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| Jihad ReportJul 04, 2020 -Jul 10, 2020 |
| Attacks | **36** |
| Killed | **206** |
| Injured | **199** |
| Suicide Blasts | **2** |
| Countries | **10** |

**Adolph Newsome Money Laundering**

The sordid details of California Governor Gavin Newsom’s unwholesome dealings with communist China continue to emerge, including [**the shocking revelation**](https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-07-03-communist-china-providing-automatic-weapons-to-antifa-black-lives-matter.html) that Newsom is quietly funneling hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to the communist Chinese regime in exchange for political favors.

Because California is certifiably bankrupt and on the verge of total economic collapse, Newsom appears to have forged a backroom deal with the Chicoms that involves him handing over taxpayer dollars in exchange for political bailouts. These include keeping California artificially afloat, as well as Newsom in office, at least until China can get troops on the ground as part of a planned nationwide takeover.

As it turns out, China fully supports, and is possibly even a financial backer of, Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Antifa, the two most well-known domestic terrorist groups making the rounds destroying property, tearing down statues, burning entire city blocks, and shooting innocent people. The destabilization these groups are causing is all part of the Chinese takeover plan, in other words. Natural News has already established that [**China is providing full-auto weapons upgrade parts to Black Lives Matter through a smuggling operation**](https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-07-03-communist-china-providing-automatic-weapons-to-antifa-black-lives-matter.html) that was interdicted by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).

How Newsom fits into the picture is that he has turned California into a port of entry for China to smuggle in weapons and other gear for the soon-to-be second civil war that has been planned for America. And the truly sick part is that Newsom is laundering money back and forth with the Chinese under the guise of “coronavirus aid.”

Bottom of Form

Back in April, even the mainstream media was questioning what Newsom was up to when it was revealed that he had wired half a billion dollars to an electric car company in China to supposedly purchase “N-95 masks” for the Wuhan coronavirus (COVID-19). This decision was never voted on or approved by legislators, and when pressed about the details of the deal, Newsom refused to disclose them.

Keep in mind that this half a billion dollars was just the first of two installments amounting to a full billion dollars being sent China to supposedly purchase face masks for Californians – face masks that *never actually arrived*, by the way. As of this writing, the Chinese electric car company in question, BYD, still has the money and has yet to send over a single face mask.

“That’s because this isn’t a billion dollars for ‘masks,’” writes Mike Adams, the Health Ranger, in an exposé on Newsom’s treasonous criminality. “It’s part of a massive money laundering operation to funnel money to China, so that China can funnel money and weapons back to Newsom in preparation for the civil war that they’re launching.”

None of this is conjecture, by the way. Newsom himself admitted to it personally during a television interview, though he refused to provide any details about the nature of the agreement that was made with BYD.

This massive transfer of taxpayer money to some obscure Chinese vehicle manufacturer was never voted on by the taxpayers from whom the money was stolen, nor has there been any accountability concerning how it was used. In fact, nobody even knows how it was used because the whole thing took place under the table.

Instead of using this money to help actual Californians, many of whom are jobless and barely scraping by, Newsom instead redirected it to his communist buddies across the Pacific under the guise of purchasing face masks.

Even if it was true that all this money went towards masks, which we know it certainly did not, Newsom at the very least could have instead invested it locally to have the masks produced in the state of California by actual Californians. This would have helped the state economy by keeping people employed.

But no, that was never what this was all about. Newsom pretended to spend this pile of taxpayer cash on face masks as cover for a massive money laundering scheme that effectively hands the reins of power over to China in exchange for Newsom’s own political protection.

By selling Californians down the river and giving China the beachhead it has been trying to establish on America’s western coast, Newsom is ensuring that he will remain on China’s good side once the dust settles and the new world order emerges.

As we reported, Newsom is directly facilitating the transfer of weapons and ammunition from China to the United States, where much of it is now being stored at the Easy End Complex in Sacramento. Pallets upon pallets of Chinese munitions are being stockpiled right underneath our noses, and Americans have Newsom the traitor to thank for what is soon to transpire.

“Essentially, Gov. Newsom has been stockpiling weapons and ammo in preparation for a civil war that he’s been helping to make reality,” notes the Health Ranger, who further warns that this all aligns with Barack Obama’s infamous vision concerning the future of America:

“We cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives that we’ve set … We’ve got to have a civilian national security force that’s just as powerful, just as strong, just as well-funded,” Obama proclaimed to his cheering worshipers.

To sum it all up, Newsom is quietly paving the way for Obama’s civilian national security force to come to fruition by working directly with China to stockpile weapons and ammo. He is also helping to foment the violent division that is tearing apart our country so that China and other new world order players can swoop in when the time is just right and seize control.

Following a series of other preliminary events, many of which we are now witnessing on a daily basis, the eventual outcome will be mass death in America followed by a staged military invasion by China. This will spell the final end of America as we know it, and Americans will have Newsom, among others, to thank.

**The Underground War**

It is darkness like you’ve never seen. The air you breathe [could kill you in moments](https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2016/10/01/tunnel-warfare-in-mosul-the-isis-fight-is-likely-to-go-underground/). All of your fire support — air, armor, artillery — is useless. The walls and ceiling could collapse. Communications will fail. A wrong turn [leaves you utterly alone](https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2017/05/21/war-with-north-korea-an-inside-look-at-how-us-troops-would-respond-worldwide/).

Going underground, in dark, tight spaces, can trigger feelings of helplessness in [even experienced troops](https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2018/10/16/why-todays-troops-fear-a-new-war-is-coming-soon/). It is the most primitive and [close combat](https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/29/a-look-inside-the-work-future-of-jim-mattis-task-force-focused-on-infantry-close-combat/) a fighter may face.

“You think you’ve been in a dark environment?” a former special operations soldier-turned trainer said. “Wait until you get into a deep underground facility and the power’s cut. That is scary.”

Welcome to the subterranean.

It is [happening in Syria](https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2019/02/08/how-the-syrian-battlefield-is-preparing-the-corps-for-a-fight-with-russia-or-china/)now. Iraqi forces faced it in Mosul. Russia, China, North Korea, Iran all boast complex facilities laced with reinforced command and control and the ability to deploy thousands of troops, tanks, missiles and even launch planes from underground runways.

As with guerrilla fighters in Vietnam, militant groups from Islamic State to Hamas to rebel groups in Africa have expanded their use of the ­underground, whether in remote caves or by ­burrowing their way through cities such as the city of Darayya, Syria, for what became tunnel-on-tunnel warfare with the regime.

“They’ve gone underground to match our ­overmatch,” said retired Army Maj. John Spencer, chairman of Urban Warfare Studies with the Modern War Institute at West Point.

In the Zhawar Kili complex, Navy SEALs encountered a cave system in the early days of the Afghan War. They thought it would take a day to clear. Nine days later they had searched 70 reinforced tunnels, destroying 50 of them, including 60 structures inside a facility that included a mosque, repair shops, a medical facility and communications center.

And that was far from civilian populations. Armies today do not have that luxury.

In the modern battlefield, troops might have to fight an enemy in the vast subways and water systems underneath huge cities, or in the pitch-black tunnels guarding the North Korean defensive line. A new Army program aims to get them ready. (Ben Murray/Military Times)

“I think it starts with the likelihood of warfare in a city,” said Dakota Wood, Heritage Foundation senior research fellow and retired Marine officer. “Almost all futures documents predict an urban environment wave.”

Nearly any city troops may enter tomorrow has mazes of sewers, telecommunications lines and subway tunnels beneath its streets, concealing untold threats.

They may vary in type and scope, but all underground terrain accomplishes a major feat: reducing, balancing, even negating U.S. military technological superiority.

Minor nods to underground training, from small tunnels or trenches used by opposing fighters at Army and Marine Corps training centers have been a ­feature for years. Serious manning, equipping, funding and training across the force has been lacking.

“From a mere tool of war, underground warfare has evolved into a global security threat of concern to all states,” Daphné Richemond-Barak wrote in her 2017 book, “Underground Warfare.”

**The tactical**

Marine Corps’ experts in underground fighting in Twentynine Palms, California, declined to be interviewed for this piece. Experts at their tactical operations group were involved in force-on-force training at the time of reporting and were unavailable for comment.

