**The Reason for Veteran’s Day**

Many Americans have no idea why we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11. Those who know that the holiday began as Armistice Day typically think of it as a day of victory and peace.

However, for those on the ground in Europe the last twenty-four hours before the cessation of hostilities on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, that day was nothing less than hell on earth.

One hundred and three years ago this week, Allied commanders ordered U.S. Marines and Army personnel to attempt a perilous night crossing of the Meuse River and assault the heavily defended German positions on the far side. Prescient, General Black Jack Pershing foresaw the possible rise of Germany and wanted to make it clear the Allies had won the war by seizing more German-controlled territory. Scores of men would die in an attack that ultimately proved a tragic loss of life.

I retell the story of that harrowing night in my bestselling book, [*The Unknowns: The Untold Story of America’s Unknown Soldier and WWI’s Most Decorated Heroes Who Brought Him Home*](https://www.amazon.com/Unknowns-Americas-Soldier-Decorated-Brought-ebook/dp/B075VCL8QT/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1636121935&sr=8-2). It follows eight American heroes who accomplished extraordinary feats in some of the war’s most important battles. As a result of their bravery, these eight men were selected to serve as Body Bearers at the ceremony where the Unknown Soldier was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Several of those Body Bearers took part in that final barrage on the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Body Bearer Corporal Thomas Saunders, a Native American from Wyoming who received the Distinguished Service Cross and other honors for his previous heroism at Jaulny, worked with the other members of the 2nd Engineers to construct the flimsy footbridges that would span the river. German artillery had destroyed all the permanent bridges in the area, so Saunders and his comrades designed some floating bridges that they hoped would last long enough to get their men across. To avoid enemy snipers, they prefabricated the bridges in sections—each roughly the width of a ladder and twelve feet long—well back from the front lines. Teams of mules then hauled the sections near the river.

The Americans knew the Germans had countless fortified machine-gun nests along the bank of the Meuse, as well as heavy artillery zeroed in on the likely crossing points. Stepping out onto the footbridges without cover fire would have meant immediate death.

To soften up the German defenses, American field artillery, including Body Bearer and Color Sergeant James W. Dell’s 75mm artillery battery, began the attack by firing for an hour straight on the narrow strip of land between the riverbank and the woods beyond. When the hour was up, they turned their guns on known German positions, hoping to keep them pinned down long enough for the Marines to make the crossing.

Fortunately for the Americans, the weather was working in their favor. A thick, cold fog settled in, shrouding their movements and deadening sound. In single file, the Marines attached to the 49th Company, including Body Bearer and Gunnery Sergeant Ernest Janson, trudged through the darkness in total silence. The men were intensely uncomfortable. They were tired from weeks of hard fighting, and their uniforms were soaked through. Many suffered the effects of the worldwide influenza plague, but they stifled their coughs and sneezes, knowing that the smallest sound would bring German machine-gun fire down on their heads.

Saunders and the fighting engineers led they way, carrying the heavy footbridge sections above their heads. They struggled to keep their footing on the slippery rocks but somehow managed to float the bridge out onto the freezing water. A brave engineer clung to the front of the contraption, rifle in hand, kneeling on the waterlogged planks as they floated across the river. Miraculously, the current drifted the lone soldier across the Meuse, and he tied the guideline onto a tree on the eastern side.

The Americans had succeeded in creating a path across the river—but it was a path straight into the mouth of hell.

The engineers actually placed two bridges across the river that night in separate locations, but the Germans destroyed one almost immediately. With no way to cross, the 6th Marines turned around and dug shallow fighting holes in a nearby wood.

Undoubtedly, the rumors of an approaching armistice played a role in their decision. For several days, men had been talking about a possible end to the war. Unbeknownst to the men, the two sides actually signed a peace deal at 5:45 a.m. on the morning of November 11. But General Pershing chose not to provide that information to the men fighting on the banks of the Meuse. He merely passed along the order to cease fire at exactly 11:00 a.m. Many of the Leathernecks and soldiers on the front lines would perish in the intervening hours.

As the Marines approached the river, a gleaming white star shell arced across the inky sky, silhouetting Saunders and his men, along with members of the Janson’s 49th Company and the other Marines. Staccato fire from machine guns obliterated the relative silence. An enemy patrol set up their Maxims on the far bank and sprayed lead like a fire hose.

Men slid and slipped down the embankment next to the river, shrapnel from artillery shells tore through their ranks. One man counted 25 killed or wounded in the space of 100 yards.

“The bridge! The bridge! This way, come on, Marines!” Saunders and the other engineers called to the Marines behind them.

Men dashed across the rickety contraption. Some made to the other side. Some, struck with machine-gun fire on the way, fell into the water. Many others never even got to the water; their bodies piled up on the eastern side of the river.

However, scores had made it across when the Germans scored a direct hit on the bridge. The men on the Western side of the river were now trapped in enemy territory. They formed a perimeter, dug in, and prepared to hold for as long as they could.

Staring down annihilation, the Marines did not know the war would end within hours. What the Marines did know is that they had leaders they trusted and followed to the end. They had each other—a fellowship forged only in battle. This bond kept many of the men alive.

Many Marines died there on that eastern bank of the Meuse before the guns suddenly went silent at 11:00. At a congressional hearing after the war, Pershing and his command would claim they were under the direction of Marshal Foch and had no orders to cease fighting until 11 a.m. on November 11. Often recipients of poor equipment, tactics, and in some cases, poor leadership—the Doughboys adapted and defeated the superb Imperial German Army. Unsung, they were a great generation that changed the world. It is their willingness to serve and, if need be, to sacrifice—the same spirit embodied by multiple generations of men and women in the U.S. military—that we honor on Veterans Day.

**Scottish Ingenuity**

“Lulu, a major nightclub in Edinburgh, has begun marketing itself to unvaccinated Scots by advertising the fact that door staff will not be carrying out checks on whether customers have been jabbed,” reports [the Telegraph](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/07/scottish-nightclub-sidesteps-vaccine-passport-rules-placing/?li_source=LI&li_medium=liftigniter-onward-journey).

**By placing seats on the dance floor, the venue is asserting that it no longer qualifies as a nightclub and should be under the same rules as pubs, which aren’t mandated to ask for vaccine passports.**

“You don’t need [a] vaccine passport to party with us,” the venue announced, adding that normal service had been resumed.

Only venues that provide a space “for dancing by customers” count as nightclubs under the rules, thereby creating a loophole which is easily exploited.

“Hospitality industry representatives said clubs across Scotland were exploiting the loophole so they could ignore vaccine passport rules,” according to the report.

“The vaccine passports guidance is so shambolic that places which are clearly not nightclubs are being billed as nightclubs, and places that are clearly nightclubs are managing to use loopholes to claim they’re not,” said Murdo Fraser, the Scottish Conservative spokesman for Covid recovery.

**After Scotland first tried to introduce vaccine passports, the process was called an “unmitigated disaster,”**with staff at nightclubs receiving abuse and the technology repeatedly failing.

In Ireland, meanwhile, masks were made a mandatory condition of entry to nightclubs but are not required to be worn while dancing, prompting widespread ridicule.

**Meet the New Deal; Same as the Old Deal**

88 years ago this month, FDR crafted the collapse of the US bond market. At the same time, he was designing a marketing program to sell bonds to poor Americans to support his war. None of those bonds every paid a penny, either. Unlike Biden, FDR only required a few weeks to completely smash the hottest economy in world history, coincidentally called the roaring twenties.

The Democrats [aren’t very good](https://newrepublic.com/article/164283/virginia-election-democrats-education-policy) at storytelling—not even, apparently, to some of their own members. The infrastructure bill was crafted by globalist think tanks, and Biden does a horrible job of describing it to us. In fact, no one has even been afforded the opportunity to read it.

Let’s start with Virginia Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger’s [remark](https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/04/politics/abigail-spanberger-joe-biden-2021/index.html) last week about the president: “Nobody elected him to be FDR, they elected him to be normal and stop the chaos.”

Coastal Democrats give more thought to the political and cultural pressures faced by Democrats from districts. People who live in New York or Washington, D.C., ought to actually take a drive out of their beltway bubble and make note of all the MAGA signs and gun shops and Confederate flags painted on the sides of buildings. It is not an easy place to be a Democrat out there. Tuesday’s election was a massacre. If it had been more national, it would have made the 2010 absolute lawn mowing of Congress by the republicans when Obama’s majority was leaf blown into the gutter.

