

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

WEEKLY UPDATE FEBRUARY 17 - 23, 2019

10th ANNIVERSARY

COLAB
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DINNER & FUNDRAISER

Dan Walters
Get the scoop from the man whose finger has been on the pulse of our Capitol for decades. You pay through the nose to live in California; learn what you can do it about it.

Thursday, March 28
Alex Madonna Expo Center

5:15 pm Social Hour, No Host Cocktails
6:15 pm Filet Mignon Dinner including Wine

\$120 per person | \$1,200 per Table (Reserved Seating for 10)

For tickets, mail your check to:
COLAB SLO: PO Box 13601, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Cocktail Attire Optional

For more information
(805) 548-0340 | colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

**BOS MEETING CANCELLED
BUT PLENTY OF STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES WHICH STILL IMPACT
THE COUNTY**

**LAFCO TO AMEND EL POMAR WATER DISTRICT
CONDITION**

**ENVIRO-SOCIALISTS OUT OF THE CLOSET
WILL THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND CITY COUNCILS REPUDIATE
THE GREEN NEW DEAL AND ITS UNDERLYING DOCTRINE?**

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 21

REMODELING AMERICA

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

**NEWSOM MISSES CALIFORNIA BUDGET BY \$2
BILLION IN JANUARY!**

BY CHRISS STREET

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

BY NORMAN ROGERS

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board Meeting of Tuesday, February 19, 2019 (Cancelled)

Strategic Planning

This week's meeting was to have been what the Board has characterized as a Strategic Planning meeting in the past. The agendas for these meetings usually contain 1) An update on the ensuing fiscal year budget gap, 2) a draft proposed work program for the ensuing fiscal year's Planning and Building Department internal projects such as updating a zoning ordinance and updating a Plan element, 3) a review of the status of various capital projects which are underway, and 4) reports on some of the hot issues of the day that require County work.

Back in the early 2000's, the then progressive Board majorities blew a major set of land use policies past the general public, agriculture community, and business community under the rubric of "Smart Growth," which basically set up the County's current restrictions and directed most future development into the cities and unincorporated village centers of Nipomo, Templeton, San Miguel, and Oceano.

It is not known if these policies were presented in the Strategic Planning meetings at that time or were gradually inserted into General Plan and Zoning Ordinance revisions as part of successive annual Planning and Development Work Programs. There was a Planning Commissioner at the time, Sarah Christi (Brother of Sierra Club Executive Director, Andrew Christi), who reportedly is very brilliant and capable of orchestrating a strategic approach, at least to land use and political strategies.

Currently, the SLO Progressives have taken over designing strategic direction as a political movement outside the County government and its sister regional agencies such as the APCD, SLOCOG, and LAFCO. The strategy essentially mirrors the national and state progressive platform of mobilization against global warming/climate change by massive government expansion, taxation, and annihilation of private property.

This revolutionary local franchise of the national enviro-socialist program is sugar coated with

promises of Medicare for all, free college, retirement for all, a job for all (or free money if you won't work), elimination of fossil fuels, and some notion of social equity beyond legal equality and equality of opportunity.

Portions of this strategy seep into County and regional agency policy from time to time, as in the recent SLOCOG stack-and-pack and forced mass transit policies being adopted into the County Housing Element Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Similarly, the closure of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant is the combined product of local ambivalence and calculated opposition at all levels. Once PG&E was faced with government subsidized "renewable energy," unfair competition from so-called "community choice" energy, and local relicensing interference, and then was hit by fire liabilities, the jig was up.

Now the jackals are gathering to feed on the dying carcass of PG&E.

Insolvent California wants to Nationalize Bankrupt PG&E ***BY CHRISS STREET***

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the insolvent State of California is putting together a 'Strike Team' that could move to nationalize the assets of the bankrupt PG&E utility.

Newsom told lawmakers in his State of the State speech, "We're facing hard decisions that are coming due." In his first month in office, Newsom has been dealing with a \$7 billion tax shortfall since December, \$1 trillion unfunded public employee pensions, President Trump threatening to withhold \$9 billion in wildfire aid, and cancellation of the state's \$98.1 billion high-speed-rail boondoggle.

Undeterred by the tsunami of grim financial challenges, the wildly progressive rookie governor trumpeted that he convened a 'Strike Team' supposedly crewed by the nation's best bankruptcy attorneys and financial experts from across the energy sector to develop a comprehensive PG&E strategy to unveil within the next 60 days.

Many utility industry analysts believe Newsom is scheming to have the State of California nationalize PG&E by engineering a wipe-out of public shareholders and forcing holders of PG&E's \$18 billion debt to take a "big principal haircut."

In a webinar featuring Karol Denniston, Senior Bankruptcy Partner in the San Francisco office of Squire Patton Boggs highlighted that PG&E before filing its second Chapter 11 was still burdened from the aftermath of its first bankruptcy in 2001, on criminal probation for its gas line explosion in 2010, liable for \$20 billion from 2017 wildfires, and liable for another \$10 to \$20 billion for 2018 wildfires.

Despite California's residential utility rates of 19.53 cents per kilowatt hour, almost double the 10.95 cents in Oregon and 9.46 cents in Washington, Denniston forecasts that PG&E utility rates are going up substantially because California Courts have ruled that utilities under the theory of inverse

condemnation are liable for damage caused by their equipment, even if the utility followed all state regulated safety precautions.

Courts blame PG&E for uninsulated overhead power conductor lines being susceptible to sparking ground fires due to “trees falling onto them during high-wind events.”

PG&E does bury some of its 18,466 miles of overhead power lines each year. But the cost for a new 69 kV overhead transmission line is \$285,000 per mile, versus \$1.5 million per mile for an underground line; while a 138 kV overhead line costs \$390,000 per mile, versus \$2 million per mile underground. Underground lines also require new terminals and are substantially more expensive to dig up for maintenance purposes.

Gov. Brown signed SB-901 in September to help PG&E avoid bankruptcy by passing through its wildfire liabilities to utility rate payors over the next 20 years at the rate of \$5.20 per billion of liability claims. A \$30 billion in wildfire liability would spike California residential electric rate to 22 cents per kilowatt hour, hammering the poor and aged.

Newsom and his progressive fellow travelers believe nationalizing California utilities would be cost advantageous because state and local government entities—including public power utilities—can sell municipal bonds with tax-free interest. Moody’s AAA-rated corporate bond interest rate index is 1.2 percent higher than AAA muni-bonds, but muni-bond size averages a puny \$7 million, versus \$210 million for corporate issues.

Newsom has become a pariah to progressives for dumping California’s high-speed-rail boondoggle, even though he kept 100 percent of the taxes. But he can nationalize PG&E; Gov. Newsom could reinvent himself as a top “Green New Deal” champion.

Beyond any County effort to preserve the \$85 million Diablo closure mitigation payments, there are huge long-range strategic planning choices that should be openly discussed.

The top item on a Strategic Planning meeting agenda would be a discussion of whether the Board of Supervisors wishes to accept the overall progressive strategy, ignore it, or fight it. The land use strategy issue would then flow from the answer.

