked on the cosmological constant.

Nearly a decade later, another physicist, [Edwin Hubble](https://www.space.com/43047-edwin-hubble-universe-expanding.html), discovered that our universe is not static, but expanding. The light from distant galaxies showed they were all moving away from each other. This revelation persuaded Einstein to abandon the cosmological constant from his field equations as it was no longer necessary to explain an expanding universe. Physics lore has it that Einstein later confessed that his introduction of the cosmological constant was [perhaps his greatest blunder](https://physicstoday.scitation.org/do/10.1063/PT.6.3.20181030a/full/).

In 1998, observations of distant supernovas showed the universe wasn't just expanding, but the expansion was speeding up. Galaxies were accelerating away from each other as if some unknown force was overcoming gravity and shoving those galaxies apart. Physicists have named this enigmatic phenomenon [dark energy](https://www.livescience.com/what-is-dark-energy.html), as its true nature remains a mystery.

In a twist of irony, physicists once again reintroduced the cosmological constant into Einstein's field equations to account for dark energy. In the current [standard model of cosmology](http://cosmology.berkeley.edu/Education/CosmologyEssays/The_Standard_Cosmology.html), known as ΛCDM (Lambda CDM), the cosmological constant is interchangeable with dark energy. Astronomers have even estimated its value based on observations of distant supernovas and fluctuations in the [cosmic microwave background](https://www.space.com/33892-cosmic-microwave-background.html). Although the value is absurdly small (on the order of 10^-52 per square meter), over the scale of the universe, it is significant enough to explain the accelerated expansion of space.

"The cosmological constant [or dark energy] currently constitutes about 70% of the energy content in our universe, which is what we can infer from the observed accelerated expansion that our universe is presently undergoing. Yet this constant is not understood," Lombriser said. "Attempts to explain it have failed, and there seems to be something fundamental that we are missing in how we understand the cosmos. Unraveling this puzzle is one of the major research areas in modern physics. It is generally anticipated that resolving the issue may lead us to a more fundamental understanding of physics."

**Related:**[**8 Ways You Can See Einstein’s Theory of Relativity in Real Life**](https://www.livescience.com/58245-theory-of-relativity-in-real-life.html)

## The worst theoretical prediction in the history of physics

The cosmological constant is thought to represent what physicists call "vacuum energy." Quantum-field theory states that even in a completely empty vacuum of space, virtual particles pop in and out of existence and create energy — a seemingly absurd idea, but one that has been observed experimentally. The problem arises when physicists attempt to calculate its contribution to the cosmological constant. Their result differs from observations by a mind-boggling factor of 10^121 (that's 10 followed by 120 zeroes), [the largest discrepancy between theory and experiment in all of physics](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6jAOV7bZ3Y).

Such a disparity has caused some physicists to doubt Einstein's original equations of gravity; some have even suggested alternative models of gravity. However, further evidence of gravitational waves by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory ([LIGO](https://www.livescience.com/ligo-detector-really-hates-noise.html)) have only strengthened general relativity and dismissed many of these alternative theories. Which is why instead of rethinking gravity, Lombriser took a different approach to solve this cosmic puzzle.

"The mechanism I propose does not modify Einstein's field equations," Lombriser said. Instead, "it adds an additional equation on top of Einstein's field equations."

The [gravitational constant](https://www.livescience.com/46385-new-gravitational-constant-measurement.html), which was first used in [Isaac Newton's laws of gravity](https://www.livescience.com/37115-what-is-gravity.html) and now an essential part of Einstein's field equations, describes the magnitude of  the gravitational force between objects. It is considered one of the fundamental constants of physics, eternally unchanged since the beginning of the universe. Lombriser has made the dramatic assumption that this constant can change.

In Lombriser's modification of general relativity, the gravitational constant remains the same within our observable universe but may vary beyond it. He suggests a multiverse scenario where there may be patches of the universe invisible to us that have different values for the fundamental constants.

This variation of gravity gave Lombriser an additional equation that relates the cosmological constant to the average sum of matter across space-time. After he accounted for the estimated mass of all the galaxies, stars and dark matter of the universe, he could solve that new equation to obtain a new value for the cosmological constant — one that closely agrees with observations.

Using a new parameter, ΩΛ (omega lambda), that expresses the fraction of the universe made of dark matter, he found the universe is made up of about 74% dark energy. This number closely matches the value of 68.5% estimated from observations — a tremendous improvement over the huge disparity found by quantum field theory.

Although Lombriser's framework might solve the cosmological constant problem, there’s currently no way to test it. But in the future, if experiments from other theories validate his equations,  it could mean a major leap in our understanding of dark energy and provide a tool to solve other cosmic mysteries

**What is an Avatar**

An avatar, a concept in Hinduism that means "descent", refers to the material appearance or incarnation of a deity on earth. The relative verb to "alight, to make one's appearance" is sometimes used to refer to any guru or revered human being.

An avatar is a personalized graphical illustration that represents a computer user, or a character or alter ego that represents that user. An avatar can be represented either in three-dimensional form (for example, in games or virtual worlds) or in two-dimensional form as an icon in Internet forums and virtual worlds.

Avatars are used widely on websites and in online role-playing games. They are an integral part of Internet chat, Internet messaging systems, blogs and artificial intelligence, particularly virtual reality.

#### [[Free eBook] 5 Big Myths of AI and Machine Learning Debunked](https://techopedia.tradepub.com/c/pubRD.mpl?secure=1&sr=oc&_t=oc:&qf=w_splu177&ch=termad" \t "_blank)

## Techopedia explains *Avatar*

The term avatar as it relates to computer user identification was first coined by Chip Morningstar and Joseph Romero in 1985, when they were designing LucasFilm's online role-playing game "Habitat".