Spanberger won the seat in the 2018 Democratic wave election by about 1.8 percent, and she was reelected in 2020 by almost exactly the same margin. With their razor-thin margin in the House, Spanberger was trailing Freitas when in-person voting results were reported Tuesday night. Ballots-R-Us came through once again in the wee hours of the morning when several thousand votes from Spotsylvania County reported its final absentee ballots and Henrico County had tallied additional absentee ballots as well. Imagine that. Absentee ballot are always Democrat and always arriving late in just the right amounts.

Now, when she says that people didn’t elect Biden to be FDR, for all I know, she is correct with respect to the consensus view among people she talks to in her district. I doubt that district is teeming with New Deal fanatics.

The truth is that everyone who voted for Biden did so precisely because they wanted him to be FDR! And it’s not like this was some left-wing secret that we conspiratorially hid preelection to spring on an unsuspecting public. No—during the campaign, Biden *talked all the time* about FDR and the New Deal. He was elected to smash the Trump economy once and for all. His job is to turn the stock market into sawdust, just the way FDR did.

In 2019, he was the candidate of restoration. But after the pandemic hit, he became the candidate of seizing this moment of crisis to give Americans what virtually every other advanced democracy has already given their people: expanded health insurance as a right, paid family leave, subsidized childcare, better public transit, and a whole list of welfare winnings that historically make elections so easy for Democrats.

Do you remember what Biden said to Chris Cuomo in 2019? “I think it may not dwarf, but eclipse what FDR faced.… We have an opportunity, Chris, to do so many things now to change some of the structural things that are wrong, some of the structural things we couldn’t get anybody’s attention on.” Biden was very explicit throughout the general-election campaign about wanting to change the “economic paradigm,” so I can only presume that a big chunk of the 81 million people who voted for him were doing so because of these promises, not in spite of them.

This brings us to the story Democrats need to tell. It’s the story of how supply-side and “neoliberal” (a word I dislike on the grounds that it’s confusing because it actually refers to conservative policies, such as free-market absolutism, low taxes, low regulation) economic hegemony over nearly the last 50 years has choked off public investment and transferred literally trillions of dollars of wealth from the middle class to the rich. A [Rand study last year](https://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/WRA516-1.html) put the number at nearly $50 trillion. Put another way, to use numbers people can wrap their heads around: If, since the late 1970s, this country had followed the economic policies of the prior 30 years and not embraced (Milton) Friedmanism and Reaganomics and their successors, and income had kept pace with growth, the median individual income in 2018 would have been not the $36,000 it actually was, but around $57,000.

That’s the economic story of the United States over the last four decades. There’s a number called the Gini coefficient, which measures income inequality on a scale from 1 to 100. As in golf, lower scores are better. America’s best-ever Gini score was around 35, in 1968. Today, it’s getting close to 50. For comparison, the Scandinavian countries are always best, in the low to mid-20s, and South Africa is always worst, around 63. We’re much closer to the most unequal societies than the least.

There’s obviously a lot more I could say here, for example about labor’s declining share of national income (vis à vis capital) over this period, or the way relentless tax-cutting at the state level has harmed our public universities and contributed to these insane tuition spikes, or so much else. But the bottom line is that if you see the world through this kind of economic lens, you realize that even when the economy today is “good,” it’s not really good in the way it was in the postwar era, when the fruits of economic growth were far more equitably distributed (within, of course, the racial and gender limits of the time, which are also things that today’s Democrats need to correct for in a big way). That’s what millions of us want.

Spanberger spent her career in the CIA, so I have no idea of the extent to which she does or does not think about all this stuff. But if she doesn’t, I wish she would. And further, if she doesn’t, that’s on Nancy Pelosi to some extent. Pelosi ought to be organizing economic history seminars for her caucus with people like Cecilia Rouse, Heather Boushey, and Jared Bernstein of the Council of Economic Advisers, and outside experts like Damon Silvers of the AFL-CIO and Heidi Shierholz of the Economic Policy Institute, and a whole bunch of people who can make sure that House Democrats know this history. She may be doing that, but I have a feeling that if she were, I’d know about it.

Democrats should not be happy with an economy like 2019’s. They should want an economy that is reimagined to give fewer benefits to the well-off and more to the middle class and poor. That’s good for the people of Spanberger’s district, just as it is for the people of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s. (Speaking of AOC, it was disappointing to see the augmented Squad vote against [the infrastructure bill](https://newrepublic.com/article/164300/democrats-finally-pass-bipartisan-infrastructure-bill). I get the political point, but on a vote this important, people should vote on the merits. This was the biggest piece of public investment legislation of its kind since literally the Eisenhower administration. Those six Democrats put themselves on the record as being against that. Kudos to Pramila Jayapal, though, for voting yes and getting the vast majority of the Progressive Caucus to agree.)

For fearless reporting in defense of democracy,**subscribe now!**Subscribe

Legislation is always disappointing. Every bill that ever passes is a compromise that doesn’t go far enough. And there’s a lot more the Biden administration has to do on the paradigm change front that has nothing to do with legislating. I’m keen to see what Jonathan Kanter, Biden’s nominee to run the Justice Department’s antitrust division, does about monopoly power, which in some ways will be more important than any legislation that gets through Congress.

But Democrats have to be committed to increased public investment on behalf of working people—and to making the better-off pay for most of it. And yes, Biden *was* elected to be FDR, or at least as close as he can come given the grim political realities he faces that Roosevelt didn’t. If Build Back Better passes, in whatever form, and then his Justice Department really takes on monopolies, he’ll have earned the comparison—and the people of Spanberger’s district will benefit.

**President Biden’s proposal to require roughly**[**seven hundred US billionaires**](https://finance.yahoo.com/news/u-billionaire-tax-proposal-seems-090336660.html)**to pay taxes annually on unrealized capital gains has garnered wide support from Democrats as another step to make the rich pay for the uncontrolled spending by the federal government**. House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi says Democrats hope the plan will raise as much as $250 billion to help pay for expanding the social safety net and tackling climate change. The current tax system is already too complicated and adding another layer will not make the system any fairer or make rich people pay more in taxes.

**More importantly, the proposal is another scheme by the government that defies the reality and raises again questions of government overreach.**

**The proposal would reinvent how the government taxes investments not for everyone but just for the few hundred richest people.** Under the current plan under discussion, capital gains on stocks and other traded assets would be taxed only for US taxpayers with over $1 billion in assets or $100 million in income for three consecutive years. What this amounts to is a different interpretation of the tax code for rich people. When an investor buys an asset, stock, real estate, or even a business, the asset hopefully becomes more valuable over time. Currently, the tax code requires the investor to pay a capital gains tax only when the investor sells the asset. However, under the new proposal the capital gain does not have to be realized in order to be taxed. Lawmakers are aiming to effectively increase the taxes rich people pay by rewriting the rules. Often investors hold on to their investments over many years while their assets increase in value, thus avoiding paying a capital gains tax until many years down the road, except for paying income taxes on the dividends and other cash distributions from the investment. In theory, a person could accrue capital gains indefinitely while never owing any taxes. In the proposal under consideration, the simple increase in the value in a portfolio will be taxed.

**While the idea to get billionaires to pay more of their fair share in taxes seems to get lots of support from the public, lawmakers miss a key point in their excitement about having the rich pay more in taxes, the reality of the current tax system.**The rhetoric of the super wealthy getting richer during the pandemic without having to pay taxes on the increases in wealth while regular taxpayers have to pay taxes on their income every year sounds very good to the tax-the-rich crowd. Surely, George Soros and other billionaires will comply and hand over their money without resisting. Actually George Soros applauds and supports this proposal while at the same time, according to the [ProPublica](https://www.propublica.org/article/the-secret-irs-files-trove-of-never-before-seen-records-reveal-how-the-wealthiest-avoid-income-tax)report from June, Soros has not paid federal income tax for three years in a row. Similarly, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk have not paid federal income taxes in some years.

**The proposal defies reality as not all assets are as easy to value as publicly traded stocks.** For example, a rare but valuable item like a precious painting or music album like the [Wu-Tang Clan’s “Once Upon a Time in Shaolin”](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/09/business/media/martin-shkreli-wu-tang-clan.html) would be even more difficult to tax which raises the question on how do you assess the value of less liquid assets. Billionaires are the type of investor with the means to purchase less liquid investments like rare pieces of art. More importantly, as the wealth of people increases, they have a bigger incentive to hire high priced tax accountants and tax lawyers to fight the internal revenue service every step of the way. Ultimately, the government would have to be prepared to fight long and complicated legal battles with billionaires to establish what constitutes a capital gain.