Such a discussion would of course present political risks to elected officials, staff, and the private sector.

For example, some staffers obviously strongly support the progressive plan. On the other hand there are those who understand that it could be very destructive. They may figure that they will lay low and ride things out until retirement rather than recommending alternative policies.

Elected officials may also figure that it’s best to work on things a little piece at a time (sometimes called pragmatism), and compromise rather than inflaming controversy.

In academic public policy studies, this strategy is sometimes called the “art of muddling through.”

We have suggested that the report should contain a long range strategic scan of those social, economic, demographic, and public policy trends that are going to impact the County over the long run.

A five-year financial forecast would be an important adjunct. Shorter range financial projections, work load priorities, staffing needs, capital investment planning, and revenue development planning would follow.

ENVIRO SOCIALIST TIGERS OUT OF THE CAGE

Our Congressman not only supported the Green New Deal (GND), he is a Co-Sponsor. We were right all along. For the past 8 years COLAB has been pointing out that the “climate crisis”- driven, so-called “smart growth”, movement combined with creeping socialism are the gateway social/ political drugs to overturning a free society characterized by private property, capitalism, rule of law, and liberty. We always said that it was a manufactured crisis, which when exploited by the new environmental movement and fused with the old Socialist movement, would become the tool for overturning our Republic. We labeled the fusion of these 2 movements the Enviro-Socialists.

Some officials, particularly Supervisors Hill and Gibson, accused us of being conspiracy theorists. But it’s out of the closet now, embodied in a detailed national policy Resolution, co-sponsored by our own Congressman, Salud Carbajal, and supported by at least 6 announced Democratic Party candidates for President (including our US Senator Kamala Harris). Even if some embarrassed Democrats back away for a while, the big picture long range strategy in their heart of hearts is explicitly displayed.

Don’t be decoyed by the hype over Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez into believing that she is some naive youngster acting out a fringe narrative. In fact much of her Party, the media, and powerful nongovernmental organizations (explicitly enviro groups, national foundations, and subsidized industries) support the enviro-socialist revolution.

Prior to the current national exposure, the movement went pretty much unnoticed and operated insidiously through Federal regulations, state laws, and thousands of county and city ordinances throughout the country.

Back in October 2014, we did a COLAB In Depth article which detailed the history of the fusion of the two movements and the designed outcome. In summarizing that article we stated:

At some point in the future and as the accumulative weight, costs and productivity levels (especially government debt at all levels) cause the system to break, the enviro-socialists will have the perfect

crisis to justify the suspensions of liberty and private property, thereby implementing the true enviro-socialist state.

Apparently, many Democratic Party leaders have determined that now is the time to strike, by 1) implementing the enviro-socialist program; 2) removing the elected President of the United States by a deep state coup led by the FBI; the Department of Justice; leftist judges; and the fanatical clerisy of the elite mass media, academia, entertainment industry, and California billionaires; and 3) further opening our borders to tens of millions of poverty stricken illegal immigrants to be exploited as uneducated and uninformed voters while crushing public schools and the state and Federal social and health safety net.



See our article from October 2014 below:

RISE OF THE ENVIRO SOCIALISTS II



By Michael F Brown

Over and over again people express dismay about how the enviro-socialist movement took hold so fast over the past forty years and has become so all pervasive and powerful. How is it, given the fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of the Bolshevik Soviet Union in 1998, that socialism has made such a powerful rebound? How is it that, given the Reagan revolution in America and the Thatcher revolution in Great Britain, the substantial reforms and the liberating economic forces are now being eroded and disparaged?

Recent Resurgence of Socialism.

After the failure of socialism and its ultimate discrediting by its foremost twentieth century practitioners – the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and Communist China, it was assumed that it was dead and gone. Instead, we are finding that it is extremely resilient and resurgent. On the international level we are confronted by a number of inconvenient realities. Certainly the current Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, a former KGB officer, is retooling Russia to resume its hegemonic role in Eastern Europe and the Baltic region within a system, which is part kleptocracy and part so-called state capitalism (a form of socialism). Similarly the communist Chinese are on the path to becoming a world naval power as they expand and deploy their nuclear powered submarine fleet and nuclear powered aircraft carriers. In parallel, and as debt and social transfer programs consume most of the United States' annual operating budget, the nation's military capacity has diminished decade by decade. There are now fewer naval combat ships than at any time since the beginning of the twentieth century. Our long-range strategic bomber force, except for a few stealth bombers, is largely comprised of a few squadrons of half-century old, lumbering B-52 antiques. We have fewer air combat fighter wings, and our capacity to airlift troops, equipment, and materiel is severely limited. Our few Class A combat infantry divisions are stressed to the limit. Like the declining Roman Empire of the 4th century, we are increasingly relying on fickle allies and mercenaries to defend our interests and homeland.

It should be noted that compounding this resurgent socialist militarism is the messianic and millenarian metastasizing force of a trans-national worldwide Islamic movement grounded in 8th century religious fundamentalism. This, in combination with and abetted by sharply declining birth-rates among native European populations, adds a formidable set of threats and complexities.

In the western democracies, primarily the Atlantic community and some of its former colonies (Australia, New Zealand, India, and parts of sub-Saharan Africa), the "softer" incrementalist socialism is being promulgated in the name

of social justice. This is the idea that not only should people be equal before the law and have the opportunity to succeed economically, but that they should be guaranteed education, healthcare, housing, transportation, recreation, and food. This guarantee applies no only to those who have, through no fault of their own, suffered disabilities or accidents, but also to tens of millions of able-bodied people aged 18 – 65 who are not part of the labor force. There are fewer Americans in the workforce as a percentage of that population than at any time since the recession of the 1970's.

The problem is that, as David Horowitz puts in his book, *The Politics of Bad Faith: The Radical Assault on America's Future*, "The utopian quest for social justice and its redistributionist goals are implicated in those catastrophes as root causes of the totalitarian fate. To propose a solution that is utopian – in plain English, impossible – is to propose a solution that requires absolute coercion. Who wills the end wills the means."¹

As Horowitz further states, "In other words, the rights historically claimed in the paradigm of the left are self-contradicting and self-defeating. The history of the social experiments of the last 200 years describes the stark implications of that contradiction and the terrible price of those defeats. The regime of social justice of which the left dreams, is a regime that by its very nature must crush individual freedom. It is not a question of choosing the right (while avoiding the wrong) but a political means in order to achieve the desired ends. The means are contained in the ends. The leftist revolution must crush freedom in order to achieve the 'social justice' that it seeks. It is unable, therefore, even to achieve that end. This is the totalitarian circle that cannot be squared. Socialism is not bread without freedom; it is neither freedom nor bread. The shades of the victims in the endless cemetery of the 20th century revolutions cry out from their still fresh graves: the liberated future is a destructive illusion."²

Again and given the literally and empirically demonstrated consequences of socialism, how has it been able to revive?

¹Horowitz, David. *The Politics of Bad Faith: The Radical Assault On America's Future*, Simon and Schuster, Inc., New York 1998.

²Ibid.