But news reports reference side-by-side tactical ­level underground training by Marines with Israeli ­counter-tunnel work and with Norwegian troops ­related to weapons stocks stored in massive caves to protect NATO against potential Russian aggression.

The Army is taking a multiprong attack to the threat. All those interviewed applauded it for the focus on a terrain that will surely plague commanders and troops.

At least two years ago, the Army assessed its ­underground combat capabilities and found gaps.

With knowledge gleaned from the battlefield and years of study it quickly updated manuals, pushed funding and deployed training teams with the ­Asymmetric Warfare Group with fighting know-how to spread the gospel across brigades.

This is driven by the Army’s vision for being ­prepared to fight in any terrain across the globe against near-peer threats and nonstate actors.

Top leadership has emphasized the need for troops to be ready to fight in megacities and the ­underground is a feature that cannot be ignored.



##### [The tech it takes to fight subterranean](https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/02/26/the-tech-it-takes-to-fight-subterranean/)

A range of ­updated technology is now used for ­underground spaces and threats.

**Todd South**

“The bottom line is that the subterranean environment is really a facet of the infrastructure,” said Army Col. Timothy F. O’Brien, AWG commander.

Military Times spent nearly a week alongside soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in early February for some of the initial training that AWG built for Army’s Maneuver Center of ­Excellence and is bringing to at least a reported 26 of 31 active brigade combat teams across the Army.

Officials did not confirm exact numbers of how many brigades have or will receive the training, but the goal is to spread the fundamentals across the force.

The paratroopers were getting hands-on experience from the tactical manual, “Small Unit Training in Subterranean Environments,” which was published in late 2017, updating training practices that had changed little since the early 1990s and even back to World War II.

O’Brien stressed that elements of subterranean have been included in training for years. Much of the company and below training conducted by the estimated 160 paratroopers at Fort Bragg consisted of building on standard infantry skills, such as room clearing.

But, AWG trainers, which include uniformed personnel and civilian contractors, many who served in special operations forces units, add on important details and layers of limitations that soldiers will face underground.

And those reached down to life necessities.

“If you can’t breathe, you can’t fight, always remember that,” was a repeated mantra one trainer drilled for soldiers dealing with clean air supply and chemical threats.

Trainer identities were withheld for security ­concerns.

Soldiers were shown types of breathing devices, specialized meters for detecting chemical and other threats. Some systems could keep an experienced soldier breathing for close to an hour. But panicked, shallow breathing can reduce that to half the time.

Tiny changes can make a big difference. While many seasoned soldiers may be used to shouting commands or physical bumping the soldier in front of them during tight, room-clearing exercises, the addition of gas masks may mean soldiers have to use exaggerated head nods or squeeze a soldier’s shoulder to signal what to do next.

How soldiers breach doors underground

As part of subterranean and other urban combat, troops often have to breach heavy doors and other barriers. Check out the "manual breaching" kit and see what's

Volume 0%

As part of subterranean and other urban combat, troops often have to breach heavy doors and other barriers. Check out the "manual breaching" kit. (Ben Murray / Staff)

While thermal devices are being fielded, they’re not with every soldier. Existing night vision needs some light to operate. Some options include carrying along light sources, but noise and light discipline are key entering an unexpected room, cave or stairwell.

Blinding light to stun the enemy can work both ways.

Paratroopers spent the week practicing door breaching techniques that included welding torches, battery-powered saws, winches and sledge hammers, battering rams and prying tools.

Even those small steps have to take into consideration the environment. Oxygen levels, other gases could mean small sparks will set off major explosions.

They then did walk-throughs at a mock urban site where building windows had been blacked out to simulate underground atmosphere.

Later, they practiced stages using gas masks, ballistic shields, small robots and military working dogs as ­enablers, night vision to shoot paper targets and force-on-force drills with simunitions.

Again, small considerations weighed heavily. The dogs must be acclimatized to the dark. Handlers and breachers need to scout with robots before sending in a dog. Booties or burn blankets are necessary to protect paws so that the dog doesn’t get injured in the first breach and is rendered useless.

Those smaller training steps culminated in an event in which platoon-sized groups ran through the entire order from door breaching to clearing buildings of three or more floors.

Much of the training was familiar, but with new limitations.



##### [Tunnel warfare will test the Air Force’s ability to spy — and bomb — a hidden enemy](https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-military/2019/02/26/tunnel-warfare-will-test-the-air-forces-ability-to-spy-and-bomb-a-hidden-enemy/)

The possible emergence of a new era of tunnel warfare will challenge the Air Force to think of new ways to find, and defeat, a hidden enemy.

**Stephen Losey**

“I was skeptical coming in, I’ll be the first to admit, because I’m thinking how much different is this from trench warfare? And how much difference are we seeing from (urban training)?” said Capt. Pat Harris, company commander for Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

The training isn’t expected to make the soldiers experts in underground warfare, but to introduce the concepts and practices to get leaders thinking about what it will take underground.

Capt. George Fletcher, company commander of Bone Company, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, said that his main takeaway was focusing on communication.

For example, if his troops are inside a complex and can quickly tell him this only goes down two floors, then he knows how to distribute his soldiers.

“If they tell me this stairway is not stopping that tells me I have to call back to my higher headquarters and tell them that hey, this isn’t a company fight, this may be a battalion fight,” he said.

And the captain said he saw how he would need to prepare for new challenges.

“Do we have the assets to continue to run our sustainment?” he said. “That’s a scary thought. Going a mile into a tunnel with not a lot of sustainment because it’s not wide enough for a lot of vehicles to go down there.”

**Ready to go underground**

Though the Army and Marine Corps want troops ready to go underground, not every base has the facilities.

Those include the Tunnel Warfare Center in China Lake, ­California, Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona; White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Story, Virginia; Fort Hood, Texas; and Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Indiana, likely the most complex of the list.

The Marine Corps has underground features at its urban training facility at Twentynine Palms, California.

A Marine with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, clears an underground tunnel system during the FINEX at Range 220 as a part of Integrated Training Exercise 3-18 aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 23, 2018. (Lance Cpl. William Chockey/Marine Corps)

A 2013 Naval Postgraduate School thesis paper, “The Enemy Below,” by four Army majors advocated for ­increasing and deepening subterranean training and noted seven cave systems at the National Training System at Fort Irwin, ­California that could be used.

Multiple sources noted that Army officials are considering plans to develop more complex, urban underground facets.

It may not need to be as demanding as some predict. Spencer pointed to the New York Fire Department’s Randall’s Island Fire Academy, which contains a seven-story building that can ­replicate all the challenges of a 100-story structure.

Until then, the method of surrounding soldiers to give them a tunnel-like feel will be to use existing buildings and to acquire old Conex boxes, weld them together to create narrow passages, officials said.

“Even if we don’t have a subterranean environment, we have ways of recreating that environment and ways of implementing that in the training as they get more advanced and get more comfortable in the training,” said one AWG captain.

**Beyond tactical**

While the training the paratroopers experienced sets the stage, more questions remain.

Army officials declined to discuss operational or strategic preparations and limited answers regarding brigade leadership-level considerations. One did acknowledge there is a battalion staff component to the training.

But experts interviewed agreed that the Army’s ­reluctance to discuss higher level planning and ­thinking made sense.

If the service has come up with solutions to the underground problem at those levels, they don’t want them revealed. If not, they don’t want that revealed either.

“I think the Army is in an interesting place where they’re beginning to have an opportunity to lift their head up and look at the horizon for potential threats,” Scharre said.

Spencer compared some of the thinking to what he has observed in his study of military urban focus: gaps in imagination.



##### [10 things soldiers and Marines need when heading underground](https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2019/02/26/10-things-soldiers-and-marines-need-when-heading-underground/)

This is what's on the wish list for underground operations.

**Todd South**

“Just like we get narrowly focused on urban by putting up a shoot house, if someone does get ­training on a subterranean event, they focus on a small tunnel,” he said.

Though those conditions exist, it’s likely soldiers and Marines will face a complex underground in ­major cities with communication lines and an unknown number of entrances and exits.

He would like to see battalion, brigade and higher staff incorporate subterranean in their planning and wargaming, not as an afterthought but as both an offensive and defensive aspect of the fight.