**Even more important is the question of what to do with capital losses.** Billionaires do not just make money by exploiting the poor, but are rich because they take on business opportunities that sometimes turn out to be losers. Similarly, stocks and other securities can decline in value. Would billionaires receive tax refund checks in those years? For example, what would happen if the stock market had a sharp selloff in December? Would billionaires receive massive tax write-offs on unrealized losses in their portfolio, leading the IRS to send tax refund checks to Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, and Warren Buffett? Ultimately, this will lead to the question when of valuations for unrealized gain taxes would be determined. **Lawmakers forget that just because something increases in value does not mean the owner has the cash to pay taxes.**The current rationale of taxing capital gains once the asset is sold avoids two fundamental problems with the proposal. First, the market alone should determine the fair market value of an asset, not the IRS according to some complicated formula defying reality. Secondly, even billionaires may not have the cash to pay taxes on unrealized gains. A tax on realized capital gains avoids those two problems: once an asset is sold, the true value is determined and the seller will have money from the sale to pay the tax bill.

**While the current proposal will be supported by a large swath of the public, as the rhetoric is simply too appealing, taxpayers should be alarmed by this proposal.**Once lawmakers have the power to tax unrealized gains, it will be just a matter of time before lawmakers running out of tax revenue will take aim at one of the largest sources of wealth hiding from the IRS, unrealized gains in real estate and mutual funds that the public holds. For example, [CNBC](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/06/10/homeowners-got-2-trillion-richer-during-first-three-months-of-2021.html) reported that homeowners with mortgages saw their equity jump by 20 percent from a year earlier in the first quarter, which represents a collective cash gain of close to $2 trillion, or an average gain of $33,400 per borrower. Would it not be nice for the government to tax the increase in value in your house every year?

**This proposal is dangerous and should be declared unconstitutional.**As Ludwig von Mises explained, "'[Taxing the Rich' Doesn't Make Us Better Off](https://mises.org/wire/why-taxing-rich-doesnt-make-us-better)," and new taxes are always a danger to every productive citizen.

**The FCC Radical is On the Way**

The Biden administration is determined to appoint partisan left-wingers to key positions in the federal bureaucracy. In addition to Alvaro Bedoya, the George Soros linked, pro-illegal immigration professor that Biden [has selected as his nominee for FTC commissioner](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2021/11/12/biden-pushes-soros-linked-far-left-radical-alvaro-bedoya-for-ftc-commissioner/), the Biden administration also wants the pro-censorship radical Gigi Sohn to serve on the Federal Communications Committee (FCC).

With jurisdiction over internet and telecoms policy, the FCC is an increasingly important arm of the federal government. During the Trump administration, it was [at the center](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/07/29/white-house-submits-petition-to-fcc-challenging-big-tech/) of the President’s efforts to fight back against Big Tech censorship.

[](https://media.breitbart.com/media/2021/10/Joe-3.jpeg)

*US President Joe Biden buys ice cream as Michigan Senators Debbie Stabenow (R) looks on at Moomers Homemade Ice Cream in Traverse City, Michigan on July 3, 2021. (Photo by MANDEL NGAN/AFP via Getty Images)*

But the FCC is a double-edged sword. Just as the commission can protect consumers from tech censorship, it can also use its regulatory might to pressure tech companies to submit to a partisan left-wing agenda.

There is a convention that the five commissioners should remain relatively nonpartisan, even though they are allocated along party lines, with three commissioners from the party occupying the White House and two from the opposition.

The Biden administration has broken that convention, sending a far-left radical, Gigi Sohn, to the Senate for confirmation.

Sohn was the co-founder and CEO of the leftist advocacy group Public Knowledge, which recently [called on cable and satellite providers](https://www.publicknowledge.org/blog/why-cable-and-satellite-providers-should-drop-one-america-news-network/) to drop the conservative One America News Network (OAN).

As an FCC commissioner, Sohn will be in a position of influence over cable and satellite providers.

She has also personally called on the FCC to investigate whether the Sinclair Broadcast Group, a conservative-run network of local TV stations, should hold a broadcast license. As a commissioner, she will be able to do just that.

She has also said that both Fox News and social media are “dangerous to our democracy,” arguing that Fox is the greater danger and calling for a “hearing” about the network, which she labeled “state-sponsored propaganda.”

She has also denied even the possibility that Big Tech companies might be engaged in censorship, or otherwise biased against conservatives, even though [leaks](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2021/10/24/facebook-reduced-breitbart-traffic-twenty-percent/) from inside the tech companies have [repeatedly](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2021/10/24/facebook-reduced-breitbart-traffic-twenty-percent/) shown this [to be the case](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2019/02/27/facebook-whistleblower-never-saw-deboost-code-applied-to-far-left-publishers-like-young-turks/).

Instead, Sohn accused tech companies of trying to “appease” President Trump, whom she labeled a “right-wing extremist.”

Beyond internet and broadcast issues, Sohn has revealed her far-left attitudes in other areas.

She labeled Supreme Court justice Brett Kavanaugh an “angry white man” during his confirmation hearing, and has accused Republicans of “packing the courts” and trying to “suppress the vote” in elections.

Republican Senators are speaking out against Sohn.

“Gigi Sohn is a complete political ideologue who has disdain for conservatives. She would be a complete nightmare for the country when it comes to regulating the public airwaves,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) earlier this week.

“Sohn, obviously, her views are going to be very far apart from where mine are on all the issues,” Sen. John Thune (R-SD) told Politico earlier this month. “She’s very left, she’s going to be a heavy hand in regulation.”

**Separation is Over**

President Joe Biden’s Justice Department indicted Steve Bannon on Friday, former President Donald Trump’s one-time White House senior counselor and a former chairman of Breitbart News.

The Justice Department indicted Bannon on two counts of contempt of Congress for refusing to appear after the select committee to investigate the January 6 riots issued a subpoena for him to testify.

“Since my first day in office, I have promised Justice Department employees that together we would show the American people by word and deed that the department adheres to the rule of law, follows the facts and the law and pursues equal justice under the law,” said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland in a [statement](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/stephen-k-bannon-indicted-contempt-congress).

Bannon did not appear before the committee, made up of Democrats and anti-Trump Republicans, citing former President Trump’s executive privilege.

In the [indictment](https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1447811/download?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), the Justice Department argues that Bannon was a private citizen when he was organizing and speaking with Trump about the January 6th protest after leaving the White House in 2017.

Bannon’s attorney informed the committee he would not comply with the subpoena because Trump claimed the subpoena sought records and testimony that could fall under executive privilege.

News of the indictment demonstrates the Biden administration’s willingness to pursue former political rivals, opening up future administrations to possible prosecution.

Previous American presidential administrations have resisted investigating their former rivals, even after promising during an election to do, on the merits of protecting executive privilege.

Bannon faces up to one year in jail and up to a $1,000 fine for each count of contempt.

The indictment comes one month after President Joe Biden said he [believed](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/10/15/joe-biden-wants-justice-department-to-prosecute-trump-loyalists-defying-congressional-subpoenas/) the Justice Department should indict Trump allies who defied the subpoenas.

“Should they be prosecuted by the Justice Department?” a reporter asked Biden on October 15.

“I do, yes,” Biden replied.

Days later, Biden [admitted](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/10/21/biden-justice-department-jan-6-independence-516694) his comment was “not appropriate,” even though he ultimately shared his views about what the Justice Department should do.

**Mayor Asks School Board to Resign or Be Charged**

During a school board meeting earlier in September, the Hudson mayor – among other concerned parents – issued a stern warning to the school board members over a controversial writing prompt book used by students at Hudson High School that [has some prompts about writing pornographic fantasies](https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-summit/writing-prompt-book-sparks-controversy-among-parents-in-hudson): resign or faces criminal charges.

The reason being, the mayor said during the meeting, was that he consulted a local judge that felt as though the contents of the book were “essentially what is child pornography in the classroom.”

The September 13th Hudson Board of Education meeting was [filled with both angry parents and even Hudson Mayor Craig Shubert](https://www.foxnews.com/us/ohio-mayor-school-board-resign-face-charges-child-pornography), which the outrage stemmed from a book titled “642 Things to Write About”, which had been distributed to students in Hudson’s high school senior College Credit Plus writing class.