How the Socialists Hijacked the Conservation Movement

The socialists found a new and compelling end, even more urgent than “social justice.” Their new unifying cause became environmentalism. Its historic predecessor had been the late 19th and early 20th century upper class conservation/preservation movement founded by John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, and numerous members of second and third generation eastern establishment wealthy elites. By the decade of the 2000’s, this relatively benign and tangibly beneficial movement was replaced by the much more activist and virulent attack on industrial civilization implicit in the new movement. The fact that the new movement could lay claim to the older tradition helped to camouflage its real purpose.

The assertion that industrial civilization is changing the climate by churning out billions of metric tons of greenhouse gases had barely been minted in the 1990’s. Horowitz’s book is a good example in that it mentions nothing about climate, environmentalism, or related matters. But now, here is the organizing cause to justify shutting down whole industries, limiting the way people can live spatially, mandating stack-and-pack housing, and otherwise reorganizing society. What could be more perfect – a world crisis containing an apocalyptic vision of climate change which would poison the air, destroy the food supply, and flood major coastal urban regions worldwide? Ultimately only the banning of fossil fuels would redeem mankind.

Contemporary socialism evolved from its roots in the French Revolution of 1789, when Robespierre and the Jacobins promulgated social and economic equality in addition to freedom and democracy. The modern day socialists have imprisoned and massacred political opponents and whole classes of people whom they blamed for society’s problems.

As the Jacobins announced, “It is



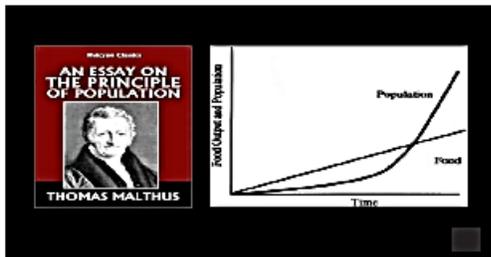
time that equality bore its scythe above all heads. It is time to horrify all the conspirators. So legislators, place Terror on the order of the day! Let us be in revolution, because everywhere counter-revolution is being woven by our enemies. The blade of the law should hover over all the guilty.” It was this spirit and doctrine that became the foundation for the Bolsheviks, Nazis, and other socialists of the 20th Century. Your petty leftist city councilman or county supervisor may not openly admit to such radicalism, but the ultimate end of his policies is the same. One day you may be his victim on the scaffold. After all, Robespierre was a highly respected upper middle class property owning attorney who served in numerous local offices.



The Marriage of Environmentalism and Socialism

The environmental movement harking back to the 19th Century. One of its earliest and foundational contributors was Thomas Malthus, who theorized that human population would always grow exponentially and would outstrip the food supply. What Malthus did not foresee was that as the spread of capitalism and private property raised the standard of living for hundreds of millions of people, birthrates declined substantially. Moreover freedom, intellectual freedom, and the concomitant growth of science and technology created huge advances in the production of food and other necessities. Concomitantly, private property (in-

cluding intellectual private property) and capitalism allowed the benefits to be widely expanded and institutionalized throughout society. It also created vast advances in the ability to distribute food and other essentials to locations where they were needed at lower and lower per unit costs. Thus, population stability (and even decline) has been achieved in the Atlantic community, Japan, and Eastern Europe. At least in the west, this eventuality undermined the ability of the socialists to use population control as an organizing reason to seize control of society. This realization came too late for tens of millions who died at the hands of their own governments in World War II. Particularly Hitler, Mao, and Stalin doubled down on the idea of population control by singling out so-called “less desirable” groups.



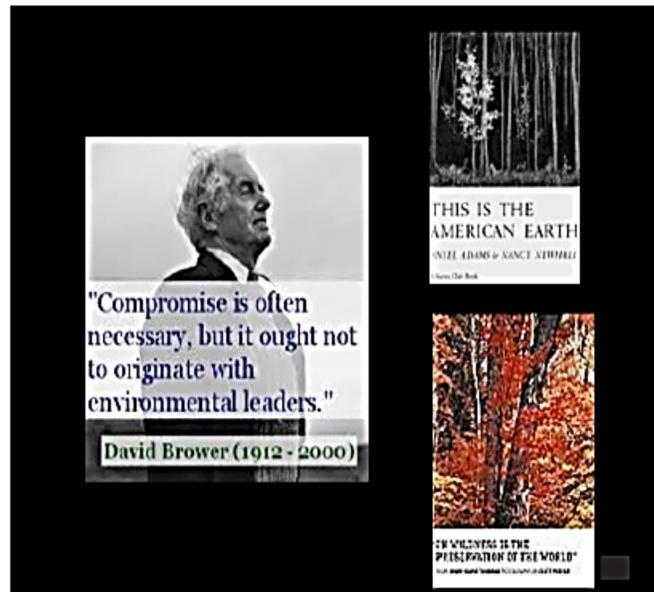
Separately, a nascent environmental movement had grown up in the United States, primarily focused on preserving some of the nation’s spectacular natural features, such as the Yosemite Valley, Grand Canyon, and a host of wilderness areas. In parallel with this came the idea of preserving and restoring threatened species. This concept was gradually broadened to include just about anything that someone considered “natural resources” and any sort of “threatened” species, including dangerous predators such as man eating sharks, wolves, and alligators.

The publication in 1962 of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson launched the modern environmental movement. Carson popularized the notion that the pesticide DDT



was getting into the food chain and causing damage, particularly the softening of bird eggs. Ultimately this led to the banning of DDT in much of the world and the popularization of environmental causes.

Similarly the Sierra Club, which had started out as a small and somewhat elite conservation society focused on preserving wilderness in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, hired the charismatic and handsome former US Army lieutenant and alpine specialist David Brower as its executive director. Brower expanded the Sierra Club from an organization of a few thousand to today’s five million. Many older people will remember hearing about the Sierra Club for the first time when it started publishing large, glossy, sentimental coffee table books describing various rivers, mountain ranges, seashores, and other natural attractions. Along with membership drives and the creation of local chapters featuring lectures, hikes, and other organizing activities, the Sierra Club became a major political force. Brower was eventually driven from the Club because he became more and more radical as he aged. He founded other more radical environmental groups, such as Friends of the Earth. He is famous for his quote, “Compromise is often necessary, but it ought not to originate with environmental leaders.”



Meanwhile Back On the Socialist Ranch

Back on the socialist side and notwithstanding the movement's historical disgrace, two Columbia University professors Richard Cloward and Frances Piven issued a monograph in 1966 entitled "How to Spark Social Reform through Poverty." Recognizing that socialism did not enjoy widespread popularity in America, Cloward and Piven figured that if neighborhoods, community groups, government social service agencies, and community organizers in the urban ghettos signed up as many people as possible for welfare and welfare-related programs, such as food stamps, Medicaid, public housing, and later a much broader cafeteria of poverty programs which exploded in the 1970's, you could crush local, state, and federal budgets, creating a financial crisis which in turn would help bring about a socialist state.