“We can over focus on the 2D aspect, I would want to get my hands on any mapping, old maps to get an idea of what’s the underground aspect,” he said.

A retired Marine Corps officer with more than a decade of special operations experience, told Military Times that what the Corps has provided in the past focuses mostly on the unit level and planning higher than battalion operations needs more focus.

**The big picture**

The underground threat has been growing, trending among U.S. adversaries for at least the past two decades.

And, as Richemond-Barak noted, the underground space is “drawing closer to civilians.”

Combat alone is an unnatural experience and each terrain offers its own versions of hell — from blasting desert sandstorms to freezing arctic mountains to creeping jungles that conceal threats.

But underground fighting is something special.

“It breaks everything we train,” Spencer said.

Richemond-Barak’s research reveals deeper realities.

“The ‘unknown factor,’ permeates virtually every aspect of anti-tunnel operations from the strategic level down to the tactical level, and even the technical level — and in degrees exponentially higher than in above ground operations,” she wrote. “Once inside a tunnel, a soldier is very much alone.”

The underground layer connects to the above ground fight, from controlling friendly forces moving above and below simultaneously to how to find the enemy.

Tunnels make it necessary “to remain alert not only to what is above and ahead of them, but also to what is behind and below them,” Richemond-Barak wrote.

“The realm of what they cannot see — the uncertainty and the unknown — expands dramatically. It is no longer sufficient for soldiers to secure the rear, as tunnels can emerge from anywhere,” she wrote. “Even for well-trained soldiers, the multidimensional aspect of the subterranean threat is not easy to handle.”

**What Kind of Weapons?**

Working through tunnel systems can quickly devolve into the primitive, to ­soldiers and Marines belly-crawling with pistols and flashlights, but a range of ­updated technology is now used for ­underground spaces and threats.

Those options span from chemical gas detectors to battery-powered saws to ever-more sophisticated robots to do the dangerous work for troops.

**Diesel-powered robot**: One robot the Army is looking at is from Brokk, a company that builds robotics for construction, demolition and excavation. It has demonstrated some of its equipment to both the Army’s Rapid Equipping Force and Marine Corps officials, specifically the Brokk 120D, a diesel-powered robot that can operate continuously for eight to 10 hours in confined spaces. It is controllable wirelessly to 1 km.

The robot can also navigate stairs, fit on most ground vehicles larger than a Humvee and inside CH-53 ad V-22 helicopters. It offloads itself and can be air dropped, said Tony Marlow, Brook vice president for nuclear and military projects

Recent demonstrations have given the company feedback for modifications that allow for better camera use and radio networking. The Army could make a ­purchasing decision as soon as mid-year.

**The subterranean challenge:**A major project that, if successful, could transform situational awareness for troops underground, is the Defense Advance Research Projects Agency Subterranean Challenge. Launched in 2017, it aims for new ways of mapping underground tunnels and meeting the array of challenges with technology by 2021.

**Breaching tools:** Troops are using throwable robots to investigate what’s down the tunnel or passageway. Those can also be fitted with chemical sensors to detect threats. Those include the First Look 110 and the PackBot 510.

As part of subterranean and other urban combat, troops often have to breach heavy doors and other barriers. Check out the "manual breaching" kit. (Ben Murray / Staff)

**Basic protection:** Troops are getting trained with ballistic shields, similar to what law enforcement SWAT teams use when confronting armed suspects.

**Communications:** This is key underground, and the military has adopted MESH network radios that create a network to retransmit signals through a tunnel via each radio. It allows anyone on the network to talk with anyone else, as opposed to funneling communications through separate networks, like traditional radio systems. They may also use decades-old tech, wired telephone handsets that would not look out of place during the Vietnam War.

**Troops have to breathe:** A self-contained breathing apparatus for contaminated air may give troops less than 40 minutes of breathing. Special operations versions, with filters to draw surrounding air and clean it, can give them more time.

**A kitbag of breaching tools:** These can be as high-tech as ­battery-powered cutting and ­breaching tools with a variety of attachments to welding-type torches to cut through metal and leverage gates off their hinges. Sledge hammers, pry bars and battering rams are basic tools.

The Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence has priced equipping a brigade combat team for underground work. That gear list also includes weapons suppressors, containers to transport the equipment and small all-terrain vehicles to move these items on the battlefield.

**The Global Syndicate’s Media Empire**

**By James Grundvig**

The planners quickly deployed the "insurance policy" after Donald J. Trump won the presidential election in 2016. Like an annuity, the payments to the policyholders would be small and steady at first, then lead, they hoped, to a much bigger payoff: the removal of President Trump from office.

At least that was the plan. Three and a half years later, the big day never arrived.

From the unsubstantiated Steele dossier, the discredited Russiagate investigation, to the FISA court abuses, the potholed-strewn road to impeachment circled back to the Mueller Report, which was supposed to clinch the deal. Without a smoking gun on the president, the Mueller team reached and then overreached, picking off a few Trump confidants, in an attempt to tighten the noose. The results were half-baked. That's usually what the FBI perjury trap produces. Plea deals; no evidence of collusion.

Sure, Robert Mueller collected a few big scalps in Gen. Michael Flynn and Roger Stone. But now that Flynn's indictment unraveled, the insurance claim has turned into a liability for the policyholders. Trump is still president. And now the investigation into collusion has moved in the other direction focusing on the planners of the insurance policy.

Going largely unnoticed, the Trump campaign turned social media into a clear advantage in 2016. Twitter emerged as the platform of choice, empowering Trump to communicate directly to the American people without filter, media biased, or interpretation, and with greater reach than all the network news outlets combined.

In late October 2016, Jason Sullivan – then the social media strategist for Roger Stone, working with the Trump campaign – used a data-mining tool he created, Power10, to peer into the public sentiment of the election. Outgunning the antiquated polling surveys that got it so wrong, Sullivan saw how candidate Hilary Clinton overtook Trump 10 days before the election in real time. He then saw, a few days later, how FBI Director James Comey gave Clinton a temporary boost when he announced the bureau would reopen the investigation into her email scandal.

Since that time, Jason Sullivan hasn't told his story about what happened behind the scenes leading to the biggest presidential upset election in more than a century. He wasn't able to. That's because the FBI swept Sullivan up in a dawn raid in early 2018, after intimidating other members of his family. [The FBI hauled him off to testify under oath of perjury before the Mueller team.](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-russia-stone/u-s-grand-jury-questions-social-media-advisor-to-key-trump-supporter-idUSKCN1IX5FV)

Surviving the FBI interrogation, Jason Sullivan retreated from the social media spotlight. That was until this June when he saw the establishment's coordinated effort to tilt the 2020 election against President Trump, again.

The COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdowns gave blue states cover for an all mail-in paper election. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Antifa protests, looting and riots further shut down cities across the United States. Some posed the theory that funds donated to BLM [flow through ActBlue, another political front company, and into the DNC.](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/2020-daily-trail-markers-joe-biden-and-actblue-rake-in-big-money-in-may-2020-06-15/)

The biggest lever in tilting the election this year, however, emerges with the collusion between the mainstream media and the tech giants as de facto gatekeepers of information. They wield tremendous power to determine what can and cannot be said, seen, shared and posted. They include Twitter, Facebook, Google and YouTube, among others.

All this boils down to one objective: Censorship.

**Trump Campaign's Social Media Strategist**

Surviving the Mueller interrogation, Sullivan developed a strong opinion on both censorship and what transpired during the last presidential election.

"On November 8th, 2016, all the laws of gravity were completely defied, and the legitimacy of every last one of the traditional political polls were utterly destroyed and proven beyond a shadow of a doubt to be completely inaccurate in what went down as the single biggest political upset in modern-day history," Sullivan said.

"The DNC, Hilary Clinton, the Obama administration, all the Democrats, all the leading newspapers and publications, the establishment Republicans and the RINOs were ALL completely caught flat-footed! If any one of the traditional polls were remotely accurate, candidate Trump did *not* stand a snowball's chance in hell of winning the presidential election."

Sullivan concluded his first salvo, stating, "There is no one today who will argue that Donald Trump won the presidency because of social media … not even President Trump. But social media is what allowed candidate Donald Trump to completely circumvent the mainstream media and get his message out directly to the people."