One of the parents in attendance, Monica Haven, described some of the writing prompts featured in the book given to students by educators at the high school:

**“Write a sex scene you wouldn’t show your mom. Rewrite the sex scene from above into one that you let your mom read. Describe your favorite part of a man’s body using only verbs.”**

Morris Norman, another parent attending the meeting, proclaimed that the book was effectively a means to “sexualize” their children:

**“Do not sexualize our kids! The raw filth that snuck past the gatekeeping functions of this board of ed. in ‘642 Reasons’ was disgusting.”**

Norman also noted that students were told not to take the book home, which made her question if someone within the school was already privy to the objectionable content contained within and wanted to leave parents in the dark:

**“The students were told not to take the book home. Why? So their parents couldn’t see it.”**

However, apparently one student brought the book home and a parent discovered the contents, according to vice-chair Amanda Kocher of Moms for Liberty Summit County, which is a group dedicated to advocating parents’ rights.

Hudson High Principal Brian Wilch apologized during the board meeting, acknowledging that the book clearly was not properly vetted before being handed off to students:

**“We did not exercise due diligence when we reviewed this resource. And as a result, we overlooked several writing prompts among the 642 that are not appropriate for our high school audience.”**

[According to a review for the book](https://www.amazon.com/Things-Write-Francisco-Writers-Grotto/dp/1452105448/ref=asc_df_1452105448/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312170531694&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=9351804857382360933&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9030197&hvtargid=pla-436419094703&psc=1&tag=&ref=&adgrpid=62860524940&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvadid=312170531694&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=9351804857382360933&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9030197&hvtargid=pla-436419094703) on an active Amazon listing, the confirmed purchaser noted that the writing prompt book is “meant for older writers”:

***“This book is meant for older writers. Some of the prompts are to describe your first sexual experience and to talk about a time you wanted to orgasm but couldn’t…This book is not really appropriate for young people, either because the themes would be inappropriate or because they would not have had the experience yet to imagine it.”***

Hudson Mayor Shubert delivered the harshest of words during the school board meeting, giving the entire school board an ultimatum to either resign or possibly face legal consequences:

**“It has come to my attention that your educators are distributing essentially what is child pornography in the classroom. I’ve spoken to a judge this evening. She’s already confirmed that. So I’m going to give you a simple choice. You either choose to resign from this Board of Education or you will be charged.”**

The outage from parents is reasonable, as some of the other writing prompts contained within the book suggested students “Write an X-rated Disney scenario”, “Drink a beer. Write about the taste”, and “Describe a time when you wanted to orgasm but couldn’t.”

Hudson City Schools Superintendent Phil Herman released a statement in response to the matter, noting that “this writing resource should not be in the hands of our students” but proclaimed the more objectionable content within the publication were never “assigned as part of the class.”

As of this writing, no school board officials have resigned regarding the matter.

**Lunar Oxygen Report**

Alongside advances in space exploration, we've recently seen much time and money invested into technologies that could allow effective [space resource utilization](https://www.nasa.gov/isru/). And at the forefront of these efforts has been a laser-sharp focus on finding [the best way to produce oxygen](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0032063319301266) on [the Moon](https://www.sciencealert.com/moon).

In October, the Australian Space Agency and NASA [signed a deal](https://www.nasa.gov/feature/nasa-australia-sign-agreement-to-add-rover-to-future-moon-mission) to send an Australian-made rover to the Moon under the Artemis program, with a goal to collect lunar rocks that could ultimately provide breathable oxygen on the Moon.

Although the Moon does have an atmosphere, it's very thin and composed mostly of hydrogen, neon, and argon. It's not the sort of gaseous mixture that could sustain oxygen-dependent mammals such as humans.

That said, there is actually plenty of oxygen on the Moon. It just isn't in a gaseous form. Instead it's trapped inside regolith – the layer of rock and fine dust that covers the Moon's surface.

If we could extract oxygen from regolith, would it be enough to support human life on the Moon?

**The breadth of oxygen**

Oxygen can be found in many of the minerals in the ground around us. And the Moon is mostly made of the same rocks you'll find on Earth (although with a slightly greater amount of material that came from meteors).

Minerals such as silica, aluminum, and iron and magnesium oxides dominate the Moon's landscape. All of these minerals contain oxygen, but not in a form our lungs can access.

On the Moon these minerals exist in a few different forms including hard rock, dust, gravel, and stones covering the surface. This material was resulted from the impacts of meteorites crashing into the lunar surface over countless millennia.

Some people call the Moon's surface layer lunar "soil", but as a soil scientist I'm hesitant to use this term. Soil as we know it is pretty magical stuff that only occurs on Earth. It has been created by a vast array of organisms working on the soil's parent material – regolith, derived from hard rock – over millions of years.

The result is a matrix of minerals which were not present in the original rocks. Earth's soil is imbued with remarkable physical, chemical, and biological characteristics. Meanwhile, the materials on the Moon's surface is basically regolith in its original, untouched form.

**One substance goes in, two come out**

The Moon's regolith is [made up of](https://www.lpi.usra.edu/publications/books/lunar_stratigraphy/) approximately [45 percent oxygen](https://sites.wustl.edu/meteoritesite/items/the-chemical-composition-of-lunar-soil/). But that oxygen is tightly bound into the minerals mentioned above. In order to break apart those strong bonds, we need to put in energy.

You might be familiar with this if you know about electrolysis. On Earth this process is commonly used in manufacturing, such as to produce aluminum. An electrical current is passed through a liquid form of aluminum oxide (commonly called alumina) via electrodes, to separate the aluminum from the oxygen.

In this case, the oxygen is produced as a byproduct. On the Moon, the oxygen would be the main product and the aluminum (or other metal) extracted would be a potentially useful byproduct.

It's a pretty straightforward process, but there is a catch: it's very energy hungry. To be sustainable, it would need to be supported by solar energy or other energy sources available on the Moon.

Extracting oxygen from regolith would also require substantial industrial equipment. We'd need to first convert solid metal oxide into liquid form, either by applying heat, or heat combined with solvents or electrolytes.

We [have the technology](https://phys.org/news/2019-10-oxygen-metal-lunar-regolith.html) to do this on Earth, but moving this apparatus to the Moon – and generating enough energy to run it – will be a mighty challenge.

Earlier this year, Belgium-based startup Space Applications Services announced it was building three experimental reactors to improve the process of making oxygen via electrolysis. They expect to send the technology to the Moon by 2025 as part of the European Space Agency's in-situ resource utilization (ISRU) [mission](https://exploration.esa.int/web/moon/-/60127-in-situ-resource-utilisation-demonstration-mission).

**How much oxygen could the Moon provide?**

That said, when we do manage to pull it off, how much oxygen might the Moon actually deliver? Well, quite a lot as it turns out.

If we ignore oxygen tied up in the Moon's deeper hard rock material – and just consider regolith which is easily accessible on the surface – we can come up with some estimates.

Each cubic meter of lunar regolith contains 1.4 tonnes of minerals on average, including about 630 kilograms of oxygen. NASA says humans need to breathe about [800 grams](https://www.nasa.gov/pdf/166504main_Survival.pdf) of oxygen a day to survive. So 630 kg oxygen would keep a person alive for about two years (or just over).

Now let's assume the average depth of regolith on the Moon is [about 10 meters](https://www.lpi.usra.edu/publications/books/lunar_stratigraphy/), and that we can extract all of the oxygen from this. That means the top 10 meters of the Moon's surface would provide enough oxygen to support all 8 billion people on Earth for somewhere around 100,000 years.

This would also depend on how effectively we managed to extract and use the oxygen. Regardless, this figure is pretty amazing!

Having said that, we do have it pretty good here on Earth. And we should do everything we can to protect the blue planet – and its soil in particular – which continues to support all terrestrial life without us even trying.The Conversation

**The Muslim Brotherhood**

It is appropriate, given the severity and urgency of the issues we face, that we not mince words.  Qatar is the formal Middle East government that supports political Islam through the organization known as the Muslim Brotherhood, aka “the brotherhood.”

The Muslim Brotherhood is the fabric covering the umbrella of political Islam.  The umbrella ribs are the different factions of Islam reflecting varying degrees of extremism or authenticity.   As a result, all of the various factions of Islamic extremism, al-Nusra, al-Qaeda, ISIS, Taliban, ISIS-k etc., are given legitimacy through the political front of The Muslim Brotherhood which faces the aggregate west.

The nation state of Qatar is the primary financing agent for The Brotherhood, and all nations who engage with Qatar on a geopolitical level are essentially engaging with The Brotherhood.  Conversely, if a nation state wants to engage with any of the various Islamic groups -each containing various levels of authenticity (ie. extremism)- they can do so through Qatar which acts as an official government intermediary on behalf of The Muslim Brotherhood.