By the late 1970s this train was well down the track, only to be temporarily derailed by Ronald Reagan and the Reagan Revolution in the 1980's. Tens of millions of people had been added to the welfare rolls and other government transfer programs, such as Section 8 housing rental subsidies. By the late '90's socialists were still reeling, however, from the Reagan reforms. In particular the requirement that welfare recipients would have to take jobs which they were offered and/or participate in work training programs until they got a job, reduced welfare rolls in much of the country except for places such as California, Reagan's home state, which ironically subverted the reforms and now hosts one-third of all people on welfare in the United States.

By the end of the nineties, socialists and environmentalists began to realize that by combining forces and using the organizing hammer of the impending global warming catastrophe as its compelling justification, "progress" could be achieved. One of the most important organizations promoting this doctrine is the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). ICLEI casts itself as a "Movement of Local Governments." Its literature states that it supports International Goals, which "link local action to internationally agreed-upon goals and targets such as Agenda 21 and the Rio Conventions, including the UN Framework for Climate Change, The UN Convention on

Biological Diversity, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification." ICLEI's Charter states, "The Association's mission shall be to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability with special focus on conditions through cumulative local actions." Both San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County have close ties to ICLEI. In fact Santa Barbara County 1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal is the US Vice-President. SLO County Supervisors Hill and Gibson have proudly signed the ICLEI "Resilient" Communities Pledge and closely adhere to its purpose and techniques.



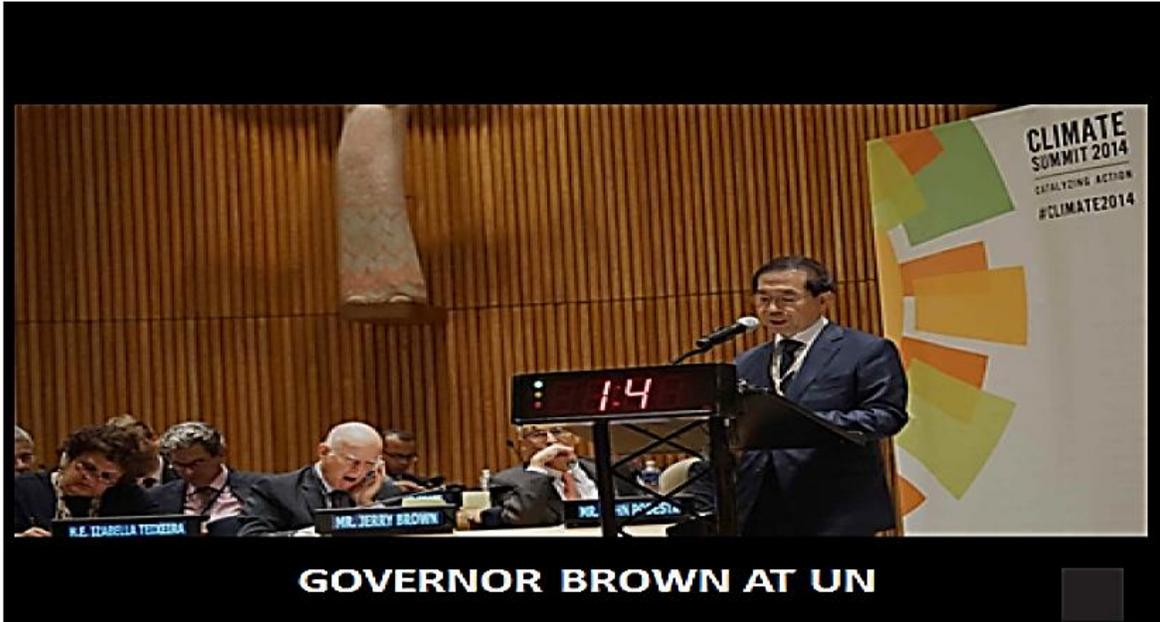
Former Berkeley City Councilwoman Nancy Skinner founded ICLEI in her garage in 1989. It has grown to include thousands of cities and counties worldwide. ICLEI brings the internationalist socialist element into local plans and actions. Skinner currently represents Berkeley in the California State Assembly.

Legislation such as the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) and its companion SB 375 are the ultimate products for now. Carbon Cap-and-Trade laws, the banning of fossil fuels, the banning of nuclear energy, the banning, if not removal of water storage and hydro-dams, and the prohibition of the development of free-standing homes with yards and privacy are the current manifestations. As more and more people become dependent on the government either as clients or employees (providing their incomes and life essentials), it will become increasingly difficult to achieve reforms. Those who are benefiting are not likely to support changes. Moreover, with the mainstream media, Hollywood,

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university faculties, public employee unions, not-for-profit foundations, and even some private business corporations in support, reform will also become ever more problematic.

At some future point and as the accumulative weight, costs, and productivity losses (especially government debt at all levels) cause the system to break, the enviro-socialists will have the perfect crisis to justify the suspensions of liberty and private property, thereby implementing the true enviro-socialist state.



Governor Jerry Brown at the Climate Summit

As the ancient Greek historian, Herodotus wrote, *We can contend with the evil men do in the name of evil, but heaven help us from the evil men do in the name of good.*

The full text of the New Green New Deal Resolution is displayed below. It should be read carefully by everyone.

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION H. RES. 109
Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEBRUARY 7, 2019
Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SECONGRESSMAN IS CO-SRRANO,
Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT,

Mr. LYNCH, Ms. VELA´ZQUEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GARCI´A of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. MENG, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KEATING, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. WATERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Education and Labor, Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

Whereas the October 2018 report entitled “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 oC” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment report found that—

- (1) human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century;*
- (2) a changing climate is causing sea levels to rise and an increase in wildfires, severe storms, droughts, and other extreme weather events that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure;*
- (3) global warming at or above 2 degrees Celsius beyond pre-industrialized levels will cause—*
 - (A) mass migration from the regions most affected by climate change;*
 - (B) more than \$500,000,000,000 in lost annual economic output in the United States by the year 2100;*
 - (C) Wildfires that, by 2050, will annually burn at least twice as much forest area in the western United States than was typically burned by wildfires in the years preceding 2019;*
 - (D) a loss of more than 99 percent of all coral reefs on Earth;*
 - (E) more than 350,000,000 more people to be exposed globally to deadly heat stress by 2050; and*
 - (F) a risk of damage to \$1,000,000,000,000 of public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the United States; and*
- (4) global temperatures must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, which will require—*
 - (A) global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and*
 - (B) net-zero global emissions by 2050;*

Whereas, because the United States has historically been responsible for a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions, having emitted 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions through 2014, and has a high technological capacity, the United States must take a leading role in reducing emissions through economic transformation;

Whereas the United States is currently experiencing several related crises, with—

- (1) life expectancy declining while basic needs, such as clean air, clean water, healthy food, and adequate health care, housing, transportation, and education, are inaccessible to a significant portion of the United States population;*

(2) a 4-decade trend of wage stagnation, deindustrialization, and antilabor policies that has led to—

(A) hourly wages overall stagnating since the 1970s despite increased worker productivity;

(B) the third-worst level of socioeconomic mobility in the developed world before the Great Recession;

(C) the erosion of the earning and bargaining power of workers in the United States; and

(D) inadequate resources for public sector workers to confront the challenges of climate change at local, State, and Federal levels; and

(3) the greatest income inequality since the 1920s, with—

(A) the top 1 percent of earners accruing 91 percent of gains in the first few years of economic recovery after the Great Recession;

(B) a large racial wealth divide amounting to a difference of 20 times more wealth between the average white family and the average black family; and

(C) a gender earnings gap that results in women earning approximately 80 percent as much as men, at the median;

Whereas climate change, pollution, and environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, social, environmental, and economic injustices (referred to in this preamble as ‘systemic injustices’) by disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth (referred to in this preamble as ‘frontline and vulnerable communities’);

Whereas, climate change constitutes a direct threat to the national security of the United States—

(1) by impacting the economic, environmental, and social stability of countries and communities around the world; and

(2) by acting as a threat multiplier;

Do they want war powers?