On Twitter shadow-banning, Sullivan observed the "systemized censorship that if Twitter staff members didn't like a user's tweet, they would zap the user's account, for a period of time. Meaning, everything the user would post would not show up on any of his followers news feeds. It's like getting hit with a digital stun gun."

Another deceptive tool Twitter deploys includes "removing the user's Twitter handle from its search function," Sullivan explained. "The search wouldn't show up or populate in the results of the Twitter search bar. In short, the Twitter handle would not be found by anyone attempting to visit the account."

Today, Twitter has been warning (President Trump twice), suspending (Candace Owens) and deleting accounts at a pace that's picking up speed. Maybe this is due to Twitter's fluid policies on "hate speech" and other rules that provide gray area to surgically remove some content, while allow other more insidious content to remain.

At the Sept. 5, 2018, U.S. congressional testimony, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey claimed, in [his opening statement:](https://d3i6fh83elv35t.cloudfront.net/static/2018/09/Dorsey.pdf) "Twitter is used as a global town square, where people from around the world come together in an open and free exchange of ideas."

Nice digital utopian vision. What if the "town square" is closed off to some, with groups of other voices silenced? Then Twitter no longer is a forum for the "free exchange of ideas," but a gatekeeper with clear editorial controls.

What's interesting is Sullivan knows that Jack Dorsey and Twitter are censoring more people today than ever before. And he can prove it.

**Stifling Free Speech**

What worries Sullivan are the other candidates in this election cycle. "Think about it," he said. "What if Twitter could systematically shadow-ban federal level senatorial and congressional candidates across the country? Twitter could prevent them from campaigning effectively by muting their voices from reaching potential voters."

Jason Sullivan isn't alone in his concern or his quest to expose the censorship being carried out by social media platforms. Bill Binney, the former NSA technical director of the World Geopolitical and Military Analysis Reporting Group, has joined Sullivan in setting out to reestablish a level playing field for all candidates.

Twice, Binney submitted sworn affidavits to the court where the Mueller team tried Gen. Flynn and Roger Stone. In both cases, "The judge wouldn't allow my testimony in court," Binney wrote in an email.

**The Day Obama Founded BLM**

On the morning of March 23, 2012, after introducing the new head of the World Bank in the White House Rose Garden, Barack Obama took just one question, likely pre-arranged.

It was on the recent shooting death of Trayvon Martin. Said Obama for the ages, "My main message is to the parents of Trayvon: If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon."

In projecting Trayvon as a "son," Obama strongly suggested that all black children were equally vulnerable to the predations of white men. Four weeks after the shooting, Obama had no excuse for not knowing the facts of the case. This would prove to be the most destructive moment of his presidency.

Without a hint of regret, the most powerful institutions of the nation – the Department of Justice, the leading civil rights groups, the White House – conspired to send George Zimmerman, an Hispanic Obama supporter and civil rights activist, to prison for the rest of his life. Without any meaningful exceptions, the mainstream media enabled this dark turn in American history.

Anyone following the case closely in the blogosphere knew Zimmerman was innocent. Sundance and his fellow Treepers at the Conservative Tree House deconstructed the case before Zimmerman even was arrested.

The arrest was based on a massive judicial fraud. In his stunning documentary, ["The Trayvon Hoax: Unmasking the Witness Fraud That Divided America,"](https://www.thetrayvonhoax.com/) Los Angeles filmmaker Joel Gilbert proves beyond doubt that the "star witness" in the state of Florida's case against Zimmerman was an impostor.

The media chose not to notice. There have been no apologies, no revisions, no lessons learned. Only Obama could have reversed this ugly momentum, and he chose not to.

Six days after Zimmerman's acquittal, Obama appeared unexpectedly at a routine White House press conference, specifically to address the "Trayvon Martin ruling."

Obama began by sending his "thoughts and prayers" to the family of Trayvon Martin. For Zimmerman and his family, still in hiding, there was not a word.

Bottom of Form

Much as he had a year earlier, Obama identified himself with Martin, this time even more directly. "Trayvon Martin could have been me 35 years ago," said Obama, ignoring the fact that the guys at his exclusive prep school did not make a habit of viciously attacking armed strangers.

A NBC News and Wall Street Journal poll taken in the week after the verdict showed Obama failing in the one area in which even Republicans hoped he would succeed.

In January 2009, 79% of whites and 64% of blacks held a favorable view of race relations in America. By July 2013, those figures had fallen to 52% among whites and 38% among blacks.

Getting neither satisfaction nor any corrective truth from Obama, militants transformed their anger into action. The most radical of these activists formed Black Lives Matter (BLM), a group whose website traces its founding "to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer, George Zimmerman."

A year after Zimmerman's acquittal, protesters chanting "black lives matter" turned the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson upside down and left much of it in ruins.

With a huge assist from the major media, BLM activists and their camp followers were quickly able to build another fatally divisive racial incident around a lie, this time, "Hands up, don't shoot."

As he did with Trayvon Martin, Obama sanctioned the lie and fully identified with Michael Brown. "My mind went back to what it was like for me when I was 17, 18, 20," he told a BET audience, ignoring the fact that the guys at his exclusive prep school did not make a habit of viciously attacking armed police officers.

Obama noted too that America had a "systemic problem," the police being the most obvious symptom. The nation's police got the message. Their understandable reluctance to enforce the law aggressively in black neighborhoods led to a massive crime wave known as the "Ferguson effect."

In 2015, the murder rate rose nearly 11%, its greatest one year jump in a half century. In 2016, the trend continued with an 8.5% increase over the year before. What this means is that nearly 3,000 more Americans were murdered in 2016 than in 2014, perhaps 2,000 of them black.

If the catastrophe of Obama's racial leadership had a face, it was that of former San Francisco 49er quarterback Colin Kaepernick. In August 2016, Kaepernick explained why he chose to sit out the national anthem: "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color."

Said the biracial adopted son of a white Christian family, "There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

Yes, there were bodies in the street, but Kaepernick had no idea how they got there. Misled by his president and the media, he somehow concluded that America "oppresses black people" and leaves them to die in the streets.

He reached this conclusion, it should be noted, in the eighth year of the Obama presidency. For all of those years, an African American headed the Department of Justice, and Democrats headed every major city in America and its police force, Minneapolis included.

Through his passive acquiescence, Obama allowed this division to fester and the mayhem to explode. It was not necessarily coincidental that the murder rate leveled off as soon as Obama left the White House and declined substantially the following year.

It kept declining until 2020. The Democrats had a presidential election to win. It was time to fire up the base once again and kill a few thousand more black bystanders in the process.

**Honesty and Politics**

When Sen. Bob Dole accepted the Republican nomination for president in 1996, his speech hit on the themes of “[honor, decency and straight talk](https://www.oregonlive.com/history/2016/08/bob_dole_backs_donald_trump_bu.html).” He proudly mentioned the great Republican Abraham Lincoln and explicitly denounced racism.

“The Republican Party is broad and inclusive. It represents many streams of opinion and many points of view. But if there’s anyone who has mistakenly attached themselves to our party in the belief that we are not open to citizens of every race and religion, then let me remind you — tonight this hall belongs to the party of Lincoln. And the exits, which are clearly marked, are for you to walk out of as I stand this ground without compromise,” Dole said.

The speech was held up in 2016 as an example of [how wonderful](https://www.oregonlive.com/history/2016/08/bob_dole_backs_donald_trump_bu.html) Republican candidates for president used to be before Donald Trump. So it’s interesting to also look back at how this speech was received by its critics. For example, then-Senior White House Adviser [George Stephanopoulos](https://www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/1996/news/9608/16/dole.kemp/) called it “partisan, negative and divisive.”

Fast-forward 24 years to the present. Once again a prominent Republican gives a speech with themes of [honor and decency and straight talk](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-south-dakotas-2020-mount-rushmore-fireworks-celebration-keystone-south-dakota/). Once again the prominent Republican [explicitly and repeatedly denounces racism](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-south-dakotas-2020-mount-rushmore-fireworks-celebration-keystone-south-dakota/). The Republican praises Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, Frederick Douglass, the Wright Brothers, the Tuskegee Airmen, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, Jesse Owens, George Patton, Louie Armstrong, Alan Shepard, Elvis Presley, Muhammad Ali, Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, Irving Berlin, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, and Bob Hope.