EXAMPLES: •When President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi expelled the radical leaders of The Brotherhood from Egypt, they went to Qatar.  •When President Donald Trump asked the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to confront radical Islamic extremism, the Arab nations confronted Qatar.  •When Qatar was forced to expel the five most radical leaders of The Brotherhood they went to Turkey.  [Turkish President Recep Erdogan is aligned in common principle with The Brotherhood.]  •When the U.S. released captured Islamic extremists from Gitmo (al-Qaeda in Afghanistan), they were transferred to Qatar.  •When the the Taliban took back control over Afghanistan, the al-Qaeda leaders from Qatar went back to Afghanistan.

These examples showcase the fulcrum of Qatar as it relates to supporting the Muslim Brotherhood, which is -by extension- the political face of extremist/authentic Islam.  Another example would be Hillary Clinton (Sec of State) and Leon Panetta (CIA) using Qatar as the financial center and transport hub for covert U.S. missile shipments into Libya (Operation Zero Footprint), that lead to the attack in Benghazi after the U.S. politics shifted due to al-Qaeda giving the missiles to their Brotherhood allies in Afghanistan and Syria to attack U.S. troops.

In essence, the government of Qatar supports The Muslim Brotherhood (political Islam), and The Brotherhood is a political face for extremist Islam.   As a result, any agreement with Qatar is an agreement with The Muslim Brotherhood… **got it**?  Now TODAY:

[*WASHINGTON DC*](https://thehill.com/policy/international/middle-east-north-africa/581282-qatar-to-formally-represent-us-interests-in) – Qatar will formally represent U.S. interests in Afghanistan, according to a new agreement signed by the two countries on Friday, creating a new pathway for the U.S. to address American citizens and allies left behind in America’s chaotic exit.

Secretary of State [*Antony Blinken*](https://thehill.com/people/antony-blinken) and Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani signed an agreement, effective next month, to make Qatar’s embassy in Kabul a “protecting power” for the U.S., essentially hosting many of its consular functions.

A State Department spokesperson confirmed to The Hill that at the U.S.-Qatar Strategic Dialogue, the secretary and Qatari foreign minister signed an agreement related to Afghanistan. ([*read more*](https://thehill.com/policy/international/middle-east-north-africa/581282-qatar-to-formally-represent-us-interests-in))

While this sounds purposefully opaque, which it is, to those who do not know the geopolitical background, such an agreement makes buckets of sense.  Barack Obama has always supported the Muslim Brotherhood, and Barack Obama’s network is currently in charge of the administration represented by the face of Joe Biden.

Other ideological supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood/Qatar include: John Kerry, John McCain, Adam Kinzinger, Samantha Power, Valerie Jarrett, Susan Rice, Liz Cheney, the CIA, Evan McMullin, Huma Abedin, Mike Morrell, Hillary Clinton, John Bolton, the U.S. State Department, the Brookings Institute (Lawfare, etc.), the government of China, the government of Turkey, and The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In return, Qatar funds the Democrats and Republicans who operate within all of the ideological DC institutions (ie. Clinton Global Initiative) that support the Muslim Brotherhood either directly or through the process of willful blindness that Islam calls [taqiya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taqiya).

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A picture containing person, person, indoor

Description automatically generated

Background Above – (Left) Huma Abedin-Weiner (she has buttons on her sleeve) enjoying the company of Muslim Brotherhood member and Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) president, Mohamed Magid.A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generated with low confidence

The State Department hosted a delegation of Muslim Brotherhood-aligned leaders this week for a meeting about their ongoing efforts to oppose the current government of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt, who rose to power following the overthrow of Mohamed Morsi, an ally of the Brotherhood, in 2013.  One member of the delegation, a Brotherhood-aligned judge in Egypt, posed for a picture while at Foggy Bottom in which he held up the Islamic group’s notorious four-finger Rabia symbol, according to his Facebook page.

**National Guard Nullifies Biden Mandate**

The new commander of the Oklahoma National Guard has declared the organization will not enforce the Defense Department’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate on its troops, according to local media outlets.

Army Brig. Gen. Thomas Mancino was announced as the state’s new adjutant general Wednesday, though he has not yet been confirmed by the state Senate, according to a [press release from Gov. Kevin Stitt’s office](https://oklahoma.gov/governor/newsroom/newsroom/2021/november/governor-stitt-names-new-adjutant-general-for-oklahoma.html).

On Nov. 2, Stitt formally requested that DoD not enforce the mandate on the state’s Army and Air National Guard members. In the letter, which his office posted online, he said that 10% of the state’s troops had refused the vaccine and that the mandate was “irresponsible.”

The Defense Department is aware of the Mancino memo and Stitt’s letter and “will respond to the governor appropriately,” Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement.

He did not elaborate.

“That said, Secretary Austin believes a vaccinated force is a more ready force,” said Kirby. “That is why he has ordered mandatory vaccines for the total force, and that includes our National Guard, who contribute significantly to national missions at home and abroad.”

The state’s former top general, Army Maj. Gen. Michael Thompson [told local reporters Thursday](https://okcfox.com/news/local/fmr-head-of-oklahoma-national-guard-says-he-found-out-hed-been-replaced-on-twitter) that he learned who his replacement was via social media. He was previously scheduled to transfer command to Mancino on Jan. 15, 2022, according to [the Oklahoman](https://www.oklahoman.com/story/news/2021/11/12/newly-oklahoma-national-guard-leader-changes-covid-vaccine-policy/8586292002/).

The day after taking the reins from Thompson, Mancino issued a policy memo declaring that the state would not enforce the mandate on its troops when they are under state control. The move is an apparent rejection of DoD’s orders to discipline [and ultimately discharge servicemembers](https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2021/09/14/armys-plan-for-mandatory-covid-19-vaccines-is-here/) who reject the vaccine.

“No Oklahoma Guardsman will be required to take the COVID-19 Vaccine,” Mancino says in the Thursday memo, which states that Stitt is the force’s “lawful Commander in Chief” when not mobilized by the federal government.

Although National Guard troops do belong to their governors when not mobilized by the Pentagon, federal requirements often supersede any state uses of the Guard, as senior leaders often emphasize. That’s because the vast majority of Guard funding, training and equipment comes from the federal government.

It’s not yet clear whether the order will jeopardize that funding.

Title 32, the section of the U.S. Code that pertains to the National Guard, [includes a section](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2014-title32/pdf/USCODE-2014-title32-chap1-sec108.pdf) specifying that states that do not comply with Title 32 regulations forfeit their federal funding for the Guard. It’s not clear, though, whether the vaccine mandate meets that legal threshold.

In an email to Army Times, Stitt’s top spokesperson, Charlie Hannema, argued that the “only way Oklahoma would ‘forfeit’ any federal funding for failing to comply with Title 32 would be to ignore the lawful order of the dually elected civilian authority, i.e. The Governor of Oklahoma.”

But Air Force Maj. Matthew Murphy, a National Guard Bureau spokesperson, [told Stars & Stripes](https://www.stripes.com/covid/2021-11-12/coronavirus-vaccine-mandate-military-national-guard-oklahoma-3597003.html) that the issue of the vaccine mandate was a “legal gray area that would have to be reviewed by our lawyers.”

“This is where the difference between Title 32 and Title 10 becomes a real becomes an issue,” Murphy told Stars & Stripes. “In most instances, the guardsmen are in their Title 32 capacity, which means they’re on state duty. In order to be federalized, they have to be on Title 10.”

In a [statement to the Oklahoman](https://www.oklahoman.com/story/news/2021/11/12/newly-oklahoma-national-guard-leader-changes-covid-vaccine-policy/8586292002/), the state’s top spokesperson, Lt. Col. Geoff Legler, explained that the memo “does not provide any protection should they need to attend any military school or training activity run by an active duty component or the Department of Defense.”

When Army Times reached out to the Oklahoma Guard, an official indicated that they were not authorized to make any statement or share the memorandum. National Guard Bureau and DoD spokespeople were unable to immediately offer comment, either.

It is not clear whether Thompson was fired because he refused to rescind a policy memo requiring troops to get the COVID-19 vaccine — he referred questions on the matter to Stitt’s office.

Hannema did not address why Thompson’s departure was abruptly accelerated.

A previous vaccine policy memo from Thompson, which Mancino’s order rescinded, had indicated that there would be “consequences” for “uniformed members and Title 5 [federal] civilian employees” who declined the shot, according to the Oklahoman. The policy was in line with DoD guidance on the issue.

**The Federal Tyrant**

Saule Omarova, President Joe Biden’s nominee for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), called during a March 2021 virtual conference to eliminate all private bank accounts and deposits.

Omarova spoke at the Law and Political Economy (LPE) Project’s “Law & Political Economy: Democracy Beyond Neoliberalism” conference in March.