Whereas the Federal Government-led mobilizations during World War II and the New Deal created the greatest middle class that the United States has ever seen, but many members of frontline and vulnerable communities were excluded from many of the economic and societal benefits of those mobilizations; and

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes that a new national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II and the New Deal era is a historic opportunity—

(1) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs in the United States;

(2) to provide unprecedented levels of prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States; and

(3) to counteract systemic injustices: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Rep representatives that—

(1) it is the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal—

(A) to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;

(B) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States;

(C) to invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century;

(D) to secure for all people of the United States for generations to come—

(i) clean air and water;

(ii) climate and community resiliency;

(iii) healthy food;

(iv) access to nature; and

(v) a sustainable environment; and

(E) to promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth (referred to in this resolution as “frontline and vulnerable communities”)

(2) the goals described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) (referred to in this resolution as the “Green New Deal goals”) should be accomplished through a 10-year national mobilization (referred to in this resolution as the “Green New Deal mobilization”) that will require the following goals and projects—

(A) building resiliency against climate change-related disasters, such as extreme weather, including by leveraging funding and providing investments for community-defined projects and strategies;

(B) repairing and upgrading the infrastructure in the United States, including—

(i) by eliminating pollution and greenhouse gas emissions as much as technologically feasible;

(ii) by guaranteeing universal access to clean water;

(iii) by reducing the risks posed by climate impacts; and

(iv) by ensuring that any infrastructure bill considered by Congress addresses climate change;

(C) meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources, including—

(i) by dramatically expanding and upgrading renewable power sources; and

(ii) by deploying new capacity;

(D) building or upgrading to energy-efficient, distributed, and “smart” power grids, and ensuring affordable access to electricity;

(E) upgrading all existing buildings in the United States and building new buildings to achieve maximum energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability, including through electrification;

(F) spurring massive growth in clean manufacturing in the United States and removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing and industry as much as is technologically feasible, including by expanding renewable energy manufacturing and investing in 15 existing manufacturing and industry;

(G) working collaboratively with farmers and ranchers in the United States to remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible, including—

(i) by supporting family farming;

(ii) by investing in sustainable farming and land use practices that increase soil health; and

(iii) by building a more sustainable food system that ensures universal access to healthy food;

(overhauling transportation systems in the United States to remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible, including through investment in—

(i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing;

(ii) clean, affordable, and accessible public transit; and (iii) high-speed rail;

(I) mitigating and managing the long-term adverse health, economic, and other effects of pollution and climate change, including by providing funding for community-defined projects and strategies;

(J) removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and reducing pollution by restoring natural ecosystems through proven low-tech solutions that increase soil carbon storage, such as land preservation and afforestation;

(K) restoring and protecting threatened, endangered, and fragile ecosystems through locally appropriate and science-based projects that enhance biodiversity and support climate resiliency;

(L) cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites, ensuring economic development and sustainability on those sites;

(M) identifying other emission and pollution sources and creating solutions to remove them; and

(N) promoting the international exchange of technology, expertise, products, funding, and services, with the aim of making the United States the international leader on climate action, and to help other countries achieve a Green New Deal;

a Green New Deal must be developed

Like the factory, farm, and neighborhood soviets in Russia?

through transparent and inclusive consultation, collaboration, and partnership with frontline and vulnerable communities, labor unions, worker cooperatives, civil society groups, academia, and businesses;

(4) to achieve the Green New Deal goals and mobilization, a Green New Deal will require the following goals and projects—

1 (A) providing and leveraging, in a way that ensures that the public receives appropriate ownership stakes and returns on investment, adequate capital (including through community grants, public banks, and other public financing), technical expertise, supporting policies, and other forms of assistance to communities, organizations, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and businesses working on the Green New Deal mobilization;

(B) ensuring that the Federal Government takes into account the complete environmental and social costs and impacts of emissions through—

(i) existing laws;

(ii) new policies and programs; and

(iii) ensuring that frontline and vulnerable communities shall not be adversely affected;

Govt. banks, public ownership of businesses?

(C) providing resources, training, and high-quality education, including higher education, to all people of the United States, with a focus on frontline and vulnerable communities, so that all people of the United States may be full and equal participants in the Green New Deal mobilization;

(D) making public investments in the research and development of new clean and renewable energy technologies and industries;

(E) directing investments to spur economic development, **deepen and diversify industry and business in local and regional economies**, and build wealth and **community ownership**, while prioritizing high-quality job creation and economic, social, and environmental benefits in frontline and vulnerable communities, and deindustrialized communities, that may otherwise struggle with the transition away from greenhouse gas intensive industries;

Community energy, PG&E – Is your business next?

(F) ensuring the use of democratic and participatory processes that are inclusive of and led by frontline and vulnerable communities and **workers to plan, implement, and administer** the Green New Deal mobilization at the local level;

(G) ensuring that the Green New Deal mobilization creates high-quality union jobs that pay prevailing wages, hires local workers, offers training and advancement opportunities, and guarantees wage and benefit parity for workers affected by the transition;

(H) **guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to all people of the United States;**

(I) strengthening and protecting the right of all workers to organize and bargain free of coercion, intimidation, and harassment;

Massive cost and redistribution of wealth .

(J) strengthening and enforcing labor, workplace health and safety, antidiscrimination, **and wage and hour standards across all employers, industries, and sectors;**

(K) enacting and enforcing trade rules, procurement standards, and border adjustments with strong labor and environmental protections—

(i) to stop the transfer of jobs and pollution overseas; and

(ii) to grow domestic manufacturing in the United States;

(L) ensuring that public lands, waters, and oceans are protected and that eminent domain is not abused;

(M) obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples for all decisions that affect indigenous peoples and their traditional territories, honoring all treaties and agreements with indigenous peoples, **and protecting and enforcing the sovereignty and land rights of indigenous peoples;**

What about everyone else?