And once again critics claim that the speech is “[dark and divisive](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/03/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-mount-rushmore.html).”

But this time the commentary and narrative-shaping pushback that used to be left to Democratic activists such as George Stephanopoulos are now handled by corporate media activists like, well, George Stephanopoulos. OK, maybe it’s not such a significant difference after all. But it’s still noteworthy that the corporate media activists are doing what used to be left to official party activists.

The “dark and divisive” line above came from The New York Times, in what was falsely presented as a “news” report on the speech. The Washington Post’s Robert Costa and Philip Rucker claimed in a [screed bizarrely not labeled as opinion](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-racism-white-nationalism-republicans/2020/07/04/2b0aebe6-bbaf-11ea-80b9-40ece9a701dc_story.html?utm_source=Byron%20York%27s%20Daily%20Memo%20(July%206,%202020)_07/06/2020&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WEX%20-%20Alerts%20-%20York&rid=14951782), “Trump’s push to amplify racism unnerves Republicans who have long enabled him.”

Stephanopoulos hosts “This Week,” a Sunday show on ABC. He was out on Independence Day weekend, so his co-host Martha Raddatz filled in. She [opined](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-20-dr-stephen-hahn-mayor-kate/story?id=71617004) that Trump had delivered “anything but a message of unity” and a “very grim message for America.” Raddatz further shared [her anti-Trump campaign narrative](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-20-dr-stephen-hahn-mayor-kate/story?id=71617004): “This speech was not the only time in the past few weeks the president has seemed eager to turn the attention back to the issues of race in this country, how does he expected to get re-elected with a message like that?”

It may seem quaint to do so in this day and age of fact-free opinion, but let’s look at the actual words of the Trump speech that Raddatz claimed was grim and racist:

*We believe in equal opportunity, equal justice, and equal treatment for citizens of every race, background, religion, and creed. Every child, of every color — born and unborn — is made in the holy image of God. (Applause.)*

*We want free and open debate, not speech codes and cancel culture.*

*We embrace tolerance, not prejudice.*

In order for Raddatz to run her political campaign against Trump, she had to repeatedly lie about the content of his speech.

People who actually paid attention to the content of the speech said it was evocative of Lincoln’s First inaugural, a “[kindred invitation to unity in the midst of conflict](https://amgreatness.com/2020/07/04/a-magnificent-speech/).”

As if orders went out from a central director, nearly every major media outlet flat-out lied about Trump’s speech. Whether they were engaged in reflexive “political advisor” mode like the Stephanopoulos of old, whether they had pre-drafted their reports based on dubious theories about what would be in the speech, or whether they simply decided that the best way to counter an effective political message was to simply lie about it, lie about it they did.

Robert Costa and Philip Rucker opined in a piece falsely labeled as “news” that Trump gave “a dystopian speech in which he excoriated racial justice protesters,” and that this was a continuation of Trump’s “race baiting and, at times, outright racism.”

Washington Examiner reporter Byron York noted “To the Post, apparently, tearing down statues, or threatening to tear down statues, of George Washington, not to mention Jefferson, Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, and others, is ‘racial justice protest.'”

As Ben Domenech wrote, “Keep in mind, this is a ‘news’ piece. But even as a statement of opinion, it is false from the first sentence. No Confederates were mentioned once in Trump’s speech, and his defense was an educational dive into the nobility and honor of the men on the mountain behind him – Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt – as well as an Americana-drenched defense of the nation and the great heroes and heroines it has produced of all races throughout her history.”

He noted that the lies told by Costa and Rucker, and published in the Washington Post, were indistinguishable from the lies told by Democrat Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who claimed that Trump’s discussion of American heroes and Founding Fathers was time spent “talking about dead traitors.”

The New York Times, ABC News, the Washington Post, and many other outlets made a decision to lie about their political opponent Donald Trump in service of partisan gain.

This is an escalation by the media in their war against Trump, and one that does not bode well for the republic. You might say that they have always lied about their political opponents, and there is significant truth to that.

But even with their despicable anti-Brett Kavanaugh and Russia collusion hoax campaigns, they endeavored to tie their partisan activism to some fig leaf of news. Their behavior may have been despicable in how they handled [unsubstantiated claims from Christine Blasey Ford](https://thefederalist.com/2019/12/02/21-reasons-not-to-believe-christine-blasey-fords-claims-about-justice-kavanaugh/) or [anonymous and politically motivated leakers](https://thefederalist.com/2017/01/17/top-level-intel-officers-war-donald-trump-bad-country/), but those claims and leaks at least occurred. In this case, the media invented facts to defame conservatives and the president.

People who care about facts and truth must remember to seek out original sources rather than trust mendacious reporters and media outlets. They must be on guard about the propaganda these outlets will be putting forth in the months to come as they become emboldened. And they must take every opportunity to renounce the spreading of falsehoods by people who purport to be in a business of reporting facts.

**Human Symbiosis with Planet Earth**

# Humans and the Earth

**Symbiotic Relationships**

Symbiotic relationships, in which organisms rely on one another, exist throughout nature. There are different types of these relationships ranging from those that are mutually beneficial to those that are harmful for one of the organisms. Other relationships exist where one organism protects the other, the clownfish and the sea anemone are a perfect example. The clownfish is protected from the stings of the anemone by a protective layer and the sea anemone provides a safe environment for the clownfish to survive.


<http://coglab.hbcse.tifr.res.in/teacher-resources/multimedia-resources/symbiosis/photographs/clownfish3.jpg/image_preview>

One could also relate these symbiotic relationships to humans and the Earth. The Earth protects us, provides for us, and sustains our lives. We can compare our relationship to that of the clownfish and the sea anemone. However, humans do not simply exist; rather we change the landscape of the Earth, we pollute ecosystems, and our activities are often detrimental to the health of the planet. Realizing and understanding our relationship with the Earth is crucial if we are going to change our mindsets and attitudes about the treatment of our only home.

**Invasive Species**

Invasive species those that are non-native to a particular environment and therefore have limited competition and pose a threat to the native species of that environment. These species have often been moved from one particular area to another often due impart to human intervention and resulting in these problems of rapid spreading. The Feral Cane Toad is one such example of an aggressive invasive species. The Cane Toad was introduced to Australia in 1935 as a means to control beetle populations on sugar cane farms. This was before pesticides were commonly used to protect crops. Since their introduction and lack of competitive predators, the toad populations have dramatically increased and have come to threaten native species and their food supplies. For more information on Feral Cane Toads in Australia, click [here](http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0%2C28804%2C1958657_1958656_1958331%2C00.html).

Friedman, Megan. “Top 10 Invasive Species.” Time. Time Inc., 02 Feb. 2010. Web. 20 July 2015.

<http://images.natureworldnews.com/data/images/full/2450/cane-toad-in-australia.jpg>

This same light can be turned on humans themselves and how invasive they are within their own environments. Not only are several invasive species introduced due to the actions of humans, but also resource collection methods such as [hydraulic fracturing](http://www.dangersoffracking.com/) have huge environmental consequences. Our actions fit the definition of invasive species, as we are posing a threat to both other species and our own existence.

**Current Environmental Disasters**

In efforts to make resource collections, such a food and energy, more efficient and productive, several environmental hazards have been generated. As seen above, hydraulic fracturing is one pressing environmental issue, as well as oil spills and colony collapse disorder. Large scale oil spills, such as the one that effected the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, resulted in 170 million gallons of oil being released into the water and thousands of wildlife injuries and deaths. Other areas of concern include the declining populations of bees around the world.

<https://windagainstcurrent.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/dsc_0187-cropped-small.jpg>

This particular phenomenon is known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). This is a heavily debated topic that has been receiving a great deal of research in order to reach a conclusive reason for the lost and dying bees. The role of bees in our ecosystem is often underplayed, as they are critical for the pollination of food bearing plants. Without the hard work of these insects fruit and vegetable prices would skyrocket and their supply would drop dramatically. One of the contributing reasons for the declining bee populations being currently researched is the impact pesticides are having on bee health and their nervous systems. When bees land on plants and flowers, they collect both pollen and any additional chemicals that have been added to “protect” the plants. These chemicals have an impact on the functioning of bees and could be the primary factor playing into these collapsing colonies. If you are interested in learning more about this issue check out the trailer for Vanishing of the Bees, [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze9qxhQ65O4). Added bonus, it’s on Netflix. There are a great deal of environmental disasters that are currently being brought about due to the invasive behavior being conducted by humans. It becoming more and more necessary to move towards a relationship in which both humans can thrive and the Earth is able to prosper and flourish as it once did.