Omarova discussed one of her papers, “The People’s Ledger How to Democratize Money and Finance the Economy,” which would [help](https://lpeproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Peoples.Ledger.DRAFT_.pdf) “redesign” the financial system and make the economy “more equitable for everyone.”

She said it would change the “private-public power balance” and democratize finance to a more systemic level.

During her explanation of her paper, she said that the Federal Reserve, the nation’s central bank, can only use “indirect levers” to “induce private banks to increase their lending.”

Her paper calls for eliminating all banks and transferring all bank deposits to “FedAccounts” at the Federal Reserve.

During her conference speech, she said, “There will be no more private bank accounts, and all of the deposit accounts will be held directly at the Fed”:

Omarova said her proposal would give the Fed more “proactive” monetary policy tools, such as “helicopter money.” She also pondered how the Federal Reserve could “take money” from Americans during an inflationary environment.

A former senior government official [told](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/11/09/biden-banking-nominee-would-have-most-powerful-least-accountable-position-over-cryptocurrencies-banking/) Breitbart News that if the Senate were to confirm Omarova, she would have the “most powerful, least accountable” position over America’s banking system.

When talking about FedAccounts, the former senior government official said, “The Democratic Party over the last couple of administrations, they want the government to essentially take over a lot of financial functions from banks.”

Omarova’s radical views led to 21 state financial officers calling for Biden to withdraw Omarova’s nomination for the U.S. comptroller:

The LPE [serves](https://lpeproject.org/about/) as a platform to discuss:

the role of law and legal discourse in the creation and maintenance of capitalism and in mediating tensions between capitalist order and democratic self-rule. Scholars in our network work to **understand the relationship between market supremacy and  racial, gender, and economic injustice;** to articulate the relationship between capitalism and devaluation of social and ecological reproduction; and to explore the distinctive ways that law gives shape to and legitimates neoliberal capitalism, ranging from dynamics of financialization to the relation between the carceral state and capitalism. We also seek to offer concrete legal reforms designed to move beyond neoliberalism and toward a genuinely responsive, egalitarian democracy, with critical attention to the need for power and movement-building as part of any such transformation. [Emphasis added]

Republicans have already moved to oppose Omarova’s nomination.

Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) [said](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/10/27/exclusive-sen-steve-daines-biden-banking-regulator-nominees-support-of-communist-ideals-disqualifies-her/) Omarova’s support of Communist ideals” disqualifies her for the position.

“Republicans will overwhelmingly oppose this self-described radical,” Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) told Axios.

Do not laugh this one off. This was described in my first book, *The Ark of Millions of Years.* Once they digitize all money, each of you will be one noncompliant comment away from being broke. Look what PayPal has done. Look what Venmo, YouTube, and other online banks have done. This is just a small example of what the super-Fed can do.

They will sell it as a method to control inflation. Have you heard anything about inflation lately? They will use it as the ultimate political control. They will be able to seize any candidate’s finances and stop them from running for office. They will be able to stop voters who protest publicly or online. They will be able to launder trillions instead of billions. They will be able to delete entire countries at the flip of a switch.

You had better start planning your black market now. If you are unfamiliar with smuggling, you better read some history. America was founded on smuggling.

The British had an empire to run. The prevailing economic philosophy of seventeenth and eighteenth century empires was called **MERCANTILISM**. In this system, the colonies existed to enrich the mother country. Restrictions were placed on what the colonies could manufacture, whose ships they could use, and most importantly, with whom they could trade. British merchants wanted American colonists to buy British goods, not French, Spanish, or Dutch products. In theory, Americans would pay **DUTIES** on imported goods to discourage this practice. The **NAVIGATION ACTS** and the **MOLASSES ACT** are examples of royal attempts to restrict colonial trade. **SMUGGLING** is the way the colonists ignored these restrictions.

Distance and the size of the British Empire worked to colonial advantage. Prior to 1763, the British followed a policy known as **SALUTARY NEGLECT**. They passed laws regulating colonial trade, but they knew they could not easily enforce them. It cost four times as much to use the British navy to collect duties as the value of the duties themselves. Colonists, particularly in New England, thought nothing of ignoring these laws. Ships from the colonies often loaded their holds with illegal goods from the French, Dutch, and Spanish West Indies. British customs officials earned a modest salary from the Crown. They soon found their pockets stuffed with bribe money from colonial shippers. When smugglers were caught, they were often freed by sympathetic American juries. Smuggling became commonplace. The British estimated that over £700,000 per year were brought into the American colonies illegally.

  
Boston Harbor, circa 1746, was home to a successful colonial merchant fleet.

As 1776 approached, the tradition of smuggling became vital to the Revolutionary cause. This encouraged ignoring British law, particularly in the harbors of New England. American shippers soon became quite skilled at avoiding the British navy, a practice they used extensively in the Revolutionary War. Soon England began to try offenders in admiralty courts, which had no juries. All attempts to crack down merely brought further rebellion. Woe to the parent who attempts to contain the child who has been allowed to roam free.

What would that be like, America? What would it be like to be able to roam free again? What would it be like to not be strip-searched every time you want to fly somewhere? What would it be like to be able to travel anywhere without proof of vaccination? What would it be like to open a business, and not live in fear of the government stopping by to cancel your license? Yeah. Your license to trade can be revoked if you don’t ask for a vaccine passport or test your employees with a faulty test or people don’t wear a mask, or you vote the wrong way or speak out at a school board meeting or protest tyranny in any way.

What would it be like, if America was great again?

**School Board Wars**

The White House was already “actively engaged” with top officials of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) prior to the group’s letter to President Joe Biden requesting federal law enforcement explore parents voicing concerns about education issues as possible “domestic terrorists,” Parents Defending Education (PDE) revealed Thursday.

An internal memo from Viola Garcia, NSBA president, dated October 12 and [obtained](https://defendinged.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Communication-to-Members-Final-10.11.2021.pdf) by PDE, provided a timeline of NSBA’s exchange with the White House.

On September 14, the association’s Organization of State Association Executive Directors was informed about a meeting that had taken place with the White House.

Additionally, on September 17, the state association executive directors were notified “a letter requesting federal assistance” would be sent. Garcia wrote:

Focus on the NSBA advocacy and equity efforts continue to be a top priority for the interim executive director. NSBA has been working diligently to provide information and advice to the members on issues related to the pandemic and school building reopening’s while advocating for strong investments in public schools by Congress and the Administration in budget reconciliation and infrastructure negotiations. Concern over the current climate for school board members is also a top priority as disruptions at school board meetings grow and members face growing threats. NSBA has been actively engaged with the White House, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Education, Surgeon General, and other federal agencies on pandemic related issues.

In the September 14, 2021 meeting of the OSAED liaison group, they were informed there had been a meeting with White House staff that morning and that NSBA was preparing to send a letter to the President, Subsequently, on September 17, 2021, the interim Executive Director emailed notice to the state association executive directors that indicated a letter requesting federal assistance would be sent.

*“NSBA is taking a number of actions regarding calling for protection and resources to assist school board members with these threats including a call for the President and federal government for more assistance.”*

That notice later stated:

*“Further, NSBA has drafted its own individual letter that has been in the planning for several days that will also go out next week. This is a very detailed letter calling attention to the problem and laying out some very specific requests for action. That letter will be shared out with all of you next week when it is sent out so you can share it with your members and also your Congressional Delegations.”*

In response to the letter sent by NSBA, on October 4, 2021 the Attorney General announced in a memorandum widely shared throughout the U.S. Department of Justice that he was ordering all U.S. Attorney Offices and local FBI offices to reach out to local and state law enforcement officials to coordinate efforts on this problem within 30 days of the memorandum.

Garland’s memorandum [stated](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-addresses-violent-threats-against-school-officials-and-teachers):

Citing an increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members, teachers and workers in our nation’s public schools, today Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the FBI and U.S. Attorneys’ Offices to meet in the next 30 days with federal, state, Tribal, territorial and local law enforcement leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend. These sessions will open dedicated lines of communication for threat reporting, assessment and response by law enforcement.

The Biden Education Department then [announced](https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/five-board-members-appointed-board-overseeing-nations-report-card) October 13 it had appointed Garcia to the National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees which subjects students will be tested on in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the Nation’s Report Card.

Garland subsequently [testified](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/10/21/ag-merrick-garland-admits-he-took-word-of-national-school-boards-association-to-target-parents-as-domestic-terrorists/) on October 21 at a House Judiciary Committee hearing he took the word of the NSBA officials that parents voicing their concerns at local school board meetings should be investigated as possible “domestic terrorists.”