(N) ensuring a commercial environment where every businessperson is free from unfair competition and domination by domestic or 11 international monopolies; and

(O) providing all people of the United States with—

(i) high-quality health care;

(ii) affordable, safe, and adequate housing;

(iii) economic security; and

(iv) clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and access to nature.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, February 21, 2019
(Scheduled)**

Item A-2: Replacement Language for Condition #11 and Additional Information - ESTRELLA - EL POMAR - CRESTON WATER DISTRICT. The Commission will consider rewording Condition 11 of its approval last fall. Condition 11 had, in part, originally required that unless the County relinquished its water management authority over the portion of the Paso Basin covered by the District it could not become a Ground Water Sustainability Agency (GSA) under the State Ground Water Management Act. (SGMA). The County refused, and thus the future of the district was subject to confusion. The clarified language removes the requirement that the District become a GSA unless the County does at some point relinquish its authority. The District will still be subject to SGMA requirements but will not have a vote on the Paso Basin Coordinating Committee, which is an interagency committee of cities, water districts, and the County, developing the basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan(GSA).

The key issue is the member voting weight on the Committee, which is currently:

City Member	15%
SMCSD Member	3%
HRCSD Member	1%
SSJWD Member	20%
County Member	61%

If the County were to relinquish its authority and the El Pomar District were to become a GSA, the voting weight would be as follows:

City Member	15%
SMCSD Member	3%
HRCSD Member	1%
SSJWD Member	20%
County Member	32%
EPCWD Member	29%

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 (Not Scheduled)

Tuesday February 12th was Lincoln's Birthday anniversary.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, February 14, 2019 (Cancelled)

The meeting was cancelled. Perhaps everyone has given up on having any development permitted. Except for one meeting several weeks ago, the meeting agendas have been light.

COLAB IN DEPTH

IN FIGHTING THE TROUBLESOME, LOCAL DAY-TO-DAY ASSAULTS ON OUR FREEDOM AND PROPERTY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE LARGER UNDERLYING IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC CAUSES AND FORCES



Remodeling America

By Victor Davis Hanson

Right: Senator Kamala Harris launches her presidential campaign at a rally in Oakland, Calif., January 27, 2019. (Elijah Nouvelage/Reuters)



The Jacobins of today take up the tools of France's 18th-century radicals.

By mid-1793–4, the radical Jacobins had successfully completed their hijacking of the French Revolution.

Jacobinism

They openly enacted agendas that might have seemed impossible in the heady days of 1787. Long gone were the pretenses of the original idealism when the revolution abolished feudalism, issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man, and wrestled with turning the Ancient Régime of Louis XVI into some sort of constitutional or parliamentary monarchy analogous to what had emerged in Great Britain.

Soon executing the clergy en masse was logically followed by Jacobins guillotining thousands of surviving aristocrats and fellow revolutionaries for supposed counterrevolutionary sympathies.

Most of the leaders of the Jacobins were themselves finally guillotined, largely



because their ascendant revolutionary zeal could end only in a sort of cannibalism — given that no revolutionary could possibly meet their accelerating purist demands. Mao’s Cultural Revolution was similar, though he slaughtered millions, not thousands.

In less melodramatic terms, we are watching a rare revolutionary phase in American politics as leftists have devoured Democrats. Progressives ate liberals. And progressives are now being devoured by socialists, and soon no doubt socialists will be eaten by hard leftists, Communists, anarchists, and nihilists. In such revolutionary logic, perhaps only Antifa will emerge as pure.

The result is that the 2020 election will offer the starkest choices in the past 50 years, far eclipsing the radical contrasts of 1972. The current parade of would-be Democratic presidential hopefuls is already apologizing for their past sins of Democratic centrism, in fear of being politically guillotined.

Green Poverty

Senator Kamala Harris has pledged to follow the “New Green Deal” currently championed by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. In other words, if enacted, the Democrats, within ten years of passing the bill, would favor ending all “nonrenewable” sources of electrical generation (natural gas, oil, coal, and nuclear) — or 83 percent of all the current ways that we produce electrical energy. Would the government go after classic Corvettes, confiscate Priuses, and electrify NASCAR? Outlaw gas lawn mowers and chain saws? Confiscate leaf blowers? Would Nancy Pelosi board a private solar- or battery-powered jet? Would Silicon Valley yachts rely on wind and sail?

We get almost no information about the real costs, much less the effect on the now booming U.S. energy sector. America is currently the largest producer of gas and oil in the world. Energy production is a vital source of national wealth, central to millions of American workers, and perhaps the greatest subsidy of middle-class lifestyles, through inexpensive fuel. Would fracking and horizontal drilling become like corn-mash stills during Prohibition?

The New Green Deal would wipe out the economies of a broad swath of states including Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Such legislation would make Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign blunder—“We’re going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business”—seem in comparison not a major gaffe, but timid and counterrevolutionary.

The United States of Everyone

Open borders and the elimination of ICE will also be the stuff of 2019–20 Democratic debates. But they will be “debated” only in the sense that all contenders will either agree or go well beyond both positions in order to support blanket amnesty. In other words, the problem of illegal immigration would not be 20 million or so illegal aliens who have entered and resided in the country unlawfully, but no problem at all.

Millions more could arrive as they pleased. Caravans would become not the stuff of dramatic news accounts, but rather dreary daily events as thousands of the “other” exercised their global “rights” and “migrated” to the U.S. Or as Univision’s Jorge Ramos put it, the border is “nothing more than an invention.”

The subtext would be radical demographic change designed to finish flipping the southwestern United States to blue in the Electoral College. It would also fuel the growing narrative that America requires far more recalibration of constitutional “issues” if it is ever to achieve parity for the arriving impoverished and oppressed underprivileged, who have supposedly legitimate historical racial and class grievances against neocolonialist Yanqui culture.

What is unspoken about the current illegal-immigration issue is the assumption that open-borders activists and their supporters do not just believe that Spanish speakers have a right to enter the U.S. as they please, but also that they have a far greater right than anyone else from Asia, Africa, or Europe. This is the chauvinistic and ethnically exclusive position, not the inclusive, liberal, and pro-diversity stance.

Health Care — for the Healthy

Medicare for all will likewise become a 2020 rallying point. But aside from its multi-trillion-dollar costs, it would destroy the 55-year compact of Medicare and indeed the 85-year-old history of Social Security itself.

Namely, these programs were sold on a number of premises, but two especially. One: Younger and healthier Americans would subsidize the financial, career, and health challenges of an older generation that was no longer fully hale. Two (whether still valid or not): Americans from their preteen years “pay” into a system that keeps track of their chits, calibrated by both years and dollar amounts, to adjudicate their own eventual retirement benefits, the so-called grand bargain that one now pays for others so that still others to come will one day pay for him.

While the system is nearing insolvency, the tradition that Americans individually have already “paid” into their retirement benefits would be destroyed, once benefits were shared by millions who had not yet contributed much at all. The generational psychological bond would end, and the very logic of Social Security as a war between old and young would arise.

The elderly are not historically illiterate. They grasp that all universal “free” health-care scams eventually hinge on culling out the costly and bad investments, i.e., themselves. They know that “Medicare for all” translates into “Medicare for no one,” especially in an age of open borders. So they will not be paranoid to also assume that in an era of euthanasia and “managed” and “rationed” care, it makes more progressive social sense to “invest” in our youthful future than in “prolonging” already-spent lives — especially when we will be adding more ethnic and racial fuel to the generational inferno.