Life on Earth is made up of a complex network of relationships between different species. These relationships come in many forms, from predators hunting prey to plants providing habitat. The most deeply intertwined of these relationships are referred to as **symbiosis**.

Symbiosis is a long-term, close relationship between two or more species. These relationships can [take many forms](https://projects.ncsu.edu/cals/course/ent525/close/goodbuddies.html). Though many classic examples benefit all species involved, this is not a requirement. Some forms of symbiosis are “unequal.” Parasitic relationships that threaten the wellbeing of the host can even be considered symbiotic.

Symbiotic relationships create many complex ecological interactions. These relationships hint at the ways in which the members of ecosystems can [interact like the organs of an organism](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13752-014-0194-7). These relationships are essential to many biological processes in humans and our world.

You encounter symbiosis more often in your day to day life than you might imagine. One well-known example is your [microbiome](https://www.earth.com/earthpedia-articles/what-is-microbiomics/). These organisms live in your gut and many other parts of your body. They provide essential services like digesting complex sugars, protecting against infections, and training your immune system. These creatures are your own symbionts.

## Mutualism

Mutualism is the friendliest of these symbiotic relationships. In mutualistic symbiosis, both (or all) species involved benefit from the relationship. These relationships allow species to show off their skills. Organisms that are very skilled at one task will provide this service to another species in exchange for something they need.

### Examples

There are many examples of mutualism in the natural world. One of the most commonly used examples is how plants collect nitrogen. All living things need nitrogen to build [protein](https://www.earth.com/earthpedia-articles/what-is-proteomics/). Though diatomic nitrogen gas is abundant in the atmosphere, plants cannot use this form. Instead, they rely on bacteria and [fungi](https://www.earth.com/news/fungi-everywhere/) to “fix” nitrogen. Legumes (which include most beans) owe their high protein content to these relationships. Other [plants actually interact with fungi to indirectly “eat” bugs](https://www.caseyhofford.com/2018/10/16/fungi-are-friends-not-foes/) to gain their protein.

## Commensalism

Commensalism is a form of symbiosis that only benefits one of the partners. In commensalism, the host is not harmed by the relationship but does not benefit either. The commensal organism may get protection, transportation, shelter or even the scraps of the host’s last meal. The term comes from the Latin “*Commensalis,*” meaning “sharing a table.”

### Examples

Hermit crabs are a great example of this behavior. In this relationship, the crabs use the discarded shells of snails as their homes. The hermit crab gains protection from what is essentially a waste product of another species.

Cattle egrets are another great example of commensalism. These bug-eating birds hang out around cattle, waiting to feast on the bugs that are inevitably stirred up.

## Parasitism

Parasitism is possibly the most common form of symbiosis. In parasitism, one species benefits at the expense of another species. The parasite benefits by stealing food, energy or other resources. Unlike predation, parasitism is long-term and ongoing. Many organisms have parasitic stages in their lives.

The number of parasitic relationships in the natural world is huge. Parasitic relationships can be seen in every ecosystem and taxon. Here are a few well known and interesting examples.

[Aphids are plant parasites](https://necsi.edu/parasitic-relationships) that use the plant as a long-term source of food. They continually parasitize the plant, decreasing its growth and reproductive success.

[Parasitic wasps](https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/parasitoid-wasps-hymenoptera) are a large group of obligate parasites (they can only survive by eating eggs.) These species sound horrifying but are actually quite helpful. These wasps primarily eat the eggs of garden pests. This makes them a great biological control measure.



Parasitic wasp, Image Credit: Suede Chen/Shutterstock

## Amensalism

A far more uncommon form of symbiosis is called amensalism. In this relationship, one species [harms the other, without receiving a direct benefit](https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/amensalism). Some organisms will actually secrete toxins to harm or kill their neighbors. This differs from predation or parasitism because the attacker is not feeding on its victim. It also differs from competition, which occurs in all ecosystems. Instead, amensalism reduces competition to gain an indirect benefit.

### Examples

Though amensalism is less common than other forms of symbiosis, it has some amazing results. The first antibiotic, penicillin, was derived from the penicillium fungus. The mold produced[penicillin in order to kill bacteria](https://study.com/academy/lesson/amensalism-examples-definition-quiz.html) growing nearby. The discovery of this relationship led to one of the biggest leaps in modern medicine. Due to overuse, [antibiotics are becoming less effective](http://v/). This poses a huge threat to humanity.

Symbiotic relationships exist throughout the natural world. Now that you know the core categories of symbiotic relationships, you will likely notice these throughout the natural world. Comment with some examples of symbiosis that you’ve seen or heard of.

**With Machines**

The term "symbiosis" describes a mutually beneficial relationship between two parties that allows each to profit in tandem with the other. It is typically used to describe natural phenomena, such as the relationship between bees and plant pollen. But it is also an apt term to describe the way that machine learning-based AI and humans will develop and evolve together.

While 2017 was a hugely important year in terms of advancements in natural language processing, it was also a year of human frustration -- and even mockery -- over AI-based interactions. From [Microsoft’s Zo](http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/social/microsofts-zo-chatbot-told-a-user-that-quran-is-very-violent-4736768/) ([Tay’s](http://www.businessinsider.com/microsoft-deletes-racist-genocidal-tweets-from-ai-chatbot-tay-2016-3) new and improved successor) to the infamous [BabyQ incident](https://nypost.com/2017/08/04/china-destroys-sassy-bots-after-they-bash-communism/) in China, we’ve seen that sometimes machines don’t learn quite fast enough for our human taste. But when we shut down technologies for not giving the right answer (as China did with BabyQ), we forget the very purpose of machine learning: to learn through human interaction. And while the impetus for teaching should not be placed so strongly as it has been on the consumer, we should take note of failures and teach machines to improve. In doing so, we will develop a mutually beneficial relationship wherein we help machines learn and they improve human efficiency.

**Positive Feedback Loops Are Good For Business**

Since the advent of machine learning in the late 1960s, programmers have struggled to develop robots that can learn without being explicitly programmed. The two primary issues they've faced include a dearth of training data and the difficulty of pattern identification. The past 10 years, however, have demonstrated the power of machine learning when these issues diminish: It has been used in speech and facial recognition, in warning systems such as predicting cyberattacks based on chatter and even in simple tasks like email filtering. 2017, in particular, marked a huge advancement in machine learning, when Google’s DeepMind division released its latest version of AlphaZero. The computer program rapidly reached Grandmaster level in chess after [just four hours](http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-42251535) of playing, using a technique called [reinforcement learning](https://www.chess.com/news/view/google-s-alphazero-destroys-stockfish-in-100-game-match) -- an outcome that could conceivably be replicated in other applications.

When humans teach machines how to improve task performance over time, machines grow alongside humans in a symbiotic relationship. In the customer service industry, for instance, chatbots and response suggestion engines improve over time based on user interactions -- both globally and individually. A machine becomes increasingly adroit at identifying user intent based on feedback and a steady stream of data.

In mathematical terms, this stimulated growth from two entities is called a positive feedback loop. *A*drives growth in *B*, which in turn drives growth in *A*. This type of relationship drives exponential, accelerated growth toward extreme values -- an outcome that is not typically desirable in systems that require equilibrium (such as the body’s internal environment) but is highly desirable in a system that requires innovation. In the business world, companies that establish a positive feedback loop between employees and machine learning-based technologies will see accelerated growth.

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To use the customer service example, as a chatbot becomes better and better at ticket deflection through suggesting knowledge-based articles, human agents have more time to tackle high-level issues, thereby decreasing backlog and customer dissatisfaction. As agents become increasingly skilled at tackling high-level issues, they can automate at higher and higher levels.