The attorney general’s reference to NSBA representing “thousands of school boards” stood in stark contrast at the time to the statement of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), which had just [announced](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/10/18/pennsylvania-school-boards-association/)  it was cutting its ties with NSBA, citing multiple problems with the national association:

[I]t has been a struggle for the board and leadership … to identify a reason to continue to be a part of a federation that is not focused on bipartisanship, civility and seeking solutions to the internal problems that have plagued the national organization for so long.

“From financial and pension issues to a never-ending disagreement on a governance model and definition of membership, the problems at NSBA have only become more and more entrenched despite recurring promises for action,” PSBA said.

Since NSBA wrote its letter to Biden, PDE notes 26 state school boards associations have [distanced](https://www.breitbart.com/education/2021/11/10/26-states-distance-themselves-nsba-letter-targeting-parents-domestic-terrorists/) themselves from NSBA.

Additionally, PDE observed 11 states have taken even further action by entirely cutting ties with NSBA or withdrawing their membership dues.

The NSBA’s own board of directors [renounced](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/10/23/nsba-directors-renounce-letter-asking-biden-to-target-parents-as-domestic-terrorists/) the letter to Biden sent by Chip Slaven, NSBA’s interim executive director and CEO, and Garcia, writing on October 22 they “regret and apologize” for its content.

**The Greatest Depression**

Thirteen Republican congressmen crossed the aisle late Friday night to help pass a $1.2 trillion infrastructure bill. The original proposal was $2.3 trillion, so some Republicans consider it a victory. But it creates programs that will likely remain in place once the bill’s spending authorization expires in five years. Like Ronald Reagan said, “Nothing lasts longer than a temporary government program.”

This is the strongest argument I can think of for line item veto. Reagan asked for it. When our country was founded, the process for a bill to become a law was one bill for each law. Now, we have one bill with a thousand new laws. The President needs to be granted a black highlighter to mark out laws in the bill he vetoes.

**And at 2,700 pages, you can be sure there’s plenty of wasteful pork and tyrannical overreach in this ebay of laws.**  Only about one-third of that money goes toward actual infrastructure such as bridges, tunnels, roads and airports. The rest is pure money laundering to Globalist non-profits and shell corporations that make Democrats impossibly wealthy for zero value in return.

**“Don’t Move, or I’ll Shoot”**

The other legislation is a $1.75 trillion welfare bill (this figure used to be $3.5 trillion, but it was scaled back at the insistence of moderate Senate Democrats).

Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats were holding the infrastructure bill hostage as leverage to get the Senate to agree to their priorities on the welfare bill. This strategy backfired both because the Senate does not like to be played by the House and some Democrats would have been happy if the welfare bill failed entirely.

The House hostage strategy was like holding a gun to your head and saying, “Don’t move, or I’ll shoot.”

Senators say, “Go ahead.” This muddle is entirely procedural. But what about the actual substance of the bills?

There are expert or nonpartisan panels such as the Tax Foundation and the Congressional Budget Office that render verdicts on these issues to help members of Congress understand what they’re actually doing.

Hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs will be vaporized due to tax increases, increased regulatory burdens and energy inefficiency introduced by the Green New Deal. Remember that? You thought AOC was crazy. She is. But she won, and you lost.

**Hundreds of thousands more job losses are flooding the soup lines in the short run because of vax mandates and the firing of employees who refuse to be injected with the gene-modification treatments called “vaccines.**

For example, New York City has had to close 20 FDNY fire companies because of suspensions, retirements and layoffs of firefighters who chose not to be vaccinated. Who you gonna call? No one. Let it burn. The same personnel losses are being reported in the NYPD, emergency medical workers, nurses, teachers, sanitation workers and others performing critical tasks needed to keep society running.

The economic cost of this is huge on top of the social costs. It’s one reason economic growth almost stalled out in the third quarter. Millions of engineers, pilots, health care professionals, and factory workers are quietly withdrawing their money from the banks, buying silver, liquor, bullets, and food in preparation for the day the people square off against the government. The problem is, the government is no longer afraid of us.

You think the housing market is booming? Is that what the real estate sales people are telling you? The truth is that mortgage foreclosures in the third quarter of 2021 jumped 32% compared with the second quarter and 67% compared to the third quarter of 2020. There was a high correlation between this surge in foreclosures and the termination of government moratoriums on foreclosures. You know what this really means?

It means that the economy has been weakening since the moment the Chinese Communist Coup removed President Trump from office and that government programs in response to the panicdemic only spanked the rash. The CCP has destroyed America through its puppet occupant of the White House.

It has been a year, and I don’t know if you realize the extent of the damage they have inflicted. This is more than a temporary blip. This foreclosure wave has just begun because many state and local moratoriums were continued even as federal relief ended. One by one those other moratoriums will be ended also, and the foreclosure wave will grow. If you have cash on hand, get ready to scoop up houses for pennies on the dollar. Just like it was in 1934, when FDR wiped out the middle class by smashing the bond markets. Oh yeah. Virtual Joe and his gang of criminals emulate FDR.

**On the whole, the pandemic may be ending, but the economic aftermath of the pandemic has only just begun.**

**No Full Recovery Until 2045**

This new wave of weakness will impact stock markets, which rose based on a “reopening” meme of increasing sales and spending as the economy gets back to normal.

Mark my words tonight, Earth explorers. There is no normal to return to. We’re living in a new post-pandemic world and signs of sustainable growth are hard to find. The effects of the pandemic on the economy will be intergenerational.

**The behavioral changes induced by FDR’s Great Depression did not fade until 30 years after the Depression was over. It wasn’t until the 1970s that the middle class started to take risks again. Then, you remember what happened? Jimmy give-away-Panama-Canal Carter created the energy shortage and inflation hit 20%. Interest rates were above 13% until almost 1990. Such is the staying power of social trauma whether it be war, depression or pandemic.**

America may not recover from this CCP attack fully until 2045 or later in terms of savings, consumption, disinflation, low interest rates and low growth. Was it an act of war? Yes it was. Does it require a military response? Absolutely. Will we fight back. Probably not.

**In the shorter term, the Biden administration will slow U.S. and global growth with a combination of higher taxes, more regulation and wasteful spending on programs such as the Green New Deal.**

**Helicopter money is on the way.**

Biden administration deficit spending, such as the “infrastructure” bills, is continually claimed as stimulus. **But in fact, there is no stimulus from such spending because the U.S. debt-to-GDP ratio is now approaching 130%. There is good evidence that debt-to-GDP ratios in excess of 90% produce less growth than the amount of new debt itself.**

In other words, there is no stimulus and only an increasing debt-to-GDP ratio that makes the situation worse. It’s just digging a deeper hole. At some point you have to stop digging and start filling in the grave.

Globalist policies written by think tanks and placed in front of Virtual Joe for signature are becoming law, no matter what you say or do. In fact, if you say or do anything to protest the Syndicate’s full-spectrum, asymmetrical attack on America, you are labelled a domestic terrorist, deplatformed, and robbed of all your money in the banks. The FBI has already been called to investigate you. A file is being put together as we speak.

A Depression is understood as a prolonged period of growth that is either below the long-term trend or below potential growth. That’s the reality we’re facing. Meanwhile, inflation has hit a 30-year high. You have to go back to Clinton to match it, and Carter before that. Are you beginning to see a pattern? For the month of September, inflation rose at an annual rate of 4.4%, the highest since 1992.

Wholesale prices increased 8.6% since last October, the highest annual pace in nearly 11 years. For some things, like food and gasoline, the rate was 30%. That is simply not sustainable by the middle class.

Yesterday, the Labor Department released October’s Consumer Price Index, which was at its highest in almost 40 years. Even if President Trump were return to his proper office tomorrow, it would take him 4 years just to correct what the Syndicate has done in the last 12 months.

I told you that by Christmas your dollar would only be worth 80 cents. I was wrong. It’s only worth 70 cents. It’s hopeless to expect the government to cut down on deficit spending or money printing anytime soon. It’s all they know how to do.

Unfortunately, things will probably get worse.

**As Predicted, American Stores Shopping Elsewhere**

Say goodbye to those cheap Chinese shirts at WalMart and Target. Major clothing and shoe companies are moving production to countries closer to their U.S. and European stores, smarting from a resurgence in cases of the Delta variant of the coronavirus in Vietnam and China that slowed or shut down production for several weeks earlier this year.

The disclosures come amid a massive shipping logjam that is driving up costs and forcing companies to rethink their globe-spanning supply chains and low-cost manufacturing hubs in Asia..