A society that approves of killing an infant shortly after it emerges from the birth canal might similarly have little compunction about pulling the plug on a 90-year-old who was deemed “unproductive” or suffering from “severe deformities” — albeit of course after a “conversation” with family and their “doctor.” To the Margaret Sanger mind, abortion and euthanasia are twins, and both are cost-effective means to free up dollars for more “moral” purposes.

The Criminal Rich

Another likely plank of the new Democratic party will be a “you didn’t build that” “wealth tax.” Many Democrats are talking seriously about an additional 2 percent or 3 percent tax on the accumulated wealth of particular large private fortunes, wealth that has already been taxed as income or capital gains.

Income over \$10 million (or lower) would be taxed at 70 percent — or 90 percent as Democrats’ race to Venezuela accelerates. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and her adherents point to prior high rates of American taxation, without noting that they were accompanied by an array of tax loopholes and deductions, many of them eliminated in the 1980s Reagan tax revolution.

In our Balzac world of “behind every great fortune is an equally great crime,” assets of \$10 million and up are proof enough of illegality. Talk of new wealth taxes, higher income-tax rates, and soaring estate taxes will make good on Mayor Bill de Blasio’s taunt that “there’s plenty of money in this country, it’s just in the wrong hands.”

The Cult of Reason

One hallmark of the radical French revolutionaries was a poorly disguised but predictable dislike of religion. Today it’s an aversion in particular to Catholicism and Judaism — at least if one collates the various statements of Senators Dianne Feinstein, Kamala Harris, and Mazie Hirono, and Representatives Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, Hank Johnson, Ilhan Omar, and Rashida Tlaib. The mainstreaming of anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan, television commentary by the likes of Marc Lamont Hill, and the growing anti-Israeli foreign policy of the Democratic party only add to the anti-Jewish and anti-Christian hostility.

Revolutionary “scientific” socialism is historically agnostic if not atheist. Anywhere it has taken root in its multifarious forms — China, Cuba, North Korea, Russia, Venezuela — it seeks to destroy or corrupt religion. We have already seen attacks on Israel supporters within the Democratic party, attacks that are only thinly disguised anti-Semitic rants from the likes of Omar, Tlaib, and Linda Sarsour. One wonders how the anti-Catholicism of the Democratic Jacobins will connect with millions of new first- and second-generation Hispanic Catholic voters. Perhaps one of our young Robespierres can slightly modify the new atheist religion to “The Cult of the Supreme Being” and enjoin us all to worship an anthropomorphic Logos.

Revolutionary Cannibalism

Once revolutionary movements accelerate, they must devour their own to ensure revolutionary purity, whether in fifth-century Greece, Republican Rome, revolutionary France, 1919 Russia, or Mao's China.

We already are seeing some of this cannibalism, as the new socialists start consuming their aging progenitors. Liberal Tom Brokaw is under assault for suggesting the value of assimilation and that English should be reemphasized by the Latino immigrant community. During the Brett Kavanaugh nomination hearings, Corey Booker and Kamala Harris upstaged old-guard Democratic liberals with their televised histrionics and their revolutionary creed that if one in theory can do a crime, then he is equally guilty of in fact committing it. Male feminists are learning that “inappropriate” jokes, staring, or attitudes are grounds for #MeToo ostracism.

In truth, there are far more revolutionary agendas to come. The Jacobins will have to explain how they plan on abolishing \$1.5 trillion in aggregate student debt, at a time of a likely \$22 trillion national debt, and how from here on out they will make college “free for all” in the manner of health care. Will adults who have driven a semi-truck since they were 18 pay for the debts of hipster Pajama Boys who dabbled in six-unit semesters ad infinitum?

Will Maxine Waters's idea of racial “reparations” become a mandatory position for Democratic candidates? If so, will Jay-Z, Oprah, Eric Holder, Louis Farrakhan, or LeBron James qualify?

Abortion is already being reconceptualized as a new Jacobin issue, but new only in the sense of pushing back the limit when babies can be “terminated” — oddly (or not so oddly) at a time when science is itself lowering the age of fetal viability ever closer to the moment of conception. Will Dr. Gosnell be given post factum amnesty?

Gun control will likewise be de rigueur, but not just in the sense of more registration, book work, and petty annoyances for the gun owner. In truth, confiscation is the only way to “control” millions of guns hidden away, handed down generation to generation, and sold and traded in private transactions — or at least we'll have to mandate gun registration as a method of eventual collection.

Finally, just as the 18th-century Jacobins transferred the wealth and power of the church to the state, so the new Jacobins will demand more transfers of riches and influence to the federal government.

We have already seen the weaponization — or rather liberation? — of the IRS, the NSC, the FBI, the CIA, and the NSA.

Leftists believe that Lois Lerner — retired with full multimillion-dollar benefits and no threat of a trial let alone jail time — got a raw deal. They like the idea of surveilling, unmasking, and leaking of the names of “right-wing” Americans. For left-wingers, James Comey went from villain to hero once we learned that he had used the FBI to attempt to emasculate the Trump presidency. Ditto for the left-wing pundits James Clapper and John Brennan. Just as Jacobins worship billion-dollar Silicon Valley

fortunes, so too they revere rogue bureaucrats who have warped their enormous powers of surveillance and prosecutorial abuse for correct leftist agendas.

By the time November 2020 arrives, the Clintons will be seen as reactionaries and the Obamas as old fogeys.

This article first appeared in the February 5, 2019 National Review and was subsequently distributed by many outlets and reproduced by the Stanford University Hoover Institution Daily Report. Victor Davis Hanson is a noted national historian, Classicist, award winning author , and Senior Fellow and the Hoover Institution. He has appeared in the past at COLAB events.

NEWSOM MISSES CALIFORNIA BUDGET BY \$2 BILLION IN JANUARY!

By Chriss Street

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's missed budget in his first month in office by \$1.81 billion on a \$2.53 billion crash in personal income tax collections.

Despite the State of California tax collection in December missing budget by -\$4.82 billion, newly inaugurated Gov. Newsom proposed a record \$144.2-billion spending plan for the 2019-2020 Budget on January 9 that included spending another \$5.2-billion for "Cradle-to-Career" education, \$1-billion for earned income tax credit for the poor, and \$100 million for refugee immigrants fleeing Central America violence.

California officials at the time, claimed December's huge revenue miss was due to high-income taxpayers making 2018 payments in late 2017 to avoid the Trump Tax and Jobs Act maximum cap on state and local tax deductions of \$10,000. Finance officers reassured this writer that January's shortfall would be made up next month and the new governor forecast another \$6 billion in revenues for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year that begins on July 1.

But January tax collections of \$16.631 billion fell -\$2.602 billion short of the \$9.233 budget projection. Estimated quarterly tax payments by higher income fillers that can be somewhat variable came in -\$2.079 below budget at \$9.389 billion. But employer tax withholding that tends to be a true indicator of the state's economic trend came in -\$563 million below budget, an 8 percent shortfall.