In this relationship, the bot improves human efficiency, while humans improve bot efficacy. Each needs the other to continue growing. This type of give-and-take relationship between bots and humans will define the next decade of labor. We’ve already seen its advent in the [airline industry](http://news.delta.com/delta-plans-biometric-based-self-service-bag-drop), the [hospitality industry](http://newsroom.hilton.com/index.cfm/news/hilton-and-ibm-pilot-connie-the-worlds-first-watsonenabled-hotel-concierge) and even the [clothing manufacturing industry](https://www.fastcompany.com/40454692/this-t-shirt-sewing-robot-could-radically-shift-the-apparel-industry). As the machines learn more and more, they will become increasingly interwoven into the fabric of our lives -- and the hurdles we will have to overcome with them will be moral rather than technological. Teaching themselves will be less of a problem than *what*we teach, given that the boundaries of morality and etiquette vary greatly between cultures and individuals. This will necessitate a form of policy and oversight for holding programmers responsible for their products’ moral compasses.

**Human/Bot Symbiosis Will Spur The American Economy**

Efficiency drives down prices, which in turn drives up demand and spurs growth. This will occur at an increasingly rapid pace as robots first tackle simple tasks (such as information collection) but grow to be able to handle complex requests.

Despite the general paranoia over various forms of automation, as history has shown us (from self-check-in kiosks at airports to self-check-out lines at grocery stores), technology evolves best when it is utilized in conjunction with human labor.

Take the leisure and hospitality industry, for instance. Hotels, in particular, have embraced the union of AI-powered concierges with human assistance. From Hilton Worldwide’s concierge robot “[Connie](http://newsroom.hilton.com/index.cfm/news/hilton-and-ibm-pilot-connie-the-worlds-first-watsonenabled-hotel-concierge)” to Marriott International’s chatbot butler “[ChatBotlr](http://news.marriott.com/2017/09/marriott-internationals-ai-powered-chatbots-facebook-messenger-slack-alofts-chatbotlr-simplify-travel-guests-throughout-journey/),” the hospitality industry has utilized AI to subsidize human-to-human interactions, without eliminating the possibility for assistance from a real person. This is reflected in the industry’s employment statistics and projections: According to the [Bureau of Labor](https://data.bls.gov/pdq/SurveyOutputServlet), employment in the industry has risen by 1.8% over the past 10 years, which means hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

By investing in innovative, machine learning technologies early, companies like Hilton and Marriott will establish a symbiotic relationship between employees and AI technologies ahead of the competition, which will make them likely to experience the positive feedback loop before other companies. Despite consumer disappointment with many machine learning-based products in 2017, companies must continue to teach machines and learn how to coexist in a mutually beneficial manner in order to be competitive.

**The Gaia Paradox**

## Mother Earth

The idea that Earth and its atmosphere are some sort of "superorganism" was actually first proposed by Scottish geologist (a person specializing in the study of Earth) James Hutton (1726–1797), although this was not one of his more accepted and popular ideas. As a result, no one really pursued this notion until some 200 years later, when the English chemist James Lovelock (1919– ) put forth a similar idea in his 1979 book, *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth.*Gaia is the name of the Greek goddess of Earth and mother of the Titans. In modern times, the name has come to symbolize "Earth Mother" or "Living Earth." In this book, Lovelock proposed that Earth's biosphere (all the parts of Earth that make up the living world) acts as a single living system that if left alone, can regulate itself.

Where does the name *Gaia* come from? The story goes that James was walking in the countryside surrounding his home in Wilshire, England, and met his neighbor, English novelist William Golding (1911–1993), author of *Lord of the Flies*and several other books. I don’t know if you ever read the book or saw the original film made from the book. I was brought to tears several times during the story. It broke my heart.

Anyway, James told his story to Golding about his new theory. He then asked his advice about choosing a suitable name for it, and the result of this meeting was that the term "Gaia" was chosen because of its real connection to the Greek goddess who pulled the living world together out of chaos or complete disorder.

## Origin of Earth's atmosphere

Lovelock arrived at this hypothesis by studying Earth's neighboring planets, Mars and Venus. Suggesting that chemistry and physics seemed to argue that these barren and hostile planets should have an atmosphere just like that of Earth, Lovelock stated that Earth's atmosphere is different because it has life on it. Both Mars and Venus have an atmosphere with about 95 percent carbon dioxide, while Earth's is about 79 percent nitrogen and 21 percent oxygen.

He explained this dramatic difference by saying that Earth's atmosphere was probably very much like that of its neighbors at first, and that it was a world with hardly any life on it. The only form that did exist was what many consider to be the first forms of life—anaerobic bacteria that lived in the ocean. This type of bacteria cannot live in an oxygen environment, and its only job is to convert nitrates to nitrogen gas. This accounts for the beginnings of a nitrogen build-up in Earth's atmosphere. So, the Earth was devoid of life.

## Words to Know

**Biosphere:**The sum total of all lifeforms on Earth and the interaction among those lifeforms.

**Feedback:**Information that tells a system what the results of its actions are.

**Homeostasis:**State of being in balance; the tendency of an organism to maintain constant internal conditions despite large changes in the external environment.

**Photosynthesis:**Chemical process by which plants containing chlorophyll use sunlight to manufacture their own food by converting carbon dioxide and water to carbohydrates, releasing oxygen as a by-product.

**Symbiosis:**A pattern in which two or more organisms live in close connection with each other, often to the benefit of both or all organisms.

The oxygen essential to life as we know it did not start to accumulate in the atmosphere until organisms that were capable of photosynthesis evolved. Photosynthesis is the process that some algae and all plants use to convert chemically the Sun's light into food. This process uses carbon dioxide and water to make energy-packed glucose, and it gives off oxygen as a by-product.

These very first photosynthesizers were a blue-green algae called cyanobacteria that live in water. Eventually, these organisms produced so much oxygen that they put the older anaerobic bacteria out of business. As a result, the only place that anaerobic bacteria could survive was on the deep-sea floor (as well as in heavily water-logged soil and in our own intestines). James’s basic point was that the existence of life (bacteria) eventually made Earth a very different place by giving it an atmosphere. It was the voluminous byproducts from bacteria over millions of years that produced carbon dioxide. Algae thrived on the carbon dioxide and produced oxygen.

James eventually went beyond the notion that life can change the environment and proposed the controversial Gaia hypothesis. He said that Gaia is the "Living Earth" and that Earth itself should be viewed as being alive. Like any living thing, it always strives to maintain constant or stable conditions for itself, called homeostasis.

In the Gaia hypothesis, it is the presence and activities of life that keep Earth in homeostasis and allow it to regulate its systems and maintain steady-state conditions. This is one of the key characteristics of a living thing. It protects itself from toxins and seems to consciously alter processes to buffer or stabilize its chemistry around a long-standing average.

## Cooperation over competition

James was supported in his hypothesis by American microbiologist Lynn Margulis born in 1918, who became his principal collaborator. Margulis not only provided support, but she brought her own scientific ability and achievements to the Gaia hypothesis. In her 1981 book, *Symbiosis in Cell Evolution*, Margulis had put forth the then-unheard of theory that life as we know it today evolved more from cooperation than from competition.

She argued that the cellular ancestors of today's plants and animals were groups of primitive, formless bacteria cells called prokaryotes. She stated that these simplest of bacteria formed symbiotic relationships—relationships that benefitted both organisms—which eventually led to the evolution of new lifeforms. Her theory is called endosymbiosis and is based on the fact that bacteria routinely take and transfer bits of genetic material from each other.

This is a process that is either very primitive or very advanced in viruses.

Margulis then argued that simple bacteria eventually evolved into more complex eukaryotic cells or cells with a nucleus. These types of cells form the basic structure of plants and animals. Her then-radical but now-accepted idea was that life evolved more out of cooperation (which is what symbiosis is all about) than it did out of competition (in which only the strong survive and reproduce). The simple prokaryotes did this by getting together and forming symbiotic groups or systems that increased their chances of survival. According to Margulis then, symbiosis, or the way different organisms adapt to living together to the benefit of each, was the major mechanism for change on Earth.

Most scientists now agree with her thesis that oxygen-using bacteria joined together with fermenting bacteria to form the basis of a type of new cell that eventually evolved into complex eukaryotes. For the Gaia hypothesis, the Margulis concept of symbiosis has proven to be a useful explanatory tool. Since it explains the origin and the evolution of life on Earth (by stating that symbiosis is the mechanism of change), it applies also to what continues to happen as the process of evolution goes on and on.