The simplest avatars are small graphic files used on websites. For instance, members using chat boards can upload an avatar to represent themselves. The images may be humorous or serious, and often show a beast or hero. They normally appear attached to user posts alongside the username.

Some websites provide users with a pool of avatars from which to choose. Avatars in a virtual reality are interactive characters in virtual worlds, which may be customized by the user. These avatars walk within the computerized landscape, manipulating the surrounding environment. Avatars can be moved and acted upon using the keyboard and mouse. Virtual world avatars also have an associated inventory of objects such as tools, weapons, clothing, vehicles, virtual currency, etc.

The Sanskrit word **avatar (or avatara)** literally means “descent.”

It refers to the descent of divinity from heaven to earth, and is typically used to describe an incarnation of God. [(1)](https://www.ananda.org/yogapedia/avatar/#footnote-ay33)

Paramhansa Yogananda explained that the term avatar refers to a [soul](http://www.ananda.org/yogapedia/soul/) who has been freed from maya (delusion) and is sent by the will of God back into manifested existence to help others.

Examples include the founders of major world religions, such as Jesus Christ, Buddha, and Krishna. Yogananda said that an avatar “is born not to show us how great he was, but to give us hope that the state of consciousness he had attained, we too can attain.” [(2)](https://www.ananda.org/yogapedia/avatar/#footnote-BlissAvatar)

## **ORTHODOX HINDU BELIEFS**

More traditional Hindus believe an avatar to be a direct manifestation of God, rather than a re-incarnation or re-appearance on earth of a soul that has been liberated. This is comparable to the understanding that many Christians have of Jesus Christ, who they consider as having never been in human form before he was Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, the word avatar is sometimes limited to the different incarnations of Vishnu. In modern times, it is one of many Sanskrit terms that have been applied to everything from online computer identities to “avatar training,” as if one could simply take a class and become an avatar! [(3)](https://www.ananda.org/yogapedia/avatar/#footnote-HinduWay)

Whenever righteousness wanes and unrighteousness increases I send myself forth.  
For the protection of the good and for the destruction of evil,  
and for the establishment of righteousness,  
I come into being age after age.

**Another Prophecy from Charm of Favor Comes True**

It starts with someone like Walmart, but it rarely stays there. Ideas spread, for good or ill. They spread far and wide, and when a giant like Walmart makes a move, you can guarantee that someone will follow.

Along the way, here at Bearing Arms, I’ve noted the others joining with Walmart in asking people to no longer carry firearms openly in their store.

Well, [there are a couple more](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-walgreens-boots-guncontrol-idUSKCN1VQ2C7).

Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc WBA.N, CVS Health Corp ([CVS.N](https://www.reuters.com/companies/CVS.N)) and supermarket chain Wegmans Food Markets Inc said on Thursday they would start asking customers to not openly carry firearms in their stores, joining Walmart Inc ([WMT.N](https://www.reuters.com/companies/WMT.N)) and Kroger Co ([KR.N](https://www.reuters.com/companies/KR.N)), in a change of gun policy following several deadly mass shootings in the United States.

The retailers are among a growing number of U.S. companies, such as Delta Air Lines ([DAL.N](https://www.reuters.com/companies/DAL.N)) and Bank of America ([BAC.N](https://www.reuters.com/companies/BAC.N)), that are responding to calls for action to help curtail the rash of gun violence that has plagued the nation, risking backlash from powerful gun owners’ groups as politicians consider options.

…

“There’s nothing more important than the safety of our customers & employees,” Wegmans said in a tweet on Thursday, adding that it “prefers” that customers not openly carry firearms into its stores. ([bit.ly/2lyaafV](https://bit.ly/2lyaafV))

CVS Health echoed the sentiment saying, “We join a growing chorus of businesses in requesting that our customers, other than authorized law enforcement personnel, do not bring firearms into our stores.”

Now, CVS is making a broader stance. Walmart, Kroger, Walgreens, and even Wegmans are asking people not to openly carry firearms in their store. They’re fine with concealed carry, but open carry is something they’d prefer not to see. In fairness, open carry can freak people out. While I think those people need to learn to get over it, I can at least see where the stores are coming from.

CVS, though, is saying they don’t want us to bring firearms into their stores at all. That suggests they don’t want you to carry at all. I reached out to CVS earlier this morning for clarification but hadn’t heard back by the time of publication for this story. I’ll update it if and when I do. (In their defense, it was stupid early when I emailed, so it’s unsurprising they haven’t responded yet.)

It seems that more and more stores are making moves like this.

I’ve beaten the drums as to why I think some of this is happening, and part of it is because of the actions of a few stupid people, but that’s not all of it. It can’t be.

A lot of it is also the stigmatization of guns, in general, has continued without any real counter in the media. While the gun media can push back as much as we’re able, let’s be realistic. Anti-gun and gun-neutral folks aren’t coming to Bearing Arms or any other outwardly pro-gun source for their news. They’re getting it from CNN, NBC, ABC, or CBS. Some are getting it from Fox News or MSNBC, but there are few pro-gun voices on even Fox News.

So these companies are feeling pushed and they just don’t have the real facts in front of them. They don’t get criminals aren’t openly carrying their firearms. They don’t understand how citizen carry actually stops crime. They don’t get that because they’re never presented that in the media.

Because of that, expect to see more of this kind of thing.