The nonpartisan California Legislative Analysts' Office has revealed that California has "Significant Variation in Monthly Revenue Collection that can exceed \$10 billion due to the state's reliance on

unpredictable capital gains taxes. The LAO still predicts \$15 billion capital gains tax collections, despite a 25 percent decline in Silicon Valley stocks.

Newsom sought to distract from the grim financial report by holding a February 11 press conference to announce that he was pulling the 360 California National Guard troops deployed to the southern border by his processor to help with President Trump's illegal aliens interdiction efforts. Newsom claimed the soldiers would redeploy to fight wildfires, despite CalFire reporting there are non contained fires after weeks of heavy rain and four feet of mountain snow.

When reporters asked Newsom if he was concerned pulling troops would cause a future backlash after the president already threatened to withhold \$9 billion in FEMA supplemental relief to pay for November's Camp and Southern California wildfires his Administration blames on the state's 2013 Road Rules forcing logging road closures.

He sneered in response, "Every day there's new concerns." When Newsom committed to a robust progressive tax and spend agenda at his inaugural last month, he also took time to criticize "President Donald Trump's "corruption" and "incompetence."

Street is a former Orange County Treasurer Tax Collector who now writes for various outlets. This column first appeared on Brietbart on February 11, 2019 .

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

BY NORMAN ROGERS

Apparently, the inmates have taken over the asylum, led by the former barmaid Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, now a member of Congress. The [Green New Deal](#) is a bizarre plan to create a cultural revolution in the United States. The role of Mao's little red book is replaced by the musings of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). After the green revolution, happiness will reign throughout the land.

Ms. Ocasio can't even make a credible threat to our economic well-being. According to the Green New Deal, if we don't prevent global warming, we will lose \$500 billion of annual economic output by 2100. The current GDP of the U.S. is \$20 trillion. Assuming modest real growth of one percent per year, GDP will be \$44 trillion (in current dollars) by 2100. Losing \$500 billion or 1.1 percent of 2100 economic output is clearly minor and would be made up by 2101. The Green New Deal advocates instantly destroy their own argument with their own numbers.

We are told that the United States must adopt a leading role in reducing CO2 emissions because we are responsible for 20% of cumulative emissions. Referring to cumulative rather than current emissions is sleight of hand. The U.S. is responsible for about 14% of CO2 emissions and these have been declining due to increased use of carbon-light natural gas. The rest of the world is responsible for 86% of the emissions and the rest of the world is not adopting a Green New Deal. The words "China"

or “Asia” don’t appear in the text of the Green New Deal. If we are to be serious about reducing CO2 emissions, isn’t it necessary to discuss the source of the vast majority of those emissions?

The reports of the IPCC and of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) are political documents masquerading as scientific studies. These organizations produce fantasy reports that illustrate the computer rule of garbage in, garbage out. The organizations have been discredited by [dozens of books](#), and [many reports](#) from disaffected scientists. But the political utility of the doomsday predictions is so great that the political left proclaims that the doomsday predictions are "settled science." Marx and Engels called their evil theories *scientific socialism* in order to borrow the prestige of science. If you need evidence that the IPCC is a fraud, you only have to know that it received the Nobel Peace Prize. The Peace Prize promotes leftist ideology by borrowing the scientific prestige associated with the separate Nobel prizes given for science. The Peace Prize has often been given to frauds and fashionable tricksters.

My favorite IPCC story is the career of Rajendra Pachauri, a railroad engineer who headed the IPCC for many years. Mr. Pachauri wrote the soft-porn book *Return to Almora*. The protagonist in that book bears an uncanny resemblance to Rajendra Pachauri. As the head of an Indian nonprofit, the 70-something senior citizen [terrorized young woman](#) who worked for him. But can’t one be a sexual predator and a good head of an international organization at the same time?

The Green New Deal mostly has nothing to do with climate change. The program has a strong resemblance to the *Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens* found in the 1936 Constitution of the Soviet Union (the “Stalin” constitution).



The Green New Deal guarantees high-quality health care, maternity leave, annual vacations, free education, the right to organize trade unions, healthy food, and affordable housing. It is proposed that frontline and vulnerable communities will have special privileges and vanguard roles. Frontline and vulnerable communities seem to include everyone except white men. Although for inexplicable reasons they neglected to include LGBTQs as members of frontline and vulnerable communities.

There was an [earlier version](#) of the Green New Deal that was cleaned up to remove the less politically palatable items. The earlier version included money for "persons unwilling to work." That version explicitly denounced nuclear energy. It also proposed printing money to pay the expenses of implementing the Green New Deal. The socialist vanguard country Venezuela also prints money. It enjoys 80,000% annual inflation and thieves that employ the [kill first, steal second](#) operating philosophy. Soldiers avoid public places after dark because thieves steal their weapons. Venezuelans have lost an [average of 24 pounds](#) due to either healthy socialist lifestyles or food shortages.

Trying to operate the electric grid of the United States on wind and solar power is simply ignorant. Wind and solar are erratic sources of power and have to be backed up by conventional plants that take

over when the wind or solar is on standby. Those backup plants as a practical matter use fossil fuels, the more so if nuclear is ruled out. Further, it is extremely impracticable to get more than about 30% of the grid's electricity from wind or solar. Conventional plants have to be online to take over when the wind or solar stops. Batteries are not a solution because they are unbelievably expensive for the role of backing wind and solar. The reality is that nuclear is the only feasible source of carbon free power in large and reliable quantities.

In any case, the global warming crisis is manufactured and overblown. The name of the crisis was changed from *global warming* to *climate change* because the globe was not warming according to the predictions. But it is clear that the real motive for the Green New Deal is the installation of socialism, not protection against an imaginary climate crisis. [Environmentalists are called watermelons](#) because they are green on the outside and red on the inside.

The Green New Deal is propped up by fake science and fake statistics. The fake statistics paint a picture of an imaginary wonderful time that ended sometime in the 1960s when workers all had great union jobs and wonderful pensions. I was a worker in the 50s and thereafter. The idea that everything was better back then is nonsense. We are in a golden time of great prosperity and opportunity. Trump has made it even better by deregulation, lower taxes, and protection from predatory imports. Socialism has been tried again and again and always with disastrous results. The European countries often held up as successful implementations of socialism are not socialist countries. Real socialism is always a disaster. But those ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it.

Although we live in a golden age of prosperity and opportunity, we also live in an age of ignorance. Ms. Ocasio has a college degree in economics but is apparently a sucker for socialistic ideas that were already thoroughly discredited by 1950. Think of George Orwell's books *1984* and *Animal Farm*, and the seminal critique of socialism *The Road to Serfdom* by F.A. Hayek. Somehow socialism always turns cruel and brutal. There is no better recounting than the *Gulag Archipelago* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. But facts and history are less important than the feeling of being ignored suffered by so many intellectuals and academics. Those intellectuals and academics fill the void in their lives with leftist religion.

Norman Rogers is the author of the book: [Dumb Energy: A Critique of Wind and Solar Energy](#). This article first appeared on the American Thinker of February 14, 2019.



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Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ___/___ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

(Revised 2/2017)