## Gaia explained

The main idea behind the Gaia hypothesis can be both simple and complex. Often, several similar examples or analogies concerning the bodies of living organisms are used to make the Gaia concept easier to understand. One of these states that we could visualize Earth's rain forests as the lungs of the planet since they exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide. Earth's atmosphere could be thought of as its respiratory system, and its streams of moving water and larger rivers like its circulatory system, since they bring in clean water and flush out the system. Some say that the planet actually "breathes" because it contracts and expands with the Moon's gravitational pull, and the seasonal changes we all experience are said to reflect our own rhythmic bodily cycles.

Many of these analogies are useful in trying to explain the general idea behind the Gaia hypothesis, although they should not be taken literally. James, however, has stated that Earth is very much like the human body in that both can be viewed as a system of interacting components. He argues that just as our bodies are made up of billions of cells working together as a single living being, so too are the billions of different lifeforms on Earth working together (although unconsciously) to form a single, living "superorganism." Further, just as the processes or physiology of our bodies has its major systems (such as the nervous system, circulatory system, respiratory system, etc.), so, says James, Earth has its own "geophysiology." This geophysiology is made up of four main components: atmosphere (air), biosphere (all lifeforms), geosphere (soil and rock), and hydrosphere (water). Finally, just as our own physiological health depends on all of our systems being in good working condition and, above all, working together well, so, too, does Earth's geophysiology depend on its systems working in harmony.

## Life is the regulating mechanism

James claims that all of the living things on Earth provide it with this necessary harmony. He states that these living things, altogether, control the physical and chemical conditions of the environment, and therefore it is life itself that provides the feedback that is so necessary to regulating something. Feedback mechanisms can detect and reverse any unwanted changes. A typical example of feedback is the thermostat in most homes. We set it to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature, usually somewhere in the range between 65°F (18°C) and 70°F (21°C). The thermostat is designed so that when the temperature falls below a certain setting, the furnace is turned on and begins to heat the house. When that temperature is reached and the thermostat senses it, the furnace is switched off. Our own bodies have several of these feedback mechanisms, all of which are geared to maintaining conditions within a certain proper and balanced range.

For Earth's critical balance, James says that it is the biosphere, or all of life on Earth, that functions as our thermostat or regulator. He says that the atmosphere, the oceans, the climate, and even the crust of Earth are regulated at a state that is comfortable for life *because of the behavior of living organisms*. This is the revolutionary lesson that the Gaia hypothesis wants to teach. It says that all of Earth's major components, such as the amount of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the



The elongated globe view of the Earth. *(Reproduced by permission of*

saltiness of the oceans, and the temperature of our surface is regulated or kept in proper balance by the activities of the life it supports. He also states that this feedback system is self-regulating and that it happens automatically. As evidence that, if left alone, Earth can regulate itself, he asserts that it is the activity of living organisms that maintain the delicate balance between atmospheric carbon dioxide and oxygen. In a way, Love-lock argues that it is life itself that maintains the conditions favorable for the continuation of life. For example, he contends that it is no accident that the level of oxygen is kept remarkably constant in the atmosphere at 21 percent. James further offers several examples of cycles in the environment that work to keep things on an even keel.

James also warns that since Earth has the natural capacity to keep things in a stable range, human tampering with Earth's environmental balancing mechanisms places everyone at great risk. While environmentalists insist that human activity (such as industrial policies that result in harming Earth's ozone layer) is upsetting Earth's ability to regulate itself, others who feel differently argue that Earth can continue to survive very well no matter what humans do exactly because of its built-in adaptability.

## Earth as seen from space

An important aspect about the Gaia hypothesis is that it offers scientists a new model to consider. Most agree that such a different type of model was probably not possible to consider seriously until humans went into space. However, once people could travel beyond the atmosphere of Earth and put enough distance between them and their planet, then they could view their home from an extra-terrestrial viewpoint. No doubt that the 1960s photographs of the blue, green, and white ball of life floating in the total darkness of outer space made both scientists and the public think of their home planet a little differently than they ever had before. These pictures of Earth must have brought to mind the notion that it resembled a single organism.

Although the Gaia hypothesis is still very controversial and has not been established scientifically (by being tested and proven quantitatively), it has already shown us the valuable notion of just how interdependent everything is on Earth. We now recognize that Earth's biological, physical, and chemical components or major parts regularly interact with and mutually affect one another, whether by accident or on purpose. Finally, it places great emphasis on what promises to be the planet's greatest future problem—the quality of Earth's environment and the role humans will play in Earth's destiny.

**US Pensions Should Stop Financing Chinese Companies**

U.S. pension funds underwrite slave labor in China via investment in Chinese companies, Rick Manning, president of Americans for Limited Government, said on Thursday’s edition of SiriusXM’s Breitbart News Tonight with host Rebecca Mansour and special guest host John Hayward.

[Manning](http://netrightdaily.com/contributors/rick-manning/) said the Trump administration is contemplating an [end](https://www.breitbart.com/radio/2020/05/14/frank-gaffney-block-wall-street-pension-funds-investing-china/) to the Thrift Savings Plan’s (TSP) investment in Chinese firms. The TSP is administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB), a federal agency, and is a defined contribution plan for employees of and retirees from the federal government and armed services

Manning stated, “[The] Department of Labor [publishes](https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/ListofGoods.pdf) a child enslaved labor report every single year citing countries and the industries — the products — that are made with child slave labor, and China is cited for not one, not two, but twelve different industries that use childhood slave labor to make the products that they then sell to America, and what’s really despicable about it is our pension funds are being invested in those companies that are doing that.”

“We are effectively the slave owners,” added Manning. “Our pension funds are the slave owners of those poor minorities in China, religious and other persecuted minorities in China are enslaved, the children who are enslaved. We are the slave owners through our pension funds. That has to end.”

Varying political factions within the Trump administration have competing views of restricting the TSP’s investment in Chinese companies, Manning shared.

“There’s been a battle going on for the last six to eight weeks between various factions in the White House about what to do with investments by public employee pension funds, particularly the 401k known as the TSP,” Manning remarked. “The Wall Street boys were trying to get the TSP money invested into China, and eventually, President Trump stepped up and said, ‘No, that isn’t going to happen.’ Labor Secretary Scalia agreed, and he wrote a letter that was pretty informative. He said [investments in China] were too risky, and … they also pose a national security threat.”

Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia has authority to block the private retirement funds from investing in Chinese companies, stated Manning.

Manning explained, “The Department of Labor has direct control through something called ERISA, which is the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. It essentially makes sure that private retirement funds are invested only in suitable investments, meaning those investments which are not so risky so as to put the retirement of people at risk. That is directly in the law, so the labor secretary determines what is a suitable investment.

Manning [issued](https://getliberty.org/2020/07/if-china-is-our-greatest-information-and-ip-threat-why-are-u-s-private-pensions-still-investing-in-it/) a statement on Wednesday calling on Scalia to block private retirement funds from investing in Chinese companies. He asked, “If China is our greatest information and IP threat, why are U.S. private pensions still investing in it?”

“The very Christmas ornaments we put on our trees, the toys [and] clothing under that tree — including the latest Colin Kaepernick shoe and the phone or other Chinese-made electronics are likely the products of the blood and toil of children and slaves,” Manning maintained.

In May, President Donald Trump [directed](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/05/12/trump-halts-plans-to-invest-u-s-federal-retirement-funds-in-chinese-companies/) FRTIB not to go forward with a plan to invest federal employees’ and military servicepersons’ retirement savings in an index including Chinese firms.

Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL), a retired Green Beret, [warned](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/04/23/rep-mike-waltz-warns-billions-in-u-s-troops-retirement-savings-funding-the-chinese-military/) in April that members of the U.S. military are inadvertently funding China’s military apparatus through their retirement savings.

Manning remarked, “The goal here is deep to decapitalize China in such a way that we eliminate their ability to access our markets to get the funds necessary to float their economy, which is, by many accounts, nothing more than a Ponzi scheme that’s being held up by the capital provided by Wall Street.”

Manning concluded, “This is an issue that affects trillions of dollars. This is not a low-level issue. This is trillions of dollars of investment, and it is going to be a complete fistfight with the Wall Street boys. Quite honestly, they’re going to lose.”