The latest example is Spanish fashion retailer Mango, which told Reuters on Friday it has "accelerated" its process of increasing local production in countries such as Turkey, Morocco and Portugal. In 2019, the company largely sourced its products from China and Vietnam. Mango told Reuters that it would "considerably" expand the number of units manufactured locally in Europe in 2022.

Similarly, U.S. shoe retailer Steve Madden on Wednesday said it had pulled back production in Vietnam and had shifted 50% of its footwear production to Brazil and Mexico from China, while Rubber clogs maker Crocs said last month it was moving production to countries including Indonesia and Bosnia.

Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, the Czech Republic, Morocco and Turkey were some of the countries drawing new interest from clothing and shoe producers, though China continues to produce a large share of the apparel for U.S. and European clothing chains.

"We are seeing a lot of growth in freight and trucking activity in the former Soviet Republics ... a big rise in Hungary and Romania," said Barry Conlon, chief executive of Overhaul, a supply chain risk management firm.

In Turkey, apparel exports are expected to reach $20 billion this year, an all-time high, driven by a spike in orders from the European Union, Turkey’s Union of Chambers Clothing and Garment Council data showed. In 2020, exports totaled $17 billion.

In Bosnia & Herzegovina, exports of textiles, leather and footwear amounted to 739.56 million marka ($436.65 million) in the first half of 2021, higher than the same period in 2020.

"Many companies from the European Union, which is our most important trading partner, are looking for new suppliers and new supply chains in the Balkan market," said Professor Muris Pozderac, secretary of the association of textile, clothing, leather and footwear in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

In Guatemala, where Nordstrom significantly shifted its private-label volume production in 2020, clothing exports were a touch over $1 billion as of the end of August this year, up 34.2% from 2020 and even 8.8% higher than in 2019.

To be sure, many companies are also still heavily reliant on Vietnam, where recent production stoppages have caused significant disruptions. Vietnam’s government said in October that it will fall short of its garment exports target this year, by $5 billion in a worst-case scenario, due to the impacts of coronavirus restrictions and a shortage of workers.

Factory inspections in Vietnam - a proxy for retailer manufacturing orders - fell 40% in the third quarter versus the second quarter, with production during those months quickly moving to Bangladesh, India and Cambodia. Inspection rates in Vietnam were still hovering at lower levels in the fourth quarter, with a small uptick seen in late October, said Mathieu Labasse, vice president of QIMA, a supply-chain quality control and auditing firm that represents more than 15,000 brands. Apparel maker VF Corp and outdoor gear maker Columbia Sportswear were among companies that warned that there would be delays in fall and spring collections and in some cases insufficient size assortments.

Michael Kors handbags maker Capri Holdings said on Wednesday that it would not have the inventories it wanted for the holiday season, while athletic gear maker Under Armour said on last Tuesday it was canceling purchase orders from Vietnam just to help get "the factories get back up and caught up."

**The CCP Must Expand or Die**

Like any tyrant who shits where he eats, eventually the CCP must find new territory or die. They have attempted to wipe out India and America with a bioweapon that did not work. Now, they are trying to accomplish that with a chemical assault called the vaccine. If that doesn’t work, they must resort to other means.

In the face of an increasing torrent of abuse from Beijing, Australia should seek a much clearer commitment from Washington that its United States ally will retaliate if China launches a missile attack against them.

As far as Australia is concerned, the growing torrent of threats and bullying from Beijing mean that they need America to commit to protecting them against not just nuclear attack but also conventional attack by Chinese long-range theatre missiles. Telling the difference between them is impossible until moments before impact.

In May, the editor-in-chief of Beijing’s *Global Times* newspaper, which generally reflects the views of the Chinese Communist Party, [threatened Australia](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202105/1222899.shtml) with ‘retaliatory punishment’ with missile strikes ‘on the military facilities and relevant key facilities on Australian soil’ if we were to send Australian troops to coordinate with the US and wage war with China over Taiwan.

The specific threat made by Hu Xijin was as follows: ‘China has a strong production capability, including producing additional long-range missiles with conventional warheads that target military objectives in Australia when the situation becomes highly tense.’

The key phrase here is ‘long-range missiles with conventional warheads’. But as I said, it’s virtually impossible, even with the most sophisticated intelligence methods, to detect reliably any difference between a missile with a conventional warhead and one with a nuclear warhead. This is made more difficult by the fact that China co-locates its conventional and nuclear theatre missile forces.

But why the emphasis on ’conventional warheads’? It’s because they want to restrain any US strikes on China in retaliation for a missile attack on Australia. They don’t have much to worry about with traitors like General Milly as head of the Joint Chiefs and Virtual Joe with limited access to the nuclear football.

The CCP is stupid. China has never in history won a war outside its own borders. There’s the additional problem that some of the ‘relevant key facilities on Australian soil’ would be important for the US’s understanding of the nature of such a conflict and whether escalation could be controlled. For example, taking out the joint US–Australian intelligence facilities at Pine Gap near Alice Springs might be seen in Washington as an attempt to blind the US to any warnings of deliberate nuclear escalation by Beijing.

During the Cold War, this sort of danger was well understood. In my experience in the late 1970s and 1980s, Moscow made it clear to us that attacks on Pine Gap, Nurrungar and North West Cape would only occur in the context of an all-out nuclear war. The Soviet leaders knew that blinding Washington in the early stages of a nuclear exchange would be a foolish act, not helping any prospects of the management of escalation control.

The problem with the CCP is that it has no experience in high-level nuclear arms negotiation with any other country. It doesn’t understand the value of detailed discussions about nuclear warfighting. This is a dangerous gap in their understanding about war—especially as its strategic nuclear warheads are barely credible as a second-strike capability and its submarines armed with strategic nuclear weapons are so noisy, their locations are well-known to everyone.

However, US estimates suggest that the CCP is planning to double its strategic nuclear forces and building more than 100 new silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles in the northwest of the country. We have been watching them every step of the way. It is quite stupid because ICBMs in fixed silos are becoming more vulnerable with the increased accuracy of nuclear strikes. Russia has known this for decades and has the world’s most sophisticated mobile missile launch capability. They have even built dozens of fake mobile launchers that just drive around and set up in remote and strategic areas just to fool surveillance. The mobile decoys are so good, that even the best satellite surveillance can’t tell the difference.

The CCP has just recently been developing road-mobile for precisely this reason. The only rational explanation for new fixed-silo ICBMs is that they’re designed for a new launch-on-warning posture, which suggests new developments in the CCP’s early warning capabilities.

In addition to its strategic nuclear warheads, Beijing has about 2,000 theatre nuclear missiles capable of targeting much of the Indo-Pacific. The majority of them are nuclear-armed, but some of the optionally conventionally armed variants (such as the 4,000-kilometre-range DF-26) can reach the north of Australia.

Australia is petitioning to acquire missiles with ranges in excess of 4,000 kilometres. That acquisition will most definitely be seen as provocative. At least they would have the ability to strike back,, if the CCP launched on them, but going to was with China isn’t a credible option.

America needs to make it completely clear to Beijing that any missile attack on Australia, as America’s closest ally in the Indo-Pacific region, would provoke an immediate response by the US on China itself. The trouble with that, is that Virtual Joe cannot make himself clear about anything to anyone. America’s vast superiority in the nuclear world means absolutely nothing without sharp and reliable leadership. Where is President Trump when you need him?

The CCP understands all to well that because of the density and geographical distribution of its population, it is the most vulnerable among continental-size countries to nuclear attack. From Beijing in the north via Shanghai to Guangzhou and Shenzhen in the south, each warhead getting through could wipe out tens of millions of people, making it particularly susceptible to massive destruction in an all-out nuclear war.

The US has 1,500 deployed strategic nuclear warheads and another 5,000 stockpiled or ‘retired’. (Russia has a similar number of strategic nuclear warheads, totaling about 6,800.) America has more than enough nuclear warfighting capabilities to take on both China and Russia. In the Cold War, the Pentagon planned on destroying a quarter of the Soviet Union’s population and half its industry. For comparison, a quarter of China’s population is about 350 million. In such a nuclear war, China would no longer exist as a functioning modern society. The CCP does not have the slightest ability to prevent such an attack.

Australia is planning to acquire a missile defense system capable of blocking any ballistic missile attack. The first step could be to fit this capability to the air warfare destroyers, while noting that a nationwide capability would need to be much more extensive.

But in the final analysis, Australia depends upon the United States—as the only military superpower in the world—to deter the CCP from escalation dominance and its threatened use of ballistic missiles against us. Good luck with that.